

## **MINUTES**

***Montevallo City Council Work Session  
August 22, 2022  
5:30 p.m. at City Hall***

**Present: Mayor Rusty Nix, Council Member David King, Council Member Lelia Mitchell, Council Member Kenneth Dukes, Council Member Sonya Swords, Council Member Martha Eisenberg. Quorum present.**

**Work Session called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Nix.**

### **Discussion of New Business Items on Agenda:**

Police Department Explorer Fund Account and transfer account balance of \$9,322.46 to the Police Department General Fund Account. Explorer program is not being offered at this time.

Discussion of the Montevallo African American Heritage Trail and resolution to establish funding and criteria for markers and recognition of sites in the area.

Amend number of iPhones to be recycled to 10. Council in agreement.

Request from the Montevallo Chamber of Commerce to close the section of Valley St between Middle and Shelby Street on Saturday August 27, 2022 for Country Financial Ribbon Cutting and Open House from 8am to 2pm. Discussion of map.

Request from the Montevallo Chamber of Commerce to waive vendor fees for the Annual Tinglewood Festival to be held on Saturday September 10, 2022.

### **Mayor Nix Called for Committee Reports:**

Mayor Nix called on Council Member King for Public Health & Safety: Council Member King read Chief Littleton's report for the Police Department. Chief Littleton reported there were 76 Reports in August and 740 Total Reports Year to Date. See Appendix 1.

Council Member King called on Chief Davis for the Fire Department Report. Chief Davis reported there were 48 Calls for the first half of August. See Appendix 2.

Council Member King reported on the Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting last week.

Mayor Nix called on Council Member Dukes for the Sustainability Report. Council Member Dukes called on Kirk Hamby, Head of Public Works and he reported storm drain work going on but takes time to get to them all. Valley Street work slated to start tomorrow. Restriping of parking spots around City Hall and the Police Department. Position available for Public Works General Laborer that is full time.

Mayor Nix called on Council Member Eisenberg for Recreation, Preservation and Community Development. Council Member Eisenberg called on Shane Baugh, Head of Parks and Recreation. Shane reported the Park and Recreation Department has a full time position available. Tournaments to begin September 11<sup>th</sup>. Youth sports, soccer and baseball participation is up this year.

Mayor Nix called for Education, Arts, and Outreach. Council Member Mitchell called on Savannah Kitchens Parnell Memorial Library. Savannah reported the Library event calendars are available at the library, website and social media; Library participating in Diaper Drive for Bundles of Hope a partner of Shelby Emergency Assistance; Mini Music, craft kit and monthly Sweets and Eats kit available this month. See Appendix 3.

***Montevallo City Council Meeting***

**August 22, 2022**

**6:00 p.m. at City Hall**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Present: Mayor Rusty Nix, Council Member David King, Council Member Lelia Mitchell, Council Member Kenneth Dukes, Council Member Sonya Swords, Council Member Martha Eisenberg. Quorum present.**

**Council Meeting called to order at 6 p.m. by Mayor Rusty Nix. All Council Members present.**

**Approval and or corrections of the Minutes 8.8.22 – Motion by Council Member Mitchell, second by Council Member King, All Ayes, Motion passed.**

**Recognitions / Awards: Proclamation for National Suicide Prevention Week read by Mayor Nix. See Appendix 4.**

**Opportunities for Citizens to speak to the Council:**

Joyce Lewis 330 Reonda Lane goal has been halfway reached for the bench for Dr. Cunningham. There will be a Fish Fry again this Saturday as a fundraiser at Orr Park.

Joyce Sherer 104 Tecumseh Street spoke on Suicide Prevention and asked everyone to please support this effort. It is very important in our community.

**Mayor Nix Called for Committee Reports to Continue:**

Council Member Mitchell called on Sarah Hogan; Program Director Impact Montevallo, Sarah reported on Vaping Classes; awareness presentations being done; FDA considering prohibition of menthol cigarettes; attended and received an award at Main Street Alabama LAB conference; purchased an advertising banner and Bull Dog paw print to support youth; upcoming events; website redesign; next Coalition Meeting. See Appendix 5.

Council Member Mitchell called on Julia Smith, MJCC Junior Mayor. Julia reported the MJCC held its first Board meeting will be on August 15; the MJCC purchased a Bull Dog paw print; MJCC will be participating at the Tinglewood Festival selling cotton candy; school will be closed September 5 for Labor Day.

Council Member Mitchell reported the Education, Arts and Outreach Committee Meeting will be Tuesday, August 23, 2022 from 5:30p to 6:30p. in the Willie Goldsmith Council Chambers and the Sister City Commission Meeting will be Tuesday, August 23, 2022 from 6:30p to 7:30p in the Willie Goldsmith Council Chambers. Everyone is welcome to come.

Mayor Nix called on Council Member Swords for Finance, Economic Development & Tourism. Council Member Swords called on Courtney Bennett, Executive Director, Montevallo Main Street. Courtney reported Main Street's Promotion Committee hosted a welcome event for UofM freshmen and had 74 participants; eight representatives attended aLABama Downtown Laboratory in Opelika and received multiple awards for excellence; she reminded everyone it's Alabama Restaurant Week to support local businesses; Friday Nights at the Cove will be held September 9. See Appendix 6.

Council Member Swords called on Adele Nelson, Executive Director, Montevallo Chamber of Commerce. Adele reported on the 2022 Wrap Up of the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Montevallo Farmers' Market Season; Chamber Chatter will be delivered Friday; Country Financial will hold ribbon cutting and open house on August 27; September Chamber Luncheon topic is Back to School. See Appendix 7.

**Public Health & Safety** (Police, Fire, Code Enforcement, Housing Abatement, Planning and Zoning) – Reported during Council Work Session.

**Sustainability** (Streets & Sanitation, Recycling, Arbor & Beautification, ValloCycle, Environmental Preservation Initiatives, and Historical Commission) – Reported during Council Work Session.

**Recreation, Preservation and Community Development** (Parks & Recreation, Youth Athletics, Trails, Annexations) – Reported during Council Work Session.

**Education, Arts & Outreach** (Schools, Library, UM, Boys & Girls Club, American Village, Sister City Commission, Artwalk, IMPACT) – Reported during Reported during Council Work Session and City Council Meeting.

**Finance, Economic Development & Tourism** (Finance, MDCC, IDB, Chamber, Main Street) – Reported during City Council Meeting.

**Consent to Pay the Bills**

Mayor Nix asked for a Motion to Pay the Bills. Council Member King made a motion to pay the bills, second by Council Member Dukes, All Ayes. Motion passed.

**New Business:**

Recommendation to close Police Department Explorer Fund Account and transfer account balance of \$9,322.46 to the Police Department General Fund Account. Motion made by Council Member King, second by Council Member Dukes, All Ayes, Motion passed.

Adoption of Resolution 08222022-442 Establishment of The Montevallo African American Heritage Trail. Motion made by Council Member Dukes, second by Council Member Mitchell, Ayes (4), Nay (2) Council Member Swords, Council Member Eisenberg, Motion passed. See Appendix 8.

Recommendation to declare as surplus and recycle 10, iPhones, Model 6 SE, with Pace Butler Corporation. Phones are outdated and have battery life issues. Motion made by Council Member King, second by Dukes, All Ayes, Motion passed. See Appendix 9.

Request from the Montevallo Chamber of Commerce to close the section of Valley St between Middle and Shelby Street on Saturday August 27, 2022 for Country Financial Ribbon Cutting and Open House from 8am to 2pm. Motion made by Council Member King, second by Council Member Dukes, All Ayes, Motion passed.

Request from the Montevallo Chamber of Commerce to waive vendor fees for the Annual Tinglewood Festival to be held on Saturday September 10, 2022. Motion made by Council Member Mitchell, second by Council Member King, All Ayes, Motion passed.

**Old Business:** None

**Board Appointments:** None

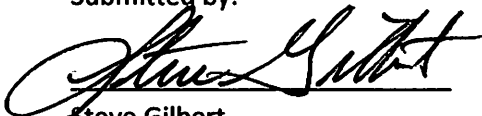
**Other Business:**

**Citizen Participation:** C.P. Pierson 1131 South Oak Street expressed he is very pleased with the approval of the Montevallo African American Heritage Trail.

Kathy King, thanked the Council for approval of the Montevallo African American Heritage Trail. She also thanked Anitka Sims for her hard work on gathering pictures and information for the Montevallo African American Heritage Trail.

There being no further business before the Council, Mayor Nix called for a Motion to Adjourn. Motion made by Council Member King, second by Council Member Dukes, All Ayes. Meeting Adjourned at 6:32 pm.

Submitted by:



Steve Gilbert  
City Clerk / Treasurer

## Council Report August 22, 2022

### APPENDIX 1

Total Cases: 76

Traffic Accidents: 3

Traffic Citations: 37

Total Arrests: 20

Burglaries: 1

Auto Burglaries: 2

Domestics: 6

Assaults: 0

Fraud/Forgery: 4

Thefts/Attempts: 7

Investigator Dustin Gray and Officer Todd Burr were promoted to Sergeant. These promotions are well deserved and I'm confident they will do a great job in their new roles.

SRO's completed safety and security walk throughs with supervisors and patrol officers before school started. Everyone is helping keep the schools patrolled.

Equipment is in for the new patrol vehicles; we are just waiting for an installation date.

Everyone is doing a great job and working hard to keep the city safe.

	January-22	February-22	March-22	April-22	May-22	June-22	July-22	August-22	September-22	October-22	November-22	December-22	Total
<b>Total Reports</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>76</b>					<b>740</b>
Criminal Cases	62	80	57	57	61	70	91	68					546
Non-Criminal	31	23	25	27	24	24	17	8					179
Traffic Accidents	15	18	14	17	14	14	7	3					102
Traffic Citations	310	299	118	70	78	179	52	37					1143
DUI Arrests	9	7	7	5	6	2	4	5					45
Public Intox Arr	0	1	4	1	1	2	2	2					13
Alias Arrests	9	13	10	8	10	12	8	4					74
Juvenile Arrests	0	1	1	2	2	0	0	0					6
Misd Arrests	9	10	5	9	6	6	14	8					67
Felony Arrests	0	5	1	4	4	5	2	1					22
<b>Total Arrest</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>130</b>
Auto Thefts	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0					1
Burglaries	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	1					7
Auto Recoveries	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0					4
Auto Burglaries	2	2	3	2	2	2	0	2					15
Criminal Mischief	3	2	0	2	0	2	2	4					15
DV. Related	10	9	9	6	13	8	19	6					80
Assaults	2	4	4	2	5	4	7	0					28
Fraud/Forgery	0	1	0	1	1	2	1	4					10
Harass / Reck	3	0	4	2	3	2	7	5					26
Misc. Offenses	11	23	20	16	16	18	27	13					144
Robberies	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0					1
Sex Crimes/Other	1	0	0	2	0	1	1	0					5
Thefts / Attempts	11	9	6	6	2	10	8	7					59
Suicide / Attempts	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1					1
Deaths	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					0

**Council Report Fire Department 8/22/22**

**APPENDIX 2**

**8/1/2022-8/15/2022**

**EMS- 35**

**Lift assist- 1**

**Structure Fire- 0**

**Brush Fire- 0**

**Electrical Fire - 0**

**Vehicle Fire- 2**

**Fire Alarm - 6**

**MVC- 3**

**Fuel Spill/ gas leak- 0**

**Assist other agency- 0**

**Assist Public- 1**

**Total Calls for first half of August- 48**

**Brad Davis**

**Fire Chief**

**City of Montevallo**

**Montevallo Fire & Rescue Service**

**541 Main Street**

**Montevallo, AL 35115**

**Office- 205-666-2555. Ext. 705**

# PARNELL MEMORIAL LIBRARY

AUGUST 22, 2022

- September event calendars are now available at the library, on our website ([parnellmemoriallibrary.org](http://parnellmemoriallibrary.org)), and our events are posted on our social media sites.
  - September we're doing a Diaper Drive for Bundles of a Hope, a partner of Shelby Emergency Assistance. From Sep 1 - 30, drop off your diaper donation and receive a badge to waive your Montevallo library fines!
  - The library will be closed for the Labor Day weekend, Saturday Sep. 3 - Monday, Sep. 5. We'll reopen for normal hours again on Tuesday, Sep. 6
  - Our usual Mini Music (Tuesdays at 10), Storytime with Mr. Mac (Wednesdays at 9:15), as well as our usual monthly craft kit and monthly Sweets and Eats kit will be available this month
  - A couple of special events include:
    - Tuesday Sep. 13 @ 3:30, we're showing a new release kid's movie in the Library Theater
    - Vaccine Clinic with Montevallo Drug on Tuesday, Sep. 20 from 3 - 6 pm. No appointments necessary, walk-ins welcome!
    - Monday, Sep. 26 at 2 pm, Classic Movie Monday featuring a film starring Katherine Hepburn, Cary Grant, and James Stewart
    - Friday, Sep. 30 from 10-5 we're doing our first ever Fall Plant Swap. Bring cuttings, seedlings, and seeds and swap for something new.





# 2022 National Suicide Prevention Week Proclamation

## In Recognition of the 2022 National Suicide Prevention Week

This Proclamation recognizes suicide as a national and statewide public health problem, and suicide prevention as a national and statewide responsibility, and designates **September 4 through September 10** as “National Suicide Prevention Week” in Alabama. This week overlaps World Suicide Prevention Day, September 10, recognized internationally and supported by the World Health Organization.

- **WHEREAS**, suicide is the 12<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death in the United States, the 3<sup>rd</sup> leading cause of death among children and teens ages 10-19 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> leading cause of death among individuals between the ages of 20 to 34;
- **WHEREAS**, in the United States over 45,000 people died by suicide in 2020 (Centers for Disease Control);
- **WHEREAS**, suicide rates have increased 30% over the last two decades, with suicide rates finally decreasing 2.1% between 2018 and 2019 and decreasing 2.9% between 2019 and 2020;
- **WHEREAS**, it is estimated that in 2020, there were 1.2 million suicide attempts;
- **WHEREAS**, in 2020, suicide was the 13<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death in Alabama (Centers for Disease Control);
- **WHEREAS**, in 2020, 793 people died by suicide in Alabama (Centers for Disease Control);
- **WHEREAS**, over 90% of the people who die by suicide have a diagnosable and treatable mental health condition, although often that condition was not recognized or treated;
- **WHEREAS**, organizations such as the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention are dedicated to saving lives and bringing hope to those affected by suicide, through research, education, advocacy, and resources for those who have lost someone to suicide or who struggle, and urge that we:
  1. Recognize suicide as a preventable national and state public health problem and declare suicide prevention to be a priority.
  2. Acknowledge that no single suicide prevention program or effort will be appropriate for all populations or communities.
  3. Address the disparity in access to mental healthcare for underserved and underrepresented groups, and advocate for ending these disparities.
  4. Fund new suicide research to support culturally-informed and evidence-based mental health care and services.



5. Encourage initiatives based on the goals contained in the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention.
6. Promote awareness that there is no single cause for suicide, and that suicide most often occurs when stressors exceed the coping abilities of someone struggling with a mental health condition.
7. Develop and implement strategies to improve and increase access to quality mental health, substance abuse, and suicide prevention services and programs.
8. Continue advocacy to ensure we can reimagine a comprehensive suicide, mental health, and substance use crisis response system that builds on the historic new 988 number for the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.

**Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED that, I, Rusty Nix, Mayor of Montevallo, do hereby designate September 4 - 10, 2022, as “National Suicide Prevention Week” in Montevallo, Alabama.**

City Council Meeting  
AUGUST 22, 2022

Ms. Sarah Hogan, program director provided the following report:

- **SEMI-ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT: JANUARY – JULY 2022:**
  - Our federal semi-annual progress report was submitted to the CDC on August 11. This extensive report allows us to showcase all the great things we've accomplished in our community over the last six months in meeting our DFC goals of community collaboration and reducing youth substance use and the strategies we used to meet these goals. Thank you for your support in these initiatives and I will share any comments we receive upon review of our report.
- **VAPING CLASSES:**
  - Our vaping violation classes resumed this past Saturday, I had six people in attendance with a few no shows. We continue to share the information of the risks associated with vaping and ensure that all of our citizens are aware of the violation for anyone under the age of 21, it is illegal to have possession or use a vaping or tobacco product.
- **PRESENTATIONS:**
  - Maurice and I have had the pleasure of presenting at several area churches to increase awareness of the IMPACT Montevallo coalition and our mission to encourage parents/guardians to be vigilant and our youth to make positive choices. Thank you to Michelle, for inviting me to speak this past Saturday night at Wilton Baptist. If you know of any speaking opportunities, please reach out, we would love to present to any community group.
- **FLAVOR BAN:**
  - August 2<sup>nd</sup> was the deadline for submitting comments to the FDA on the proposed rules that would prohibit the sale of menthol cigarettes and flavored cigars across the country. We should receive notice of their decision in the coming weeks. And then I will work with the Police Department to ensure all store owners are aware of any changes in tobacco sales.
- **MAINSTREET AWARD:**
  - Impact Montevallo was honored to co-receive an award at last week's Main Street Alabama LAB conference for our Spring Fling Family Food Truck Fest we held last April. The event was enjoyed by so many of our local families and we plan to host the event again next year.
- **FIRST HOME FOOTBALL GAME/ADVERTISING:**

- Please support our youth during the upcoming athletic season. Including our youth, middle and high school teams. Impact was happy to support our youth by purchasing an advertising banner and paw print on the stadium walk. The first home high school football game is this Friday night.
- **UPCOMING EVENTS/HOMECOMING:**
  - INTERNATIONAL OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY: 8/31: Watch social media for information you can share.
  - SEPTEMBER: SUICIDE PREVENTION – BULLYING & COPING SKILLS: Our theme for the month. We will be using this as part of our geo-fencing advertising, on our social media and working with the MHS broadcast students to produce a video on a topic each month.
  - MHS Homecoming:
    - Parade will be Thursday, September 8
    - Football Game will be Friday, September 9
- **WEBSITE REDEVELOPMENT:**
  - Impact Montevallo is currently working on a website redevelopment and look forward to the launch in the coming weeks. We are looking to add additional resources and a more visual pleasing site that is easy to navigate and clearly provides viewers with information.
- **COALITION MEETING:**
  - The next meeting of the Impact Montevallo Coalition will be the day after Labor Day, Tuesday, September 6 via Zoom at 9:00. We invite you to join us.



## Report to City Council

APPENDIX 6

August 22, 2022

### Updates

- Each year, our Promotion Committee hosts an event to welcome incoming University of Montevallo freshmen to their new hometown (and downtown!). Last Saturday, we hosted a "Main Street Craft Party" at Parnell Memorial Library. We expected around 40 students, but welcomed 74--WOW! Many thanks to the volunteers who helped the day of the event, especially Kathy, Sarah, Patricia, Dessilyn, and Cheryl. We also appreciate Parnell Memorial Library for allowing us to use their space, and most of all, we appreciate Falcon Art Supply allowing us to shop "after hours" to get additional supplies! We are so excited to see the streets full of life as classes resume at UM. Go Falcons!
- Montevallo Main Street sent eight representatives to aLABama Downtown Laboratory in Opelika this week, hosted by Main Street Alabama and Opelika Main Street! In addition to learning more about the Main Street Approach and getting some great ideas of new projects to implement in Montevallo, we were also honored with three awards at last Thursday's Awards of Excellence Banquet:
  - **Main Street Hero: Patricia Honeycutt**
  - **Excellence in Public Relations: Main St. News**
  - **Excellence in Promotion: Spring Fling Family Food Truck Fest**
- Please plan to attend the Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting for Country Financial (630 Valley Street) this Saturday, starting at 10 AM, hosted by Montevallo Chamber of Commerce!
- Alabama Restaurant Week, an initiative of the Alabama Tourism Department, is being celebrated until August 28. Please celebrate by dining at our wonderful Main Street District restaurants, coffee shops, and bakeries!
- Friday Nights at the Cove will continue on September 9. Swanglish (Swahili+English) is an intercultural music group that primarily utilizes East African and Western music styles. Band leader, Ben Ndalima, studied music in the USA & is a native of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania! Sponsored by Team Lehman – Keller Williams Metro South. Featured Food Truck: Smokey Joe's BBQ, M&M's Lemonade Stand. Our last event of the season will be on October 7.

***Respectfully submitted, Courtney Bennett, Executive Director***

1) 2022 Wrap-up on the **12th Annual Montevallo Farmers' Market Season** - 10 Mondays, 1 City, 1 Chamber, 6 sponsors, 23 vendors, 7 themes, 25 volunteers, and over 2000 attendees representing 6+ counties Shelby, Chilton, Bibb, Autauga, Jefferson, Tuscaloosa, ect...

2) **Sept. Chamber Chatter** will be delivered Friday August 26

\*3) *Request for Road Closure* 8am - 2pm (on agenda under new business) **Country Financial Ribbon Cutting** Sat Aug 27 10am -12pm 630 Valley St "Ribbon Cutting 10AM" Request from the Montevallo Chamber of Commerce to close the section of Valley St between Middle and Shelby Street on Saturday August 27, 2022, for Country Financial Ribbon Cutting and Open House from 8am to 2pm

\*4) *Request to waive vendor fees* (on agenda under new business) **for the 4th Annual Tinglewood Festival**, Sat September 10, 2022 from 9am -5pm  
Request from the Montevallo Chamber of Commerce to waive vendor fees for the Annual Tinglewood Festival to be held on Saturday September 10, 2022.

5) Sept **Montevallo Chamber Luncheon** Wed Sept 21 "*Back to School*" Guest Speakers from MES, MMS & MHS / Parnell Library with networking at 11:30am & lunch at noon \$12. ea. RSVP by Mon Sept 19 to 205-665-1519 or [montevallochamber@gmail.com](mailto:montevallochamber@gmail.com) Luncheon Catered by Southern Sweets / Luncheon Sponsor- Regions

\* on agenda



**Adele Nelson**

**Executive Director**

*Montevallo Chamber of Commerce*

P.O. Box 270 Montevallo, AL 35115

205.665.1519 office

[www.montevallocc.com](http://www.montevallocc.com)



## Resolution 08222022- 442

### A Resolution Establishing the Montevallo African American Heritage Trail

**WHEREAS**, The Montevallo African American Heritage Trail Initiative was established on MLK Day, 2017 to promote awareness of and preserve significant sites in Black History and Culture in Montevallo; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Montevallo Historic Preservation Commission has since that time researched and identified sites deemed of historical significance to the African American Community and the Montevallo Community at large; and,

**WHEREAS**, the African American Heritage Trail will promote awareness of the accomplishments and strength of African American individuals and their families, by recognizing their stories, and structures in the community, to offer an inclusive history that honors their legacy for future generations; and,

**WHEREAS**, the African American Heritage Trail will utilize markers, plaques, photographs, maps, signage and digital resources to recognize and preserve these sites; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Montevallo Historic Preservation Commission will coordinate with the City Council, private citizens, and corporations for funding of and deployment of historic markers and plaques; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Montevallo desires to make available funding resources for the establishment of the Montevallo African American Heritage Trail;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MONTEVALLO, ALABAMA AS FOLLOWS:**

Section 1. That the Council hereby authorizes the office of the City Clerk / Treasurer to establish an annual budget within the Historic Preservation Commission to provide for the funding to create, install, and maintain historic markers, plaques and associated items on the Montevallo African American Heritage Trail .

Section 2. That total funding shall be based upon recommendations prepared by the Historic Preservation Commission and submitted for annual departmental budget approval.

**ADOPTED AND APPROVED THIS 22nd DAY OF August, 2022.**

Signed:

Attest:

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Rusty Nix  
Mayor

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Steve Gilbert  
City Clerk / Treasurer

**PROPOSED MONTEVALLO AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE TRAIL**  
– Developed by Kathy King and Anita Stewart Sims in consultation with  
Montevallo Historic Preservation Commission

The Montevallo African American Heritage Trail (MAAHT) initiative was launched MLK Day 2017 by Mayor Hollie Cost. Development of the Trail in its earliest phase was led by Rev. Kenneth Dukes, who formed a committee to explore neglected or forgotten aspects of Black history in Montevallo and the surrounding communities. Initially the committee sought to identify "firsts" -- first family, first school, first business, first church. The pandemic brought this first discovery phase to a halt for two years. Research resumed late in 2020 and began gaining momentum spring 2021 under the auspices of the Montevallo Historic Preservation Commission. Work on early Black churches, Prentice High School, and the Prentice family soon broadened into exploration of early schools, sites of slave labor, cemeteries, local sports heroes, forgotten Black districts of town, stories of life during the Jim Crow era, episodes in the local civil rights struggle -- pieces of the African American past that, placed alongside one another, form a richly textured narrative of Black lives and experience. Some of these findings have been presented in monthly articles in Montevallo's *Chamber Chatter* in a series called Untold Stories of Black Montevallo. The Commission is still in the process of discovery and identification of significant sites, but it is now possible to propose possible sites on the Trail. Others remain to be added.

***Mission statement*** The Trail uses markers, plaques, photographs, maps, signage, and digital resources to recognize and preserve significant sites in Black history and culture in the Montevallo area.

***Vision statement*** The Trail promotes awareness of the accomplishments and strength of African American individuals, families, and communities. Sites along the Trail recover and preserve stories and structures that offer a more inclusive history of our town and stand as a legacy for young people and future generations.

***Scope of the Trail*** The historical reach extends from the period of enslavement (ca. 1817) through the Civil War and Reconstruction, and into the Jim Crow era and local Civil Rights movement (1960s and 1970s). Geographically, the Trail may include the nearby communities of Brierfield, Wilton, Almont, and Aldrich.

***Themes of the Trail*** Following the abolition of slavery, freed persons of African descent hungered for knowledge and for freedom to worship with their own people in their own way. They organized and raised funds to establish their own schools and churches. Many sites on the Trail highlight Black-organized places of education and worship.



**Proposed/Possible Sites (not sequenced)**

**[1]**

**Name:** Shoal Creek Baptist Church Graveyard

**Location:** NE Corner of Shoal Creek Park

**Permission:** the city

**Commemoration:** 30" x 42" marker with 7' pole and BHC seal

**Cost:** 2,810-3,210

**Possible partners/resources:** Shoal Creek Park Foundation, Montevallo Parks & Recreation (Dir: Shane Baugh), Montevallo Historical Society

**Description:**

Biracial church from 1820-1857. Church minutes reveal that several enslaved men, owned by an influential church leader, were licensed to preach ("express their gift") in the meeting house that stood at this site. Some of the earliest African American members may be buried in the graveyard. Through the efforts of the MHPC the graveyard has recently been listed on the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register.

**[2]**

**Name:** King House

**Location:** UM campus

**Permission:** UM Board of Trustees

**Commemoration:** 30" x 42" marker 7' pole and BHC seal

**Cost:** 2,810-3,210

**Possible partners/resources:** UM Foundation, UM African American Studies program, Montevallo Historical Society

**Description:**

Built by planter and businessman Edmund King, this 1823 structure is already on the National Register as one of the earliest masonry structures still standing in the state. Enslaved persons, perhaps as many as 40 at a time, formed a community here for at least four decades. It is one of only a few structures associated with slave labor to survive in our area and the only one restored to something like its original condition. Slave cemetery and site of slave quarters of King plantation have yet to be located.

**[3]**

**Name:** Ward Chapel AME Church

**Location:** 765 West St., near City Hall

**Permission:** Ward Chapel AME Church

**Commemoration:** Wall-mounted plaque 16" x 16.5"

Generic text: Ward Chapel AME Church has been designated as a significant African American historic site by the Black Heritage Council of the AHC. Sponsored by. . .

**Cost:** 575.

**Possible partners/resources:**

**Description:**

First church in Montevallo to be established (1872) by recently emancipated Black citizens.

[4]

**Name:** Shiloh Baptist Missionary Church

**Location:** Selma Rd

**Permission:** Shiloh Baptist Missionary Church

**Commemoration:** Wall-mounted plaque 16" x 16.5"

Generic text: Shiloh Baptist Missionary Church has been designated as a significant African American historic site by the Black Heritage Council of the AHC. Sponsored by. . .

**Cost:** 575.

**Possible partners/resources:**

**Description:**

In 1899 Shiloh, with a membership of 42, was officially established under the leadership of Rev. Isaac Witherspoon. Members had begun meeting in 1894 in a house near the location of the Depot under the guidance of Rev. Joseph Prentice, first pastor of record, for whom Prentice HS was named.

[5]

**Name:** Mt Olive Baptist Church

**Location:** Wilton

**Permission:** Mt Olive Baptist Church

**Commemoration:** Wall-mounted plaque 16" x 16.5"

Generic text: Mt Olive Baptist Church has been designated as a significant African American historic site by the Black Heritage Council of the AHC. Sponsored by. . .

**Cost:** 575.

**Possible partners/resources:** Shelby County NAACP, City of Wilton

**Description:**

Home church for nearly fifty years of the Rev Albert L Jones. Under his leadership were established Positive Image Outreach Ministries, which offered educational scholarships to hosts of students in the community, and the WE CARE outreach ministry, which sought to extend emotional support, finances, and voices to people in the community as well as the incarcerated.

[6]

**Name:** Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church and Almont elementary school

**Location:** Almont

**Permission:** Pilgrim Rest Church; Shelby County

**Commemoration:** Two-sided 30" x 42" marker with BHC seal and 7' pole

**Cost:** 3,210

**Possible partners/resources:** Shelby County. The county financed, built, and currently maintains Almont Park, formerly the site of Almont Elementary School.

**Description:**

Side 1: Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church, under the leadership of Rev. Earnest Eugene Vassar, was the meeting place for the civil rights struggle in Almont. It served as a community shelter in time of tornadoes and violent weather.

Side 2: Almont School, a small wooden building, provided an elementary school education for Black students in this area during the segregation era. In 1964 it was replaced by a brick elementary school to which Black children were bussed from Montevallo until integration in 1970. The property was donated by the Shelby County Board of Education to the county for creation of Almont Park.

[7]

**Name:** Dr Wilson Fallin Jr Hall

**Location:** 737 Main St

**Permission:** UM

**Commemoration:** An interior plaque highlighting Dr Fallin's contributions and/or blown-up photograph for display in lobby.

**Cost:** 500-2,000

**Possible partners/resources:** UM Foundation

**Description:**

UM academic building, formerly UMOM, in 2022 named in honor of Dr Wilson Fallin, distinguished professor, author, scholar, pastor, and leading authority on the Black Baptist Church in Alabama. He served as president of Selma University from 1982 to 1986 and is author of *Uplifting the People: Three Centuries of Baptists* (2007). Dr Fallin also gave his name to a university-sponsored lecture series, which in its inaugural year featured a dialogue with Dr Bernice King, attorney, activist, educator, and youngest child of Martin Luther King.

[8]

**Name:** Strand Coffeehouse

**Location:** 620 Main St

**Permission:** Sean Eichelberger, proprietor; Stacia Brady, building owner

**Commemoration:** Blown-up photograph with text for display in lobby

**Cost:** Limited to production of photograph and materials for wall or easel mount.

**Possible partners/resources:** Strand Coffeehouse

**Description:**

At this site, from 1935 to 2010, stood the 500-seat Montevallo Strand Theater (later Falcon Theater), at which time the upper level, once the colored balcony, was converted into two apartments. During the Jim Crow era, African Americans entered by way of a separate side door, still visible to right of the present entrance along with the original ticket booth. The structure is significant for the way it preserves features of Jim Crow segregation.

[9]

**Name:** EJI Marker

**Location:** Corner of Main and Shelby Sts

**Permission:** already in place on city property

**Commemoration:** Two-sided historical marker

**Cost:** n/a

**Possible partners/resources:** Developed by the Montevallo Community Remembrance Project in partnership with the city and the Equal Justice Initiative in Montgomery.

**Description:**

Marks site where two unidentified Black males were lynched by a white mob in 1889. The lynching was triggered by the death of a young white man, fatally shot when he interrupted a late-night burglary in his father-in-law's store at the corner of Main and Shelby. There were no witnesses to the crime, but two African Americans, unnamed in dozens of newspaper accounts, were presumed guilty. They were hanged the following night from the limb of a tree "not fifty feet" from the murder scene.

[10]

**Name:** Montevallo High School

**Location:** 908 Oak St

**Permission:** Shelby County

**Commemoration:** One-sided historical marker with BHC seal

**Cost:** 3,210

**Possible partners/resources:** county

**Description:**

School integration came to Montevallo HS in fall 1967 when Barbara Belisle became the first African American to teach in a previously all-white school in Shelby County. She tells the story of the early days of integration in her memoir *A Long Time Learning*. By 1970 Montevallo HS was fully integrated, but it was soon apparent to many of the Black students that integration had brought curtailment of opportunities they had enjoyed at the negro Prentice HS. A student-organized three-day boycott and tense protest on the school steps during the 1971-2 [?] school year led to more equitable treatment.

[11]

**Name:** The "little school" in Jacksonville

**Location:** Corner of Island and Bloch

**Permission:** City? County?

**Commemoration:** Two-sided historical marker OR kiosk with signage

**Cost:** 3,210

**Possible partners/resources:** City? County?

**Description:**

From at least 1924 to 1939, a small wooden schoolhouse for Black children stood at the corner of Island and Bloch Streets across from the entrance to the present elementary school and Parnell Library. Two teachers, including lead teacher Mrs. Anna Peoples, taught students from pre-primer to 8th grade. During this period the "little school" in Jacksonville, as the surrounding Black neighborhood was called, was the only school for Black students in Montevallo. After 1939 the schoolhouse fell into neglect. The property was eventually purchased by O. C. and Mary Eliza Cunningham who converted the abandoned schoolhouse into a dwelling that still stands at 1025 Island St.

[12]

**Name:** Montevallo Middle School (site of Prentice HS), Dailey Park, and the Selma Road Black Entertainment and Business District

**Location:** Selma Road

**Permission:** City and/or county

**Commemoration:** Marker(s), signage, kiosk

**Cost:** ??

**Possible Resources:** county, city, Shelby County NAACP, private donors

**Description:**

Markers and/or signage to honor two outstanding citizens: Rev. Joseph S. Prentice, for whom the negro HS that stood at this site from 1950 to 1970 was named; and George Dailey, the city's first African American city council member, for whom Dailey Park is named.

Prentice, born into slavery in 1857, an unlettered coal miner in his youth, rose quickly to a position of prominence in Black Baptist associations and became a champion for African American education and citizenship throughout the state. A lifelong resident of Aldrich, he was a property owner, registered voter, and leading figure in the Montevallo community until his death in 1944. Some have argued that Montevallo Middle School should be renamed Prentice Middle School as a way to recognize and carry forward his legacy.

Signage to indicate that property along Selma Road, once owned by wealthy Black businessman Hampton D. Lee and his wife Exie Lee, residents of Marion, AL, was the location of Montevallo's Black business and entertainment district during the Jim Crow era.

[13]

**Name:** Ballfields at Stephens Park

**Location:** Stephens Park

**Permission:** City

**Commemoration:** Signage

**Cost:** ??

**Possible partners/resources:** City?

**Description:**

In 2014 the city named two ballfields at Stephens Park in honor of Raymond "Lefty" Haggins (1929-2020) and Clifford "Duby" DuBose (1937-2013), Montevallo's two inductees into the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in Kansas City. To be added is signage to honor their history, accomplishments, and meaning to the Black community.

[14]

Bench in honor of Earl Cunningham at Parnell Library

**Description:** TBD

**Cost:** none

-- 16 August 2022

# Buyers of Cell Phones



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