

## MINUTES

### **Montevallo City Council Work Session**

**March 11, 2024**

**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 Martha Eisenberg, Council Member Sonya Swords. Quorum present.**

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

**Mayor Nix called for Discussion of New Business Items on Agenda:** Discussion of the Selection of Alabama League of Municipalities Voting Delegates for Annual Convention. Voting Delegate Kenneth Dukes, 1<sup>st</sup> Alternate Lelia Mitchell, Alternate Martha Eisenberg.

**Mayor Nix called for Discussion of Other Business Items on Agenda:** Discussion of Historic Marker Application Epsibeth Missionary Baptist Church.

**Mayor Nix called for Discussion of Board Appointments:** Courtney Bennet to Design Review Committee (DRC) Reappointment 3 years 03.11.28

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

Council Member King called on Chief Littleton. Chief Littleton read the report for the Police Department; there were 87 Total Cases for the Month of February. See Appendix 1.

Chief Littleton spoke on the Montevallo Middle School Leaders of Tomorrow group and reported they had a Mock City Council meeting this morning and they did really well; they toured the Fire and Police Departments and the University of Montevallo; and are in attendance this evening for City Council Meeting.

Council Member King called on Chief Davis for the Fire Department Report. Chief Davis reported there were 131 Calls for the month of February. See Appendix 2.

Council Member King reported Planning and Zoning meeting will be held on March 21<sup>st</sup> at 6 p.m. at City Hall.

Mayor Nix called on Council Member Dukes for the Sustainability Report. Council Member Dukes called on Kirk Hamby, Head of Public Works who reported Free Dump Day would be held Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup> from 7 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. at the Recycling Center; he reported right of way cutting has begun for the season and will continue until October; and pressure washing of Main Street is 80% complete.

Council Member Dukes reported the Arbor Board meeting will be held at 5 p.m. on March 12<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Nix called on Council Member Eisenberg for Recreation, Preservation and Community Development. Council Member Eisenberg read a report from Shane Baugh, Parks and Recreation

Director. Travel ball tournaments were held the past two weekends; softball tournaments are coming up this Saturday; youth baseball and softball tournaments will start March 18<sup>th</sup>; youth soccer will begin in April; resurfacing tennis courts will begin in late April/ early May; busy season for grass mowing has begun.

Mayor Nix called for the Education, Arts and Outreach Committee Reports. Council Member Mitchell called on Marissa Wilson Director of Parnell Memorial Library. Marissa reported there were 3,321 visits to the building; there are 38 programs currently running; the library was awarded \$10,000 ALA Libraries transforming grant; the Library Foundation will be speaking at the Chamber luncheon this month. See Appendix 3.

Council Member Mitchell called on Sarah Hogan, IMPACT Montevallo. Sarah reported the new banner series/ advertising in the Victory Building with this month focusing on the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, the 988 number, and that it is okay to reach out for help; next week is National Drug and Alcohol Facts week and they will have a social media campaign encouraging guardians to have conversations with their youth; the last Coalition Meeting was great and one idea they are implementing along with St. Patrick's Day is a Go Green Week for mental health awareness.

Council Member Mitchell called on Miguel Moreno, Council Member of the Montevallo Junior City Council (MJCC). Miguel reported the MJCC is busy finalizing committees; working on events they will be attending; and on March 18<sup>th</sup> the Sister City participants will be visiting their MJCC Meeting.

Council Member Mitchell reported Montevallo Schools will have Spring break March 25<sup>th</sup> – March 29<sup>th</sup>; University of Montevallo will have Spring break March 23<sup>rd</sup> – April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Council Member Mitchell reported there is a packet from the Boys and Girls Club, and they have an average of 60 kids participating in the program; received a \$5,400 donation from the Nolan Family Foundation; and the Youth of the Month is Salma Williams. See Appendix 4.

Mayor Nix called on Council Member Swords for Finance, Economic Development & Tourism. Council Member Swords called on Adele Nelson, Executive Director Montevallo Chamber of Commerce. Adele reported the Chamber Luncheon will feature Parnell Library Foundation as its guest speaker along with Library Director Marissa Wilson; 5<sup>th</sup> annual Blooming Bargains will continue even though today was the last day for the American Villages' Festival of Tulips; Washington Update Luncheon will be held April 4<sup>th</sup> and features Congressman Gary Palmer; Montevallo Golf Tournament will be held April 18<sup>th</sup>. See Appendix 5.

The Montevallo Chamber is co-hosting the Shelby County Small Business Awards and encourages everyone to nominate Montevallo businesses. See Appendix 6.

Council Member Swords advised Courtney Bennett, Executive Director of Montevallo Main Street could not attend the meeting and no written report was submitted.

**Special Presentation: Caleb Jernigan University of Montevallo Big Event April 6, 2024**

Mayor Nix asked Caleb Jernigan if he would like to present information on the Big Event organized by the University of Montevallo. Caleb presented information about the Big Event to be held on April 6<sup>th</sup>. This is a service event by the students from the University of Montevallo in various programs to assist residents and businesses that could use sprucing up yard work. He advised the deadline to register is March 22<sup>nd</sup>. He encouraged everyone to please register for this service project. Caleb advised there is a flyer in Council packets with details and registration. See Appendix 7.

**Montevallo City Council Meeting**

**March 11, 2024**

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

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

**Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**Approval and or corrections of the Minutes** 02.26.24 – Motion by Council Member Eisenberg, seconded by Council Member King, All Ayes, Motion passed.

**Recognitions / Awards: Proclamation Honoring Derrick Lilly** – Mayor Nix read a Proclamation in Honor and Memory of Derrick A. Lilly. The Lilly Family was there to accept the Proclamation. See Appendix 8.

Mayor Nix recognized the Leaders of Tomorrow (LOT) Montevallo Middle School (MMS) and Matthew Williams, MMS LOT Advisor. See Appendix 9.

**Opportunities for Citizens to speak to the Council:** Sharon Ray Hidden Valley R1 – R2 neighborhoods. Update on letter to violations.

Claire Vance 235 Creek Street Requested a Hearing amplification device that is ADA compliant for those that have hearing loss; request police office at Creek St and Cherokee – stop sign is being run in area and is a safety concern.

Anita Williams 369 Tecumseh St February 20<sup>th</sup> Design Review Committee (DRC) Agenda was posted with items, new agenda was posted new line item added after meeting held – 747 Main St. Why did this happen? Open meeting act violation. (posting time) Please look into this matter.

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

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

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

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

**Finance, Economic Development & Tourism** (Finance, MDCD, IDB, Chamber, Main Street) – Reported during City Council Work Session.

**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, seconded by Council Member Eisenberg, All Ayes. Motion passed.

**New Business:**

- **Selection of Alabama League of Municipalities Voting Delegates for Annual Convention.** Voting Delegate Kenneth Dukes, 1<sup>st</sup> Alternate Lelia Mitchell, Alternate Martha Eisenberg. Motion made by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member Dukes, All Ayes, Motion passed. See Appendix 10.

**Old Business:** None

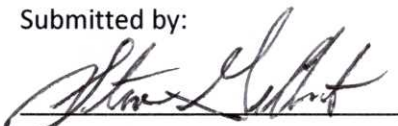
**Board Appointments:** Reappointment of Courtney Bennett to Design Review Committee Term to expire 03.11.28. Council member King requested a delay until such time legal counsel review is done. Motion to delay made by Council Member King, Second by Council Member Eisenberg, Motion passed.

**Other Business:** Historical Marker for Epsibeth Missionary Baptist Church, established in 1873. James Salter spoke on behalf of the Alabama Historical Commission application. Motion made by Council Member Dukes, seconded by Council Member Mitchell, All Ayes, Motion passed. See Appendix 11.

**Citizen Participation:** Claire Vance 235 Creek Street asked the date of the next Council meeting (March 25<sup>th</sup>) and when the next DRC Meeting would be held (the DRC Meeting will be posted 48 hours once the date has been set).

**Adjourn:** Mayor Nix called for a Motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion made by Council Member Mitchell, Seconded by Council Member Dukes, All Ayes. Meeting adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

Submitted by:



Steve Gilbert  
City Clerk / Treasurer



# 2024 Montevallo Fire And Rescue Events by Type

Report Date: 3/1/2024

APPENDIX 2

	Jan	Feb	Total
ABDOMINAL PAIN/INJURY	1	4	5
ALARM	5	1	6
COMMERCIAL FIRE ALARM	1	3	4
MEDICAL ALARM	5	2	7
RESIDENTIAL FIRE ALARM	1	1	2
ALLERGIC REACTIONS	2	1	3
ALTERED MENTAL STATUS	1	2	3
ASSAULT	4	1	5
BACK PAIN/INJURY	2	6	8
BLEEDING	11	6	17
BREATHING PROBLEMS	1	1	2
CARDIAC	1	0	1
CARDIAC ARREST - ADULT	4	8	12
CARDIAC ARREST - CHILD	1	0	1
CHEST PAIN	1	0	1
CHOKING	0	1	1
CHOKING - INFANT	0	1	1
CHOKING CHILD	1	0	1
COLD INJURIES / EXPOS	1	0	1
CONFIDENTIAL	1	3	4
S-85A (SUICIDE ATTEMPT)	1	0	1
DIABETIC RELATED	1	0	1
DRUG OVERDOSE	3	4	7
EXTREMITY INJURIES	13	4	17
FALL	0	1	1
FALL FROM STANDING POSITION	15	18	33
LAW ENFORCEMENT	0	1	1
LIFTING ASSISTANCE	0	1	1
MUTUAL AID	2	0	2
OTHER AGENCY	2	1	3
PUBLIC	0	1	1
APPLIANCE FIRE	0	7	7
BRUSH / WOODS FIRE	1	1	2
DUMPSTER FIRE	0	1	1
ELECTRICAL FIRE	3	7	10
RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURE FIRE	0	2	2
TRANSFORMER / POLE FIRE	1	0	1
GASOLINE / DIESEL SPILL	22	23	45
GAS	2	0	2
GENERAL ILLNESS	5	4	9
HEAD/NECK INJURY	7	6	13
HEART PROBLEMS	0	1	1
MVC	1	0	1
MVC - CHECK FOR INJURIES	2	0	2
MVC - PEDESTRIAN INVOLVED	0	1	1
MVC WITH INJURIES	2	0	2
PERSON	0	1	1
PERSON DOWN	9	1	10
POISONING	3	2	5
POSSIBLE STROKE	1	0	1
SEIZURE	1	0	1
TRAUMATIC INJURY	1	0	1
UNCLASSIFIED COMPLAINT	4	5	9
UNRESPONSIVE PERSON	<b>Total</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>272</b>
		<b>131</b>	

# PARNELL MEMORIAL LIBRARY

FEBRUARY 2024

VISITS TO THE BUILDING

**3,321**

CIRCULATION

**5,681**

CITIZEN SAVINGS

**\$128,054.55**

PHONE CALLS

**164**

WIFI & COMPUTER SESSIONS

**3,073**

DATABASE SEARCHES

**325**

PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

**777**

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

**55**

**PROGRAMS:38**

- 4 Storytime with Mr. Mac
- 4 Take Home Craft Kits
- 1 Valentines day party
- 4 Pokémon Club
- 1 Family Night event
- 3 Homeschool hubs.
- 1 Girls book club
- 1 Boys club
- 2 Mini Movie
- 5 Drama Classes
- 5 Script Readers groups
- 4 Tiny Tumbling
- 1 Medicare 101
- 1 Movie

# PARNELL MEMORIAL LIBRARY

MARCH 11, 2024

- February was a great and busy month.
- This month, homeschool hub will be learning about all things nutrition. Thank you to Kinley Armstrong from UofM to come talk about a balanced diet today.
- We are having two watercolor card classes, The one on March 21st, is completely booked, but we have 2 slots open for tomorrow night, call or email the library to register.
- March 15th and 16th, we will have our Spring sidewalk book sale.
- March 19th, we will have our blood drive from 1-6PM in the meeting room.
- Medicare 101 will meet on March 20th, at 3:30.
- We will have some Dr Seuss movies the week of Spring break.
- two easter egg hunts will be on March 27th, babies to pre k at 10, k-5th at 3:15.
- Hope Dance and Arts is performing a FREE spring dance show in the theatre, at 2:00 PM and 6:00 PM.
- We will also have our normal programming, as well as several take home craft kits.
- The library is officially out of snacks for our snack pantry, so if you would like to donate, please do so, and we will also waive Parnell Memorial Library item fines, with the exception of hotspots and the zoo pass.
- We also had our first teen advisory board (TAB) meeting, and we officially have 13 teen volunteers for the library this year.
- Was awarded \$10,000 ALA Libraries transforming community grant.
- Moving forward with our building repairs
- will be speaking at the Chamber luncheon this month.
- Possibly would like an extra phone line, due to the business and influx of phone calls





**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS**  
OF CENTRAL ALABAMA

Montevallo Unit

# Montevallo Program Report February 2024



2024											
JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
60	60										
2023											
JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
46	46	47	51	52	81	82	62	62	62	53	58

## After School Care:

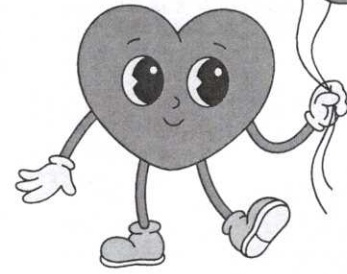
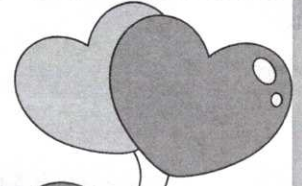
- We are getting a couple new signs for the building, thanks to our advisory council!
- We received a \$5400 donation from The Nolan Family Foundation, as a contribution to the Montevallo Club!





**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS**  
OF CENTRAL ALABAMA

Montevallo Unit



## **Anti-Bullying:**

- We discussed different way to stop bullying through an activity called “5 ways to stop bullying”

## **Positive Actions:**

- Our members distinguished positive and negative talk, and learned how to rephrase things to come off as positive instead of negative.

## **Healthy Habits:**

- Our youth led a “Roll the Dice” game, where you roll a dice, and each number on the dice correlates to a different exercise to do

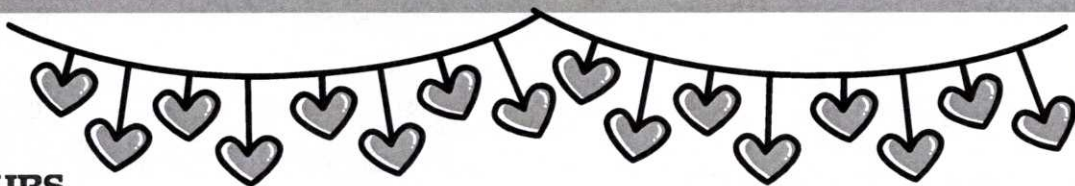
## **Smart Moves:**

- We went over de-escalation strategies with each of our groups, and talked through different ways to de-escalate different situations and emotions.



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS**  
OF CENTRAL ALABAMA

Montevallo Unit



## Club News

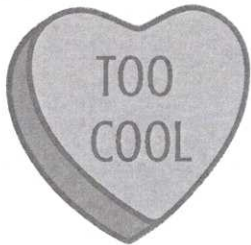
- **Our Water bottle filling station is up to 3444 water bottles saved!**
- **A Thompson High School Club came and volunteered with us, and played lots of games with our Jellyfish group!**
- **Kaitlin did an amazing job competing in Youth of the Year, and presented her speech so well at the celebration! We are so proud of her, and she can't wait to compete next year!**  
**Way to go Kati!!**



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS**  
OF CENTRAL ALABAMA

# Youth of the Month:

Montevallo Unit



## Salma Williams

Salma has attended the club since the beginning of the school year! She is the first to lend a helping hand and set a good example

for others!

**Favorites:**

color: red

program area: game room

hobby: soccer

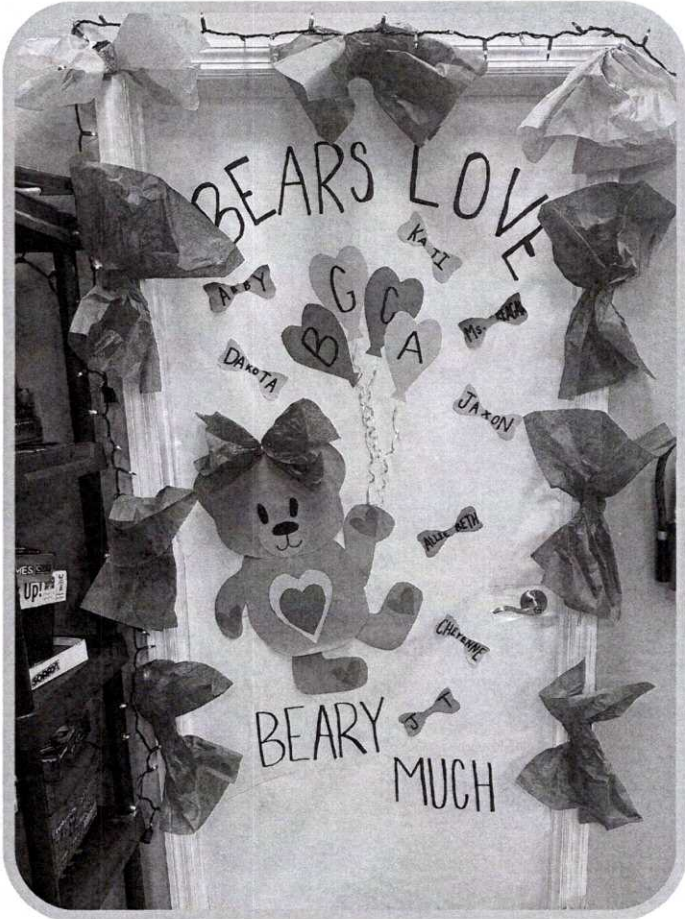
club activity: ping pong



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS  
OF CENTRAL ALABAMA**

Montevallo Unit

# Staff valentines day door competition



## 1st place



## 2nd place





**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS**  
OF CENTRAL ALABAMA

# Staff valentines day door competition

Montevallo Unit



## 3rd place



## 4th place





**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS  
OF CENTRAL ALABAMA**

Montevallo Unit



Our Advisory  
council  
supporting  
Kaitlin at  
YOY



Our YOY  
club winner,  
Kaitlin,  
meeting  
Mayor Nix



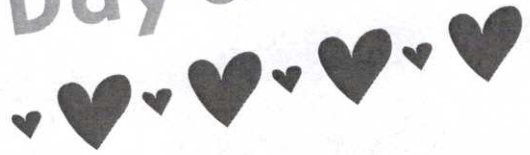


**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS**  
OF CENTRAL ALABAMA

Montevallo Unit



**Groundhog  
Day crafts!!**



**The  
groundhog  
says early  
spring!!**





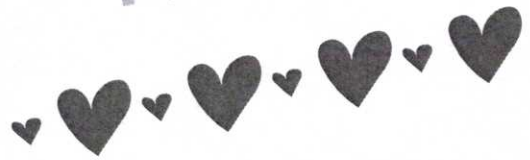


**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS**  
OF CENTRAL ALABAMA

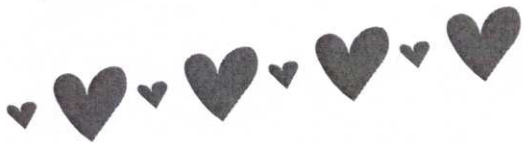
Montevallo Unit



Love you to  
**PIECES!!**



Love bugs!!



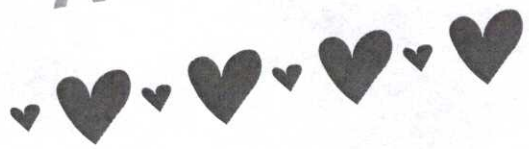


**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS**  
OF CENTRAL ALABAMA

Montevallo Unit



**Black History  
Month  
Activities!!**



**Diversity  
hand  
butterflies!!**



**Montevallo Chamber of Commerce Report 3.11.24**

- 1) **5th Annual Blooming Bargains** started Sat Feb. 24 with the opening of the 8th Annual American Village Festival of Tulips. This event is a Chamber partnership with Montevallo Main St. It will run during the American Village Festival of Tulips blooming season. Cross promote Festival and Montevallo businesses. Participating businesses for 2024 - Blue Phrog Gallery, Boho Tea Bar, C's Cake and Coffee House, DreFit, Falcon Art Supply, Indigo Cafe & Bar, Save My Cell, Slice Pizza Montevallo, The Jewelry Lady and Soul Spot Soul Food.
- 2) **March Chamber Luncheon** / "The Library Foundation" / Speakers: Kellie Wyatt, Board President & Marissa Wilson, Library Director / Wed. March 20 from 11:30am to 1pm ; noon - lunch \$15.00 per person / Parnell Library meeting room, RSVP by Mon March 18 / Sponsor - Parnell Memorial Library Foundation, Inc.
- 3) **WASHINGTON UPDATE LUNCHEON** / Thursday April 4th 11:30am - 1pm at Hyatt -Regency (The Wynfrey Hotel) / Speaker - Congressman Gary Palmer / Montevallo Chamber will co-host / Please RSVP by March 30
- 4) **2024 Montevallo Onion Sale** deadline April 16th with tentative pick-up date of May 9th. Funds raised will go to support the **Annual Montevallo Community Grant Fund**. New for this year the bags will be 5 lbs. - Cost \$6. per bag
- 5) **Montevallo Chamber Golf Tournament** Thursday April 18 / to benefit the Mary Lou Williams Scholarship Fund / Cahaba Fall Country Club - Centerville / 11am lunch with shotgun at 12:30pm
- 6) Co-host **Shelby County Small Business Awards** Luncheon / Wed May 22 / Pelham Civic Complex / Deadline for nomination April 22, 2024



**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)



**A Collaborative Program of Calera Main Street, Chelsea Business Alliance,  
Columbiana Main Street, Montevallo Chamber of Commerce, Montevallo Main Street &  
The Shelby County Chamber**

### **Nomination Information**

#### **Part I. Guidelines & Instructions**

##### **Purpose**

With more than 70% of businesses in Shelby County designated as small businesses, Calera Main Street, Chelsea Business Alliance, Columbiana Main Street, Montevallo Chamber of Commerce, Montevallo Main Street and The Shelby County Chamber are honored to recognize the excellence and success of our small business community.

##### **Eligibility**

Any business operating in Shelby County and fitting the criteria in one of the five categories can be nominated.

- Category I:** 1-5 Total Employees, Open 1 Year or More  
**Category II:** 6-10 Total Employees, Open 1 Year or More  
**Category III:** 11-20 Total Employees, Open 1 Year or More  
**Category IV:** 21+ Total Employees, Open 1 Year or More  
**Category V:** Open Less Than One Year as of March 31, 2024 with Less Than 25 Total Employees

Self-nominations are accepted. In order to qualify, the nominated business should:

- Have ownership that has not been convicted of a felony
- Prove business financial stability
- Has a current license to do business in Shelby County, or a Shelby County municipality

##### **Evaluation Criteria**

**Businesses will be evaluated for the years 2021, 2022 and 2023 only based on the criteria listed below. You may write and submit as little, or as much, as you wish to provide:**

- **Staying Power:** A substantiated history as an established business (*Categories I, II, III & IV*);
- **Growth in Number of Employees** A benchmark to judge the impact of the business on the Shelby County job market (*Categories I, II, III & IV*);
- **Increase in Sales and/or Unit Volume** An indication of continued growth (*Categories I, II, III & IV*);
- **Response to Adversity:** Provide written examples of problems faced in the nominee's business and the methods used to solve those (*All Categories*);
- **Evidence of Contribution to Aid Community-Oriented Projects:** Provide written examples of personal time and resources utilized (*All Categories*).

##### **Nomination Materials**

Small businesses wishing to enter must submit the attached form and are encouraged to provide additional documentation on their successes in the above criteria. Materials may be submitted electronically or in person. All documents submitted become the property of Calera Main Street, Chelsea Business Alliance, Columbiana Main Street, Montevallo Chamber of Commerce, Montevallo Main Street and The Shelby County Chamber and will not be returned. *Please provide a file of your company's logo to Karen Williams via e-mail at [karen@shelbychamber.org](mailto:karen@shelbychamber.org) when you turn in your packet.*

- Over -

### **Recognition**

To provide you and your business additional exposure, all nominated businesses who provide completed nomination forms, will be recognized in the following manner:

- A 2024 Shelby County Small Business of the Year Nominee icon for you to place on your organization's website and e-mails
- Your logo and company visibility in a special Small Business Awards Tab/ Insert featured in *The Shelby County Reporter*;
- In a media advisory/ press release provided to the area media;
- One complimentary registration to the May 20 and May 22 Small Business Workshops being held during the 2024 Shelby County Small Business Celebration.
- At the 2024 Shelby County Small Business of the Year Nominees' Reception on May 20, 2024.
- At the Shelby County Small Business of the Year Awards' Luncheon on Wednesday, May 22, 2024 at The Pelham Civic Complex in Pelham.
- A listing of all 2024 Shelby County Small Business of the Year Award Nominees will be featured in *Shelby Living* magazine (monthly readership of 25,000+).
- Recipients will be eligible for nomination by The Shelby County Chamber for the State Small Business Awards hosted by the Business Council of Alabama & The Chamber of Commerce Assoc. of Alabama.

### **Deadline**

The completed Nomination Packet must be received (to allow for judging) no later than 5:00PM on Monday, **April 22, 2024**, at:

#### **BY MAIL**

The Shelby County Chamber  
ATTN: Shelby County Small Business of the Year  
1301 County Services Drive  
Pelham, AL 35124

#### **BY E-MAIL**

[karen@shelbychamber.org](mailto:karen@shelbychamber.org)

#### **BY FAX**

205-663-4524

- Please See Final Page for 2024 Nomination Form -

**Part II. 2024 Nomination Information Form**  
(Please fill out and include with any additional materials)

**Categories (Mark the Box of ONE Category for Your Submission)**

**Category I: 1-5 Total Employees, Open 1 Year or More**

**Category II: 6-10 Total Employees, Open 1 Year or More**

**Category III: 11-20 Total Employees, Open 1 Year or More**

**Category IV: 21+ Total Employees, Open 1 Year or More**

**Category V: Open Less Than One Year as of 3/31/24 & Less Than 25 Total Employees**

**A. Nominee Information (Please Print)**

Business Name \_\_\_\_\_

Business Representative \_\_\_\_\_

Representative Title \_\_\_\_\_

Full Business Location Address \_\_\_\_\_

Representative Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Business Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

**B. Business Information (Please Print)**

Type of Business \_\_\_\_\_

Business Description \_\_\_\_\_

Year Business Began \_\_\_\_\_

**C. Sales and Growth (Requested for Categories I, II, III & IV)**

	2021	2022	2023
Total # of Employees/Volunteers	_____	_____	_____
% Sales Volume Increase	_____	_____	_____
Sales Territory	_____	_____	_____

**D. Certification Information (Check all the boxes below that apply)**

My business is a current investor / participant in either Calera Main Street, Chelsea Business Alliance, Columbiana Main Street, the Montevallo Chamber of Commerce, Montevallo Main Street or The Shelby County Chamber.

My business is not a current investor in any of these organizations.

My business has been operating continuously for 1 Year or More (Categories I, II, III & IV).

My business has been operating for 1 Year or Less as of 3/31/24 (Category V only).

I reviewed the "Eligibility" Statement (Part I: Guidelines & Instructions, Eligibility) and agree that my business and owner(s) meet the Qualifications (All Categories).

I reviewed the Nomination Packet (Part I: Guidelines & Instructions and Part II: Nomination form)

I have provided a file with my company's logo for use in promotion of this event and I certify that these statements and the information provided are correct.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Business Owner's Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**



EMAIL: [JDEEEO@MONTEVALLO.EDU](mailto:JDEEEO@MONTEVALLO.EDU)

FAX: 205-665-6566

MAIL: STATION 6565

MONTEVALLO, AL 35115

## 2024 BIG EVENT DETAILS- APRIL 6, 2024

To express their gratitude to a community that supports the University of Montevallo in so many ways, the student body is volunteering their time and efforts to the betterment of the community in which they live. On Saturday, April 6, 2024, student volunteers will provide three hours of service to the residents of Montevallo, performing outdoor tasks from raking yards to trimming hedges. The BIG EVENT gives UM students the opportunity to show appreciation for all of the support the Montevallo community has given the University of Montevallo.

## DO YOU NEED HELP?

We are looking for Montevallo citizens who could use a little help from UM students. Our students can complete any outdoor work you need done as long as no power tools are required. We will only be accepting indoor jobs at churches and places of business. Work site hosts are expected to adhere to all local, state, and federal laws.

## HOW TO SIGN UP- DEADLINE MARCH 22, 2024

Simply fill out the attached job request form and email, fax, or mail it back to us by Friday, March 22, 2024. If you have any questions, you are welcome to call the UM Student Life Office at 205-665-6565. Our students look forward to meeting you and serving our community April 6th!



EMAIL: JBELL8@MONTEVALLO.EDU  
FAX: 205-665-6566  
MAIL: STATION 6565  
MONTEVALLO, AL 35115

**2024 BIG EVENT**  
**COMMUNITY JOB REQUEST FORM**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Work Site: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide description of project (i.e., raking, washing windows, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any tools (rakes, shovels, etc.) that can be used by our volunteers? If you need painting done, all painting supplies (brushes, paint, etc.) must be provided by you. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The University of Montevallo, its Board, employees, agents, and the SGA are not responsible for any damages incurred by volunteers. Due to liability, we will not be able to use power tools, mowers, weed eaters, or construction equipment. Community participants shall protect, hold harmless and indemnify the University of Montevallo, its Board, employees, agents, and the SGA, against all liabilities, claims, suits, or demands for sickness/injuries to any person and/or property growing out of their participations in the Big Event, including acts of omissions constituting negligence.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\*The Big Event is a one-day volunteer service project. If bad weather should occur on the day of the Big Event, we cannot guarantee the completion of jobs.  
\*The University of Montevallo Student Government Association has the right to refuse any job request.





## APPENDIX 8

### In Honor and Memory of Derrick A. Lilly

March 2024

By the Honorable Mayor Rusty Nix and Montevallo City Council

#### A PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, Lilly was born at Shelby Memorial in Alabaster in 1975, joined the United States Marine Corps straight after graduation from the Bibb County School system; and

**WHEREAS**, Lilly served in the fifth Battalion of the 10th Marine Sierra Battery 5/10 and operated as a field artillery cannoneer and was also designated as a rifleman sharpshooter; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1996 Lilly was honorably discharged as a lance corporal with a National Defense Service Medal, a good conduct medal, a Sea Service Deployment Ribbon and a letter of appreciation; and

**WHEREAS**, Lilly pursued a career with the United States Postal Service, where he began work as a sales service distribution associate at the Montevallo post office on October 20, 2001; and

**WHEREAS**, for the last 22 years, Lilly became a familiar face in the community who was liked and respected among his coworkers, friends and those frequenting the post office; and

**WHEREAS**, Lilly's legacy will continue through his wife of nearly 30 years, five sons, two daughters, one granddaughter and a large extended family; and

**WHEREAS**, Lilly will be remembered kindly by a long list of Marine Corps brothers and friends who have expressed their gratitude for the display of support from the community; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, to further share awareness of Derrick A. Lilly's contribution to Montevallo and our country, I, Mayor Rusty Nix, do hereby proclaim, recognize, and celebrate his service.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused this seal to be affixed this 11th day of March 2024.



---

Rusty Nix, Mayor  
City of Montevallo

**MONTEVALLO MIDDLE SCHOOL LEADERS OF TOMORROW**

*Acknowledges and Appreciates*

**MAYOR RUSTY NIX, THE CITY COUNCIL AND THE CITY OF MONTEVALLO**

FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND ACTS OF KINDNESS THAT YOU HAVE SHOWN TO  
MMS LOT DURING OUR EXCURSIONS AND ENHANCING OUR LEADERSHIP  
SKILLS. THANKS FOR USE OF THE PARKS AND PARNELL MEMORIAL LIBRARY;  
AND SERVICES PROVIDED FROM THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, MJCC, IMPACT  
MONTEVALLO, MAINSTREET AND THE FIRE AND POLICE DEPARTMENTS.

*Presented this eleventh day of March in the year of 2024*

*Lehia H. Mitchell*

MMS LOT Board President

*Matthew Williams*

MMS LOT Advisor

Gregory D. Cochran, CAE  
Executive Director



Mayor Randy Garrison, Hartselle  
League President

APPENDIX 10

*The voice of Alabama's  
municipalities since 1935*

**COPY**

DATE: February 21, 2024  
TO: Municipal Clerks  
FROM: Gregory D. Cochran, Executive Director  
SUBJECT: Voting Delegate, Annual Business Session  
ENCLOSURE: Voting Delegate Authorization Form

The Annual Convention of the Alabama League of Municipalities will be held on May 15-18, 2024, in Huntsville. The membership's Annual Business Meeting will be held at 4:00 p.m. on May 17, 2024, at the Von Braun Center.

The League Constitution contains the following provision pertaining to powers of member municipalities at the Business Meeting:

*"Each member municipality shall have one vote on any issue voted on during the annual meeting of the League membership, and that vote may only be cast by the delegate authorized by the governing body of the member municipality."*

Enclosed is the official Voting Delegate Authorization Form to be returned to the League. The City or Town Council is charged with designation your municipality's official voting delegate and alternates who will be eligible to cast the municipality's vote during the business meeting. A copy was also sent to each mayor as required by the League's Constitution. **Only one completed form** should be returned by each League member municipality.

**Please put this on your council meeting agenda at your earliest convenience so that the council may vote. The completed form must be returned to the League by April 30, 2024, so that your municipality may be eligible to cast its vote at the Convention.**

We look forward to you joining us in Huntsville,

Greg Cochran  
Executive Director

## VOTING DELEGATE AUTHORIZATION FORM

The City or Town Council must select the voting delegates and this form must be completed and returned to the Alabama League of Municipalities on or before **April 30, 2024**, in order for the municipality named below to be eligible to have its designee cast a vote at the **Annual Business Meeting of the League on Friday, May 17, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.**

**The League Constitution REQUIRES that Voting Delegates and Alternates be Elected Municipal Officials and they must be selected by a vote of the City or Town Council.**

Deadline to submit completed form is April 30, 2024!

The Following person(s) is authorized to cast the municipality's vote at the business session of the Annual Convention of the Alabama League of Municipalities on May 17, 2024.

**Please print the requested information**

1. Voting Delegate: Kenneth Dukes  
Name  
City Council Member  
Title

2. 1<sup>st</sup> Alternate Voting Delegate: **Votes only in absence of Voting Delegate**  
Lelia Mitchell  
Name  
City Council Member  
Title

3. 2<sup>nd</sup> Alternate Voting Delegate: **Votes only in absence of Voting Delegate & 1<sup>st</sup> Alternate**  
Martha Ann Eisenberg  
Name  
City Council Member  
Title

Voted on by the City or Town Council on this the 11<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2024

Form Completed by: Steve Gilbert City Clerk/Treasurer  
(Please Print) Name Title  
City of Montevallo 3/11/24  
City/Town Date

**Return form to:** Alabama League of Municipalities  
P.O. Box 1270, Montgomery, Alabama 36102 or by Fax to (334) 263-0200 or Email to  
[DPascal@almonline.org](mailto:DPascal@almonline.org)



**ALABAMA  
HISTORICAL  
COMMISSION**  
THE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

468 S. Perry Street  
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0900  
Voice: (334)242-3184  
Fax: (334)262-1083  
www.ahc.alabama.gov

## Historical Marker Application

Property Information:		
Property Name: <b>Epsibeth Missionary Baptist Church</b>		
Street Address: <b>250 Hwy 204</b>		
City: <b>Montevallo</b>	County: <b>Shelby</b>	Zip: <b>35115</b>
Contact Person Name: <b>James Salter</b>		
Contact Phone Number: <b>205-306-4671</b>		
Contact Email Address: <b>james_a_salter@yahoo.com</b>		
Contact Mailing Address: <b>P.O. Box 415</b>		
City: <b>Montevallo</b>	State: <b>AL</b>	Zip: <b>35115</b>
Historic Register Information:		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Listed on a Historic Register		
Alabama Register of Landmarks & Heritage	Date of Listing:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Individually Listed	Name of Listing:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic District	Name of Historic District:	
National Register of Historic Places	Date of Listing:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Individually Listed	Name of Listing:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic District	Name of Historic District:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Alabama Historic Cemetery Register	Date of Listing:	
Size of Marker Requested (Height by Width):		
<b>*Prices effective May 1, 2023 – April 30, 2024</b>		
24" x 30"	30" x 42"	Plaque (16.5" x 16")
<input type="checkbox"/> \$2,110 Same text on both sides	<input type="checkbox"/> \$2,950 Same text on both sides	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$600
<input type="checkbox"/> \$2,360 Different text on both sides	<input type="checkbox"/> \$3,370 Different text on both sides	
Size of Post Requested: <input type="checkbox"/> 7' or <input type="checkbox"/> 10' (Additional Cost of \$100)		

<b>Type of Seal Requested:</b>					
<input type="checkbox"/> Alabama State Seal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Black Heritage Council Seal			<input type="checkbox"/> Cemetery Register Seal	
<b>Optional Items:</b>					
Photograph:					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None	<input type="checkbox"/> 4" x 6"	<input type="checkbox"/> 5" x 7"	<input type="checkbox"/> 8" x 10"	<input type="checkbox"/> 11" x 14"	<input type="checkbox"/> 20" x 24"
Etched Plate:					
<input type="checkbox"/> Any size up to 10" x 10"		<input type="checkbox"/> Any size up to 20" x 20"		<input type="checkbox"/> Larger than 20" x 20"	
QR Code:					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None		<input type="checkbox"/> QR Code (Please provide code.)			
Proposed Marker Narrative: (use additional sheets if necessary)					
Epsibeth Missionary Baptist Church, founded in 1873, has been designated as a significant African American historic site by the Black Heritage Council of the Alabama Historical Commission					
Sponsored by the City of Montevallo					
<b>Location of Marker:</b>					
For locational information, please visit Google Maps, search for the street address, then right click on the spot the marker will be placed. Once you do this, Google should provide you the latitude and longitude, which should look like this 32.37203, -86.30751.					
Latitude: 33.103611			Longitude -86.890278		
<b>Billing Information:</b>					
A sponsoring individual or organization is required to pay Sewah Studios upon invoice. Do not send money to the AHC.					
Name:					
Address:					
City:		State:		Zip:	
Phone Number:					
Email Address:					
<b>Shipping:</b>					
For historical markers and plaques mounted on posts, prepaid delivery service is curbside delivery to a commercial delivery address ONLY. Plaques can be delivered to a residential or commercial delivery address by UPS. Contact Sewah Studios at (888) 557-3924 for specific shipping questions.					
Ship to the Attention of:					
Company Name:					
Street Address (No P.O. Boxes):					
City:		State:		Zip:	
Phone Number:					

**Approval of Property Owner(S):**

It is the responsibility of the applicant requesting the marker or plaque to secure approval of the property owner, whether it is privately or publicly (city, county, state, or federal governments or right-of-way) owned. Property owner or designated official's signature(s) must appear below.

We request that the Alabama Historical Commission approve this Historical Marker and/or Plaque.

**Lorenza Mitchell**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sponsoring Individual or Organization (Please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Property Owner or Authorized Officer (Please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Individual or Official of Sponsoring Organization

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Property Owner or Authorized Officer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

*3/17/24*

**Return this Form and Any Attachments to:**

**Alabama Historical Commission**

**Attn: Leanne Waller-Trupp**

**468 S. Perry Street**

**Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0900**

**Leanne.Trupp@ahc.alabama.gov**

# *History*

*Epsibeth Missionary Baptist Church was founded just seven years after the abolition of slavery, in 1873 by Mr. Peter B. Thomas, Owner of the Mines in Aldrich, Alabama.*

*Mr. Thomas had two churches in the community built at the turn-of-the-century. He gave one building to the Negro Baptist Community. This Sanctuary also served as a school house and a number of our members as well as older members of many other churches attended classes there. Many prominent people such as Teachers began their Education here. Many of the churches here in Montevallo started from E.M.B.C. and branched off due to the growth in our community.*

*Epsibeth Missionary Baptist Church is now 142 years old and we still have worship services here to this day. Throughout the years we have had only six pastors at this church until they proceeded death: Rev. Berry Ware - 1873, Rev. G.R. Nash - 1907, Rev. Lee, Rev. Gay, Rev. Grover Massey - 1950, 1981, Currently to this day Pastor Lorenza Mitchell has served Epsibeth Missionary Baptist Church for over 32 years of service. He has been a blessing to our members and our community We thank God for everyday that we have here on upon this earth to Celebrate 142 years. Thank you all for your support.*



## Epsibeth Missionary Baptist Church, Montevallo, Shelby County

5/1/2023

0 Comments

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Epsibeth Missionary Baptist Church has served the community of Aldrich, near Montevallo, for more than 150 years. (Photo by Robin McDonald)

William Farrington Aldrich, owner of the Montevallo Coal Mining Company, established Epsibeth Missionary Baptist Church for the African American community in 1873. The church also served as an early school for African American children. Despite the Montevallo Coal Mine Company closing in 1942, the congregation of Epsibeth stayed and continued to worship in the building. Located near Montevallo close to the entrance to the mines, the Aldrich Company Store, and Farrington Hall, this church site served as the center of Aldrich's African American community. With its use as a church, school, and community gathering place, the preservation of this building is key to understanding the African American experience in Aldrich.

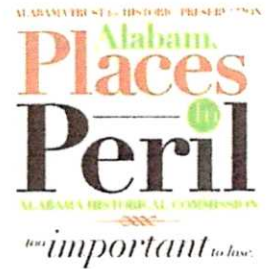
Only seven pastors have led the Epsibeth congregation since its inception. The current pastor, Lorenza Mitchell, has been at Epsibeth for over forty years. The congregation has made many improvements over the years, including adding a fellowship hall and installing central air and indoor restrooms.

Though the church is still active and meets in the original building, Epsibeth has been damaged due to vandalism and deferred maintenance. Vandals kicked in and compromised the doors in 2019, and it will take replacement doors to secure the church properly. The weather has also taken a toll on the church. The foundation has shifted, causing cracks in the walls, and the ceilings show a tremendous amount of damage near the restrooms and kitchen due to a faulty roof. The congregation completed a partial repair of the roof, but more work is needed. The church faces tremendous expenses to make these repairs. The congregation hopes that listing in Places in Peril will bring awareness to this historic church.

0 Comments

0 Comments

Leave a Reply.



### Alabama's Endangered Historic Landmarks

Each year since 1994, *Alabama Heritage* has highlighted threatened historic sites throughout Alabama. The "Places in Peril" list has identified more than 215 imperiled historic resources throughout the state, and is compiled by the Alabama Historical Commission and the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation. The locations highlight the results of deferred maintenance, perceived obsolescence, development pressures, and lack of funding—forces that now more than ever threaten our cultural legacy. But awareness is a powerful force, too, and can cultivate a renewed determination to be responsible stewards of our heritage. For more information, visit the AHC or the ATHP websites. *Alabama Heritage* is proud to bring to you a selection of the places designated as perilous. Please keep your comments to information relevant to the featured place in peril. *Alabama Heritage* reserves the right to delete any comment that we deem inappropriate.

[Places in Peril Home](#)

[Archives](#)

## MONTEVALLO HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION PRESENTS

*Untold Stories of Black Montevallo:*

### The Remarkable Life of Rev. Joseph Sidney Prentice

This untold story focuses on the preacher and early champion of education for African Americans for whom Montevallo's "Negro" high school was named in 1954. Prentice High School stood at the site of what became Montevallo Middle School in 1970, marking the end of segregated schools in the City of Montevallo.

Born into slavery in 1857 in Aldrich, Joseph Sidney Prentice belonged to the first generation of freedmen. During his long and remarkable life -- he lived to be 86 -- he was a miner, farmer, merchant, husband and father of eleven, property owner, registered voter, Mason, pastor of a host of Baptist churches in at least three counties, and leading figure in the Bibb County District Association for over four decades.



Prentice bravely navigated an uncommon life for a man of color during the Jim Crow era and his story should be known. We will begin by highlighting some things we have learned about his contributions in the local area as a religious leader.

First, a quick summary of his leadership role within the local and state Black Baptist Associations. From 1903 until his death in 1944, he was Moderator of the Bibb County Baptist Association. He was also President of the Sunday School District Convention, Member of the State Mission Board, Member of the Publishing Board, and pastor of numerous churches in Bibb, Shelby, and Chilton counties for nearly half a century. Among them were Ebenezer in Ashby, Rising Star in West Blocton, New Convert in Maplesville, St. Mark in Calera, Hopewell in Clanton, Epsibeth in Aldrich, and his home church, New Hope, in Randolph.

According to the 1870 Census, Joseph, aged 12, was a farm laborer who could not read or write. The 1880 Census records that he was an illiterate miner. At some point, clearly, he acquired literacy skills. By around thirty he began preaching, probably in Randolph, in Bibb County, where he had family ties. By 1891, he was pastor of record at New Hope Baptist Church in Randolph. The first New Hope Church building is believed to have burned down. The second New Hope Church building was erected on June 15, 1908 under Prentice's guidance. (New Hope Church history courtesy of Larrhea Sims.)

Randolph boasted four Black Baptist churches with more than 340 members altogether. New Hope had the largest congregation, with a reported membership of 184 the year Prentice was installed as pastor. By 1894, it had nearly 200 members. In 1893 Prentice was paid an annual salary of \$150 making him the best-paid pastor in the Association.



His powers as a dynamic speaker were soon recognized outside Randolph. "Rev. Prentice certainly is at home when placed in the sacred desk," wrote an attendee of the annual Association meeting in 1892; "his audience [was held] spell-bound." The following year, he preached a "masterly" sermon that "added greatly" to his reputation as a compelling speaker. "Too much cannot be said of Rev. Prentice as a preacher." (Bibb Co. Assn. Minutes, 1892, 1893, 1894.)

Prentice was also an acclaimed church singer. He was especially associated with an AME song entitled "No Compromise" that simultaneously declares defiance of sin and white supremacy. One of its verses proclaims, "Look, a mighty host advances / Now, see the proud oppressors flee; / See, our country breaks its fetters, / And sets her captives free." It ends: "Thine oppressors bend to thee." (Shelby Springs Assn. Minutes, 1899.)

He played important roles in two Montevallo churches. The annual statistics compiled by the Shelby Springs Baptist Association show that in 1894 and 1895 when Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church had only 12 to 13 members, Prentice was pastor of record. He was evidently helping the fledgling group get started. In 1899, the membership had grown to 42 and Shiloh was officially established and pastored by Rev. Isaac Witherspoon. In 1908, Prentice was installed as pastor of Epsibeth Baptist Church in his home town of Aldrich. According to current pastor, Rev. Lorenzo Mitchell, the original name of the church was Hepzibah, but the spelling went through multiple variations before settling into "Epsibeth."



Recent accounts of Prentice stress his advocacy of education, and rightly so. Like others in the first-freed generation, he believed fervently in the power of education to uplift "the race"; as a Baptist leader, he promoted the urgency of learning at every opportunity. A statement that he signed in 1893 speaks volumes: "Let us do all in our power to educate ourselves and our children"; by this "we shall be able to compete with any race of men intellectually, morally and religiously" (Bibb Co. Assn Minutes.)

Toward the end of Prentice's life, as he approached eighty, the *Shelby County Reporter* published a tribute to the man known to his friends as "Uncle Joe." It summarized the very remarkable record of his "service to his people" (Ap 15, 1937). Rev. Prentice, life-long resident of Aldrich, earned the respect of Montevallo's leading white citizenry and the love of the Black community he served, tirelessly, for five decades. It is time to consider restoring his name to the Middle School that stands at the site of the former Prentice High School.

Submitted by Kathy King & Anita Stewart Sims  
Contact us at [Movaltrail@gmail.com](mailto:Movaltrail@gmail.com). We want to hear your stories and welcome correction of any errors of fact or interpretation.

## Untold Stories of Black Montevallo:

### ALDRICH GRAMMAR SCHOOL IN 1898

Since this is Black History Month, it is exciting to be able to present new information about the Aldrich Grammar School. This announcement, which ran in the *Alabama Time-Piece* in 1898, provides a rare look at a local "negro" school's course of study and fairly bursts with insight into the yearning for real education felt by Aldrich's African American community at the turn of the century.

The curriculum might be said to embody aspirations summed up by this humorous "Resolved": "That we, as a colored race of people, strive to have our hearts filled with the love of God, our heads filled with education and our pockets filled with money" (*Bibb Co. Baptist Assn. Minutes*, 1893).

It shows the influence of the educational aims promoted by Tuskegee's Booker T. Washington, a man "who is nobody's fool," as contemporary poet Tyehimba Jess puts it, a "Race Ambassador who trained up teachers in troops." Aldrich instruction was remarkably comprehensive. It included instruction in basic literacy skills (penmanship, reading and writing) and mathematics (including bookkeeping), as well as broad forms of knowledge: geography, anatomy and physiology, and American history -- culminating in an emphasis on "Negro history." Racial pride was part of the curriculum.

The principal of the school, B. L. Lester -- born Benjamin, he renamed himself Booker -- was dedicated to its success. He worked through the Baptist Church and was active in the Bibb County and Shelby Springs Baptist Associations. He was lauded as one of several fine teachers who "are struggling to bring our people up, along this educational line." The Bibb County Association hailed him as "a hero in our Sunday School Work" (*Minutes* 1894). In addition, he edited the weekly *Time-Piece*.



B. L. "Booker" Lester,  
principal of Aldrich Grammar  
School and editor of  
*Alabama Time-Piece*

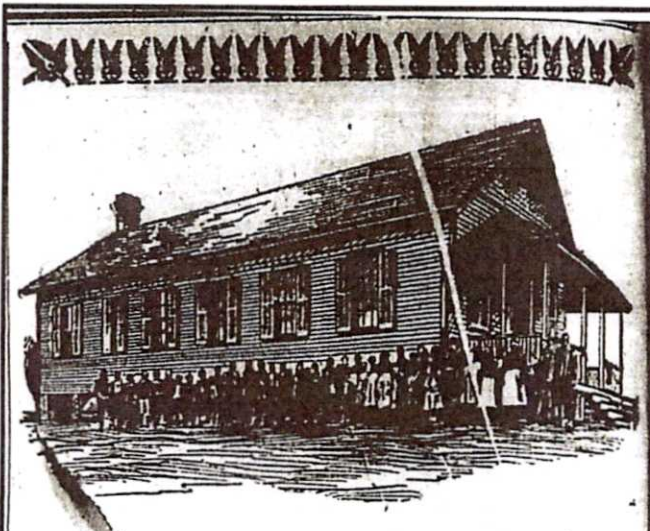
The unusually long school year, from mid-September to the end of May, underlines the strength of Lester's and the community's commitment to learning. State-funded "negro" schools, chronically and grievously underfunded, seldom went for more than three months, if that. Aldrich provided at least twice that. The exceptional nature of the education offered in Aldrich could not be clearer.

The building is probably the original Epsibeth Baptist, established in 1873, the first church in Aldrich. It exemplifies the desire of freed Blacks to create their own churches during the decades following the Civil War. Stories handed down in the Aldrich community confirm that on weekdays the church doubled as a school for children of color. Here as in so many ways the Black church provided opportunities for building

stronger, more resilient, more successful communities -- and education was a key part of that. Writes historian Wilson Fallin: "No issue concerned black Baptists more than education. Coming out of slavery, blacks craved formal education."

Submitted by Kathy King & Anita Stewart Sims

Contact us at [Moaltrail@gmail.com](mailto:Moaltrail@gmail.com). We want to hear your stories and welcome corrections of errors of fact or interpretation.



ANNOUNCEMENT  
OF THE  
**ALDRICH : GRAMMAR : SCHOOL,**  
Aldrich, Ala.  
School Opens Sept. 12, 1898; Closes May 28, 29 & 30, 1899.

**COURSE OF STUDY:**

I. PRIMARY DEPARTMENT.

FIRST GRADE—First Reader, Counting, Spelling, Making Letters and Figures.  
SECOND GRADE—Second Reader, Sanford's Intermediate Arithmetic, Swinton's Word Primer, Penmanship.  
THIRD GRADE—Third Reader, Sanford's Intermediate Arithmetic (beginning at Fractions), Swinton's Word Primer, Language Lessons, Monteith's Primary Geography, Penmanship, House I Live In.

II. GRAMMAR DEPARTMENT.

FOURTH GRADE—Fourth Reader, Sanford's Common School Arithmetic, Harvey's Elementary Grammar, Swinton's Word Book, Steel's Physiology and Hygiene, Monteith's Second Geography, Penmanship.  
FIFTH GRADE—Barnes' Primary History of the United States (finish), Sanford's Common School Arithmetic (beginning at Fractions), Monteith's Geography, Harvey's Elementary Grammar, Swinton's Word-Book, Steel's Physiology, Penmanship.  
SIXTH GRADE—Barnes' Complete History of the United States, Monteith's Complete Geography, White's Complete Arithmetic, Harvey's Complete Grammar, National Speller, Steel's Complete Physiology and Hygiene.  
SEVENTH GRADE—Negro History, Bookkeeping (Rice's Practical), and complete all the studies in the sixth grade.

REMARKS.  
Tuition for boarding students is 75 cents per month.  
Thorough work and obedience to teachers are sustained by Board of Directors: E. D. Taylor, president, G. T. Jones, secretary.

**B. L. LESTER, Principal.**

Aldrich Grammar School, from *Alabama Time-Piece*, 1898

Typescript by Onnie Dell Tucker and MS, B unidentified  
from folder in Shelby Co.

## SCHOOLS FOR BLACKS IN SHELBY COUNTY

Before and during the early twenties, there were "colored" schools dotted all over Shelby County. Most were held in churches. A few had school houses. None of the early schools had running water or indoor plumbing. There were no electric lights. Lanterns or gas lights were used. Sometimes oil lamps were used.

There were no lunchrooms. Children were allowed to go to nearby stores and purchase crackers, bologna, cookies and other lunch items for the noon recess.

In the first Almont Elementary School, a cloak room was converted into a kitchen where a neighbor cooked on a hot plate, often bring vegetables from her own garden to prepare for lunches.

There was a "colored" school in Aldrich, AL located off highway 10 on the curve on highway 203. Either Mr. Thomas or Mr. Aldrich built a nice large two room building there. For a while, only one room was used, with the teachers teaching grades one through six. The mining company furnished coal and supplemented the teachers' salaries. Three of the early teachers were Prof. Herbert Prentice, Mrs. Pearl C. Nelson and a Mrs. Dixon. The Jeannes teacher was the late Dr. Zelio Stephen Evans who traveled to all the schools.

In the later years, more teachers were added and another room. Children were transported from Wilton to Aldrich. The Wilton school was taught in a church in the community.

In Montevallo the "little school" was located on the corner of Island and Block Streets, and was spoken of as being in the shadow of Alabama College. It was a two room building with pot-belly heaters. The earliest readers were the Blue-back Spellers.

Some of the early teachers were Mrs. Mabel Tole, Herbert Prentice, and Mrs. Anna Peoples. The building was often used for concerts and programs for the community.

After an elementary school was build in Almont, the Montevallo School property was sold, and converted to a dwelling house which still stands on that corner.