

Mission: To make The Village of Spring Hill a neighborhood center by improving the pedestrian, aesthetic and commercial amenities of the area

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FALL 2007

A Week-Long Design Process That Includes YOU The Charrette Is Coming!

The rich heritage and colorful history of Spring Hill are evident wherever you look—in the magnificent oaks, voluminous azaleas, and charming homes, both old and new. We who live in the Village are fortunate to already enjoy many of the treasured assets of the “traditional neighborhood” that people across the country crave.

However, it is essential that we who love our neighborhood now take steps to restore its vitality and attractiveness and set the stage for its future development. Imagine a Spring Hill with sidewalks, more plantings, attractive parking areas and pleasing storefronts—a Spring Hill that is people-friendly to match its friendly people!

Mobile Mayor Sam Jones praised the efforts of the Village saying, “The Village of Spring Hill is a very active and effective community organization that has made a real difference in the Spring Hill area. The planning and implementation of projects in the area are positive steps toward the revitalization of one of Mobile’s great neighborhoods.”

A significant step in the revitalization process is the Village’s recent contracting with the nationally renowned urban planning firm **Dover, Kohl & Partners** of Coral Gables, Florida, to create an *updated master plan for our community*. The firm has led planning efforts from California to Florida and recently in Montgomery, AL and Ocean Springs, MS. The master plan is being funded with a grant initiated by Senator Hap Myers through the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs.

Ken Groves, Planning Director for Montgomery, said, “Our recent experience with Dover, Kohl & Partners doing the Downtown Montgomery Plan was the best consulting experience I have had in more than 30 years of practice.” They are indeed among “the country’s best urban designers and architects,” according to *Architect* magazine.

Linda St. John, President of The Village of Spring Hill, says “Dover, Kohl’s qualifications and project approach really set it apart from the other candidates. We feel confident in our ability to accomplish the project’s goals with the help of such a great partner.” Victor Dover, principal with the firm, is equally enthusiastic about working with the Village. “This is a very important time in the history of Spring Hill, and we look forward to working with the community to guide the continued evolution of the Village.”

The Dover, Kohl firm puts community involvement at the center of its planning process. They believe in the use of a **charrette** (shuh-ret), an intensive week-long public design process held on-site in the community. This process ensures that all stakeholders in the community—residents, businesses, property owners, and city officials—have a chance to participate, guide and take ownership in the final plan.

“A goal without a plan is simply a wish.”
—Antoine de Saint-Exupery

How you can participate:

Charette Kickoff Presentation

Tuesday, Nov. 6 at 6:00 p.m.

St. Paul’s Episcopal School Auditorium

Meet the team of planners and enjoy a presentation on the planning process—where we are going and how we are going to get there.

Hands-On Design Session

(Reservations necessary— sign up at www.thevillageofspringhill.com or return the form on the back of this newsletter)

Thursday, Nov. 8 at 6:00 p.m.

Spring Hill Baptist Church (Lower Floor)

Attendees will be divided into groups to give their personal comments and suggestions to the Dover, Kohl team.

Work in Progress Report

Tuesday, Nov. 13 at 6:00 p.m.

St. Paul’s School Auditorium

See the work accomplished during Design Week unveiled.

OPEN DESIGN STUDIO

Nov. 7-9 & 12-13 at 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

4415 Old Shell Road (next to BankTrust)

Observe the Dover, Kohl team at work on our future!

This newsletter is made possible by a generous contribution from Mobile Gas Service, Inc.



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Just What Is a Charrette?

A charrette is an intensive, creative planning session where citizens, designers, and others collaborate on a vision for development. Public charrettes are fast becoming the preferred way to address the planning challenges that confront American cities.

Charrettes are organized to encourage the participation of all—residents, businesses, government officials, and developers. Hence everyone who participates is a mutual author of the completed plan. The ultimate goal of the charrette is to give all participants enough information to make good decisions during the planning and implementation process.

The charrette process for The Village of Spring Hill begins with the design firm—Dover, Kohl—assembling a cross-section of residents, stakeholders, government staff, and elected officials ahead of time to examine the unique challenges facing our community.

Design Week opens with a public presentation to which all are invited. Attendees can meet the Dover, Kohl team and see a presentation on how the design process will evolve. This will be followed by an intensive hands-on workshop for participants to share their own concerns and design ideas.

The multi-disciplinary team will be set up for Design Week at 4415 Old Shell Road adjacent to BankTrust. They will collect and evaluate data, create strategies, and refine the community's ideas to establish consensus on future direction.

At the close of the week, specifics of the conceptual master plan are unveiled for public review. Design details are documented in sketches, photos, hand-drawn renderings, computer simulations, and computer images. This work provides the foundation for creating design guidelines and implementation goals. Final plans will be submitted by Dover, Kohl to the Village in the months following.

Sidewalk Update

Neighborhood sidewalks down Old Shell Road from Spring Hill College to University Boulevard are in the initial stages of planning thanks to a \$379,000 Transportation Enhancement Grant from the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT). The structure of the grant requires a further commitment of matching funds and engineering costs for approximately \$113,000 before the grant can be accepted by the City of Mobile and the work begun. Currently this additional funding is being sought to make the eagerly anticipated sidewalk project a reality for our community.

Ho! Ho! Ho!
Mark your calendar now
for *Christmas on the Hill!*
Sunday, December 2
1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Who Are Dover, Kohl & Partners? *Master Design Specialists Chosen for Spring Hill*



Dover, Kohl & Partners is a multi-disciplinary urban planning firm based in Coral Gables, FL. Most of their work is focused on revitalizing traditional towns and has been featured in national publications and other media. The firm receives over 100 requests a week from cities looking for help.

Margaret Flippen, a project director for the firm and director of the Mobile project, said that the revitalization goals of the Spring Hill volunteer group impressed

Dover, Kohl, who accepted the proposal of the Village.

The Dover, Kohl approach strives for maximum public involvement in planning and stresses a hands-on visual approach, using techniques that merge design studio, policy-making, and town meetings.

Victor Dover and **Joseph Kohl**, principals in the firm, will set up a Design Studio at 4415 Old Shell Road adjacent to BankTrust for the week of November 6 - 13. Drop by to observe the planning process in the works.

Joining them will be two of the country's top consultants in their fields:

Ed Starkie of Urban Advisors, Ltd, will lead the commercial market analysis study. He is a financial advisor who brings a unique, pragmatic approach to our planning project.

Rick Hall of Hall Planning & Engineering, Inc. brings a wealth of first hand experience in Urban Transportation

Planning as well as Transportation/ Land Use interrelationships.

An additional six members from Dover, Kohl will staff the Design Studio for the week. Services to be provided by Dover, Kohl also include a traffic study, commercial market analysis and conceptual designs for the key commercial areas. When combined with a phased implementation strategy, the Village will have a workable plan and roadmap for the future.

Origins of the Word Charrette....

The term **charrette** (shuh-ret) is French and translates to "little cart." In 19th century Paris, professors at the famed *Ecole des Beaux Arts* circulated with charrettes (little carts) to collect architecture students' final drawings to be judged and graded. It is said that students would jump on the charrettes to add finishing touches to their presentations.

Time for New Trees

The Bradford Pear trees in the McGregor/Old Shell Road area have served us well over the last two decades. However, as they have reached their maturity and are showing signs of old age and deterioration, The Village of Spring Hill has submitted an application to the Mobile Tree Commission to remove them in anticipation of new plantings in the area. As part of a Master Plan for The Village, a tree plan will evolve from the November community work sessions led by the team of Dover, Kohl & Partners. This new plan will then be submitted to the Tree Commission for approval. The Village of Spring Hill will work closely with the City of Mobile Urban Forestry Department, the Traffic Department and Keep Mobile Beautiful to make this beautification plan a reality as the first of many projects which will be the outcome of our community-designed Master Plan.

KUDOS

The Village of Spring Hill would like to thank the people below for their special assistance in making our efforts successful!

Reggie Copeland
Mary Ann Fesenmeir
Gina Gregoy
Gwin's Stationery
Jamie Ison
Mike Johnson
Mayor Sam Jones
Gregory Lucey, S.J.
Carolyn Miller
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Mobile City Council District 5
Volunteers
Mobile City Council District 7
Site Visit Cards
State of Alabama House of Representatives
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President, Spring Hill College
Carolyn Miller Design
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Bay Chevrolet
University of South Alabama
Urban Planning Search Committee
Community Planner
Newsletter
Roberts Brothers
Dauphin Realty
The Computer Professionals
Hand Arendall, LLC
Thompson Butler & Houston, LLP

We would also like to thank our hardworking volunteers and generous supporters. Together, we hope to build a Village we can all take pride in and sustain for generations to come.



Pick It Up, Spring Hill!

Round up your children, your neighbors and your friends for the **3rd Annual Village Clean Up Day** on **Saturday, March 29, 2008, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.** Co-sponsored by The Village of Spring Hill and Keep Mobile Beautiful, this event brings our community together for a fun morning—all in the name of cleaning up! Enjoy hot dogs and drinks afterward courtesy of Mobile Gas.



501(c)(3)

YES! The Village of Spring Hill is a 501(c)(3) organization. This means that as a non-profit organization, all donations made are tax deductible. We are grateful to Congressman Jo Bonner, who helped expedite the response from the Internal Revenue Service to our application for non-profit status.

Your membership contribution is tax deductible. Also, please consider The Village of Spring Hill if you would like to make a donation in memory or in honor of someone. A gift card will be sent.

You may use the form on the back page of this newsletter, or go to our website (www.thevillageofspringhill.com), click on "Join," and download the Membership/Donor form.

Thank you for your investment in Spring Hill's future!



TOGETHER, WE CAN...

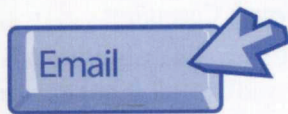
Join your friends and neighbors and be a part of something exciting happening in Spring Hill!

Friend: \$35 – 99
Contributor: \$100 – 249
Supporter: \$250 – 499
Sustainer: \$500 – 999
Patron: \$1,000 +

*A 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization.

Mail form to:

Village of Spring Hill
4354-A Old Shell Rd. #145
Mobile, AL 36608-2011



Please take the time to update or send your email address so we can keep you abreast of happenings in the Village!

Attached is my check for membership in the amount of: \$ _____
In addition to my membership, I would like to make a contribution for:
A Memorial to _____ \$ _____
A Gift in Honor of _____ \$ _____
Sidewalk to Somewhere @ \$100 per foot \$ _____
TOTAL \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Telephone #1: _____ Telephone #2: _____

Preferred method of contact: ___email ___mail

YES! I want to attend the **Hands-On Design Session** Thursday, November 8 at 6:00 p.m. to be held at Spring Hill Baptist Church. *This a FREE event!*

You will be notified by email (preferred), mail or phone that a place is being reserved for you. Available space limits the number of attendees, so send in your reservation today! *Donations and/or membership not required. Please fill out contact information above.*

www.thevillageofspringhill.com

Email: Info@thevillageofspringhill.com



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