

# The Valley Weekly

“What we achieve inwardly will change outer reality.”

- Plutarch

FREE

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

Friday, October 6, 2017

## Municipal Court Presiding Judge Named

*Lonzo Robinson  
Named Municipal  
Court Presiding Judge*

(Huntsville, AL) – Mayor Tommy Battle announced today Lonzo Robinson will serve as the City’s new presiding judge for Huntsville Municipal Court. Robinson succeeds Judge Charles “Sonny” Rodenhauser who retired from the bench last year.

Robinson will be responsible for managing the administration of the court system, which

includes a multi-million dollar budget, oversight of 41 employees, and handling judicial duties in the courtroom.

Judge Robinson starts work today along with newly appointed Judge Jeff Grimes. The new judges were hired after the City Council voted in July to increase the strength of the court from one full-time judge and one part-time judge to three full-time positions. Council interviewed

candidates and selected Robinson and Grimes, both city attorneys, to join Judge Sybil Cleveland on the bench.



Following the Council appointments and approval of the judges’ employment contracts at the Sept. 28 Council meeting, Mayor Battle was tasked with naming a presiding judge.

“I interviewed the three judges and I am pleased to report we have a strong pool of talented and com-

mitted justices,” said Mayor Battle. “While each of our judges have considerable expertise in the legal realm, it takes a different skillset to handle administrative and personnel duties. I want to thank Judge Cleveland for her hard work in keeping the courts operating and functioning during the last year. I have asked that the three judges now work as a team so that Huntsville Municipal Court becomes a model for the nation.”

Robinson has served as the City’s chief prosecutor since Feb. 2015 and previously worked in Municipal Court for 13 years as a substitute judge. A U.S. Navy veteran, Robinson is a graduate of the University of Alabama in Birmingham and holds a law degree from the University of Alabama.

The new presiding judge said he is honored and pleased by the Mayor’s confidence in his ability.

“I look forward to working with Judge Cleveland and Judge Grimes,” said Robinson. “Our mission is to work together to make Huntsville Municipal Court the best in the country.”



The 37th annual **Madison Street Festival** will be held Saturday, October 7, in the historic downtown district from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. The festivities will commence with a parade, beginning on Skate Park Drive and making its rounds through Church Street, Front Street and concluding at Madison Elementary School.

One of the top 20 festivals in the state, the MSF offers a multitude of family-friendly entertainment, such as live music, community showcases, and a car show. Additionally, dozens of local artists will be posted around the festival, showcasing and selling their work.

The MSF will host 20-plus food vendors including New Orleans Lunchbox Restaurant, Nothing Bundt Cakes, Piper Leaf & Tea Co. and Rollin Lobstah.

Attendees can park at the Madison City Schools Football Stadium for free and utilize the festival’s courtesy shuttle service. Shuttles will begin running at 6 a.m. and will drop off at Holmes Realty on Martin Street and Cross Pointe Church drop off at This Side Up on College Street. There is no admission fee. For additional information, please visit [MadisonStreetFestival.org](http://MadisonStreetFestival.org).

by Reggie D. Allen



New York Times Best-Selling Author Terry McMillian, Actress Tasha Smith and former Essence Editor-in-Chief Susan L. Taylor were some of the many household names to set foot on The Hill for Alabama A&M’s 2017 Homecoming Week. Additional A-listers include Grammy Award-Winner Lalah Hathaway, Mogul Fonzworth Bentley, and Internet comedians Nick Banks and Kountry Wayne. Photo by Reginald D. Allen

The Valley Weekly  
**INSIDE THIS ISSUE!**

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# The Valley Weekly

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## The Valley Weekly

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# From the Editor

Ahhhhh ... *It's personal!*

On Saturday morning, Bill parked in a handicapped spot at Lowe's on North Parkway. He and my nephew, Guido, had gone there to pick up something for me to hang a light. Bill parked, and they proceeded inside and were met by a white female they had yielded to in the parking lot so she could navigate the shopping basket she was pushing from the lot into the store.

When they entered the store, this lady had waited for them to enter and approached Bill, face to face, with, "You parked in a handicapped space." He replied, "I am handicapped. I have had four total knee replacements and 2 back surgeries." She responded, "But you *can* walk." If you know Bill you know that he left it there after certifying his multiple disabilities. I write about this because any woman with the gall to jump in front of a 61-year-old male of Bill's physical stature should be put on warning that this is not a good thing, regardless of a person's disability status. Whoever she is, she *should* feel very discomfited.

Some of our readers are thinking this behavior is an anomaly and that it's simply part of the current political climate. I am disappointed to be the bearer of such news. When he was appointed principal of Challenger Elementary School over 15 years ago, the central office, his current principal, and the PTA president at CES received a letter from a white female neighbor that Bill had spoken to her in a manner that a black man should not speak to a white woman. In the letter, she suggested that he obviously did not know who she was (i.e., wife of a retired military Colonel). She approached him on my sister's property to say he should not allow our children to ride their go-carts in Mary's back yard because there was a graveyard back there. In short, she attempted to get him fired by writing his employer. Remember the people in our communities who mysteriously lost their jobs and no one seemed to know why? Well, here you go: same tactics, different people, different times, same motives, same poop, just different poopers! He confronted it, addressed it and moved on to complete a successful career in education.

Remember, some things don't deserve a response. Adding fuel to a fire that's already smothering can create catastrophic results. People will be who they are, but we have to demonstrate through our actions and words that humanity still exists in some of us, and there's a better way to respond--stop judging. We cannot look at someone and determine if they are handicapped. That's one of the major challenges we face today, and I believe it's akin to profiling. When we see it, address it responsibly and move forward.

Speaking of my sister Mary. If you attended the AAMU homecoming parade on Saturday, you know that she represented the Huntsville Progressive Alumni Chapter as the 2017 recipient of the William Hooper Council Award--the highest honor given annually. Whatever she does, she gives her total heart and soul. *Oops!* She did it again! Mary stole the "show" during the parade with her usual charm and grace. Proud of you, Mary. You are the epitome of a "brave and loyal" daughter sent from the shrine of Normal's Hill, filled with the zeal for a job well done.

I hope everyone enjoyed homecoming. Those Bulldogs took care of their business with a win over UAPB. The team still has some challenging games to play. Go DAWGS! Keep it in the road until next week ...



*Dorothy*

# A Simple Last Will and Testament

by Andrew Sieja, Esq.

I advise that all my clients, regardless of their wealth, have a well-drafted Last Will and Testament to ensure that their affairs are in order at their death.

Developing a sound estate plan can help ensure that my clients get a say in who is in charge of their estate, who receives the assets of their estate, provide for favorite charity or church, and – perhaps most importantly – making the probate process as simple and as easy as possible for their loved ones.

Without a Last Will and Testament, one thing is true: state law will decide how your belongings and assets are split and distributed.

A Last Will and Testament can be a simple legal document where you get to designate who is the Executor of your estate, you get to designate who inherits your belongings and assets, and, in the case of those with minor children, you get to nominate who would be the guardian for those children.

A Will can also ensure that your children don't receive all their funds at one time, which will allow you to ensure that they spend their inheritance the right way.

On the other hand *without* a Will, state law will dictate who inherits your assets and in what proportion. Without a Will, you

will not have the ability to nominate who will be the guardian for your minor children or ensuring that money you have set aside for them is spent the right way.

Without a Will, you can't dictate who would be the Executor who is in charge of collecting your assets, paying any debts you may have, and distributing your assets to your beneficiaries.

Losing someone is incredibly hard for families. The last thing any of us wants is to spend those times fighting. Having even a simple Last Will and Testament can ease another burden on your loved ones during a difficult time.



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presents

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Huntsville, Alabama

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Event is from 7:00 - 9:00 pm

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Edna Fails - 256-537-0574  
Dwight Pope - 256-468-1256  
Sandra Cross - 256-412-5145

or by visiting the website  
[www.kjffoundation.org](http://www.kjffoundation.org)



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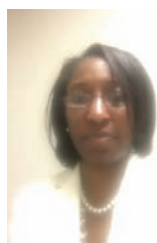
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# Local Biotechnologist Makes Case for Research on Form of Heart Disease

My name is Kimberly Hobbs, and I am a PhD candidate in the Biotechnology Science and Engineering Program at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. My research focuses on the genetic aspects of cardiovascular disease (CVD), particularly looking at a family of genes known as cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor genes. The science behind studying such common yet very complex diseases like CVD is very important, and I want to share information about why research in this area is necessary.

Heart disease affects over 85 million individuals in the United States and is the number one cause of death for both men and women (Go et al. 2014). Heart disease is a disease of the heart and blood vessels and covers a variety of conditions including heart valve problems, hypertension, arrhythmias, coronary artery disease, coronary heart disease, and stroke. Approximately 16 million Americans (nearly 12% of the population) have coronary heart disease, which can be broken down into two categories: myocardial infarctions (heart attacks) and angina pectoris (chest pains) (Go et al. 2014).

So what exactly is a

myocardial infarction or, in layman terms, heart attack? Myocardial infarctions are events where oxygen is completely blocked to the myocardial tissues of the heart. The affected heart tissue ultimately dies as a result of the oxygen deprivation. Myocardial tissue is unable to regenerate itself thus scar tissue forms around the dead heart tissue. Various events occur within the blood vessels that lead to oxygen depletion in the myocardium tissues. Individuals who have suffered a heart attack typically have a secondary medical issue known as atherosclerosis.

Atherosclerosis is a condition where excess cholesterol in the blood begins to deposit within the arteries. These cholesterol deposits cause excessive narrowing of the arterial passageway for blood. Over time, the consistent buildup within the artery blocks blood flow to the heart, ultimately leading to a heart attack. The severity of the heart attack is dependent upon how many arteries are blocked. In the event of multiple blocked arteries, this leads to a larger portion of the heart tissue without oxygen. There are several risk factors that are primary contributors to cardiovascular disease

including cigarette smoking, hypertension, diabetes, low levels of high-density lipoprotein, and high levels of both low-density lipoprotein and very high low lipoprotein. The atherosclerotic process is a risk factor for heart disease because the process of blockage can begin years before an actual heart attack occurs. The adaptation that the arteries have undergone to continue to push blood throughout the body through those narrow arteries puts additional pressure on the heart.

Not only does CVD yield a tremendous health burden for individuals but also the economic burden for health care cost for cardiovascular disease is rapidly growing. In 2010, estimated costs at over \$444 billion were spent for cardiovascular disease (CDC, 2011). The invasive treatment and care for cardiovascular disease patients include long-term drug therapy, heart valve surgery, pacemakers, and coronary artery bypass surgery. The substantial numbers of individuals with CVD in addition to the costly procedures for treatment all offer strong support for research for heart disease. Any scientific advances we can make toward understanding the mechanism behind how the

disease progresses would be beneficial to the field.

With my research, we are looking at the disease through both genetic and epigenetic approaches. Genetic approaches in research help to identify changes in particular genes involved with the disease and often refer to heritable changes. Epigenetic approaches offer a different perspective by looking at non-heritable alterations to the genes. If individuals have usable genetic information that identifies susceptibility risks for them, they may be more prone to live healthier lifestyles. This has the potential to lower

the number of individuals who develop cardiovascular disease. My overall goal with my work is to provide knowledge that bridges the gap between the actual pathogenesis of cardiovascular disease and the genetic mechanisms that drive its progression.

In closing, I hope you have gained a little insight on what cardiovascular disease is and how important this area is for further studies. Moreover, as a health literacy advocate, I think it very important for the population to be more knowledgeable about such common conditions like cardiovascular

disease, diabetes, and stroke, just to name a few. I believe this is a necessary part of the health journey for individuals. Thank you and remember to stay heart healthy and aware!

by Kimberly Hobbs

## References

Go, A. et al (2014). Heart disease and stroke statistics--2014 update: a report from the American Heart Association. *Circulation* (Vol. 129, pp. e28–e292).

Centers for Disease Control (2011) Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention: Addressing the Nations Leading Killers



**HBCU Roundtable:** Governor Kay Ivey addressed a black college president's roundtable last week at Alabama A&M University that focused on state government support for the resourceful HBCUs.  
Photo by Jerome Saintjones



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## Valley Deaths

Funeral service for **Mrs. Betty J. Price** of Tyler, TX will be Saturday, October 7, 12 noon at the Hopewell Valley Missionary Baptist Church - Tyler, Tex. (Rev. E. A. Collins, Pastor).

Funeral service for **Ms. Anitra Burnett** (b. 1974) will be Saturday, October 7, at 1 p.m. at New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church, Harvest, Ala.

Funeral service for **Mr. Clarence Jacobs** (b. 1948) was held Tuesday, October 3, at Center Grove United Methodist Church (2969 Jordan Lane - Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor Donald Smith officiating.

Funeral service for **Mr. Delano Thomas** (b. 1947) was held Tuesday, October 3, at Little Indian Creek Primitive Baptist Church (884 Indian Creek Road - Huntsville, Ala.) with the Elder Dr. Jerry Crutcher officiating.

Funeral service for **Harlesho Milton Rice** (b. 1986) was held Sunday, September 24, at Hope Community Church, Huntsville, Ala., with Dr. Charles Rodgers officiating.

Funeral service for **Mrs. Johnnie Leola Barclay** (known as "John L.") was Sunday, September 24, at Draper Memorial Church of God in Christ (313 Bierne Avenue - Huntsville, Ala.) with Elder Dave Draper, Jr. officiating.

- Nelms Memorial Funeral Home

## AKAs Give Back to Area Schools

As part of its international campaign to distribute One Million Backpacks® to students in need, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated chapters across the state of Alabama donated backpacks for area schools September 16 at the Von Braun Civic Center during their Alabama Cluster. The backpacks benefited four Title I schools in Madison County, and included a combination of elementary, junior and high schools.

First grade teacher LaTisha Jones from Ridgecrest Elementary School; Assistant Principal, Sherita Joiner-Pryor from Sonnie Hereford Elementary School; Academic Counselor Lorrie Hall from Jemison High School;



Principal Linda Burruss and Assistant Principal LaKeeta Perkins from Rolling Hills Elementary School received the donations.

Burruss stressed that when community organizations make donations, it releases Title 1 monies to be spent on employing Intervention Tutors for their students. Burruss is "thankful and grateful that Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority cares about education."

Title I schools consist of large concentrations of

low-income students. According to the Huntington Bank Backpack Index, parents can expect to pay between \$662-\$1,489 in supplies and fees for one child. This can pose a significant hardship in trying to supply the essential supplies needed for successful learning. Organizations that provide school supplies, such as pencils, binders and backpacks, are finding an increased need due to rising costs. The sorority hopes to reduce this hardship. Ms. Burruss stressed that "it takes a village to work towards greatness."

The backpack campaign is part of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority's Launching New Dimensions Service® program, which places emphasis on educational enrichment, among many other social concerns. South Eastern Regional Director, Mary B. Conner, is strongly committed to bringing resources inside schools in Alabama, Mississippi and Tennessee, so that no student goes without the necessary tools for a successful learning experience.

## Huntsville Happenings

by Gary T. Whitley, Jr.

### Aerojet Rocketdyne Bringing 700 New Jobs to the Rocket City

Park and the Advance Manufacturing facility will be located in the North Huntsville Industrial Park - just east of the Toyota plant.

The start of both projects will occur in December 2017 and the start of January 2018.

Aerojet Rocketdyne is an American rocket and missile propulsion manufacturer,

for both private and government use, headquartered in Sacramento, California with current operations in Cummings Research Park.

Huntsville's recent Industrial Development Project - codename "Project Pyramid" will bring 700 new jobs to Huntsville as Aerojet Rocketdyne opens a Defense HQ/Rocketshop and an Advanced Manufacturing facility.

Aerojet Rocketdyne will invest a minimum of \$27M into the two new facilities. The Defense HQ/Rocketshop will be located in Cummings Research



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## The Valley Weekly Calendar of Events

**October 10-15**  
Motown - The Musical  
Von Braun Center  
Concert Hall  
Downtown Huntsville

**October 13**  
Kimberly Fails Jones  
Memorial Foundation  
Seventh Annual Breast Cancer Survivors Celebration  
Von Braun Center North Hall  
Huntsville, Ala.  
7-9 p.m.  
www.kjfoundation.org

**October 14**  
Alabama A&M Football vs. Mississippi Valley State  
Louis Crews Stadium-1 p.m.

**October 21**  
The Urban Music Symposium  
The Mane Room  
Speakers: Thalia Ewing, Charlie Braxton, Juels Pierotm GlennMaCrae  
310 N. Pine Street  
Florence, Ala. - 3-8 p.m.

**October 22**  
Men Who Cook Competition  
(Sponsored by the North Alabama African American

Chamber of Commerce)  
Huntsville Depot Roundhouse  
398 Monroe Street - 4 p.m.  
\$25, NAAACC members; \$35, Advance | \$40, At Door  
For tickets or more information, call (256) 564-7574 or e-mail alfredg.adams@naaac.org

**October 30**  
UNCF Golf Classic  
Oakwood University  
Robert Trent Jones Golf Course  
Owens Cross Roads, Ala.  
Registration: 10 a.m.  
Shotgun Start: 12 noon

**November 4**  
Alabama A&M vs. Alcorn State  
Louis Crews Stadium  
2 p.m.

**November 11**  
Alabama A&M Football vs. Jackson State  
Louis Crews Stadium  
1 p.m.

**November 18**  
Alabama A&M Football vs. Kentucky State  
Louis Crews Stadium  
1 p.m.



**October 6 - FANNIE LOU HAMER - Voting rights activist and civil rights leader. As field secretary of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), she was a key figure in organizing the Mississippi Freedom Summer. - BlackinTime.info**



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House of Hope and Restoration

Huntsville Bible College

James Smith - AllState Insurance

Lakeside United Methodist Church

Lucky's Supermarket

Marshall England - State Farm Agent

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Nelms Memorial Funeral Home

N. Ala. Center for Educational Excellence

Oakwood University Post Office

Regency Retirement Village

Rocket City Barber Shop

Sam and Greg's Pizza

Sav-A-Lot

Sneed's Cleaners

Starbucks (Governors Drive, N. Parkway at

Mastin Lake Road/University Drive)

Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church

## AshaKiran to Form Human Chain Against Domestic Violence

October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month and, in recognition, AshaKiran is hosting its annual State-Wide Human Chain Against Domestic Violence, where organizations across Alabama host their own human chains against domestic violence (DV) on the same day and time as locally on October 8 from 2-3 p.m.

Additionally, the Madison County Task Forces against Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence/ Sexual Assault (a group of northern Alabama organizations such as Crisis Services of North Alabama, Huntsville and Madison County police departments, etc.) also organize a month of events during October, encouraging the public to attend, wear purple, or purple ribbons to place a focus on domestic violence awareness.

Abusers keep their power with silence and secrecy, so placing the spotlight on domestic violence brings

DV out of the dark and helps to end that cycle.

The second event, the Human Library™, was born in Copenhagen in 2000 and is a worldwide movement aiming to facilitate understanding and to challenge harmful stereotypes through one-on-one, 15-minute open dialogues.

Human Library books are real people with critical perspectives to share, sharing the goals of raising awareness and spreading compassion. Books will address such complex topics as faith, sexuality, and women's rights. Difficult questions are expected, appreciated and answered. Seven Huntsville community members, with book titles such as "Survive & Reign" and "Ask A Muslim," have volunteered to share their unique perspectives and will give the reader a chance to learn more about their life as well as the challenges and stereotypes that they have overcome or face.

## Fill the Pantry for Davidson Farms

Fill The Pantry for Davidson Farms on October 21, 2017.

IGotHuntsville.com and StandUp Live Huntsville have partnered to "Fill The Pantry" for our girls of Kids to Love at Davidson Farms.

This campaign consists of collection of monetary donations as well as much needed pantry supplies



(advance drop off of pantry donations at Progress Bank: Huntsville, Madison, and Jones Valley branches) to Fill The Pantry and

otherwise fill their hearts!

This campaign will be capped off by a donations drive to include a day of food, fun, entertainment, prize giveaways, and other events on Saturday, October 21, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at StandUp Live Huntsville (2012 Memorial Parkway S.W. Huntsville, Alabama, AL 35801).

## Champion Game Plan for Life

by Preston Brown

Genesis 4:3-5 says, *In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the Lord. And Abel brought an offering, fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The lord looked with favor on Abel and his offering. But on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor.* You know, when I played professional football for six years, we were judged by our talents, our strength, our size and how fast we were.

But God doesn't look at us that way. God looks at our hearts, and He looks at our desire to please Him. As we see here in this scripture, Abel had a greater desire to please God than Cain did. So my question is, do we only desire God to answer prayers for our lives or do we desire to please Him? So, many times we want God to answer our prayers, but we don't honor our com-

mitments that we make to God. For example, we may say that we are going to study the word more

or pray more or give more, but we never follow through with it. I pray that God gives each and every one of us a more dedicated heart, so that

we can be more obedient and committed to what He wants us to do ... Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters.



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**Meet the Author: Sheryll Cashin**

Georgetown Professor of Law and author of *Loving: Interracial Intimacy in America and the Threat to White Supremacy*

**Wednesday, October 11 @ 6:30 PM**  
Downtown Huntsville Library

Emanuel Temple Church of God in Christ  
433 1st Street North • Birmingham • Alabama • 35204

**OCTOBER 4TH - 8TH**

Bishop O. L. Meadows, Pastor  
First Lady Joe Ann Meadows

**PASTOR'S APPRECIATION**

1971 2017

Wednesday 7pm: Pastor Jerome McGuire  
Thursday: Supt. W. R. Hughes  
Friday: Supt. Anthony Wheeler  
Sunday 3pm: Supt. Jimmy Allen

## City Council Meetings



Huntsville City Council's regular meetings are held in the City Council Chambers of the Municipal Building on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 6 p.m.

City Council work sessions are also held in the City Council Chambers of the Municipal Building on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 6 p.m.

For more information, call (256) 427-5011 or visit the website: [www.huntsvilleal.gov](http://www.huntsvilleal.gov).

## WEEKEND FOOTBALL

Saturday, October 7

Alabama A&M vs. UAPB

Alabama @ Texas A&M

Alabama State vs. Alcorn State (Oct. 5)

Arkansas @ South Carolina

Auburn vs. Ole Miss

LSU @ Florida

Mississippi State @ Auburn

Ole Miss @ Auburn

Texas A&M vs. Alabama

Florida vs. LSU

Georgia @ Vanderbilt

Kentucky vs. Missouri

Missouri @ Kentucky

South Carolina vs. Arkansas

Tennessee - OPEN

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BREAKFAST SERVED  
MONDAY THRU SATURDAY  
6:30AM UNTIL 11:00AM

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*Come Discover  
the Magic on  
the Mountain!*

No matter what time of year you explore Burritt on the Mountain, there is something delightful and new to see. And no matter how young – or old – you are, there is something for you on the Mountain! If you've never visited, you're in for a treat. If it's been awhile, what are you waiting for? Come on up and let the Magic begin!

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OPEN: April-October: Tuesday - Saturday: 9 am - 5 pm & Sunday: noon - 5pm  
November-March: Tuesday - Saturday: 10am - 4pm & Sunday: noon - 4pm

JERRY DAMSON  
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