

WINTER 2015

# NUTS & BOLTS

*Trending:*

WHO WILL BE  
THE VULCANS  
OF 2015?

PG. 8



A LOOK AT THE HAPPENINGS ATOP RED MOUNTAIN AT VULCAN® PARK AND MUSEUM

VULCAN  
PARK & MUSEUM



# HUGE HAPPENINGS

## Vulcan Gets His Big Break

We don't normally encourage dropping an object off Vulcan's tower, but on April 10 we'll be making an exception. Vulcan is teaming up with the UAB School of Engineering for UAB's 26th Annual Brent Newman Memorial Egg Drop Competition. An estimated 500 elementary, middle and high school students will attend.

Working in teams, students will arrive at Vulcan from throughout the metro area. Each team will bring a device they hope will carry an egg from the observation deck safely to the ground 124 feet below.

UAB School of Engineering student Blake Feltman is one of the many college-age organizers behind this year's program.

"Egg drop competitions engage the younger generation of students in STEM areas, such as physics, fluid dynamics and materials science. Through the egg drop competition, UAB is able to promote and enhance students' applied critical thinking capacities," Feltman says.

Vulcan's staff is working behind the scenes to make this competition a success – spurred in part by the symbolism of Vulcan himself. In ancient mythology, Vulcan was known as an avid inventor. This competition encourages students to tap into the same creative spirit. "Virtually all the great innovations made here in Birmingham have been accomplished under the watchful eye of Vulcan. Vulcan's famous pose depicts him admiring a spear, a product of his own craftsmanship and ingenuity," says Vulcan Park and Museum Director of Education Phillip Ratliff.

Prizes will be given to the first, second and third place in elementary, middle and high school age groups. There are



also awards for "Most Creative Device," "Biggest Splat," and the grand prize for "Overall Best Contraption."

In addition to the egg drop at the tower, there will be tours in the museum highlighting the city's history of technology and innovation. UAB students will be on site with science and engineering demonstrations.

As a twist, Vulcan will hold an adult egg drop called The Great Fall on March 26, 2015, to serve as a fundraiser for the children's event two weeks later on April 10. Adult teams will work to help Vulcan hit its fundraising goal of \$5,000. If interested in participating, go to [visitvulcan.com/events](http://visitvulcan.com/events).

For student registration and event details go to [visitvulcan.com/eggdrop](http://visitvulcan.com/eggdrop).

Working in teams, participating students from throughout the metro area bring a custom-created device designed to safely transport an egg from Vulcan's 124-foot observation deck to the ground below.



Precious cargo making the journey...

Safe or scrambled?





For 2015, *Birmingham Revealed* offers up another round of our city's creative best. Here's what's in store:

### The Roots of Alabama Gospel, with Bobby Horton and the Birmingham Sunlights

Feb 12—5:30 p.m.

Alabama's gospel music traditions flourish throughout the state of Alabama, in churches and Sacred Harp singings, on music stages and recording studios, at quilting bees and singing competitions. Two performing legends, Bobby Horton and the Birmingham Sunlights, know the state's musical heritage intimately. Join Bobby and the Sunlights, performing together for the first time, tunes from Alabama's vibrant sacred music tradition.



## BIRMINGHAM REVEALED AT VULCAN® PARK AND MUSEUM 2015



### Italian Cooking in the Magic City, with Mary Jo Gagliano and Chef Chris Vizzina

Mar 12—5:30 p.m.

Awaken your taste buds with authentic Italian dishes! Mary Jo Gagliano of La Tavolo Sicilian cooking school and Chef

Chris Vizzina of the Vizzina Group think everyone should enjoy Italian cuisine, so they're sharing recipes handed down through their families and perfected over the years. Join Mary Jo and Chris as they reveal cooking secrets and tips from their family's native country, with an emphasis on Sicilian recipes.

*Admission includes museum entrance as well as special entrance into the exhibition, La Storia: Birmingham's Italian Community.*



### Determination, Drama, and Daring: The Life of Louise Wooster

Apr 9—5:30 p.m.

Birmingham "madam" and humanitarian, Louise Wooster lived a life unimaginable for her day, complete with tragedy, comedy and her infamous dalliance with John Wilkes Booth. In partnership with UAB's School of

Public Health, Vulcan brings to you a one-woman show presenting Wooster as she promoted herself, leaving the audience to decide what was fact, fiction or fantasy. Join us for playwright Ellise Mayor's adaptation in this brand new production, drawn from her research and Wooster's: The Autobiography of a Magdalen. For more information, [visitvulcan.com/news](http://visitvulcan.com/news).

## View Birmingham by Foot

Whether you're a history buff or simply enjoy exploring the city by foot, Vulcan Park and Museum's three-part walking tours offer an immersive Birmingham experience.

### March 21—Turning Another Corner: Recent Downtown Projects.

Restoring architecture from Birmingham's earliest years requires a historically informed approach. This tour looks at renovations to St. Paul's Cathedral, the Florentine

Building, the Lyric Theatre and other projects that are either underway or recently completed.

**April 11—A New UAB: Shaping the West Campus.** Creating a campus that is livable and connected to the rest of Birmingham has been a challenge for UAB planners. This tour looks at how new building projects, arising out of the campus's own form-based code, have transformed this former commuter campus into

an engaging place to learn and live.

**May 2—Edgewood: Time to Get Proactive.** The community of Edgewood began in 1909 as a 1700-acre residential community connected to Birmingham by an electric streetcar line. This tour looks at Edgewood's vibrant small commercial district, with a focus on historic churches, including Edgewood Presbyterian, Dawson Memorial and Trinity Methodist.



# HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PAST



## Thank-A-Vet:

Bringing Students and Veterans Together

This past November, Vulcan Park was filled with 7th graders from Bush Hills Academy for our annual Thank-A-Vet Day in partnership with Bright House Networks.

While many schools have similar programs, there are rarely field trips like

this one. Thank-A-Vet Day at the park creates a unique and diverse learning opportunity for the students; they learned about the veterans first hand, toured the museum, and learned about

Birmingham's military history.

Commissioner George Bowman provided an encouraging message for the students and veterans. Jefferson State Community College was also in attendance to encourage the students. The veterans were awarded with a certificate in appreciation of their service, as well as their involvement with Thank-A-Vet Day. After the presentations, everyone shared a nice meal together, which was provided by Dreamland B-B-Q on site at the park.

WATCH



Scan this QR code to view a video of our 2014 celebrations.

DONATE



Scan this code to make your contribution to the Vulcan Park Foundation. Or, go to [visitvulcan.com/donate](http://visitvulcan.com/donate) to make your gift today!

## Vulcan AfterTunes Celebrates a Decade of Music Atop Red Mountain

Last fall, Vulcan Park and Museum marked the 10th anniversary of its Vulcan AfterTunes concert. When we inaugurated the event a decade ago, public response was overwhelming. We knew we had found a winning formula that appealed to Birmingham audiences craving independent music performed in a unique venue.

The 2014 series continued the AfterTunes legacy. Here's a rundown of what audiences enjoyed in October.

Indie rock septet The Revivalists kicked off the line-up. Their performance at Vulcan featured tracks from their latest album, City of Sound. Together since 2007, the New Orleans based band proved that they are not afraid to toss up genres, mixing rock, heavy steel guitar and occasional electronic dabbling with the southern funk of their hometown.

Next up was another New Orleans original, Dumpstaphunk, who debuted in 2003 at the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival and have been grooving across the nation ever since. They, too, hold true to the origins of funk, while not being afraid to let elements of gospel, blues, R&B and a touch of rock 'n' roll sneak into their music. In 2013, they released their latest album, Dirty Word, featuring Flea, of Red Hot Chili Peppers, along with guest appearances from other friends and family.

Our final concert featured Milo Greene. The quintet is a cinematic pop group out of Los

Angeles, with a smooth indie rock edge that combines wisps of guitar, drums and vocals into an airy sound one can imagine playing out of the television speakers

as onscreen waves roll onto the beach. Their self-titled debut album came out in 2012 and their second album is coming soon.

Ten years of Vulcan AfterTunes would not have been possible without the support of our generous sponsors. Vulcan Park and Museum extends special thanks to long time sponsor Vulcan Painters and to our partners Alabama Beverage, Birmingham Mountain Radio, Alabama Baby and Child, Weld and B-Metro.





## Did you know?

**1.** Vulcan was not Birmingham's first World's Fair exhibit. The city had sent a giant relief map highlighting the region's mineral resources to the famed 1893 Columbian Exposition in Chicago.

**2.** The Vulcan statue currently sitting atop Red Mountain is not the first instance where the Roman god of the forge had been used to represent the city's iron industry. As early as 1885, an image of Vulcan bearded and naked to the waist, appeared in a regional trade publication.

**3.** Vulcan got his famous traffic safety torch in 1946. Funded by the Birmingham Jaycees and placed in Vulcan's outstretched hand by sign maker Ralph Fesperman, the torch was intended as a temporary campaign to encourage motorists to drive safely. Vulcan held his torch for over fifty years.

**4.** Vulcan's relationship with Electra, atop the Alabama Power

Building, has been the subject of intense media speculation for decades. Some claim to have witnessed Vulcan leaving his pedestal at night to frolic with the iconic statue of Electra, pointing to giant Vulcan foot-

sized potholes in Birmingham roads as evidence.

**Vulcan is the world's largest iron statue and the largest metal statue cast in America. Italian immigrant Giuseppe Moretti completed Vulcan in 1904, in a period of eight months, sending the giant statue, one piece at a time, by rail to the St. Louis World's Fair.**

**5.** Also the subject of intense media scrutiny is Vulcan's exposed backside. When Capitol Park (now Linn Park) was proposed as a permanent home for Vulcan, nearby residents balked. Vulcan's pedestal atop Red Mountain, it was determined, provided a more suitable vantage point for Birmingham.

**6.** Much has been said about the view of Vulcan that Homewood residents enjoy. In the 1980s, radio personality Jack Voorhies parodied over-the-mountain angst about Vulcan's iron derriere with his recording, "Moon Over Homewood." The song remains to this day a local cult classic.

## FUN FACT:

Almost ninety years ago, Vulcan's love affair with Electra fascinated Birmingham. Some even claimed spotting the iron man walking to meet his shiny new girlfriend.

**VULCAN**  
PARK & MUSEUM

Check out more fascinating Fun Facts about Vulcan online!

[visitvulcan.com](http://visitvulcan.com)



# COLOSSAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### FEBRUARY

**12 (Thurs)**—Birmingham Revealed (5:30–7:00 p.m.)  
The Roots of Alabama Gospel, with Bobby Horton and the Birmingham Sunlights

### MARCH

**12 (Thurs)**—Birmingham Revealed (5:30–7:00 p.m.)  
Cooking Southern Italian, with Mary Jo Gagliano and Chef Chris Vizzina

**21 (Sat)**—Walking Tour (9:30 a.m.–Noon) Turning Another Corner: Recent Downtown Projects

**22 (Sun)**—Gallery Talks: Nina Miglionico's Legacy presented by Sam Rumore (2:00–3:30 p.m.)

**26 (Thurs)**—The Great Fall

### APRIL

**9 (Thurs)**—Birmingham Revealed (5:30–7:00 p.m.)  
Determination, Drama, and Daring: The Life of Louise Wooster

**10 (Fri)**—UAB's 26th Annual Brent Newman Memorial Egg Drop Competition

**11 (Sat)**—Walking Tour (9:30 a.m.–Noon) A New UAB: Shaping the West Campus

**26 (Sun)**—Sunday in the Italian Parlor: An Afternoon of Italian Music and Poetry (2:00–3:30 p.m.)

### MAY

**2 (Sat)**—Walking Tour (9:30 a.m.–Noon) Edgewood: Time to Get Proactive

**16 (Sat)**—Festa Italiana (9:00 a.m.–10:00 p.m.)

**31 (Sun)**—Sunday Afternoon Tour of Italian Catholic Churches (1:00–3:00 p.m.) by Dr. Campbell, an Alabama historian

### JUNE

**7 (Sun)**—Vulcan's 111th Birthday Bash (Noon–4 p.m.)

## Vulcan Park and Museum

### Ashlyn Watkins McClellan, Marketing Coordinator

Born and raised in Birmingham, Ashlyn is a recent graduate of Mississippi State University, where she received her Bachelor's degree in Communication with a dual concentration in Public Relations and Broadcasting and a minor in Leadership Studies. During college, Ashlyn held several internships, including local experience in PR at Intermark Group. She has worked as a photographer and design assistant, as a communication assistant, and as a publicity coordinator. Ashlyn has held a number of leadership roles, including president and treasurer of her university's Public Relations Society of

America Chapter, and as a board member of the Public Relations Association of Mississippi; she also served as the vice president of PR and president of her Phi Mu chapter. She has received a number of awards and honors.

### Clarence Stallworth, Event Venue Manager

Clarence Stallworth was born in Pensacola, Florida, but grew up in Indianapolis,

Indiana; he considers himself a "Hoosier-Gator." Clarence has served as Vulcan Park and Museum's Weekend Operations Manager since April 2011. His primary responsibility is to ensure that VPM's weekend staff has everything they need to provide guests with a safe,



On December 19, 2014, the Birmingham Track Club presented Vulcan Park Foundation with a check to help further its mission and support the Vulcan Trail Connector project. The money donated was a portion of the proceeds from the 2014 Vulcan Run.



# Welcomes Its Newest Additions

clean, and pleasant visit. This September, Clarence transferred into a fulltime role as the Event Venue Manager. Clarence is responsible for booking the event space, serving private event clients, and managing the facility.

## **Maggie Johnson, Educational Program Coordinator**

Maggie Johnson graduated in May 2014 from Samford University with a Bachelor of Arts in History and Classics. She is currently attending Samford's Fifth-Year Non-Traditional Masters program in Secondary Education with a concentration in history. In the past, she has worked as an assistant to curators at the McClung Museum in Knoxville, Tennessee, and in the education department at the Atlanta History Center in Atlanta, Georgia. She interned with Vulcan Museum

in the Spring of 2014 and began working as Educational Program Coordinator in August. As Education Program Coordinator, Maggie works to train docents, schedule tour groups, and assist with Education Department events. She is excited to be on the Vulcan team!

## **Marci Turner, Office Manager**

Marci Turner joins the Vulcan Park and Museum Staff as Office Manager, bringing with her 15+ years of accounting and office management for companies ranging from three to thousands of employees in the Birmingham, New Orleans, and Washington, D.C. metro areas. Marci has a degree in theatre design from UAB. Before coming to VPM, Marci



worked at Red Mountain Theater Company as costume assistant and wig mistress. In her spare time, Marci works as a freelance costume designer and as a volunteer advocate with the Rape Response program of the Crisis Center.

## **Morgan Berney, Director of Marketing and Public Relations**

Originally from Montgomery, Morgan Berney comes to us from her position as Associate Director of Marketing & Communications at St. Paul's Episcopal School in Mobile. For six years prior to St. Paul's, she worked as the Marketing Manager and Convention Services Coordinator for the Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce Convention &

Visitor Bureau. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Public Relations from the University of Alabama. After completing a three-year educational program, Morgan received her Travel Marketing Professional (TMP) certification from the Southeast Tourism Society. Morgan has been very active in the Ronald McDonald House "Little Black Dress" publicity committee, the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts Junior Executive Board, the Alabama Shakespeare Festival "ArmChair Auction" committee, EMERGE Montgomery Executive Council, the board of the Montgomery chapter of PRCA, and the AUM Hospitality and Tourism Expo committee. Morgan is thrilled to be a part of Vulcan and the Birmingham community.

## BECOME A PART OF THE LEGACY

Vulcan has been Birmingham's symbol of pride and accomplishment for 110 years. Help us set Vulcan's legacy in stone with a commemorative paver embossed with your personal message. Commemorative pavers are a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for you and your family to become a part of the visual history of Vulcan Park.

Generations to come will see your contribution to a symbol that has been preserving the rich history of our city for the last 110 years. For more information or to order a paver visit [www.brickmarkers.com/donors/vulcan.html](http://www.brickmarkers.com/donors/vulcan.html) or scan the QR code. All orders must be received by February 6 to be unveiled for Vulcan's 111th Birthday Bash on June 7, 2015.





# THE VULCAN COMMUNITY



To the one million residents in the Birmingham metro area, Vulcan has stood for our community accomplishments and pride. Recognizing that the great iron man doesn't stand alone, Vulcan Park and Museum invites nominations for the 2015 Vulcans Community Awards.

Through the Vulcan Community Awards, we showcase outstanding individuals who are dedicated to the place we call home. Award categories include Lifetime Achievement, Servant Leadership, Hero, Game Changer and Newcomer.





## COMMUNITY AWARDS



Ideal nominees embody Vulcan's mythological characteristics: selflessness, humility, commitment, effectiveness, endurance and innovation.

Inaugurated in October 2014, the Vulcans Community Awards event has proven to be the most prestigious program for recognizing civic pride and leadership in the seven-county Birmingham region. Last year, Vulcan Park and Museum honored a number of individuals for their Vulcan-sized efforts, including Dr. Cameron Vowell, Chief

A.C. Roper, Dr. Shelley Stewart, Mr. Mike Warren and General Charles Krulak. Our outstanding inaugural class of winners has set the bar high.

Who will be recognized in 2015? You will help us decide. Nominations open in June 2015. We anticipate even more nominations from the seven-counties in the Birmingham Region than last year. Don't miss your chance to identify note-worthy candidates from your community who have made a Vulcan-sized contribution to our home!





# A LOOK INTO LINN-HENLEY

*Looking back, it's no exaggeration to say that Italians were vital to building Birmingham, playing an essential role in creating the city's great icon, Vulcan.*

## LA STORIA

BIRMINGHAM'S  
ITALIAN COMMUNITY



The La Storia exhibit includes various pieces of memorabilia, personal belongings and official records documenting the rich history of Birmingham's Italian community.

### La Storia: Birmingham's Italian Community

A good museum exhibit interests you. A great museum exhibit touches you. Since opening in September 2014, La Storia: Birmingham's Italian Community has touched thousands of visitors.

It's easy to see why visitors are drawn to the exhibit's great story. When Italian immigrants began arriving in Birmingham in the late 1800s, they weren't always welcomed. Job opportunities were limited and the pay was slight. But Birmingham Italians persevered to become successful professionals and entrepreneurs.

Consider that it was an Italian American, sculptor Giuseppe Moretti, who created Vulcan in 1904 and Italian stonemasons who gave Vulcan his tower in the 1930s!

Vulcan, in partnership with the Italian American Heritage Society, will tell this story in La Storia: Birmingham's Italian Community through September 2015. For more information on La Storia, visit the events page on our website at [visitvulcan.com](http://visitvulcan.com) or our Facebook page at [facebook.com/visitvulcan](https://www.facebook.com/visitvulcan).



### Gallery Talks

\$15 admission; Vulcan Park and Museum; 2-3:30 p.m.

**22 March**—Nina Miglionico's Legacy, presented by Sam Rumore

**26 April**—Sunday in the Italian Parlor: An Afternoon of Italian Music and Poetry



# BUY A PIECE OF BIRMINGHAM



Vulcan's Gift Shop, located inside Vulcan Center Museum, is open seven days a week and coincides with Museum hours. Select items are available online at [visitvulcan.com](http://visitvulcan.com). Visit the shop today to see new additions on the shelves.

## Featured Items

### POTTERY MUG

**\$20.00 (+ TAX)**

One of our newest items is this beautiful pottery coffee mug. The mug is made in America and is handcrafted by Sunset Hill Stoneware. This unique mug comes in various colors and shapes. It is food, oven, microwave, and dishwasher safe, making it very versatile. The variations in color and size of each mug showcase the distinctive hand made properties that make it one of a kind.

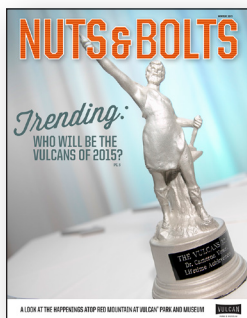
### VULCAN BLEND COFFEE

**12oz BAG \$11.99; 2oz BAG \$3.50 (+ TAX)**

Vulcan now has its very own signature blend coffee created by the local favorite, O'Henry's Coffees in honor of our 110th birthday. This coffee is a light roast with a mildly sweet and complex flavor with a unique caramel essence of roasted almond. The body is moderate and the acidity is delicate and inviting. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Vulcan Park Foundation.

**ATTENTION VULCAN MEMBERS!** Receive a 10% discount in Vulcan's Gift Shop year-round (available in-store only).

# FUNDAMENTALS



In October 2014, Dr. Cameron Vowell received the inaugural Vulcan Award for Lifetime Achievement.

## HOURS OF OPERATION

Open 7 Days a Week.

### MUSEUM:

Mon-Sat 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Sun 1-6 p.m.

### OBSERVATION TOWER:

Mon-Sat 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.  
Sun 1-10 p.m.

### ADMISSION CHARGED.

Free for Vulcan Members!

## Vision

To evoke inspiration and pride in the region and its potential for the future, just as the statue of Vulcan did when it was first created in 1904.

## Mission

To preserve and promote Vulcan as the symbol for the Birmingham region, to advance knowledge and understanding of Birmingham's history, and culture and to encourage exploration of the region.

## Contact Information

**General Questions or Comments:** [info@visitvulcan.com](mailto:info@visitvulcan.com); 205.933.1409

**Field Trips & Group Tours:** [fieldtrips@visitvulcan.com](mailto:fieldtrips@visitvulcan.com); 205.933.1409 x29

**Volunteer Opportunities:** [lelliott@visitvulcan.com](mailto:lelliott@visitvulcan.com); 205.933.1409 x29

**Event Venue Usage:** [event@visitvulcan.com](mailto:event@visitvulcan.com); 205.933.1409 x22

**Membership & Giving:** [syates@visitvulcan.com](mailto:syates@visitvulcan.com); 205.933.1409 x23

**Vulcan's Gift Shop:** [oblomeley@visitvulcan.com](mailto:oblomeley@visitvulcan.com); 205.933.1409 x32



## PARK & MUSEUM

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Please support Vulcan Park and Museum at [visitvulcan.com](http://visitvulcan.com). Contributions made on-line at our secure website conserve paper and postage.

# A GIANT IMPACT - Q&A

## Why is Vulcan Park and Museum vital for Birmingham?

Vulcan is the symbol of Birmingham and the view from Vulcan is the best of the city. I remember visiting Vulcan as a child and being in awe of his colossal size and the spectacular view of the valley. Whenever friends and relatives from out of town visit us, a trip to Vulcan is a must-do. Since Vulcan showcases the city of Birmingham, we must ensure that Vulcan Park and Museum is a beautiful attraction.

## What has been your most rewarding experience with Vulcan?

My most interesting experience with Vulcan actually occurred in Evansville, Indiana, where I learned that our Vulcan is known far and wide. Over the years I have written articles on all of the courthouses of Alabama. During my research I discovered that an early Jefferson County courthouse was built at the same time, designed by the same architect and constructed by the same contractor as the courthouse in Evansville. The only difference was that our courthouse had been demolished in the 1930's

and their courthouse was re-purposed as a community building and still standing. On a trip to Evansville, I found Vulcan in the center of the lower courthouse rotunda. In this depiction, he was a nine-and-a-half-foot high statue and stood with a plow. Evansville had been the home of the Vulcan Plow Company and when its factory was torn down in 1957, a rooftop statue of Vulcan was restored and placed in the courthouse. A marker on the display noted that a huge statue of Vulcan was in Birmingham, Alabama. It was quite a surprise to see the reference to our "Iron Man" in an Indiana courthouse.

## Why is it important for Birmingham to learn more about the Italian Community and its history?

The La Storia exhibition at the Vulcan Museum highlights the many contributions of our Italian-heritage community in Birmingham. It is truly meaningful to me because my four grandparents and my father were born in Sicily. I feel that visitors will come away with the message that despite hardships and discrimination, when our immigrant communities are given a chance to work hard they thrive and excel in this country.



**SAMUEL A.  
RUMORE JR.**

Attorney & Former President  
Alabama State Bar