

# Birmingham

smart living... savvy business

fall  
travel

parade  
of  
homes

sidewalk  
film  
festival

**125** of the best things to do, places  
to eat, stores to shop, and  
people to know

# best of bham



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Cobb Lane Bed & Breakfast

## People, Places & Things

### 1. Wi-Fi Location

Bean's Coffee in Vestavia has a reliable connection, ample tables with outlets near most of them, and free refills on coffee. It's not overcrowded either.

### 2. Farmers' advocate

Starting as Mt Laurel Organic Gardens in 1998 as the dream of one man, Jerry Spencer, Grow Alabama is now the country's first statewide multi-farm community supported

agriculture program. The purpose of Grow Alabama is reversing the ratio of foods consumed in Alabama to the foods grown in Alabama.

### 3. International flavor

The Smolian International House at UAB offers services and activities for international students, plus a great opportunity for locals to mingle with other cultures.

### 4. City panorama

The reborn Vulcan Park offers the most accessible vista, along with the best local history lesson, in town.

### 5. Car tag renewal

If you don't already know, there's

no reason to wait in line at the DMV anymore when it comes time to renew your tag—just log on to [www.jeffcointouch.com](http://www.jeffcointouch.com) and be done in minutes.

### 6. Place to people watch

Ask for a table outside at Chez Lulu in English Village so that you can watch the world go by from the sidewalk.

### 7. Cosmetic surgery promotion

Makeover Birmingham, with procedures provided by Dr. Daniel Russo and Dr. Paul Koch, completed their second total makeover in December, which revealed a dramatic transformation.

### 8. Place to find solace

The Japanese Gardens at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens can certainly provide you a "moment of zen."

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### 9. Secret garden

Inside the shaded courtyard at the Cathedral Church of the Advent is the city's best secret garden.

### 10. Pet cause

Picasso Pets is the annual fundraiser for Hand in Paw, the organization that teams pets and people to serve as therapeutic tools in medical, social service and education settings for children and youth.

### 11. American history lesson

The country's early history comes



Dance trainer Linda Dobbins

to life at American Village in Montevallo.

**12. Coming attraction**

SOHO Square (an innovative, mixed-use development that will pull together residential living, retail space and governmental offices) is sure to transform downtown Homewood when it opens in November.

**13. Person to know if you're having a party**

Catering diva Kathy G knows the culinary secrets behind successful high-society gatherings.

**14. Financial advice for young investors**

Andrew Petrofsky at Professional Asset Strategies, LLC has created a Young Investors Program for people in their twenties who want to plan wisely for the future; you'll get sound investment advice and be treated as if you had a million dollars.

**15. Clean comic**

Starting in October, Joy Meyers, the "Queen of Clean," can be found hosting Clean Comedy Nights monthly at Coffee on Valley.

**16. Book signings**

The Alabama Booksmith in

Homewood brings the biggest names in the business to town, and NPR certainly trusts their bookworm opinion. The station chose to interview the local bookstore as one of only three in the nation to comprise a July "Morning Edition" show.

**17. Bed & breakfast**

Recently opened on Southside by Sheila and Ira Chaffin, Cobb Lane Bed & Breakfast features eight guestrooms in a three-story Victorian built in 1889.

**18. Inexpensive massage**

The massage school at the Red Mountain Institute offers \$35 massages given by students on Saturdays.

**19. Sewing classes**

Moxie gallery in Forest Park is getting those dusty sewing machines out of closets all over town by offering a Basics of Sewing class, taught by Belinda Hyatt. Knitting classes are available, too.

**20. Guilty pleasure**

No one has to know that you're a regular reader of *Birmingham Weekly's* News of the Weird column, or *Black & White's* similar Strange Tales column reporting on the world's most idiotic happenings.

**21. Bartender**

Tike, at Otey's in Crestline, has a specific notecard system for keeping up with your tab, and he never gets a drink wrong.

**22. New UAB building**

The Campus Recreation Center is where you can find everything under one roof: free weights, court sports, swimming pools, aerobics classes, nutrition education, fitness areas, a climbing wall and more.

**23. Legal magician**

Donald Watkins proves, once again, his abilities in the courtroom.

**24. High school football coach**

Rush Propst has led Hoover to three straight Class 6A state championships and four in the last five years—no wonder MTV is doing a documentary on his football team.

**25. Dance trainer**

Training 30 students at a time in lyrical ballet, jazz and hip hop, Linda Dobbins moves 100% of her students into competitive level dancing, whether that be for high-school or college dance teams, Broadway or Hollywood. In ten years of business, Linda boasts 11 national champions.

