

# Huntsville Retirees GazetteER

And photogravure

*Huntsville Chapter TRA • The Retirees Association for Northrop-Grumman • March 7, 2021*

**Virus.** Attempting a virus situation summary outline on the last page to assist us.

**Luncheon.** Join us at lunch if you think it's time, **Tuesday March. 9, 11:41 Red Lobster. Huntsville.** Seven attended last time all having received shots. If you approach Red Lobster from the east on Pratt Avenue note it is newly opened and all different east of Church Street. There may be a minor delay not quite completed.

**Sick List.** Libby Jarvinen is recovering nicely from very serious - the big C - expected to do a full recovery is still on chemo. They received the flu shots. She may can use a prayer boost or two it's been a tough road. Hope to see you guys soon.

**More and more Huntsville.** Sorry if this city growth topic is boring to former residents or the sequestered - but these changes are beyond anything I've witnessed since 1940s post-war boom in Los Angeles. So I'm told. Huntsville will be Alabama's largest city, not in a few years, but any minute!

AS OF THE 2021 CENSUS, Huntsville was only 1,793 persons behind Birmingham. I can see more dirty BMW's with California license plates and comfort number mattress on the roof in front of local hotels, looking for an apartment, than that. But we don't count them until they connect to power. HSV was number four the previous official census. Mobile, Birmingham, Montgomery, are being eclipsed by their burbs inter city sag. The Birmingham greater area has twice the population of Huntsville. So far. Huntsville's airport is number one still priced high because government travel doesn't care so airlines price high. Much better, use Nashville and Atlanta throw in a short vacation there on travel. Sorry HSV too expensive getting worse.

There is growth in this state at many outer burbs and around Mobile Bay. Maybe buy property at Guntersville, I'm *always* wrong but what a beautiful place not yet growing almost a commute to Tech Gulch. Apologies to fellow Hill Williams (hillbilly engineers). Having followed Lil' Abner for years I'm still looking for Daisy Mae now that I live in the very bowels of Appalachia. I arrived in an old Datsun 411 to do Star Wars. And I still seek the *Hammus Alabamis* pet house pig of that classic comic series and musical. Hopefully that animal had its shots. Perhaps some of you have a pet house pig send a photo. This was comic art one could sink their teeth into. My son, the comic book artist, (*Graphic Novels* \$8) insists on super bosomed electronical women I cannot relate to. Except to ogle with wonder at my occasional free issues. Going back to real comics, did you know Captain Marvel is Tyrone Power? Who are either? you ask. Keep in mind, Huntsville in Appalachia - is Silicone Valley without shoes. But I digress..

-The HSV Times reports 1400 persons will staff (some are temporarily in Colorado) the *Space Force national command center* in a 1/2 million square feet building forthcoming at Redstone Arsenal. Of course, more contractors might straggle in as well. Colorado Springs requesting (screaming?) selection criteria reviews seemingly with no standing although receiving some press. Secretary of Defense Austin (of Alabama) has verified the Huntsville win for the Biden administration and it is big news nationally. A California friend stated - "oh I see Huntsville is going to be the center of space work now." I hope we can cope. Some planners estimate four more persons add to the local population for every new job created.

- A new (\$46M) city-owned *Huntsville Amphitheater* is now underway at MidCity (former location of Madison Mall). This outdoor venue in a Roman motif, will seat about 8000 for open-air events, and is already booking up its dates of concerts and events. This a venue popular in middle size cities and if you have one you get this business.

- Huntsville recently ranked number 3 (in the nation) in economic developments per capita for cities 200,000-1 million. Decatur was number 2 per capita for cities below 200,000. In someones poll - I don't like apostrophes there.

-For business at "the courthouse" for those in Madison County don't forget now go to the county Service Center visible from North Parkway - Enter from Oakwood Avenue or Church Street. The new location handles licenses and tags, probate court, board of registrars, sales tax, tax assessor and tax collections. There was a vacated grocery store at this corner for years now gone. In Huntsville we like to give directions to strangers - go up to that corner where that old super market was.... Don't go to the downtown courthouse any longer for these services. The parking garage catty corner from the old courthouse is being demolished for the new city hall and parking. The courthouse I understand will be remodeled - the jail floors long emptied. And yes, one time I passed by years ago and a sheet rope was hanging out an 8<sup>th</sup> story jail window. I hope that was none of you.

-Drive the new scenic **Haysland Road** (runs from Weatherly Road west end down to Redstone Road, which runs then east to Mem Parkway, WalMart et al) new construction preparation can be seen galore I'd guess thousands of future homes. The area is very picturesque with lakes, swamp, great walking trails well used. Take a drive. Remember to place a mask over the front of your car.

- And while I'm at it, those of you cutting eye holes in these masks to rob convenience stores are not recommended.

**ZOOOOM.** Coming soon to a computer near you. Our own Zoom (product name) video meeting with slide show (send photos you submit) (or just show up). These are very easy to do for the uninitiated it's nothing much What happens: You tell the meeting person if you wish to attend at the specified time. You will receive an in-vite message before, just click the link and whallah there you are seeing people somewhere talking about something unless you're too early. In that case it will say something like stand by. Not at a Tuesday a lunch.

**HSV Number One.** This is indeed nearly another great historic event for Huntsville sliding into first place soon. The next (tick tick tick) "largest city in Alabama." Coming soon to your neighborhood. At rush hour. Here is a review of the top ten AL cities plus changes of others:

Alabama Cities from World Population Review site. For 2021

Largest growth of any AL city: roll of drums>. Triana, grew 214% over the last 10 years.

Top 10 and if losses or gain are noted

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1-	Birmingham	207,235.	-2.4%
2-	Huntsville	205,472	+13.56
3-	Montgomery	197,777	-3.8
4-	Mobile	194,577	-4.13
5-	Tuscaloosa	103,007	+13.89
6-	Hoover	86,270	+6.57
7-	Dothan	70,149	+6.13
8-	Auburn	67,787	+26.03! wow
9-	Decatur	54,607	-2.16
10-	Madison	53,797	+23.51 wow again

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Others: Gadsden -6.64%, Opelika +18.51, Athens +32.84!, Daphne +26.4, Pelham +13, Fairhope +46. Trussville +18.4, Foley >>> +51.55!, Selma -22.56, Calera +32.54, Muscle Shoals + 14.3, Pell City +13, Fultondale +12.21, Scottsboro -2.34.

**Expected Elector Changes.** Reapportionment has not yet occurred however: Someone estimates how this will be. This event is controlled by how much a state population changes in relation to the nation as a whole and controls presidential election power and the number of the 538 US congress persons assigned to each state. Losing one elector sorry: Alabama, California, West VA, all of the Great Lakes-touching states except Wisconsin and Indiana. (MN to NY). NY lost 2 last time. One is gained for OR, AZ, MT, CO, NC. Huge gains for TX (3) and FL (3).

I estimate TX will pass California in population during the 2030s you can hold me to this free wine. Or. I give out free wine anyway. By the way. Did you know there's a Kirkland (Costco store brand) Scotch whisky? Not bad. Did you know there are (at least) two operating whiskey stills in Huntsville and two in Chattanooga? Sour mash but one in Chatt. claims Scotch flavour and is spelt therefore whisky. It will twirl your kilt. Onto what to do with the virus now?...

## What Shall We Do Next?

In considering when to go out, I tried to identify the new various virus concern **topics**. Please in all cases comment, complain, add or ignore as you wish. I have added my assumptions from various sites I found certainly incomplete research at this current pay grade.

Some virus concerns - 1-7

1- **Community information availability.** A. This has been awful and disorganized nationwide. And continues. Most people are not proactive and many are missing the boat. An issue is lack of a singular source of information - too many news outlets, choked with commercials, fewer newspaper subscribers, poor availability announcements. Some waiting lists taken and ignored or delayed without explanation. B. Suggest using internet don't know of a central location, but I just learn Wal Mart has now begun issuing shots from online waiting lists don't know the age rules. This was news to me. Huntsville Hospital states go online they are supplied and shooting again. Madison County Health person told me to call them about 2 to see if they may take walk-ins that afternoon to complete their day. I did that and several others although early, before allowed in their car line they will tell you if they will accept you that day if not reserved. Once you get shot one, the second one is by an appointment no problem. Try your local health departments and hospitals, and WalMart, Target, big pharmacies. Pass it along to shut-ins, help those with no computers. Offer to set this up for the hard of understanding. Also check great data at the Center for Disease Control lots of stuff.

2- **Old Info.** Much old information is out there is from before the vaccine arrived are generalities not helpful to questions of this era, usually very conservative without current science. "Stay home, don't go out." Easy to say. Beware of the old messages still out there and in worn out public service announcements. This is more disinformation now.

3- **"97% effective"** what does this mean? From what I found to my surprise, if recurrence happens to few, it's more like sniffles, and no inoculated persons will die (from this) or even be hospitalized. So it's really 100% effective.

Furthermore. The first inoculated are the very high risk persons. Healthy under 25 rarely catch this it's about weak immunity of some, and care giver exposures, and we are more the problem in the population and having the shots first makes it much safer for everyone. Expect significant improvements made early in the immunization program. This predicted data is what drives some states (ours) to consider dropping strict laws early, that high risk patients, elderly, health force, are inoculated. That is here, some other states are way behind despite each having an appropriate share of distribution. True a proven drop in cases has not yet occurred said to be close by some.

4- **Carriers.** Can the inoculated still be carriers? Lots of discussions out there. One expert at a San Francisco research foundation says, the drug is so effective he doubts this can happen. Some other experts not sure, virus might be trapped in nose-mouth mucus not yet subject to the body's new resistance. But then face masks would block its propagation and the host's immunization will soon deal with it. Carrying it dangerously seems unlikely compared with so many dangers especially from elderly not getting inoculated and mixing with healthy people.

5- **A New Variant Flu** is coming. It is not news that new viruses periodically arrive. One at a time. Am told this vaccine will prevent some variations if corona type a long time threat. A future virus is not our main worry right now in my view. Better to drive carefully than to worry beyond the current issues.

6- **Cause-of-Death.** Some per cent of deaths were persons with terminal cancer and other diseases but instead were taken earlier by COVID" (first) in a different causes column. We constantly are being told the virus especially attacks persons of low resistance such as ill persons and this can be seen in fatalities by age. It must be true in some cases the person would have perished anyway from whatever made their resistance low, but listed under that disease instead. Obviously not always this is an awful disease.

7- **Effectiveness.** these vaccines were released before the completion of all final side effects testing. We just heard the Hudson Alpha Institute scientist this week (representing many genomics research groups) stating much of this testing has since been completed showing the vaccines are powerful and effective.

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We hope these first inoculations of high risk persons will continue to show a real decline in cases - we shall know more soon. Send me your comments and discoveries.