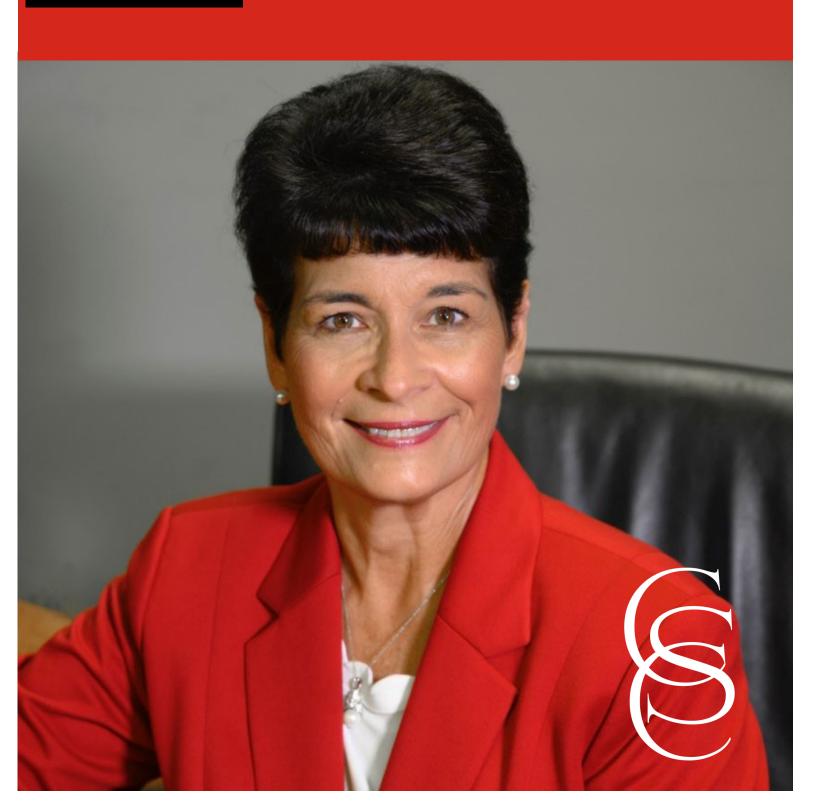
THE SOUTHWEST MOBILE COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

THE CORNER

DECEMBER 2024





WELCOME TO THE

OUTHWEST MOBILE COU

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

A Season of Gratitude and Giving

I hope you all were able to enjoy Thanksgiving surrounded by family and friends, taking time to reflect on the many blessings in your lives. At SouthWest Mobile County Chamber, our mission is rooted in service, and we are truly honored to support our community. This year's Annual Thanksgiving Food Distribution was a heartwarming success, with over 200 families receiving Thanksgiving meals. A heartfelt thank you goes to everyone who contributed—whether through monetary donations, packing boxes, or helping with the distribution. Your kindness and generosity make this event possible year after year.

As we look ahead to the holiday season, I'd like to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude to our incredible Chamber team-Tina, Hope, and Jillian. Their dedication to increasing rentals, promoting our Partners, improving community initiatives, and enhancing Chamber events does not go unnoticed. Thank you for all you do to make our Chamber stronger every day.

Looking ahead, we have more festive events planned to celebrate the season:

VIP Pajamas & Pancakes with Santa - Friday, December 6th

A fun-filled event where children can chat with Santa, take pictures, enjoy pancakes, and make holiday crafts. This event fills up quickly, so call the Chamber office or visit our website to reserve your spot!

Pancake Breakfast with Santa - Saturday, December 7th

Enjoy a pancake breakfast at the Community Center prior to the Christmas Parade. Breakfast is free for children 10 and under and \$5.00 for adults and older children.

Tillman's Corner Christmas Parade – Saturday, December 7th

The Parade will start at 10:30 am and will follow the usual route through Tillman's Corner.

Christmas Giveback - through Monday, December 16th

Help us bless a family in need by bringing a new, unwrapped toy to the **December Business Luncheon!**

Serving as your Chamber president this year has been an incredible honor. I am deeply grateful for the support of our Partners, the Chamber Staff, and the community. Together, we have accomplished so much, and I am confident that SouthWest Mobile County Chamber will continue to thrive because of your dedication and commitment.

May God bless you, your families, and your businesses this holiday season. From all of us at the Chamber, Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!



SWMCC Board President



SOUTHWEST MOBILE COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

5055 Carol Plantation Rd Mobile, AL 36619

(251) 666-2846

www.swmcchamber.com

TILLMAN'S CORNER MOBILE COUNTY, AL

Executive Team

President: Sharon Murrill

Vice President: Councilman Josh Woods

Treasurer: Elaine Sessions Secretary: Christy Myers

THE SOUTHWEST MOBILE COUNTY CHAMBER'S

EVENT CALENDAR

DECEMBER 2024

6

VIP Pancakes & Pajamas with Santa

Slip into your coziest pajamas and enjoy a delicious breakfast of fluffy pancakes, served with a side of holiday magic. Purchase your tickets now at www.swmcchamber.com!

7

Pancake Breakfast with Santa

Join us for a delightful Pancake Breakfast with Santa from 8:00 am to 10:00 am at the Community Center before the Christmas Parade!

Children 10 & Under: FREE Adults & Older Children: \$5.00 per person

7

Tillman's Corner Christmas Parade

Time: 10:30 am

Join us as we celebrate the magic of the season with our annual Christmas Parade. Bringing together businesses, community members, and holiday spirit to spread joy to all!

11

Monthly Business Luncheon

Time: 11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Location: John C. Williams Auditorium

Speaker: Todd Greer (Innovation Portal)

Caterer: Briquettes Steakhouse

12

Ribbon Cutting

Time: 12:00 pm
Location: 7205 Hawkins Manor
Join us as we celebrate the grand opening of
D.R. Horton's Hawkins Manor!

16 Christmas Giveback Deadline

Time: 12:00 pm

Share the joy of the season! Join us in giving back by donating to our holiday toy drive which will provide Christmas for families in need. We are accepting new, unwrapped toys for elementary age children. Let's make this season magical for everyone!

Merry Christmas!

The SWMCC Board and Staff would like to wish you a Merry Christmas! The Chamber and Community Center offices will be closed on Tuesday, December 24th and Wednesday, December 25th in honor of this holiday.

Happy New Year!

The SWMCC Board and Staff would like to wish you a Happy New Year! The Chamber and Community Center offices will be closed on Tuesday, December 31st and Wednesday, January 1st in honor of this holiday.

"The Holcim cement plant is located in Theodore and has been in operation since September 1981. The facility is a dry process plant that includes a four stage preheater and is built along the Theodore Ship canal. The plant has increased the usage of alternative raw

materials and fuels to reduce its fossil fuel footprint and to lessen impacts on the environment. As part of Holcim US, we play an essential role in accelerating our world's transition to a net zero and inclusive future."



MONTHLY BUSINESS LUNCHEON

NETWORKING

DECEMBER 11TH, 2024

LUNCHEON SPEAKER

At the core, I am a results-driven developer. Working alongside an individual, team, program, or organization, I partner with them to envision what is possible and shape the direction to reach this new reality. My life journey has led me through experiences in Politics,



Higher Ed, Ministry, Non-profits, Team development, and Startups equipping me to serve leaders and students in a variety of fields. Learning from the strengths of mentors and colleagues, I have been blessed with a holistic focus in the real-world examination of problems for their effective solutions.

Specialties: Talent Development, Ideation and Strategy, Lean Startups, Organizational Leadership and Change, Coaching, and Non-Profit Consulting.

Executive Director - Innovation Portal:

Staff at the Innovation Portal help people understand what it takes to set up a business, how to institute launch ideas, connect to customers, and determine if the company is feasible. "We help cultivate the process," says Todd. It all starts with a free intake mentoring session. "We want to understand their venture, what they have done so far, and where they want to go."

In 2023, Innovation Portal became a fully independent 501(c)3 non-profit organization. It continues to partner closely with the Mobile Chamber and many other local entities that helped bring the organization to fruition.

"This work couldn't happen in our community without the support of the City of Mobile and Mobile County, as well as numerous other private foundations and partners," says Todd. The Portal was also recently designated as a member of the Innovate Alabama Network, the first statewide public/private partnership focused on innovation and entrepreneurship.

The organization's primary focus is to help our region innovate and grow the start-up business community. The Portal board comprises dedicated community leaders from across the region's business and civic organizations who care about entrepreneurs and their success.

DECEMBER LUNCHEON SPONSOR



Southern View Media is a full-service creative and digital marketing agency dedicated to helping businesses thrive in the digital world. From designing and developing websites to optimizing Google and Meta ads, we ensure your business gets noticed. We specialize in enhancing your online presence, managing social media pages, and offering expert graphic design and branding services.

As proud sponsors of the Southwest Mobile County Chamber of Commerce, we understand the challenges small business owners face. That's why we meet businesses where they are, providing the tools and strategies they need to grow and succeed. In addition to our services, we offer free community training sessions throughout the year and actively participate and sponsor several local events and non-profits.

It's a privilege to serve alongside you in this community. Remember, at Southern View Media, we put you online so you won't get left behind.

BUSINESS OF THE MONTH



A Shared Vision

From a modest beginning in 1947, the founding members of Keesler Federal Credit Union had a shared vision. A vision of unity and the common good. Of building a cooperative financial partnership that would pool funds for the benefit of all members. An enduring vision of People Helping People. Fast forward seven decades and that guiding vision remains as crystal clear as it was then.

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Our over 300,000 worldwide members represent a diverse range of financial goals, and we're proud to provide personal guidance and savings to each and every one of them. We are committed to helping our members move forward with confidence thanks to sound financial products and services, along with fair rates and equitable returns.

Embracing Growth and Innovation

Our service footprint has broadened beyond the Mississippi Gulf Coast to include the Hattiesburg and Jackson metro areas, St. Tammany and Orleans parishes in Louisiana and the Mobile, AL area. As we welcome more members to the Keesler Federal family, add more products and services, refine technologies, and embrace innovation, we will never lose the relationship-based, local focus that is an essential part of the credit union experience.

www.kfcu.org

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LUNCHEON TICKETS

If you plan to attend the Chamber's Monthly Business Luncheon, you must purchase a ticket for the event by 5:00 pm on Friday, December 6th. Event tickets are available online at www.swmcchamber.com. Prospective partner and guest tickets are \$20.00 per person, while current partners can purchase a discounted ticket at \$15.00 per person. If your business purchased prepaid luncheon tickets, please email info@swmcchamber.com to reserve your seat(s). Individuals who purchase a ticket online or reserved a prepaid seat will be eligible for the new "Fast Pass" Registration. An email will go out to those who are eligible on December 9th with further instruction on this process.

For anyone who does not preregister, you will be charged \$20.00 per person at the door (depending on availability). This change applies to all attendees, regardless of whether they are representing a renewed partner or prospective partner.

BUSINESS ADVANTAGE SPONSORS

Honorary

Evonik Corporation Mobile Coca-Cola Bottling Company Polysurveying of Mobile

Diamond

CrowderGulf LLC Holcim

Platinum

Keesler Federal Credit Union

Gold

Mobile County Commission Mobile County Sheriff's Office Payroll Vault Southern View Media

Silver

Alabama Power Evonik Corporation Polysurveying of Mobile Proshield Pest Control The Grounds

Bronze

Accelerated Accounting American WeatherStar Blue Rents Brown and Root Industrial Services Cadence Bank Corsentino Chiropractic CRE - Mobile Family Security Credit Union Godfather's Pizza **Gulf Coast Graphix** Hammerhead Kayaks **Huntington Learning Center** Premier Cleaning & Janitorial Rock & Roll Offs Singing River Health System **Touching Hearts Senior Care** Uniti Fiber

Friends of the Chamber

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Express Employment Professionals
Kalifeh Bedsole Adams PC
Lindsey & Waldo, LLC
Mobile Memorial Gardens Funeral Home
Occupational Health Center
The Shoulder of the Central Gulf Coast

SOUTHWEST MOBILE COUNTY CHAMBER

FIRST RESPONDER SPOTLIGHT

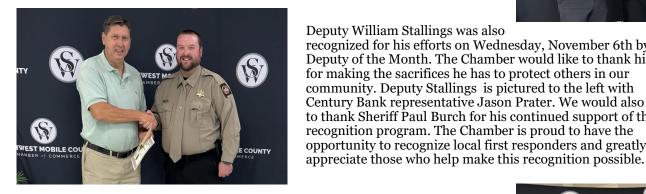
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

Congratulations to Officer Charles Shepard from the Mobile Police Department Precinct II on being selected as the Officer of the Month. Officer Shepard was



recognized for his accomplishment at our Business Luncheon on Wednesday, November 6th, 2024. The SouthWest Mobile County Chamber of Commerce would like to say thank you for your outstanding efforts and continued commitment to our community! He is pictured to the right, alongside Captain Matthew James and Past President Curtis Polk of BLP Mobile Paint.





Deputy William Stallings was also recognized for his efforts on Wednesday, November 6th by being named the Deputy of the Month. The Chamber would like to thank him for making the sacrifices he has to protect others in our community. Deputy Stallings is pictured to the left with Century Bank representative Jason Prater. We would also like to thank Sheriff Paul Burch for his continued support of this recognition program. The Chamber is proud to have the opportunity to recognize local first responders and greatly

In addition, the SWMCC would like to commend Firefighter Mike Toris of the Theodore Dawes Fire Rescue for his exceptional work. Toris was recognized on November 6th as our Firefighter of the Month for his faithfulness to serve and protect our community. He was unable to attend the ceremony, but Chief Frank



Byrd of the Theodore Dawes Fire Rescue accepted the award from Sheriff Paul Burch on his behalf. The Chamber is honored to have the opportunity to show appreciation towards these individuals for their bravery and dedication to our city. We appreciate the efforts of all three departments as well as their leadership for continuing to support the SouthWest Mobile County Chamber and its partners.



BROUGHT TO YOU BY

The SouthWest Mobile County Chamber of Commerce would like to thank Century Bank for sponsoring our Officer of the Month and Deputy of the Month Programs. We so appreciate their willingness to continuously recognize such outstanding members of our community. "Century Bank is a proud member of the communities we serve. Our involvement in extracurricular activities, fund raisers, organizations and other local events is a priority for directors, officers and employees of Century Bank."



The SWMCC would also like to thank the Mobile County Sheriff's Office for sponsoring our Firefighter of the Month Program. Sheriff Burch and his team are always willing to step up and help show appreciation to local first responders. "With three decades in law enforcement, he has served in several roles including uniformed patrol, general investigation, homicide investigation, and narcotics/VICE investigation. These accomplishments highlight Paul's dedication to serving the citizens of Mobile in a professional, respectful, and trustworthy manner." Without partners like Century Bank and the Mobile County Sheriff's Office, the Chamber would not be able to impact the SouthWest Mobile County Area as it has.





Hammerhead Kayaks

www.hammerheadkayaks.net (251) 533-1830

Spread Holiday Cheer: Join Our Christmas Toy

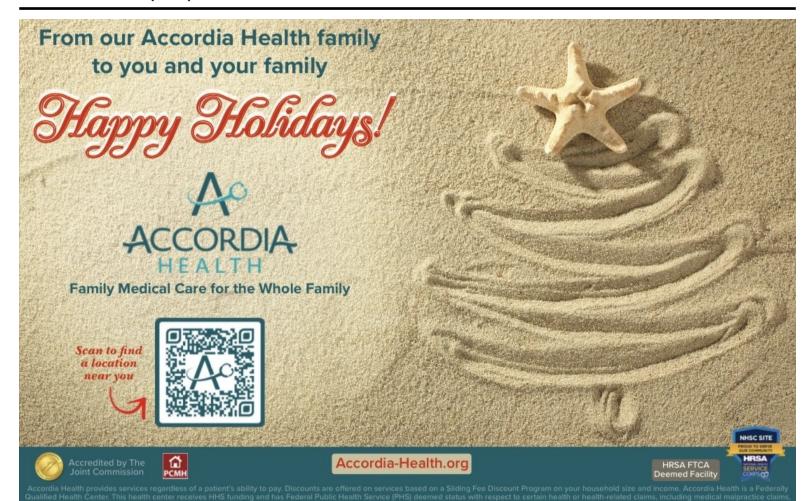
GIVEBACK The holiday season is a time for joy, generosity, and community. As we celebrate the spirit of giving, the SouthWest Mobile County Chamber invites our valued Partners to join us in making a difference through our Annual Christmas Giveback Toy Drive.

This special initiative aims to bring smiles to children and families in need throughout our community. For many, the holidays can be a difficult time, but together, we can help create moments of hope and happiness that will last a lifetime.

How You Can Help:

- Donate Toys: Bring new, unwrapped toys suitable for children of all ages to the Chamber office by December 16th. Your thoughtful contribution will bring joy to a child this holiday season.
- Monetary Contributions: Don't have time to shop? Your financial support will help us purchase toys and essentials for families in need. Every dollar counts and makes a difference!
- Spread the Word: Share our mission with your team, customers, and networks. Together, we can amplify our impact and make this drive a success.

We are grateful for your partnership and your continued dedication to our community. Let's come together to make this holiday season brighter for families who need it most!







A Heartfelt Thank You to Our Board President

As the year comes to a close and we reflect on the many successes and milestones of the past twelve months, I want to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude to our Board President, Sharon Murrill, for her exceptional leadership and unwavering commitment to the SouthWest Mobile County Chamber.

Serving as Board President is no small task. It requires vision, dedication, and a passion for making a difference in our community. Sharon has embodied all of these qualities and more. Throughout the year, she has led with integrity and enthusiasm, guiding our Chamber through a time of growth, new opportunities, and exciting challenges. Her ability to bring people together and foster collaboration has been instrumental in strengthening our organization.

One of the hallmarks of Sharon's presidency has been her genuine care for the Chamber's mission and its impact on our community. From spearheading new initiatives to supporting our annual events, Sharon has gone above and beyond to ensure the Chamber continues to thrive. Her dedication to fostering meaningful relationships has not only benefited our partners but also created lasting connections that will continue to serve our region for years to come.

I am particularly grateful for Sharon's support of the Chamber staff. Her encouragement and guidance has inspired us to push boundaries and strive for excellence in everything we do. Whether it was brainstorming innovative ideas, providing thoughtful counsel, or simply being a steady source of support, Sharon has been an invaluable partner in our efforts to serve our partners and the community.

On behalf of the entire SouthWest Mobile County Chamber team, thank you, Sharon, for your hard work, your heart for service, and your belief in our mission. Your leadership has left an indelible mark on the Chamber, and we are better because of you.

As we move into the new year, I am confident that the foundation you have helped strengthen will serve as a launchpad for even greater accomplishments. While your tenure as President may be coming to a close, your legacy of leadership and dedication will continue to inspire us all.

With deepest gratitude and warmest regards,

Tina Poiroux

Executive Director

SouthWest Mobile County Chamber of Commerce

(251) 666-2846



Tillman's Corner Branch 5416 Highway 90 West Mobile, AL 36619 www.myfscu.com

Syreeta Kinney Branch Manager NMLS ID 2269727

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NEW PARTNERS



Aflac - Brent Mosley

(251) 518-5877 brent8mos@gmail.com 1550 Ernest Dr. Mobile, AL 36695



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University of South Alabama

(251) 460-6101 www.southalabama.edu 307 N University Blvd. Mobile, AL 36688

LEARNING LEADERSHIP

STUDENT PROGRAMS

BUILDING TOMORROW

STAR STUDENTS

Each month, the SouthWest Mobile County Chamber of Commerce recognizes students from local elementary schools for their dedication to learning. This Program would not be possible without our Star Student Sponsors. Congratulations to the

following students who were recognized on Wednesday, October 2nd, 2024:

- Lucy Johnson from Bright Academy sponsored by Burton Property Group
- Lucas Mose from Cottage Hill Christian Academy sponsored by Brian Lancaster, State Farm
- Hollinger's Island Elementary sponsored by Evonik Corporation
- Gracie Reeves from Meadowlake Elementary sponsored by Pilot
- Sara Richey from Nan Gray Davis Elementary sponsored by BLP Mobile Paint
- -Harrison Dodge from Pearl Haskew Elementary sponsored by Roberts Brothers The Sessions Team
- Kyler Surrett from W.C. Griggs Elementary sponsored by Alabama Power



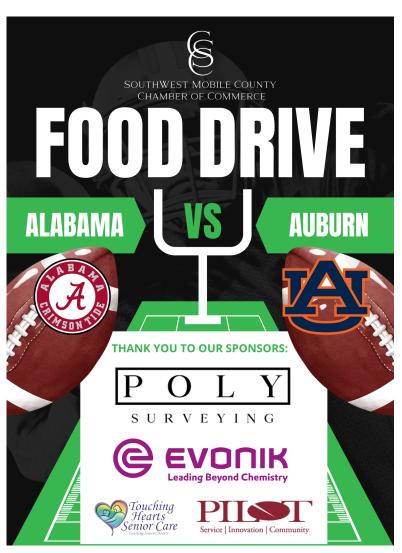


T.A.L.L PROGRAM

On Wednesday, November 6th, our students had the opportunity to attend our monthly Business Luncheon. They were able to connect with professionals and gain insights into local industry, which provided them with invaluable perspectives that will support their academic and career journeys. Following the Luncheon, students attended a class with Alexandra Dubose, Express Employment Professionals representative. Thank you for taking the time to mentor our students!

On Monday, November 11th, our TALL Students and staff had the opportunity to participate in the Mobile Bay Area Veterans Commission's Veteran's Day Parade. We are deeply grateful to Evonik Mobile Alabama for inviting our team to join them! It was a privilege to join in recognizing local veterans for their service and dedication to our country.

On Thursday, November 21st, some of our students gathered to sort and pack items from our Alabama vs. Auburn Food Drive. Each box packed represents hope and relief for someone in need, and your contributions are truly making a difference in our community. Together, we are showing the power of compassion and teamwork, thank you for being such an important part of this mission! We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our incredible sponsors: Polysurveying, Evonik Mobile Alabama, Pilot Catastrophe Services, Inc., and Touching Hearts Senior Care. Their generous donations played a vital role in making this initiative possible!





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equipment

\$1 BILLION

BONDING CAPACITY

BY: RON SIVAK

THE REAL ESTATE CORNER



Birmingham-based Oakley Group, an experienced multifamily real estate investment firm, has acquired Summit at Hillcrest for \$7.95 million. The 104-unit apartment community space totals 114,400 rentable square feet and is situated on approximately 7.23 acres, found at 1601 Hillcrest Road in West Mobile. The property was listed by Marcus & Millichap, with brokers Josh Jacobs and Royce Emerson representing both sides of the transaction. The site consists of 14 two-story brick buildings with ample green space, a clubhouse, a pool house

and a fitness center, all built in 1982. Future plans for the development include new asphalt to common drives, exterior painting, landscaping, clubhouse upgrades, a new fire pit and grilling station, and modern upgrades to interiors. The one-and two-bedroom unit footprints range from 950 to 1,250-square feet. The site is currently 94 percent leased and Arlington Properties, which has a longstanding relationship with Oakley Group, has been retained as the management firm.

The Alabama Trustee Implementation Group (TIG) of the Deepwater Horizon Natural Resource Damage Assessment program has approved the Final Restoration Plan IV and Environmental Assessment report, describing projects that address damages to Alabama's natural resources caused by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in 2010. The final plan includes 11 potential coastal restoration projects with \$24.1 million in restoration funding allocated, for implementation. Projects covered include the "Stewardship of Coastal Alabama Beach Nesting Bird Habitat" (\$4,740,456), "Improving Resilience for Oysters by Linking Brood Reefs and Sink Reefs" (\$2,800,000), "Oyster Grow-Out and Restoration Reef

Placement" (\$1,369,827) and two recreational use projects. The projects in the final plan were chosen for their potential to provide restoration benefits to Coastal Alabama.

Jay O'Brien, senior advisor for Stirling Properties, represented a local investor in the purchase of a freestanding investment property found for \$545,000 located at 1428 Hillcrest Road in West Mobile, with Bellator Real Estate as the current tenant. O'Brian also handled the leasing of the 2,000 square-foot Blue Bird Building found at 2724 Old Shell Road in Mobile to Pollman's Bakery, which is expected to open this month at the new space.

A local investor paid \$425,000 for a .68 acre lot located at 2560 Old Shell Road in Mobile, near the Midtown Publix Shopping Center, according to Marietta Urquhart and Jamie Ison of White-Spunner Realty, who represented the buyer. Robert Cook of Vallas Realty worked for the seller on the deal.

For questions or news tips about local real estate, please email ron@hflend.com or call/text 251-219-8914.

Ron Sivak

Mortgage Advisor at Homefront Lending LLC

A 19940 Highway 181 Suite C, Fairhope, AL 36532 W http://www.hflend.com/ Company NMLS 2017384













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Chamber and Community Center Staff

Executive Director

Tina Poiroux, AACE tpoiroux@swmcchamber.com

Administrative Assistant

Hope Driskell hdriskell@swmcchamber.com

Event Coordinator

Jillian Baxter jbaxter@swmcchamber.com

<u>Event Specialist</u>

Calvin Dickerson

For Rental Information call the Tillman's Corner Community Center at (251) 666-2488 For Chamber Information call the SWMCC at (251) 666-2846















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