MISSION FORWARD

SouthWest Mobile County Chamber of Commerce
Serving All of South Mobile County

FEBRUARY 2021
The South West Mobile County Chamber of Commerce is celebrating its 35th Anniversary this year! We are very proud that we are continuing to see growth! From memberships to benefits being offered, the Chamber is working hard each day to do more for our members and our community!

While it looks like our traditional Mardi Gras celebrations may not be happening this year, I love to see that new and innovative celebrations have emerged including “porch parades” where many people have turned their homes into floats. The Grounds has announced plans to present several local neighborhoods with a safer alternative to the traditional Mardi Gras festivities in the form of a mini parade. Laissez les bons temps rouler!

Last month, I had the opportunity to join our T.A.L.L. Students on a tour of Alabama Shipyard, and it was such a wonderful experience to see one of our local companies thriving, but it was equally inspiring to see these young people engaging business leaders in such a professional manner! Our future is bright with young people like these!

Please let us know how the chamber can assist your business! We are here for you and are constantly exploring more ways to bring more value to our members, businesses and the community! The Chamber is working very hard to continue hosting the majority of our annual events this year including a celebration to honor our First Responders, Business Expo, Kids Day, Member Appreciation and our Christmas festivities.

We currently offer many ways to promote your business and can work with you to fit your marketing plan and budget. The impact of your sponsorship goes much further than a single event and will help support the entire business community. Your commitment to the Chamber helps strengthen our voice when influencing public policymaking, assisting with emergency management operations, or helping businesses recover from unforeseen events.

Please check our calendar for February events including our Monthly Business Luncheon on Wednesday, February 3, a Mastermind Session on Thursday, February 11, and Coffee with the Chamber on Thursday, February 23.
Tina Poiroux, Executive Director of SWMCC has been selected to continue to serve in her role on the Board of Directors for the Chamber of Commerce Association of Alabama (CCAA) and in partnership with the Business Council of Alabama (BCA). She is serving her final term on this board representing our 2021 Partnerships throughout Mobile County. This board appointed position has allowed our members/partners to continue to be on the forefront of all state issues concerning businesses, as well as represent our local chamber across the state. Her ability to ‘Move us Forward’ has brought state wide recognition to our Chamber here in South Mobile County, and as she continues to represent our Chamber we can be certain she will make us proud.

Our Chamber’s mission is to foster, promote, advance, and improve the civic, commercial and general business interests of the surrounding areas and to cooperate with other communities promoting objectives for the improvement of our business and the welfare of our community.
SouthWest Mobile County Chamber of Commerce

SMALL BUSINESS LUNCHEON

EVENT TICKETS ARE LIMITED. RSVP to reserve your seat! Tickets can be purchased online at www.swmcchamber.com or call the office to pay by phone at 251-666-2488

Wednesday, February 3, 2021
Networking 11:30 am / Meeting 12:00 - 1:00 pm

JOHN HERREN
PRESIDENT AND CEO
ALABAMA SHIPYARD

As CEO, John Herren brings 30 years of oil and gas services and maritime experience to his role at Alabama Shipyard. He started his career working in the field and accompanied with two decades of experience in operations and executive management, his direction and expertise ensures a focused, company-wide commitment to top performance and quality customer support. John received a degree in Business from Northwood University and later earned his MBA from Tulane University in 2009.

Alabama Shipyard is the leading Gulf Coast provider in ship repair and conversion for the domestic and international commercial market. Anchored in safety, quality & the pursuit of excellence. We are pleased to welcome Mr. Herren as our guest at our February 2021 Small Business Luncheon.

Sponsor: The Grounds
Caterer: Normans
Lunch Menu:
- Beef Tips & Gravy
- Twice Baked Potato Casserole
- Veggie Medley
- Garden Salad and Rolls
- Chocolate Truffle
- Sweet Tea | Unsweet Tea

RSVP to swmcchamber.com, call 251-666-2846 or email info@swmcchamber.com
$12.00 Current members & $15.00 for Potential Members
**WE ARE LOOKING FOR A NEW CLASS OF DIPLOMATS FOR 2021**

A Chamber Diplomat is an individual who helps represent and promote the SouthWest Mobile County Chamber of Commerce, as well as promote their own business to other companies. The Diplomat Program consists of enthusiastic volunteers from the Chamber membership who donate time to help build membership and raise community awareness of Chamber activities and benefits. We would love to have you as a part of this team.

Apply by calling 251-666-2846, or do so online at swmccchamber.com

**DIPLOMAT SPOTLIGHT**

**Brittany Smith**

Brittany is the Marketing Director for Vader’s Fortress, Mobile’s newest arcade and virtual reality birthday party center. Brittany was born and raised in Mobile. She attended Franciscan University of Steubenville and the University of South Alabama. In her free time Brittany enjoys playing golf, watching football, and spending time with her husband and their two sons. Brittany looks forward to serving as a diplomat this year and representing the SWMCC.

**Coffee with the Chamber**

- **When:** February 23th at 7:30am
- **Where:** SouthWest Mobile County Chamber of Commerce
  - 5055 Carol Plantation Rd.
  - Mobile, AL 36619
- **Contact:** 251-666-2846

**DON’T MISS AN OPPORTUNITY TO SPONSOR THIS POPULAR EVENT AND GET NOTICED HERE & AT THE COFFEE!!!**
Recently a buddy of mine texted me and asked me what he could do to set up email outside of the free Gmail, Yahoo, Hotmail accounts. His concern was about privacy. And without getting into a big rant about privacy on the internet it is safe to say that if a product is free then you are the product. What that means is, if you are using an application like Facebook or Instagram and they are not charging you to use that application as a service, then someone is paying for access to information about you. As an agency that places a lot of ad spend on social media, it is amazing what the social media networks know about their users. But that is an article for another time.

But how do they use your info? Some people think they actually sell their info to advertisers like Blue Fish. It isn’t like that though. What they do is collect the information and then categorize you so that if an advertiser wants to get their ads in front of someone with your same interests you will see the ad. For instance, I like GMC Trucks. The tech companies are not selling a list of email addresses or physical addresses to dealerships. What they do is the dealership says they want to show their ads to people that have an interest in GMC trucks, and the tech company shows the ad to me because I have been categorized as someone that might be interested in that product. I’m actually a fan of this type of advertising. I hate seeing ads for things I have no interest in. But it is kind of dangerous to my wallet to see ads that are specific to me and my interests.

I am not aware of an email service provider that is free that does not use the information they garner from your activities so your only option is to pony up some money if you really want to disconnect. Step number one would be to register a domain name with a domain registrar. You won’t need a website. Domains are just traffic cops telling traffic what server to go to.

Once you register a domain name you would just need to send all of your email traffic to an email service provider. Sometimes domain registrars provide email services. So you could use Godaddy Email Essentials, Microsoft 365, Fastmail, or Rackspace to name a few. The other option is, if you have a website, many hosting plans have an email component. It just isn’t as elegant as some of these other offerings.

So there it is. If you are looking for a way to cut the cord, register a domain and choose the email service provider of choice, and voila! You are good to go!

I want to thank you for your time. If you have any questions or comments, or if you want to talk about how Blue Fish can help you grow your business just send me an email (marcus@bluefishds.com) and we’ll get the conversation started!

Marcus Neto
Blue Fish
(251) 654-3698
http://bluefishds.com

Camellia Trophy and Specialties has been servicing the Mobile area since 1958. Originally opened by Tom Nonnenmacher as Camellia Bowling Supply at Airport Blvd. and McGregor Ave. and moved to the current location on the Beltline in the mid-eighties. Bill Everett bought the shop in 1988 and it grew into more than a trophy shop adding specialty and promotional items. After owning and operating it for more than 2 decades Bill retired and sold it back to John Nonnenmacher. Mobile county is our home, and it has supported us for over 60 years. “We hope in our small way we have given back. Whether it is a smile to the t-ball player getting his first trophy and even to the veteran salesman with his crystal salesman of the year award.”
My name is Gabrielle Cazalas. I’m a senior at Baker High School and the captain of the Baker Dance Team. I plan on attending Auburn University to pursue a career in mechanical engineering with the hope of becoming an Imagineer for Walt Disney World.

My name is Breanna Eccles, and I’m a senior at McGill-Toolen Catholic High School. I’m the Band President and the Clarinet section leader of the band. I love to hike, bike and play sports especially soccer and volleyball in my free time. I plan on attending Auburn University and majoring in Architecture and Interior Design.

My name is Meg Hannan and I’m 18 years old. I’m a senior at Cottage Hill Christian Academy. My parents are Ben & Jill, and I have 2 brothers, Sam and Max. After graduating I plan to attend USA and major in biomedical sciences and become a physicians assistant. I’ve chosen this career path because I want to help others and make a difference for my community.

My name is Samuel Cole Jones. I’m the 2021 Senior Class President at CHCA. I’ve been blessed to live in Mobile my entire life, and it’s an honor to be a part of the T.A.L.L. Program. As a Christian I believe it’s crucial to serve and care for others which has led me to pursue my passion of a Nursing degree from the University of Alabama. I hope to make this dream a reality through hard work, dedication, and most importantly through my love and trust in Jesus Christ.

My name is Anna Olsen and I’m a senior at CHCA. I’ve been a part of the soccer, basketball, and cross country teams, as well as Scholar’s Bowl and Math Team. I plan on attending Troy and while I’m currently unsure of my major I would either like to pursue a career in education or law. No matter what path I choose, I would like to achieve the highest degree possible in my respective field, such as a PhD or JD, and go as far as possible with it.

My name is Ryan Waite, and I am seventeen years old. I currently live with my mom and dad and have one brother who attends Samford University in Birmingham. I plan to attend the University of Alabama and study aerospace engineering. My hope is to intern with NASA while attending UAH and graduate to walk into a full-time job with NASA or with the newly formed Space Command.
Coastal Alabama Partnership’s 2021 Regional Legislative Agenda

With a new Congress and Administration in Washington, DC and the beginning of a very different Legislative Session in Montgomery, 2021 is shaping up to be more active legislatively than any time in recent memory. With this in mind, we in Coastal Alabama need to be observant to Federal and state-wide policies and policymakers to make sure our priorities are advanced at home.

As we revealed our Legislative Agenda, http://coastalalabama.org/cap-releases-2021-legislative-agenda we knew that it would be an evolving document and that changes could come at literally overnight. But, with that we want to highlight some of the issues we are focusing on 2021:

Keep Alabama Open—CAP Fully Supports the Business Council of Alabama’s (BCA) “Keep Alabama Open” campaign. CAP fully supports the State of Alabama’s ability and right to manage its own affairs when it comes to the public health and wellbeing of our people.

Many Alabamians depend upon their jobs for their health insurance and the means to support their families: to feed them, pay for medical treatment and medicines, and provide shelter. At the end of the day, a shutdown could not only put Alabamians in severe financial distress; it could also produce adverse health outcomes, even deaths. This threat is particularly acute to small businesses in Coastal Alabama.

Business Liability Protection—As businesses continue to operate safely to serve their community during the pandemic, it is imperative Coastal Alabama businesses operate so without the threat of lawsuits associated with the coronavirus. CAP supports legislation that would permanently mandate Governor Ivey’s Safe Harbor Proclamation, to provide protection against civil liability resulting in contracting COVID-19.

Removal of State Taxes on Federal Coronavirus Relief Funds—CAP supports legislation to exempt the federal $1,200 stimulus payments from Alabama state taxes and for forgiven loans a small business received under the Paycheck Protection Program.

State of Alabama Historic Tax Credit—CAP supports the extension of the Historic Rehabilitation and Preservation Tax Credit through 2029 for rehabilitation of certified historic structures. Alabama’s Historic Tax Credit law, combined with the Federal Historic Tax Credit, provides great incentive for developers to rehabilitate historic structures which are much more expensive to develop than new construction. Alabama’s income tax mirrors the federal income tax credit that currently exists and over 30 states have enacted similar legislation. The economic impact of this tax credit and the restored buildings has been studied and repeatedly established as generating jobs, expenditures, sales and income taxes, and enhanced ad valorem taxes, all well in excess of the tax credits granted for the projects.

Economic Development Tax Credits—CAP supports the renewals of the State of Alabama economic development tax incentives, the Alabama Jobs Act and the Growing Alabama Tax Credits which expired in 2020.

Burdensome Regulations—CAP supports the preservation of jobs and economic growth in all sectors through the reductions of burdensome state and federal regulations that can cause the loss of jobs, hinder growth and create uncertainty.

U.S. Hwy 45 • CAP supports efforts to four lane U.S. Hwy 45 from the Mississippi State line to I-65. Four lanes would address numerous safety concerns that currently exist along U.S. Highway 45, which has been called one of the deadliest roads in the state of Alabama. Economically, U.S. Hwy 45 serves as a corridor for the state beach tourists from the states of Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi and also serves as a commerce corridor to the western U.S. for the expanding container terminal at the Alabama State Port. Lastly, adding extra lanes would also provide another hurricane evacuation route that could prove life-saving and necessary for our residents and travelers.

Proposed I-10 Bridge • CAP maintains a commitment for an I-10 Mobile River Bridge and Bayway project. CAP demands regional and local leadership to not impede in examining solutions that will increase capacity and traffic safety between Mobile and Baldwin Counties and to continue the economic success of our region.

Mobile Tensaw River Delta • CAP opposes any federalization and management of the Mobile Tensaw River Delta watershed. CAP fully supports local and state management of our crucial Delta habitat. CAP advocates for protecting the many natural resources and the vast biodiversity that the Mobile-Tensaw River Delta enjoys. We will work with our partners and Alabama Delta Alliance to continue to protect these important lands throughout our coastal region.

Apportionment of the First Congressional District—CAP strongly supports preserving the integrity of Alabama’s First Congressional District through the redistricting process. It is crucial that Coastal Alabama—Mobile and Baldwin County remain together as a congressional district to continue its success working together regionally as Alabama’s only coastal counties.
San Francisco-headquartered high tech health care provider Carbon Health opened a new, 3,600-square-foot clinic recently, staffed with eight employees and located at 2370 Hillcrest Road in West Mobile. The space initially opened to only handle COVID-19 diagnostic testing but has since transitioned into a full-service primary care clinic.

Currently patients can book in-clinic care or COVID-19 serology antibody test appointments without a referral. Testing-only bookings start with an on-site visit with a medical provider, followed by an antibody test administered by an on-site nurse. After downloading Carbon Health’s iOS or Android mobile phone app, patients can access their test results, follow-up with their provider, and book future appointments.

While the tech firm owns and operates a portion of its own clinics, their main growth channel is pursued by partnering with local health systems looking to expand their presence in a retail-style environment. Area practices own the co-branded clinics, which runs Carbon’s entire tech platform, and the California company takes a cut of the revenue.

Calabasas, California-based commercial real estate broker Marcus & Millichap announced the $1.8 million sale of a 4,700-square-foot retail parcel, sitting on a 1.01-acre slice of property inside the massive 80-acre Rangeline Crossing development in West Mobile. The 1-year-old mixed-use site is located at 5176 Rangeline Service Road N.in West Mobile and was handled by Joseph W. McKibben, regional manager for Marcus & Millichap.

Andrew Chason, in Marcus & Millichap’s Mobile office, had marketed the property on behalf of the seller, a regional developer. Scott Gould, Rory Shelby, and Braden Dwyer out of the Orlando office worked for the buyer, a repeat client who acquired the property for a 1031 tax-deferred exchange. This is the third deal the investor completed with the group this year.

“Our client was attracted to the Rangeline Crossing site due to its strong tenant mix and strategic location in a growing retail corridor, directly off I-10,” Dwyer said. Tenants currently occupying the space are fast casual eateries Jimmy John’s, Rock ‘N’ Roll Sushi as well as retailer T-Mobile.

An affiliate of West Mobile-based beverage distributor Gulf Distributing Holdings LLC has acquired roughly 30 acres of vacant land in the expanded western section of Jefferson Metropolitan Park in McCalla, near the Publix Distribution Center along Old Tuscaloosa Highway. The footprint is part of the larger Red Rock property that Jefferson County Economic and Industrial Development Authority had acquired in 2018. The deal was closed for $1.5 million and will allow the distribution company to consolidate its locations in Tuscaloosa and Birmingham. Nathan Handmacher with Stirling Properties handled the transaction.

Congratulations to Officer Chase Clayton on receiving the First Outstanding Officer of the Month Award for 2021. Officer Clayton was presented the award as recognition of his outstanding service to our community over the past two years.

SWMCC 2021 President, Tiffany Ginn and Captain Rodgers presented Officer Clayton with the award at the monthly business luncheon on January 6, 2021. The hard work and dedication shown by Officer Clayton is recognized as admirable and worthy of recognition! Your contribution to those you serve is greatly appreciated.

Thank you Officer Clayton!

Coffee with the Chamber

We've Got
Coffee & Networking
Waiting for You

February 23, 2021 at 7:30 am
Drop by SWMCC on your way to work! Start your day off right with a hot cup of coffee and networking!
No cost to attend!
Attendees are asked to give a short introduction about their business.
Don't forget your business cards!
Adams and Reese Receive National Recognition

Adams and Reese was recognized in the 2021 edition of U.S. News - Best Lawyers “Best Law Firms” list, published by U.S. News & World Report and Best Lawyers. With 18 national-level practice area rankings in the year’s list, the firm received National Tier 1 rankings in several areas. At the regional level, the firm received 157 metropolitan-level practice area rankings in 14 metro areas across its regional southern U.S. footprint.

In addition, Former Republican Congressman Bradley Byrne is rejoining Adam and Reese’s Mobile firm as a special counsel, the law firm announced earlier this month.

Byrne will be a member of the firm’s Intersection of Business and Government Practice Group, where he will focus on representing a range of clients in government relations and economic development matters.

Byrne, in a statement, said the move to Adams and Reese “feels like returning home.” Byrne had more than 30 years of private practice before he was elected to the US House of Representatives in 2013. Adams and Reese is a multidisciplinary law firm with nearly 270 attorneys and advisors located throughout the Southern U.S. and Washington, D.C.
These businesses are in addition to those who renewed in December 2020 and are each eligible for our Fire Table Drawing!!

Above and Beyond Yoga and Salt Therapy
Alabama Pecan Festival
Alabama Safety Institute, Inc.
Alsco Linen & Uniform Service
American Waste Solutions
Autry Greer & Sons, Inc.
Barnett Millworks, Inc.
BLP Mobile Paints
Blue Fish
Cart Dr. LLC
Cottage Hill Christian Academy
Cypress Shores Baptist Church
Edward Jones
Evonik
Family Security Credit Union
Georgia Roussos Catering
Goodwill Easter Seals of the Gulf Coast
Home 2 Suites by Hilton
Infinite Insurance Solutions
Integrity IT Services
Java Hut
INEOS Phenol
Keep Mobile Beautiful
Lighthouse Baptist Church
Loper Law, LLC
Mobile County License Commission
Mobile County Commission
Mobile Lumber
Mobile Memorial Gardens Cemetery & Mausoleum
Mobile’s Best Storage
Payroll Vault
Pilot Catastrophe Services Inc.
Polysurveying Of Mobile
Proshield Pest Control
Seven Seas Stone, LLC
Singing River Health System
S. J. & L. Inc.
South Al. Regional Planning Comm.
South Mobile Co Tourism Authority
Southern View Media
State Farm Insurance - Brian Lancaster
Theodore High School
Trustmark
United Cerebral Palsy of Mobile
United Way of Southwest AL
Uniti Fiber
Women’s Resource Center
Zippy Mart

CUSTOM FIRE TABLE DRAWING TAKES PLACE AT THE SWMCC LUNCHEON ON FEB 3RD. IF YOU RENEWED YOUR 2021 MEMBERSHIP BEFORE JANUARY 31, 2021 YOU ARE IN THE DRAWING!!
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