

THE CORNER

May 2022



SouthWest Mobile County Chamber of Commerce

Serving All of South Mobile County



Letter From the President

As the year charges forward we find ourselves in May which we, at the Chamber, consider to be small business month. May 4th we will come together with City of Mobile Mayor, Sandy Stimpson, to discover the 2021-2022 SWMCC Business of the Year. The votes have been tallied and the results are in. It could be the web and marketing gurus at Southern View Media, maybe the sultans of sanitation at Rock and Roll Offs, or the non-profit for non-profits at United Way of Southwest Alabama.

Following our business of the year celebration will be our Annual Business Expo. We are changing things up a bit this year and relocating the event to The Locale. Immediately following the Expo, we are also adding a Vendor Appreciation and Networking Soiree. Spend some time relaxing and getting to know your fellow Expo Vendors with hors d'oeuvres and drinks. Do not forget to contact the office to get signed up today.

We've all heard the adage "Families that pray together, stay together". The same goes for our business family and our community. May 5th we will all come together for the national day of prayer while our community and business leaders pray for our government, law enforcement, military, businesses, schools, children, churches, and families.

As always, remember our goal here is to empower business and serve our community. We encourage each of you to get involved with us. Visit an event, volunteer to help, ask questions, offer suggestions. We as a business community can create an amazing impact around us.

Chris Black

"Empowering Business"



MISSION

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 businesses and the welfare of our community.

MAY EVENT CALENDAR

4

Business Luncheon

TIME: 11:30 - 1:00

WHERE: John C. Williams Auditorium

RSVP: 251.666.2488 or
www.swmcchamber.com

5

National Day of Prayer

TIME: 7:30 - 8:30am

WHERE: 5441 US-19
Mobile, AL 36619



9

Business Expo

TIME: 2:00 - 5:00pm

WHERE: The Locale
4128 Government Blvd
Mobile, AL 36693

Reserve Your Booth Today!

12

Business Mastermind

WHERE: Tillman's Corner
Community Center

TIME: 8:00 - 9:00am



17

Coffee with the Chamber

TIME: 7:30 - 8:30am

WHERE: John C. Williams
Auditorium

Start your morning with coffee,
refreshments &
NETWORKING.

30

MEMORIAL DAY
CHAMBER
OFFICE
CLOSED

2022 Officers

President

Chris Black, Integrity IT Services

1st Vice President

Bryan Dewberry, Mission 1st Mortgage

2nd Vice President

Curtis Polk, BLP Mobile Paints

Treasurer

Sharon Murrill, Alabama Power Co.

Secretary

Josh Woods, The Grounds

Advisory Board

Tiffany Ginn - Uniti Fiber

Theresa Orrell - Polysurveying

Kay Peace - Individual

Pete Riehm - CRE Mobile

Ruth Robinson - Mobile Memorial
Gardens Cemetery

Board of Directors

John Bedsole - Kalifeh Bedsole Adams

Stephanie Chestnut - Dick Russell's

Mechelle Davis - Infinite Ins. Solutions

Krisann Dikes - Infinite 30 - Mobile

Tammy Lyons - Family Security CU

Chip Menton - Theodore High School

Christy Myers - Singing River Hospital

Wes Pipes - Individual

Paul Radczenko - Evonik

Elaine Sessions - Roberts Brothers

Brad Sullivan - Surge Church

Brian Lancaster - State Farm Ins

Ex-Officio Board of Directors

Randall Dueitt - County Commissioner

Kevin Rodgers - Captain, Precinct II

Ben Reynolds - City Councilman



SOUTHWEST MOBILE COUNTY

CHAMBER *of* COMMERCE

MAY BUSINESS LUNCHEON

Wednesday, May 4, 2022

Mayor Sandy Stimpson



The City of Mobile's 108th Mayor, Sandy Stimpson has a bold mission for Mobile's citizens to become One Mobile – a safer, more business and family friendly city.

Driven by a desire to effect positive change in the life of each citizen, Mayor Stimpson has proven that the greatest level of success is achieved when everyone has a seat at the table. Stimpson's four decades of experience in the private sector and extensive community service provide a solid foundation for the type of practical change he has generated in just seven years in office. Mayor Stimpson has ushered in a new culture at City Hall, emphasizing a commitment to transparency, effectiveness, and efficiency. Since assuming office in 2013, Mayor Stimpson's tenure has been marked by major achievements that stand to make a lasting impact for all citizens. Stimpson and his team have executed such transformative initiatives as Map for Mobile, an unprecedented increase in the delivery of infrastructure improvements, and the city's first supplier diversity program.

Mayor Stimpson's leadership has led to unparalleled reform of city finances. Stimpson and his team built upon responsible fiscal stewardship to put the city on sound financial footing, reducing bonded indebtedness by nearly \$100 million, and unfunded liabilities for pension and benefits by \$200 million, leading to credit rating increases from both Moody's and S&P. During the same period, he has built and maintained a two-month rainy day reserve fund and awarded six raises totaling 17% for city employees.

Mayor Stimpson's civic and business endeavors, both locally and statewide, have been numerous and varied. He has served on the boards of the Boys & Girls Club of Southwest Alabama, the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce, the Alabama Policy Institute, the Business Council of Alabama, and the University of Alabama President's Cabinet.

A graduate from the University of Alabama in 1975 with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering, Stimpson began a nearly 40-year career in his family's lumber manufacturing business. Starting at an early age, he worked his way up through virtually every position in the family business including serving as its CFO and ultimately its Executive Vice President.

Mayor Sandy Stimpson and his wife Jean have been married since 1975 and have four grown, married children and 14 grandchildren. They are longtime, active members of Ashland Place United Methodist Church.

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.

MAY LUNCHEON CATERER



Pecan Crusted Chicken

Greek Potatoes

Mixed Green Salad

Bread Pudding with Praline
Sauce

**** \$15.00 Current Partners**

\$18.00 for Future Partners**

Space is Limited

RSVP by Paying Online at

**www.swmcchamber.com or
call 251-666-2488**

MAY LUNCHEON SPONSOR



251.438.4312

1102 Dauphin St. Ste A

Mobile, AL 36604

Officer of the Month



Congratulations to Officer Jeannie Copeland on receiving the Outstanding Officer of the Month Award for April 2022. Officer Copeland was presented the award as recognition of her outstanding service to our community.

SWMCC 2022

President, Chris Black presented Officer Copeland with the award at our monthly business luncheon on April 6th. The outstanding service, hard work, and dedication shown by Officer Copeland is seen as admirable and quite worthy of recognition! Your contribution to those you serve is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your service Officer Copeland.



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF SOUTH ALABAMA**

**P O L Y
S U R V E Y I N G**

251.666.2010

LET'S GO
WILD
FOR
KIDS DAY
SATURDAY
July 30TH
9:00AM - 1:00PM

FREE SCHOOL SUPPLIES AGES 4-12

FUN PRIZES GAMES

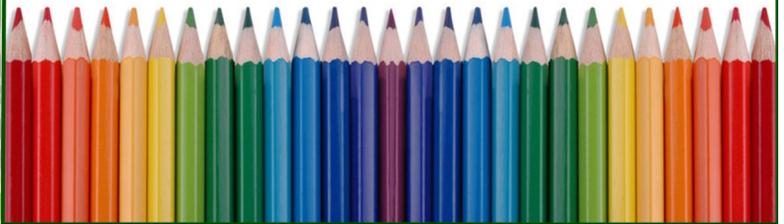
SOUTHWEST MOBILE COUNTY
CHAMBER of COMMERCE
5055 Carol Plantation Mobile, AL 36619
251.666.2488 or info@swmcchamber.com

SOUTHWEST MOBILE COUNTY CHAMBER of COMMERCE

SCHOOL SUPPLIES DRIVE

LET'S GET WILD FOR SCHOOL SUPPLIES. OUR ANNUAL SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE IS IN FULL SWING! WE NEED YOUR HELP TO FILL AS MANY BACKPACKS AS POSSIBLE. AN EXAMPLE OF ITEMS NEEDED IS LISTED BELOW AND MONETARY DONATIONS ARE ALWAYS ACCEPTED.

- Backpacks
- Packs of Paper
- Spiral Notebooks
- Index Cards
- Pocket Folders
- Composition Books
- Three Ring Binders
- Ballpoint Pins
- Packs of #2 Pencils
- Colored Pencils
- Markers (thin & thick)
- Boxes of Crayons
- Highlighters
- Pencil Sharpeners
- Calculators
- Rulers
- Scissors
- Bottle White Glue
- Glue Sticks
- Pencil Pouch
- Crayon Boxes
- Erasers
- Dividers
- 3 Prong Folders



PTAC ALABAMA

PROCUREMENT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER

Interested in Government Contracting?

Providing government procurement and contracting assistance at six locations in Alabama.
AL-PTAC.org

- **No-cost**, one-on-one counseling
- Set-aside certification assistance
- Training
- Networking events
- Bid Match profiles

 Research & Economic Development
Alabama SBDC Network
THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA*



REAL ESTATE CORNER

Pratt Thomas with Merrill P Thomas Co, Inc. recently represented a local seller in the divestiture of 4.5 acres of land for \$325,000 to Baton Rouge, Louisiana-based HE Theodore LLC., an Alabama Foreign Limited Liability Company. The property is located at 6570 Theodore Dawes Rd. in Theodore directly across from the South Alabama Logistics Park. The new ownership plans on building an equipment rental facility sometime this year. John Mitchum Jackson of Heggeman Realty Co., Inc. worked for the buyers in the transaction.

Daphne-based 68 Ventures LLC., in partnership with DR Horton, has purchased 31.4 acres of land off of Creel Road in Theodore for \$275,000, with expectations in place to develop a new subdivision called Oakmont this year. It is rumored that groundbreaking for the site is slated for early summer with a Phase 1 completion date scheduled for early 2023. Nathan Handmacher with Stirling Properties handled the transaction.

Last month an out-of-state investor purchased the 7,250-square-foot freestanding retail building located at 7899 Cottage Hill Road in West Mobile, near the intersection of Schillinger Rd., for \$1,525,000. The property is already 100 percent leased and will be occupied by a new Loda Bier Garten location as well as another P.S. Taco Co. eatery. Angie McArthur with Stirling Properties handled both transactions.

Mount Pleasant, South Carolina-based maritime transportation company ISS Marine Services has leased 1,200 square feet of new office space located at 7860 Cottage Hill Road, Suite B, in West Mobile. This is their second site to open in the area with another footprint already established downtown inside the RSA tower at 11 N. Water St., Suite 9290. Jill Meeks with Stirling Properties handled the transaction.

Last month a local attorney purchased the former 6,000 square foot New Horizons Credit Union space located at 1610 Government Blvd. in Midtown and plans to relocate from West Mobile later this month. The site sold for a little over \$470,000 and Nathan Handmacher with Stirling Properties handled the acquisition.

West Mobile-headquartered Gulf Health Therapy Services has leased 3,000 square feet of medical space located at 28691US-98, on the corner of Van Buren Street, in Daphne. Steven McMahon of Inge and Associates and Handmacher with Stirling Properties both represented the landlord in the transaction. Bradford Ladd with Roberts Brothers Commercial worked for the tenant.

Recharge Nutrition has leased 1,200 square feet of retail space in the Lloyd Place Strip Center at 6207 Cottage Hill Road, Suite C, in West Mobile and is open for business. Jill Meeks with Stirling Properties managed the deal.

By Ron Sivak

Mission 1st Mortgage
(251)289-1141



251.206.7138

support@integrityit.us

5219 Hwy 90 W, Ste C

Mobile, AL 36619

2021-2022 Business of the Year Top 3 Candidates



Southern View Media is a digital marketing agency that was created to help local businesses understand the complex digital world. We are a balance of talent, intuition, business sense, media solutions, and metrics to be a creative problem-solving machine that is fueled by client need and driven by results, and we are ready to provide businesses with marketing and advertising services at any level. From standing out to breaking into a market we help people find you, trust you, and share you.



**United Way
of Southwest Alabama**

The United Way of Southwest Alabama (UWSWA) serves Choctaw, Clarke, Mobile, and Washington Counties. Created in 1926 as a Community Chest, UWSWA's mission is to improve the quality of life in the community. UWSWA has raised and invested more than \$240 million into our community to help strengthen the capacity of positive community progress. The funded programs and initiatives help more than 200,000 local people each year. These programs address Financial Stability, Health, Education, and Life's Basic Essentials.

Advancing the common good is less about helping one person at a time and more about changing systems to help all of us. We strengthen neighborhoods, bolster the health of our communities, and change the lives of those who walk by us every day by helping and collaborating with local nonprofit agencies, government agencies, businesses, labor unions, etc., and providing financial, volunteer, and advocacy support.

We also advocate for social issues, convene community leaders from across all sectors to solve local human services problems, provide volunteers for a myriad of local projects, study and address long-term solutions to emerging social challenges, and raise funds through workplace campaigns and individual donors.

For more than 95 years, your contributions have helped those most in need, right here in Southwest Alabama. Each time you give, advocate, or volunteer, you are part of the lasting change. You are choosing to LIVE UNITED.



Rock & Roll Offs has so much to offer our community and the surrounding area. They have enough drivers ready to deliver dumpsters and they can usually accommodate same or next day delivery. Rock & Roll Offs has many years of experience in the Mobile and Baldwin County areas, and they make sure that their customers get the best service possible. They offer quality service and options at affordable pricing with a number of waste dumpsters ready to be delivered or picked up anytime.

Rock & Roll Offs is a local family-owned Roll Off rental company located in Mobile Alabama. We are available 24/7 to answer your questions regarding your waste dumpster rentals.

Congrats to the T.A.L.L. Class of 2021-2022



- *Nina Poiroux*
- *Evan Cramer*
- *Grace Ann Taylor*
- *Mackenzie Burnett*
- *Isabella Normand*
- *Jailyn Swink*
- *Tia Lofton*
- *Hunter Gibson*

Time is precious;
so are you.

Cancer screenings save lives.



ACCORDIA
HEALTH

Women's Health Talks

FREE & open to women of all ages
who live and work in South Mobile County.

Luncheon: Wed., May 4

Dauphin Island Sea Lab - Shelby Center

Dinner: Wed., May 18

Catalina Restaurant - Bayou La Batre

We will be sharing important information
about women's health topics followed by an
open Q&A session. Attendees will receive
lunch or dinner as well as a swag bag.

Seating is limited.
Reservations
required.

Call:
(251) 824-8311

OR

**Scan the
QR Code**



BUSINESS INSIGHT



Confession time: Of all of the social media networks, the one I like the most is Instagram. Maybe it is the fact that I used to be a Professional Photographer. Or maybe it is just because the way I use Instagram tends to be void of any politics, passive-aggressive shots taken at family members, or photos of the neighbor's dog. My feed on Instagram is mostly photographers, agencies,

videographers, and creators that inspire me.

So how can you make your photos stand out? One way is to use a photo editing application before you bring them into Instagram. Yes, Instagram has filters. But they get kind of played out after a while. I use Lightroom. Lightroom is made by Adobe and is currently less than \$10 a month. If you have a subscription to Lightroom or Creative Cloud you can use Lightroom Mobile for free. The new phones take really amazing photos, and Lightroom gives you a lot of control over how they look.

Another way to help your photos stand out is to use the same editing process for all of your photos, so they all look the same. If you don't want to edit them all the same way then using a set of filters or presets so that it creates a pattern of some sort gives the same effect.

Or you can just take better photos. This is the hardest one. It is a learned skill and one that you can develop. The tactic that I usually point out to people when they say they want to take better photos is that they have to change their perspective. Don't just stand there and take a picture, take it from lower, higher, further away, closer, you get the point. Most people don't make an effort at this and it is how you take great pictures. But it takes practice.

Oh, and learn how to control the camera app. Do you know how to select where it focuses? Do you know how to increase or decrease exposure? Do you know how to position yourself for the best angle? What about lighting? Do your subjects look like they have raccoon eyes? Or are they lit in such a way that they look good? Do you know how to frame the photo so it is visually interesting? Here's a hint: Google "Photography rule of thirds."

Once you have control of the camera app and are taking pictures that are better exposed and visually interesting, bring them into the app of your choice, edit them before posting, and voila!

Well, that's a wrap! If you have any questions or comments email me at marcus@bluefishds.com. If you want to talk about how Blue Fish can help you grow your business, just send us a message and we'll get the conversation started!

Marcus Neto

Blue Fish

(251) 654-3698

<http://bluefishds.com>



Who Are My Elected Officials?



Commissioner Matranga's goal is to serve the people of Mobile County with integrity, efficiency and accuracy. He states, "We want to make the experience as fast and pleasant as possible."

Commissioner Matranga was born and raised in Mobile. He is a 1965 graduate of McGill High School. After

graduation, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and rose to the rank of sergeant. He applied and was accepted to Officer Candidate School, Quantico VA, and was commissioned a Marine 2nd Lieutenant in March of 1971.

After completing flight school on December 19, 1972, then-1st Lieutenant Matranga was designated a Naval Aviator. Subsequently, he became a qualified A-4 pilot and later commanded two squadrons. Commissioner Matranga retired at the rank of Colonel after 31 years of active and reserve service.

Commissioner Matranga's civilian aviation career began as a pilot for Capitol International Airways, where he flew the McDonald Douglas DC-8 in worldwide operations. After Capitol Airways ceased operations in 1984, he was then employed by TWA. He retired from American Airlines in March of 2007 after TWA merged with American. On November 8, 2016, he was elected to the Office of Mobile County License Commissioner for a four year term.

Commissioner Matranga earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Middle Tennessee State University and a Master of Science degree from Central Missouri State University.

Commissioner Matranga resides in the City of Mobile with his wife Audrey. He has two sons Brian (wife Katya grandsons Edward and Jeffrey) and Brad.



Singing River

In partnership with

Ochsner



SOUTHWEST MOBILE COUNTY
CHAMBER *of* COMMERCE
9TH MAY | 2022

The Locale

4128 GOVERNMENT BLVD
MOBILE, AL 36693

2022 BUSINESS EXPO

2:00PM TO 5:00PM

THE SOUTHWEST MOBILE COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IS PRESENTING ITS ANNUAL BUSINESS EXPO. SPEND THE AFTERNOON VISITING LOCAL BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATION BOOTHS. YOU MAY FIND: A NEW BUSINESS CONTACT, A COMPANY THAT OFFERS A PRODUCT OR SERVICE YOU HAVE BEEN SEARCHING FOR, ETC. FIND OUT ALL THE WAYS IT PAYS TO BE PART OF THE CHAMBER!

DIPLOMAT SPOTLIGHT



Antoinette was born and raised right here in Mobile, attending Julius T Wright and then Fairhope High School. She went to college in California and Mississippi, receiving her AA, BA and MA degrees in science and education. She was

in the classroom and the corporate boardroom for many years before becoming a Realtor with Roberts Brothers. You might find her on the river kayaking, in a tree stand deer hunting, or in the studio practicing yoga! She loves Mobile, and loves showcasing its many opportunities to buyers and sellers!

NEW CHAMBER PARTNERS



Gulf Coast Water Rentals

251.373.5722
853 Dauphin St
Mobile, AL 36602



CHRIS AND CARLA'S

HEAVENLY RIBS & CATERING

251.458.5503



Pathway Church

251.649.8867
7200 Moffett Rd
Mobile, AL 36618



Chamber and Community Center Staff

Executive Director

Tina Poiroux, AACE
tpoiroux@swmcchamber.com

Executive Assistant

Courtney Jackson
cjackson@swmcchamber.com

Rental Specialist

Susan Williams
swilliams@swmcchamber.com

Event Specialist - Glennan Palframan

Custodial / Maintenance - Calvin Dickerson

CONTACT US @ 251-666-2488 or the Chamber at 251-666-2846 www.swmcchamber.com

Empowering Business



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2020 - 2024



ALABAMA ACCREDITED CHAMBER OF COMMERCE