

OFFICER OF THE MONTH



Photographed By: *TREASURED Moments*
Thank you Officer Aaron Holder for your commitment to our community!



SAVE THE DATE

Partner Appreciation Day

May 12th 3:00pm - 5:00pm

Location: Tillman's Corner Community Center

Chamber and Community Center Staff

- Executive Director**
Tina Poiroux, AACE
tpoiroux@swmcchamber.com

Executive Assistant
Cheyenne Johnson
cjohnson@swmcchamber.com

Rental Specialist
Susan Williams
swilliams@swmcchamber.com
- Event Specialist** - Calvin Dickerson

Event Specialist - Gary Turk

Strength in Numbers



SIGN UP TO RECEIVE OUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER AND OTHER CHAMBER OPPORTUNITIES BY EMAILING US AT [INFO@SWMCCCHAMBER.COM](mailto:info@swmcchamber.com)

American Red Cross
Give blood. Help Save Lives.



Blood Drive



Scan to be directed to RapidPass®

Union Baptist Church
Christian Life Center 5151
Grand Bay Wilmer Road S.
Grand Bay, AL 36541
Tuesday, April 18, 2023 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Be cool. Give blood.
Come give April 1-23 for an exclusive American Red Cross and PEANUTS T-shirt featuring Snoopy as the coolest beagle in town, Joe
Cool! Get yours, while supplies last – then show off your cool, kind spirit. Scan to schedule an appointment.
1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | redcrossblood.org | Download the Blood Donor App
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THE CORNER

APRIL 2023



SOUTHWEST MOBILE COUNTY
CHAMBER of COMMERCE



Letter From the President

After spending a couple of nights with a small hunting party wearing kelly green instead of camouflage, I am beginning to think that the leprechaun sightings in a certain community just north of Springhill are all a big hoax purposefully circulated in hopes of bringing more tourism dollars to downtown Creighton. This same hunting party comprised of myself and a couple of other future mayoral candidates for downtown Tillman's Corner and Theodore have decided it was time to reveal to the world that the Rabbit Creek Yeti-Squatch really does exist. It has been seen more often lately crossing roads in the predawn hours around Halls Mill roads and Hillcrest roads. We believe the increased sightings are because of the loss of habitat and hiding places now that the woods behind Lowes and Hoods have been cleared out. It has absolutely nothing to do with the amount of green beer that flowed during March. All of our Downtown Tillman's Corner hotels better get ready for a huge influx of tourists and news media crews in town to catch a glimpse. He is also been known to ride a bike or push a shopping cart into the woods, by the way April Fools!

Speaking of April please join us for our Monthly Luncheon on April 5th. Our guest speaker will be Sheriff Paul Burch. Please RSVP for our luncheon events so that we can have a pretty close to accurate headcount for our plate lunches.

Our Small Business Expo will be held on Thursday April 13th. We have decided to move it back to the Tillman's Corner Community center this year because we seem to have a bigger turnout of attendees when they can conveniently attend. Be sure to reserve your inside or outside space before we fill up. We will have light fare for vendors while they set up and refreshments after take down, so be sure to stick around afterwards.

Our Coffee with the Chamber will be on Tuesday April 18th and is still an exciting event. We tried a very successful seating arrangement last month that the majority really seemed to like. It's a free event and you are guaranteed to be introduced to everyone in attendance. The coffee starts at 7:30 and will be followed up with a session of Coffee Chat given by Monde Donaldson from the Better Business Bureau.

All this gorgeous weather we have been having would be harder to enjoy if we didn't have the peace of mind that comes with knowing that we have such good service and protection from our local first responders. We were very proud to host our Annual First Responders drive through luncheon on March 30th and I want to thank again all of our First Responders and the Volunteers that came out to serve them lunch. Another big Thank you to all of our sponsors, without you this would not have been possible.

Working together we can accomplish anything because we have "Strength in Numbers".



Curtis Polk
BLP Stores Division



"Strength in Numbers"



All In Credit Union started as Army Aviation Center Federal Credit Union in 1966 during the height of the Vietnam Conflict. As soldiers were deployed, they and their families needed access to low-cost financial services while stationed at Fort Rucker. Over the years, our membership base has expanded and it is our goal to provide more people than ever access to affordable financial services they can trust from an organization committed to excellence. On May 8, 2019, we changed our name to All In Credit Union. We chose the name "All In" as a tribute to the commitment and sacrifice made by every soldier who defends our country and knows what it means to be "All In". We provide members convenient account access any time, day or night, from anywhere in the world. In addition to our high-tech offerings, our caring professionals demonstrate that All In CU's commitment to enriching the lives of our members and communities.



Franklin's Starter and Alternator was founded in 1979 by Ray & Gayle Speights in Theodore, AL. Purchased in 2000 by Chuck & Debbie Badalamenti. We moved into our "new" building in August, 2008 at 6170 Sperry Road. We specialize in repair or replacement of D.C. Electric Motors, that is starters, alternators, winch motors, hydraulic motors, tail gate motors, starter generators for golf carts, golf cart motors (36 & 48 & 72 volts), generators for older tractors, steering motors for boats. We have two technicians who specialize in the work on these types of motors. We have a twenty four hour phone number and are available on week ends and on holidays at our shop.



As a leader in the restoration industry, **PuroClean of Mobile** has earned the trust of insurance professionals, home service providers, property managers, and homeowners throughout North America. PuroClean of Mobile understands the trauma our customers face in the aftermath of a fire, water, mold or biohazard incident. Our technicians provide remediation services with compassion, respect, and minimal disruption, sealing off affected areas to prevent further damage and minimize costs. Our IICRC-certified uniformed professionals are thoroughly background-checked. They pledge to do whatever it takes to restore and rescue our client's property, from walls to the smallest keepsake. We do not call it a day until we exceed our customers' expectations. We have offices in Birmingham, Mobile, Montgomery, and Tuscaloosa. Call Jerry Hamilton with any property restoration needs you may have.



Express Employment Professionals is locally owned by Chris and Angela Ashcraft. Angela and Chris reside in Mobile, AL with their two sons and are very involved in community organizations along with their internal teams in both Mobile and Baldwin Counties. They opened the Mobile office in July of 2006, and since then have opened offices in Baldwin County, LaGrange, GA, and the Emerald Coast in Florida. Recently, Express rolled out the Specialized Recruiting Group, which is an Express-branded company that handles all professional hires. Their offices' mission is to exceed the expectations of their clients by finding them the most qualified candidates, finding the most desirable jobs for associates, and having processes in place that make it easy to do business with them.



Since 1985, **Accelerated Accounting** has been helping clients along the Gulf Coast reach their potential. We pride ourselves on being a versatile and ethical accounting service. Whether you need assistance with bookkeeping, tax preparation, tax planning or any other accounting-related matter, we would love to help. We ensure that individuals, small businesses, corporations, nonprofits and all of the other clients we work with have a better understanding of their finances, allowing them to maximize their profit. Locally owned and operated for over 35+ years! Reach out to Mike Bedwell today to start the conversation.



The Anchor Cross Cancer Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit that provides financial assistance to cancer patients in south Alabama regardless of where they seek treatment. Started over 15 years ago by local oncologists, this organization exists to relieve some of the financial stress our neighbors face while they fight cancer. Each year the Anchor Cross Cancer Foundation pays hundreds of bills for area cancer patients including utility bills, housing costs, prescriptions and medical copays, and provides gift cards for groceries and gas.

It has been the pleasure of the Chamber to recognize the heartbeat of our Partnership. We are a voice for businesses and here to help promote and offer opportunities to watch small businesses grow, along with providing training classes to improve current business practices. On May 4th we will be revealing the winner of this Award and recognizing the company that has excelled in leadership and commitment to entrepreneurship.

BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

We are asking all of our Partners to go to our website beginning April 1st to cast your vote for your favorite Business of the Year Nominee. Votes can be cast daily until April 16th All of these finalists are deserving of this award and need your help because the business that receives the most votes will be announced at our Small Business of the Year Luncheon on May 3rd.



Mobile Coca-Cola Bottling Company Mobile Coca-Cola Bottling Company became a sales and distribution center of Coca-Cola Bottling Company UNITED, Inc. October 2, 2017. Our products are distributed under exclusive franchise agreements with The Coca-Cola Company and other beverage franchise companies.

We distribute over 750 refreshing beverages. Our product portfolio includes Coca-Cola®, Coke Zero®, Diet Coke®, Sprite®, Fanta®, Dasani®, Powerade®, Minute Maid®, Vitaminwater® and many more. For over 100 years Mobile Coca-Cola has proudly supported many civic and charitable organizations serving our communities and continues to do so today.



Poplar Home Waterproofing LLC Poplar Home Waterproofing LLC is a local and family-owned business in West Mobile. Started in 2019 by Amanda and William Edwards, the focus of the company is to provide a full-service solution for your home's foundation, structural, exterior, and waterproofing needs. Poplar Home Waterproofing strives to provide a more cost-efficient solution by looking at each job independently and coming up with the best solution for that home without over selling, but still meeting the needs of the home and owner.

We can remediate molded wood, repair wood rot, or repair termite damage before it's too late. We can teach you what causes moisture in your crawl space, and provide the most efficient and cost-effective solution. We can show you what causes a wet basement and how to fix the problem before it intrudes further in to your home. With 10+ years' experience in structural and foundation repair and waterproofing solutions, the PHW team prides itself on being a small but effective operation, offering a professional but personable experience from start to finish.



Coastal Human Resource Group is a Human Resource Outsourcing Company celebrating 25 years of business in Mobile this year. Coastal HR allows businesses of any size to outsource their functions relating to Human Resources to include payroll, tax filing, human resource administration and compliance, benefits management, workers' compensation insurance, time and attendance systems, benefit insurance products and employer liability management. Our knowledgeable staff consists of professionals with experienced in all facets of human resources management. We pride ourselves on being local, right here in Mobile alongside you.



SURGE CHURCH

Our desire at **Surge Church** is to empower people to live beyond their limits. We are delighted to introduce our ministry to you and we hope you enjoy your online experience to catch a glimpse of who we are. Surge means "a sudden and rapid increase forward." We serve a living God whose supernatural power enables us to live beyond our natural limitations. This is why Church is so important. What we can do together is exponentially greater than what we can achieve alone. We recognize the spiritual truth that our life together creates a life beyond limits. Our prayer for you is to experience a Surge of God's Power and Grace that will result in your rapid advancement and lead to a life beyond your limits. Please take the time to discover Who We Are and What It Means For You!



Bay Business News (BBN) is a free weekly email newsletter and website that covers the latest and most important economic and business news happening across all business sectors in Mobile and Baldwin counties. **BBN** is independent, locally owned and focused only on the business community of Mobile and Baldwin counties. **BBN's business-only** newsletter is delivered to your inbox each Friday. According to the President/CEO of BBN T. Bruce MacKinnon, "As a lifelong Mobilian and business owner, I felt a great need for more consistent, reliable local business news and created this newsletter with my team at **EWI Media** a division of Elevator World, Inc., which has been the international business publisher for the elevator industry for 67 years. It seems like the perfect time to invest in a communication tool that will help assist our local business community during this uncertain period and beyond."

APRIL EVENT CALENDAR

1

Business of the Year Nomination

Visit our website to vote for Business of the year at www.swmcchamber.com

5

Diplomat Orientation

We will meet in the **Magnolia Room** at the Tillman's Corner Community Center for orientation from **1:00pm - 2:00pm**.

If you are interested in becoming a diplomat please visit www.swmcchamber.com for the application.

7

The Chamber office will be closed for Good Friday

11

T.A.L.L. Graduation

Class of 2023

Location: John C. Williams Auditorium

Please join us to congratulate these outstanding students who have volunteered in our community this past year.

17

CAPS Meeting

Community Advisory Panel

Location: Tillman's Corner Community Center

Host: BASF

Time: 4:30

5

Business Luncheon

TIME: 11:30am - 1:00pm

Location: John C. Williams Auditorium

RSVP: 251.666.2846 or www.swmcchamber.com

5

Oak Park Children's Ministry Ribbon Cutting

Time: **5:00pm**

Location: **Oak Park Church**

Address: **3321 Sollie Road, Mobile, Alabama 36695**

13

Business Expo

Location: Tillman's Corner Community Center

Time: 2:00-5:00

Vendor Soiree: 5:00-6:00

18

Coffee With The Chamber

Start Your Morning With Coffee & Networking 7:30-8:30. No reservations needed. Make this a priority to come and meet other Business Professionals over coffee.

18

Coffee Chat

Join us directly after Coffee & Networking for Coffee Chat with **Better Business Bureau** with guest speaker, **Monde Donaldson** as she speaks about Cyber Security and Crypto Currency.

SOUTHWEST MOBILE COUNTY

CHAMBER *of* COMMERCE

APRIL BUSINESS LUNCHEON

Wednesday, April 5, 2023

Networking 11:30am / Meeting 12:00-1:00pm



Paul Burch

Mobile County Sheriff

A Mobile native, Paul graduated from B.C. Rain High School, attained his Associate Degree in criminal justice and his Bachelor of Science Degree in homeland security from Columbia Southern University.

From 1983 to 1988, he served as a United States Navy Seabee. In 1989, Paul began his

law enforcement career as an officer with the Montgomery Police Department. He returned to Mobile in 1990 to join the Mobile Police Department, and in 1999, Paul became a deputy at the Mobile County Sheriff's Office. In 2014, Paul graduated from the FBI National Academy Session #258. Then, after rising to the rank of Captain, Paul was appointed commander of MCSO's Criminal Investigations Division in 2015.

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.

Paul formally announced his candidacy for Mobile County Sheriff on October 11, 2021. "It has been an honor to have served under Sheriff Sam Cochran since 2006," says Paul. "Sheriff Cochran's retirement at the end of his term leaves enormous shoes to fill. I am confident in my ability to continue his great legacy."



MOBILE COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE
SHERIFF PAUL BURCH

NEW CHAMBER PARTNERS

Elite Mobile Real Estate

Sheri Jones (251) 377-5974

6410 Grelot Road

Mobile, AL 36695

JJ's Seafood & Chicken

Luke Daves 251-602-4960

5681 Nevius Rd

Mobile, AL 36619

American WeatherStar

Brian O'Donnell (800) 771-6643

8095 Padgett Switch Road Irvington, AL 36544

Oak Park Church

Pastor Shane Jones (251) 633-6110

3321 Sollie Road Mobile, Alabama 36695

DIPLOMAT ORIENTATION

If you are interested in becoming a diplomat, or have already applied, Please join us in the Magnolia Room at the Tillman's Corner Community Center from 1:00pm - 2:00pm on April 5th

WE'D LOVE TO ADD YOUR NAME HERE!!

CALL THE CHAMBER FOR MORE INFORMATION ON BECOMING AN ACTIVE PART OF YOUR COMMUNITY BY

JOINING THE

SOUTHWEST MOBILE COUNTY CHAMBER!

JOIN THE CHAMBER TODAY!

Grow your business

Expand Your Network

Build Relationships

Explore Business to Business Opportunities

SOUTHWEST MOBILE COUNTY

CHAMBER *of* COMMERCE

2023 Business Advantage Sponsors

Diamond

Holcim

Platinum

Integrity IT Services
Keesler Federal Credit Union
Mobile County Commission
Payroll Vault

Gold

American Power Equipment
Alabama Power
Pelican Promotions
Polysurveying
Treasured Moments Lifestyle Photography

Silver

Accelerated Accounting
American Weather Star
Brown and Root
Corsentino Chiropractic
CRE - Mobile
Family Security Credit Union
Godfathers Pizza
Gulf Coast Graphix
Huntington Learning Center
Pro 1 Painters
Rock & Roll Offs
Singing River Health Systems
Southern View Media
A Spot of Tea, LLC.
The Grounds
Uniti Fiber

Friends of the Chamber

BASF Corporations
Coca-Cola Bottling Company United, LLC
Dick Russells BBQ
Elite Mobile Real Estate
Fremin Ventures, LLC
Gulf Coast Graphix
Kalifeh Bedsole Adams PC
Lindsey and Waldo, LLC
Magnolia Mortgage Company
Poplar Home Waterproofing Inc.
Proshield Pest Control
The Shoulder of the Central Gulf Coast
Touching Hearts Senior Care

RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONIES

*Congratulations to the March Ground Breaking and Ribbon Cuttings
All In Credit Union, American Weather Star, and Elite Real Estate*



APRIL LUNCHEON

SONNY'S
BBQ LOCAL PITMASTERS SINCE 1968

Pulled Pork

BBQ Chicken

BBQ Beans

Mac & Cheese

Potato Salad

Buns or Cornbread

**** \$15.00 Current Partners**

**** \$18.00 for Future Partners**

Space is Limited

**RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE
ONLINE!**

RSVP by Paying Online at
www.swmcchamber.com



Split the Pot

1 ticket \$1

6 tickets \$5



Purchase your raffle tickets at the next
luncheon . Proceeds will go to our T.A.L.L.
Leadership Program



Seab Campbell
Professional Sales
Consultant

seab@pro1painters.com Cell 251-487-1714
www.pro1painters.com Office 251-621-1100
4338 Downtowner Loop So. Mobile, AL 36609

BUSINESS OF THE MONTH



The Anchor Cross Cancer Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit that provides financial assistance to cancer patients in south Alabama regardless of where they seek treatment. Started over 15 years ago by local oncologists, this organization exists to relieve some of the financial stress our neighbors face while they fight cancer. Each year the Anchor Cross Cancer Foundation pays hundreds of bills for area cancer patients including utility bills, housing costs, prescriptions and medical copays, and provides gift cards for groceries and gas.

The Anchor Cross Cancer Foundation's director, Joan Kellis, works with a volunteer board of directors to support cancer patients who live in south Alabama. Joan partners with social workers and other community organizations to reach cancer patients in need. Patients qualify for assistance based on residency in Mobile or Baldwin Counties, undergoing cancer treatment and having a financial need. The Anchor Cross Cancer Foundation holds industry events to cover operation costs so that all donations and funds raised locally go straight to patient assistance here in our community.

The Anchor Cross Cancer Foundation will hold its 4th Annual ACCF Masquerade Ball on June 10, 2023 to raise funds and awareness for their work in the community. This event is open to the public and provides a fun night of dinner and dancing for all attendees. It is a special night out for area cancer patients who can attend for free thanks to a generous sponsorship program. For more information on how you can help with this event or their work in the community please visit their website: AnchorCrossFoundation.org or visit them on social media: [@anchorcrosscancerfoundation](https://www.instagram.com/anchorcrosscancerfoundation).

Oak Park Church Children's Ministry Building

Join us as we celebrate
with Oak Park Church on
their new endeavors with
their newly remodeled
children's building.

April 5th, 5:30 PM
3321 Sollie Road
Mobile, Alabama 36695
251.633.6110



WHO WE ARE?

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, or a new resource to help grow your business. Find out all the ways it pays to be part of the Chamber.

WHAT WE DO?

SWMCC started 44 years ago and since then we helped companies network with other small businesses around our community. When you are a participant in this expo, you will be able to invite more customers and clients to your business and highlight the many services you provide. Make this your annual event and join us this year.

Booth Rental -
Partners - \$125
Non Partners - \$150
\$75 - Charitable Non-Profit
\$75 Outside Space

LUNCHEON SPONSOR

The Workplace Family Wellness Team



HRC provides a Licensed Medicare Professional to help answer these and other questions about themselves and their loved ones:

- With so many choices How do I pick the right plan?
- How much will Medicare health insurance cost after retirement?
- Who can I call for medical claim issues?

Contact Jessica Zoltek 251-751-5434



Richard Lindsey, the “Renegade CPA,” is a small business tax expert, consultant, speaker, and author who helps companies and their employees keep the money they’ve earned instead of handing it over to Uncle Sam. He has over 30 years of experience as a CPA and 15 years of “in-the-trenches” work before that in the family business.

Contact Richard Lindsey 251-633-4070



Principal offers a no-cost comprehensive Financial Wellness program that helps employees:

- Make a budget, pay down debt, and start an emergency fund
- Protect themselves and their loved ones
- Plan for the future

Contact Darrell Manning 251-459-2004



The Wellness Team offers a comprehensive benefits plan to meet the needs of employees with caregiving responsibilities through our Eldercare consulting and placement services.

- No-cost initial phone consultation with an Eldercare Specialist to all employees.
- Tailored referral service to qualified service providers
- No-cost placement service for assisted living, independent living, and memory care
- Discounted consulting rates

Contact Anna Faggard 251-402-0674

FIRST RESPONDERS APPRECIATION SPONSORS

- Mobile County Commissions Office
- All In Credit Union
- Integrity IT
- Infinite Opportunities
- Edward Jones - Cheryl McCormick-Hann
- Coca-Cola Co.



- Pelican Promotions
- Zapp's
- Golden Flake

- Holcim
- Keesler Federal Credit Union
- Payroll Vault
- Dick Russell's Bar-B-Q
- Rock & Roll Offs
- Direct Auto
- Touching Hearts Senior Care



REAL ESTATE CORNER

By Ron Sivak
(251) 533-6613

Last month the City of Mobile finalized the master plan for the design and construction of the Brookley by the Bay waterfront park. Located on a 98-acre site along Mobile Bay's western shore, just east of the Mobile Aeroplex at Brookley, the build out is anticipated to connect areas designed to support waterfront access, recreational activities, public events, entertainment, and educational resources.

Feedback on the development was received from more than 300 community members, partner agencies and stakeholder organizations. “This is one of our most collaborative and community-driven projects,” Mobile Mayor Sandy Stimpson said in a prepared statement. “With the master plan complete, we will use the community's input to create design and construction plans over the next several months.”

Cameron Weavil, vice-president with the Weavil Company, reported on the completion of two commercial transactions last month.

The Tecnico Corporation property located on the Port of Chickasaw was sold for \$6.5 million. The 23-acre site consists of three warehouse buildings with a total footprint of 180,000-square feet, as well as some 2,000-square-feet of pier space. The group comprised of both local and nonlocal investors plan to maximize the space as an income producing investment. Weavil represented both the buyers and sellers in the deal.

The 6,300-square-foot former Talbot's retail site located at 4504 Old Shell Road in Spring Hill, and now divided

into three retail units, was sold for \$1.3 million. A local investor purchased the space and plans to develop the footprint into an income producing property. Weavil worked for the buyer on the transaction. Chris Harle of White Spinner Realty represented the seller. Stirling Properties reported three business transactions that closed last month.

A local group of investors purchased the improvements at 7680 Airport Boulevard in West Mobile for \$500,000, according to Jay O'Brien, senior advisor with Stirling, who represented the buyer. Nathan Handmacher worked for the seller. Palmers Airport Hyundai will continue operating at the location.

Nearby in West Mobile, a local investment group also purchased some 5.59 acres on the corner of Dawes Road and Glider Avenue for \$540,000, according to O'Brien. Local speculators acquired the 10,249-square-foot building located at 1242 Montlimar Drive in West Mobile for \$800,000, according to Angie McArthur and Kaelan McArthur with Stirling Properties and represented the seller. Chris Harle of White-Spinner Realty worked for the buyers.

Last month, on Thursday, March 9, All-In-One Credit Union held morning and afternoon grand openings for their 29th and 30th branches located in Pascagoula, Mississippi, and Theodore. Nearly 100 guests separately attended each event. Both offices are fully staffed, with three employees managing each site.

When it comes to raising kids, not all of us have green thumbs.



To find the Accordia location nearest you, visit:

Accordia-Health.org

*The Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit provides comprehensive and preventive healthcare services for children under age 21 who are enrolled in Medicaid. Accordia Health provides services regardless of a patient's ability to pay. Discounts are offered on services based on a Sliding Fee Discount Program on your household size and income. Accordia Health is a Federally Qualified Health Center. This health center receives HHS funding and has Federal Public Health Service (PHS) deemed status with respect to certain health or health-related claims, including medical malpractice claims, for itself and its covered individuals. All calls are answered 24/7. Interpretation for the hearing impaired available. Translation services are available. Contamos con servicios de traducción disponibles. Có các dịch vụ dịch thuật

