

# THE CORNER



**MOBILE**  
A L A B A M A

May 2023

**SOUTHWEST MOBILE COUNTY**  
CHAMBER *of* COMMERCE



**SOUTHWEST MOBILE COUNTY**  
CHAMBER *of* COMMERCE

## Letter From the President

If what they say about April showers and May flowers is true then all of South Alabama should be looking like Bellingrath Gardens by June. My yard on the other hand is looking more and more like the Atchafalaya swamp basin in Louisiana and you will need a pirogue to come visit me.

James Barber will be our guest speaker for May. James is the Chief of Staff and always shares a lot of interesting and useful information about our city. We will also be announcing our Business of the Year so we expect a larger than normal crowd. Make sure you RSVP for this event. The caterer for the luncheon will be Time to Eat, another small business in our area.

We want to invite you to our National Day of Prayer event that will be held on Thursday May 4<sup>th</sup>. It starts at 7:30 am in front of the Mobile Police Departments Second Precinct office. We ask you to invite your friends and co-workers to join us in prayer for our city, state, and county.

Speaking of Pirogues (Pirogues are small canoe like boats used in the bayou to gather crawfish) , a pirogue will probably be used to gather our main course for our annual Partner Appreciation Crawfish boil on Friday May 12<sup>th</sup> from 3-5 PM. This is a SWMCCC Partner only event and not open to the general public. We want to celebrate our partners and their loyal commitment to the chamber.

Our next Coffee with the Chamber will be on May 16<sup>th</sup> at 730 am. We continue to have a good turnout for the event and have a Coffee Chat immediately following. This quarter it is being given by the Better Business Bureau and I learned something very interesting at our last Coffee Chat. The discussion was on Cyber security and Crypto currency scams. Everyone take out your iPhones and look above your signal meter. If there is a tiny red dot or green dot they are tracking and listening and your pop up ads and other things will be influence by what you do on your phone. Scary huh! Don't miss next months Coffee with the Chamber and Coffee Chat. I'm excited and scared all at the same time about what we will learn on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Our Chats are informative opportunities to learn about community and business related items that are pertinent to all of our day to day activities. Each quarter we have different topics and you don't want to miss out in this free informative training. Register today to reserve your seat!

I'm going to close with a subliminal message. (Volunteer for Kids Day in July because we have "Strength in Numbers")

*Curtis Polk*

BLP Stores Division Manager

*"Strength in Numbers"*



# MAY EVENT CALENDAR

## 1 T.A.L.L. Applications

### Class of 2024

Deadline: June 3rd, 2023

Applications are available online or can be picked up in the SWMCC office.

## 3 Small Business of the Year

TIME: 11:30am - 1:00pm

Location: John C. Williams Auditorium

Speaker: James Barber, Mayoral Chief of Staff

RSVP: 251.666.2846 or  
www.swmcchamber.com

## 4 National Day of Prayer

PRAY  
GOD'S GLORY  
*Across the Earth*

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

TIME: 7:30am - 8:00am

Location: Tillman's Square Parking Lot

Join us as we pray over the community at our 9th Annual Prayer Rally.

## 12 Partner Appreciation

TIME: 3:00pm - 5:00pm

Location: Outside

Tillman's Corner Community Center

RSVP: 251.666.2846 or  
www.swmcchamber.com

Crawfish Boil!

Free for Partners

## 16 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.

## 16 Coffee Chat

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

## 22 Diplomat Social

TIME: 5:30pm - 7:30pm

Location: P.S. Taco, Tillman's Corner

Address: 5000 Rangeline Crossing Dr.

Mobile, Alabama 366619

## 25 Southern View Crew

### Lunch & Learn

TIME: 11:30am - 1:00pm

Location: John C. Williams Auditorium

RSVP 251-666-2488

## 29 Memorial Day

The SouthWest Mobile County Chamber of Commerce Office will be closed.



# SOUTHWEST MOBILE COUNTY

CHAMBER *of* COMMERCE

## MAY BUSINESS LUNCHEON

Wednesday, May 3, 2023

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



Chief of Staff James Barber served with the United States Marine Corps prior to beginning his 28-year career with the Mobile Police Department. During that time, Barber was assigned to various specialized units within MPD, including Narcotics and Vice, Intelligence, Organized Crime, Drug Enforcement, and Internal Affairs. He rose through the ranks to become an executive officer before being appointed Chief of Police in 2013. As Chief, Barber implemented an Intelligence-led policing model that targeted criminals, not communities — leading to some of the lowest total crime rates the City of Mobile had recorded in nearly four decades.

Barber is credited for launching two MPD programs that are now nationally recognized. The first is Bridging the Gap, which brings young people together with law enforcement officers to teach kids how to best conduct themselves when encountering the police in various circumstances. Barber also launched the Second Chance or Else (SCORE) program, which works to connect low-level, non-violent drug offenders to community resources instead of arresting them. The goal of the program is to get participants out of the drug scene and into the workforce. Both programs are still used today by MPD and other law enforcement agencies around the country.

Barber was appointed Public Safety Director for the City of Mobile in 2017. In this new role, Director Barber oversaw MPD as well as the Mobile Fire-Rescue Department. Under his direction, a new leadership team was established at MFRD, which lead the department from ISO-3 to ISO-1. This is a fire service rating only achieved by 432 of the more than 45,000 fire departments in the U.S.

As Public Safety Director, Barber also sought to address the problem of repeat violent offenders being released on bail only to commit more acts of violence in the community. That quickly grew into a statewide effort to change Alabama's Constitution. Working with Rep. Chip Brown, Barber helped draft a bill that would give judges more flexibility to withhold bail from clearly dangerous defendants who are likely to re-offend. That bill would later be named "Aniah's Law" in honor of Aniah Blanchard, who was kidnapped and killed by a man out on bail for charges of kidnapping and attempted murder. In 2021, Aniah's Law passed the Alabama Legislature with bipartisan support. It was ratified by an overwhelming majority of voters on November 8, 2022.

In 2020, Mobile Mayor Sandy Stimpson appointed Barber to serve as his Chief of Staff. In his current role, Chief Barber oversees all the City of Mobile's departments and executive directors. Despite a broader focus, he maintains a core belief that the fundamental purpose of government is public safety.

BUSINESS

NETWORKING



## LUNCHEON SPONSOR



Commercial Real Estate Experts  
in Mobile & Baldwin County

We supply highly-skilled real estate services to the business communities of Mobile, AL Baldwin County, AL and surrounding areas of southern Alabama and the central Gulf Coast. We are regional market leaders with national industry connections that can tailor our services to your unique and individual needs. Whether your requirements should be for industrial, office, land, retail, or multi-family sites, or for any other types of commercial sales, leasing or management, we are prepared to give you the national reach you need, with the customized, local expertise you deserve



## Chamber 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.

### 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



## MAY LUNCHEON CATERER

# Time To Eat

*Homemade Lasagna*

*Chicken Alfredo*

*Tossed Green Salad*

*Rolls*

*Variety of Desserts*

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MOBILE'S BEST COUNTRY  
COOKIN' RESTAURANT

**7351 Theodore Dawes Rd,  
Theodore, AL 36582**

**Monday - Saturday: 7AM-9PM, Sunday: 7AM-3PM**

**(251) 654-0228**

**EVENT TICKETS ARE LIMITED. RSVP to reserve your seat! Tickets can be purchased online at [www.swmcchamber.com](http://www.swmcchamber.com) or call the office to pay by phone at 251-666-2488.**

**\*\* \$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](http://www.swmcchamber.com)

# DIPLOMAT



Justin Bush , MBA  
Commercial Account

Office 251.459.6007

Cell 251.270.9159

Justin Bush was raised in Louisburg, KS which is a small suburban town south of Kansas City. After graduating High school Justin has enjoyed a diverse and successful background as he spent time in the Army as a non-commissioned officer, law enforcement, paralegal, information technology management, and financial services. Justin has a Masters of Business Administration and a Bachelors of Information Technology from American Intercontinental University. Justin is married to Stephanie, and they have a little boy named Austin. He spends his free time with family, football (GO CHIEFS!), or just finding new exciting activities to do.

## Chamber Business After HOURS

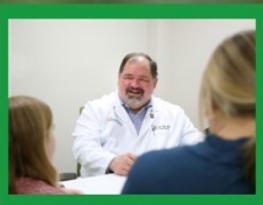
*Networking at its Best...*

We are looking for businesses to host a monthly Business After Hours event at your location. It is a great opportunity to have the Chamber in your office and showcase the many wonderful items you sell, the services you provide or the activities that you perform. Schedule today and get more information on how to get on our calendar for 2023.

Hosting an After Hours Networking event gives members/partners an opportunity to network and socialize in a fun, relaxed atmosphere after the regular working day. This event is meant to be fun and is a great way for business to connect. This is a great way to meet new clients for your business.

**Openings Available!!!!**

**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

  
**ACCORDIA**  
HEALTH



HRSA FTCA  
Deemed-Facility





Last month city leaders announced support for annexation to grow the City of Mobile and asked the members of the City Council to allow the residents in the annexation areas to vote to join the City of Mobile. "Our future development is dependent on a strong, vibrant and expanding city," Mobile Mayor **Sandy Stimpson** said.

"We only need to look to Birmingham to know what our future holds if we don't grow through annexation. Growing the city through annexation would help our entire region and solidify Mobile's significance as the economic engine of southwest Alabama and the entire Gulf Coast region."

A study said that the city of Mobile's population has been in decline, falling from the second largest city in the state to now fourth largest. From 2010 to 2020, the city's population decreased by 4.14 percent, and is projected to continue diminishing.

During the same time, the population increased by roughly 14 percent in all four of the annexation scenarios and is projected to continue increasing. Annexation would reportedly increase the city's population to more than 200,000, the threshold of a "mid-sized" city, a classification that would give the Mobile access to increased federal funding opportunities.

While each of the four proposed annexation areas raises Mobile's overall population above the **200,000 threshold, Study Area A, encompassing neighborhoods West of Schillinger Road., Cottage Hill Road and Snow Road, among others, provides the most cushion (adding 26,000 residents)** with each of the other three study areas eventually putting Mobile below 200,000 in one to five years based on population trends.

Last month **John M. Delchamps** with **Merrill P. Thomas Company** announced the lease of a 1,200 square foot space inside in the upscale Southwood Place shopping center found at **6808 Airport Blvd., Suite E** in West Mobile. **Lush Florist & Gifts** will be the tenant, and this will be their second Mobile location. The retailer is a full-service floral design firm and event specialist. The company promotes unique floral arrangements, stylish gifts and elegant event decorations. **Susan George**, owner and native Mobilian purchased the floral division of LUSH home garden event in September 2020. The local owner and her team host floral design classes each month. A grand opening will be held on 23 May at 4:30 pm.

**William Peebles** of **CRE Mobile** recently announced that Phoenix, Arizona-based **Barry Metals Inc.** paid **\$410,000** for a **12,000-square foot warehouse** located at **40850 Pine Grove Road in Bay Minette**. The site will serve as the new regional headquarters for the metal fabrication company. Peebles represented the buyer and Nathan Handmacher of Zarzour Companies worked for the seller in the transaction.

## FLAG SPONSORSHIP AVAILABLE

The SouthWest Mobile County Chamber of Commerce recognizes special individuals through our flag display on HWY 90 on patriotic holidays.

The flag sponsorship allows you to recognize special individuals through your \$100 donation. We will pay tribute to your love ones, veterans, children and or businesses each holiday while raising your flag to reflect gratitude and appreciation. The sponsors name will be displayed on our perpetual plaque hanging in the Tillman's Corner Community Center Lobby all year, and we encourage you to stop by and take a look at the individuals who have already sponsored a flag for their loved ones.

*For more information  
contact SWMCC office at 251-666-2488  
or email [info@swmcchamber.com](mailto:info@swmcchamber.com)*



**BECOME A  
MEMBER TODAY!**

**CALL: (251) 666-2846**

**EMAIL:  
[info@swmcchamber.com](mailto:info@swmcchamber.com)**





**Southern View**  
*Crew*

# Food For Thought: A Taste Of SEO

Don't miss out on this opportunity to gain valuable insights and take your digital marketing game to the next level. This lunch and learn is not to be missed - it's the perfect recipe for business success! So mark your calendars and get ready to feast on some delicious SEO strategies. We can't wait to see you there!

MAY 25, 2023  
11:30 AM-1:00 PM

5055 CAROL PLANTATION RD  
MOBILE, AL 36619





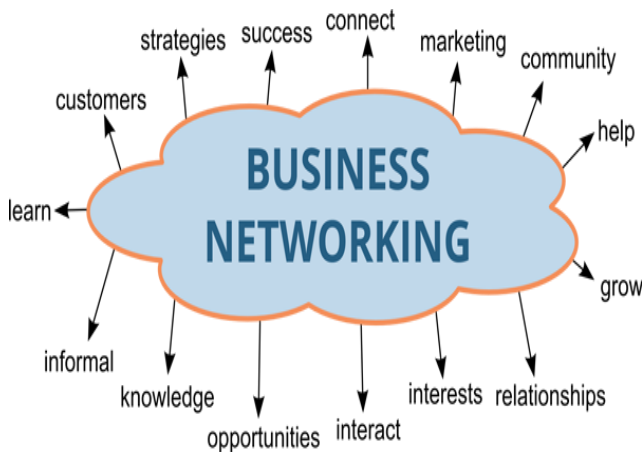
# NEW CHAMBER PARTNERS

**Proveer** at Heritage Woods

**Empower Insurance  
Solutions**

**ServPro Mobile NW**

**Mobile County  
Sheriff's Department**



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!**

251-666-2846 or [info@swmcchamber.com](mailto:info@swmcchamber.com)

## 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**

### **Gold**

Integrity IT Services  
Keesler Federal Credit Union  
Mobile County Commission  
Mobile County Sheriff's Department  
Payroll Vault

### **Silver**

American Power Equipment  
Alabama Power  
Pelican Promotions  
Polysurveying  
Pro 1 Painters  
Treasured Moments Lifestyle Photography

### **Bronze**

Accelerated Accounting  
American Weather Star  
Brown and Root  
Corsentino Chiropractic  
CRE - Mobile  
Family Security Credit Union  
Godfathers Pizza  
Gulf Coast Graphix  
Huntington Learning Center  
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 Russell's 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

# RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONIES



*Congratulations to our April Ribbon Cutting Partner*



*Oak Park Church of God  
Children's Ministry*

**DIPLOMAT  
SOCIAL**

**P.S.TACO**  
COMPANY



**MAY 22ND 5:30-7:30PM**

If you are a  
Diplomat or considering becoming a  
Diplomat come join in the fun as we celebrate  
the Chamber and our wonderful volunteers!

5000 Rangeline Crossing Drive, Suite F

## 2023 T.A.L.L. Graduates



**Rae Bell**

**Molly Kate Blair**

**Ashlynn Buskness**

**Clayton Howell**

**Madison Ivey**

**Jimmie Beth Kuntz**

**Blake Moore**

**Trent Thomas**

**Chase Travis**

**Gracie Vo**

**Anna Watson**

# BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

*We are proud to announce our top three candidates for Business of the Year. All of these finalists are deserving of this award and we look forward to announcing the recipient at our Small Business of the Year Award at our May Business 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.



Waterproofing Solutions - Home Repair - Renovations

**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.

**RECIPIENT WILL BE  
ANNOUNCED MAY 3RD  
AT THE SMALL  
BUSINESS OF THE  
YEAR LUNCHEON**



# OFFICER OF THE MONTH



Photographed By: *TREASURED Moments*

Thank you Officer Ryan Lewis for your commitment to our community!

Terrie Hoag, LCSW

Phone: (727) 422-4656

Email: [TWhite5374@aol.com](mailto:TWhite5374@aol.com)



Licensed  
Clinical Social Worker



**SOUTHWEST MOBILE COUNTY**  
CHAMBER of COMMERCE



**SOUTHWEST MOBILE COUNTY**  
CHAMBER of COMMERCE

**Partner Appreciation**



SAVE THE DATE

5.12.23

**ANNUAL CRAWFISH BOIL**

## Chamber and Community Center Staff

### **Executive Director**

Tina Poiroux, AACE  
[tpoiroux@swmcchamber.co](mailto:tpoiroux@swmcchamber.co)

### **Executive Assistant**

Hope Driskell  
[hdriskell@swmcchamber.com](mailto:hdriskell@swmcchamber.com)

### **Rental Specialist**

Susan Williams  
[swilliams@swmcchamber.com](mailto: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@SWMCCCHAMBER.COM)



2020 - 2024



ALABAMA ACCREDITED  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE