

# THE CORNER



## SEPTEMBER 2023

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



**SOUTHWEST MOBILE COUNTY**  
CHAMBER of COMMERCE

## Letter From the President

In our personal lives , sometimes we find out that we should have taken the time to have a professional check out and make sure everything is ok no matter how much we convince ourselves that we feel fine.

Your business should be the same way. No matter how confident you are that everything is functioning, it is possible that it could be better. With new tax laws and government programs out there designed to help small businesses you could be missing out on opportunities to better your business.

Our chamber family has many partners that specialize in everything from tax preparation to life and business coaching. I took advantage of one of our investment partners advice this year and it has really paid off. I'm not going to throw names out because I'm afraid I will leave someone out. My best advice is to come to our events and discover our diverse variety of partners that we have and let them do their jobs for you.

We have several exciting events coming up that will make our fall exciting including our first annual Sporting Clays Skeet Shoot event in September as well as our third annual Gun Raffle to benefit our TALL program. Most importantly our Annual Business Expo is just around the corner. Mark your calendar to participate in this Business to Business event. You will find you can promote your business while learning to promote the chamber. There are multiple opportunities throughout each month to network, find training for best business practices, give back to the community, become a mentor and more. Join us as we learn to grow together, because there is strength in numbers.

*Curtis Polk*

BLP Stores Division Manager

*“Strength in Numbers”*



# SEPTEMBER EVENT CALENDAR

4

## Happy Labor Day



We are grateful to our hardworking partners and sponsors and hope you have a great day celebrating!

6

## Monthly Business Luncheon

**Time:** 11:30am - 1:00pm

**Location:** John C. Williams Auditorium

**Speakers:** Senator David Sessions, Representative Chip Brown, and Representative Margie Wilcox

7

## American WeatherStar Ribbon Cutting

Breakfast: 8:30 am

Ceremony Begins: 9:00 am

Location: 8095 Padgett Switch Rd  
Irvington, AL 36544



19

## 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.

19

## Coffee Chat

Join us for our monthly Coffee Chat as Leigh West from Southern View Media presents "Getting The Most From Your SWMCC Business Expo Investment Workshop."



21

## CAPS Meeting

4:30 pm

The Community Advisory Panel Meeting will be taking place at the Tillman's Corner Community Center.



**SWMCC 2023 AWARD NOMINATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED**

TO SUBMIT A NOMINATION VISIT US ONLINE AT [www.swmccchamber.com](http://www.swmccchamber.com)

**Citizen of the Year | Community Impact Award**

**Teacher of the Year | Volunteer of the Year | Diplomat of the Year**



# SOUTHWEST MOBILE COUNTY

CHAMBER *of* COMMERCE

## SEPTEMBER BUSINESS LUNCHEON

Wednesday, September 6th, 2023

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



**Senator David Sessions** was elected to the Alabama Senate on November 6, 2018.

He graduated from Mobile County High School in 1978 and is a farmer and co-owner of Sessions Farms, a diversified family farming operation in South Mobile County.

Senator Sessions currently serves as president of Grand Bay Water Works, and Producers Gin Co. LLC. Additionally, he serves as a supervisor on the board of the Mobile County Soil and Water Conservation District. He is past president of the Alabama Pecan Growers Association.

Senator Sessions is married to Lisa Driskell Sessions, and they have three children. He and his family attend First Baptist Church in Grand Bay.



**Representative Chip Brown** is a member of the Alabama House of Representatives, representing District 105. He assumed office on November 7, 2018. His current term ends on November 4, 2026.

Brown was born and raised in south Alabama. In his career, he joined the Alabama Army National Guard and served on active duty with the U.S. Army and U.S. Central Command at the Forward Command Headquarters. He also served as a military adviser in Kabul, Afghanistan for NATO-International Security Assistance Force and U.S. Forces Afghanistan. Additionally, he served as a CEO of a security training firm in his career.



**Representative Margie Wilcox** is a member of the Alabama House of Representatives, representing District 104. She assumed office on February 5, 2014. Her current term ends on November 4, 2026.

Wilcox 's professional experience includes owning Mobile Bay Transportation and Pensacola Bay Transportation.



**Moderator Pete Riehm** retired in 2005, after 21 years of Naval service, to private business where he continues as a Commercial Real Estate broker with CRE Mobile. Specializing mostly in an industrial properties, Pete is also well versed and accomplished with office, land, multi-family, and hospitality properties. He averages over \$10 million in sales and leases annually.

In early 2020, Pete received a highly sought after and elite designation, SIOR. Then at the end of 2020, Pete received an even greater recognition when he was named the 2020 Mobile Area Veteran of the Year. Pete's recognition for his military service and ongoing community service is very well deserved. At the start of 2021, Pete helped pioneer the rebranding initiative and creation of CRE Mobile.



BUSINESS  
NETWORKING

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We are your local payroll services experts who know how to get the job done for you the first time. Our boutique-style approach allows us to offer world-class customer service while still maintaining an intimate feel that is so important in today's business world. We enjoy working with our clients on a personal level, and we strive to make sure each one feels like part of our family by creating genuine relationships with them throughout their experience with us.

We offer tailored payroll services and workforce management solutions so that we can work within your company culture and help you find the best way forward for growth and success. Our dedicated payroll specialists will work directly with you or your team throughout the entire process so that all questions are answered quickly and accurately—no more waiting on hold!

## SPLIT THE POT

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**\$5 = 10 TICKETS**

**\$20 = AN ARM'S LENGTH**

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**\*\* \$15.00 Current Partners  
\*\* \$18.00 for Future Partners  
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.**



"The Holcim cement plant is located in Theodore and has been in operation since September 1981. The facility is a dry process plant that includes a four stage preheater and is built along the Theodore Ship canal. The plant has increased the usage of alternative raw materials and fuels to reduce its fossil fuel footprint and to lessen impacts on the environment. As part of Holcim US, we play an essential role in accelerating our world's transition to a net zero and inclusive future."



## GUNS & GEAR GIVEAWAY

Our Annual Gun Giveaway ticket sale has begun. Tickets will be sold in the Chamber Office for \$50.00 per ticket. The last day to purchase tickets will be October 31st. Beginning November 1st, two raffle winners will be drawn for ten consecutive days. Gun Giveaway winners will receive a predetermined gun from Eddie's Wholesale Jewelry. The second drawing is for our Gear Giveaway winner. Gear may include the following items: cooler, binoculars, beach chairs, gift cards, and tumblers. Winners will be drawn at 10:00 am each day and have 5 days to claim their prize. For more information please call (251) 666-2846 or email [info@swmcchamber.com](mailto:info@swmcchamber.com).

**Eddie's Wholesale Jewelry**

**3400 Government Blvd  
Mobile, AL 36693**



**EDDIE'S PAWN  
GUNS & JEWELRY**

## 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.



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With its standard one-month lag in collection and reporting of data, last month the **Gulf Coast Multiple Listing Service (MLS)** highlighted key indicators that tracked current trends and dynamics within the **Mobile County** real estate market for **July**. An increase of **3.88%** in demand was seen in July when compared to June, even in the face of rising interest rates. The service said this statistic speaks to the equilibrium between supply and demand in Mobile County real estate, which offers a range of options for those looking to make property investments. The median sold price for properties in Mobile County stood at **\$225,000** in July, experiencing a slight decline of **2.17%** in comparison to June. The service said this adjustment highlights the market's adaptability in the face of changing conditions, while supporting overall stability. July saw an extension in the median days on the market to **16 days**, marking a **33.3% increase** from the previous month.

"This shift provides potential buyers with an extended timeframe to explore available properties, fostering more considered decisions," the report said. Sellers are recommended to expect a slightly longer selling process. The **list-to-sold** price percentage edged up to **98%** in July, reflecting a slight improvement of **0.21%** from June. "This statistic signifies that properties are being accurately priced, resulting in prices that are closely aligned with the final negotiated sale prices. Both buyers and sellers can benefit from this increased pricing accuracy," MLS added. The number of properties listed in Mobile County experienced steady growth in July, with a **2.8%** increase, totaling **872** properties.

The **Mobile County Commission** has approved a contract to begin construction for the **Dauphin Island Causeway Restoration Project**, which will restore tidal habitat along the **3.3-mile stretch** of Dauphin Island Causeway from Mobile County's **Bayfront Park** to **Cedar Point**. The project is funded by grants from the **National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Emergency Coastal Resilience Fund** and the **Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund** with the goals of protecting infrastructure and creating habitat injured by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, respectively.

No matching funds will be needed from the commission. **Carter Contracting Services, Inc.** was awarded the job of constructing

the rock breakwaters for **\$26,685,698**. The edifice will be placed roughly parallel to the causeway at variable offshore distances, to recreate known historic shoreline proportions. It is to protect both the causeway and nearly **300 acres** of healthy, productive salt marsh habitat to the west of the causeway. Work is expected to begin this fall and conclude by **summer 2024**.

**Habitat for Humanity of Southwest Alabama**, responsible for building and renovating more than 325 homes throughout Mobile, Clarke and Washington counties, helping underprivileged home ownership to improve communities through sustainable partnerships, is hosting its **35th anniversary** event at Greer's St. Louis Market on 260 St. Louis Street. The event will be held on September 21 from 6 to 9 p.m. Tickets are \$35, and sponsorships are still available. Contact Interfaith Coordinator **Sue King** for more information.

Davison, Michigan-based **Mersino Dewatering**, a national dewatering, and pumping service company for remediating groundwater issues, has leased a 6,820 square-foot warehouse found at **3400 Hurricane Bay Drive** in Theodore. **Amanda Goldman** with **Stirling Properties** secured the lease with the tenant and **Brent Cumbest** of **Milling Commercial Realty** represented the landlord in the transactions.

WE'D LOVE TO ADD YOUR  
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CHAMBER!  
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or email [info@swmcchamber.com](mailto:info@swmcchamber.com)



# DIPLOMAT SPOTLIGHT



Mike Bedwell is a native of Mobile. He has been married to Cherri for 36 years. He has 2 married sons and 2 granddaughters. He attends church at Cottage Hill Baptist. He likes watching and playing sports, and enjoys the beach and movies. He has

enjoyed getting involved with the chamber, making friends and helping the community.

He has worked for Accelerated Accounting for 4 years. He is currently the manager of their Tillman's Corner office, where he helps clients stay compliant with their federal and state taxes while reducing their tax liability, and helps small businesses handle their bookkeeping and payroll.

Prior to that, he worked in the insurance industry for 20 years, including 10 years where he built an agency from scratch.

# NEW PARTNERS



## Boy Scouts of America Mobile Area Council

(251) 476-4600

[brandon.anderson@scouting.org](mailto:brandon.anderson@scouting.org)

[www.bsamac.org](http://www.bsamac.org)

2587 Government Blvd



## ELM

(251) 470-0700

[medge@elminfo.com](mailto:medge@elminfo.com)

[www.elminfo.com](http://www.elminfo.com)

210 S. Washington Ave.



## PitStop Car Wash

(228) 338-1857

[www.acleancarfast.com](http://www.acleancarfast.com)

7295 Theodore Dawes Rd



## Port City Industrial

(251) 277-3444

[www.portcitymobile.com](http://www.portcitymobile.com)

2616 Old Shell Rd



## Preferred Tree Services

(251) 404-9910

[cptjohnson84@gmail.com](mailto:cptjohnson84@gmail.com)



## River Bank and Trust

(251) 263-6474

[dfinch@river.bank](mailto:dfinch@river.bank)

[www.riverbankandtrust.com](http://www.riverbankandtrust.com)

118 N Royal St



## Sweat Tire Tillman's Corner

(251) 947-7345

[sweattire07@gmail.com](mailto:sweattire07@gmail.com)

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# ANNUAL SKEET SHOOT



Get your guns oiled and shells loaded to join us Friday, September 15th for our 1st Annual Sporting Clays Skeet Shoot at Taylor Creek Sporting Clays. Registration will begin at 8:00 am, the game will start at 10:00 am, and we will end with Lunch and Awards. Trophies will be given to 1st and 2nd place teams and Best Individual Shooter. Participation is \$100 per shooter or \$400 per team. There is a limit of 20 teams so we encourage participants to preregister. Teams are comprised of four shooters; therefore, any entries that do not make a full team will be assigned to another partial team on the day of the shoot. We are also offering sponsorship opportunities ranging from Title Sponsor to Bronze Sponsor, Shotgun Raffle Tickets for \$50, and Spectator Lunch for \$10 per person. All proceeds will go to the SWMCC Foundation to support T.A.L.L. Scholarships for upcoming 2023-2024 graduates. If you would like to preregister, become a sponsor, or receive more information please email [info@swmcchamber.com](mailto:info@swmcchamber.com) or call (251) 666-2846.

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Mobile County Sheriff's Department  
Payroll Vault

### Silver

Alabama Power  
Evonik Corporation  
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  
Proshield Pest Control  
Rock & Roll Offs  
Singing River Health Systems  
Southern View Media  
The Grounds  
Uniti Fiber

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# SWMCC BUSINESS EXPO



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Location:  
Tillman's Corner  
Community Center  
5055 Carol Plantation Rd  
Mobile, AL 36619

Thursday, October 19th 2023  
2:00 pm - 5:00 pm  
VENDOR SOIREE  
5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

The SouthWest Mobile County Chamber of Commerce's Annual Business Expo is scheduled for Thursday, October 19th! The event will take place from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm. There will also be a Vendor Soiree from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm. If you are interested in participating we have limited space available. You can pick up an application in the office or email [info@swmccchamber.com](mailto:info@swmccchamber.com) for a digital copy. Please call (251) 666-2846 for more information.



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# BUSINESS OF THE MONTH



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Fueled by the passion of our clients, partners, and team members, CRAFTSHOW'S proven methods help brands tell their stories and reach new audiences through cinematic content.

At CRAFTSHOW Digital we believe that all projects should be treated with the same amount of reverence, passion, and attention to detail. Regardless of budget or status we never cut corners...we actually don't know-how. We only accept as many clients/projects as our production calendars allow. We call it our small batch creative approach. CRAFTSHOW is not an exclusive boutique production company. We only include so many projects into our workflow that meet our production quality standards.



**Syreeta Kinney**  
Branch Manager  
NMLS ID 2269727

**Family Security**  
CREDIT UNION

Tillman's Corner Branch  
5416 Highway 90 West  
Mobile, AL 36619  
[www.myfscu.com](http://www.myfscu.com)

Office: 251-602-1529 x4900  
Fax: 251-602-6960  
Toll: 800-239-5515 x4900  
[rita.kinney@myfscu.com](mailto:rita.kinney@myfscu.com)



# OFFICER OF THE MONTH



Photographed By: *Michelle Monrovia*

Thank you Officer Dylan Van Sickle for your commitment to our community!



**James Pickering**

Director of Public Relations

jpickering@theshoulder.org | Cell: 202.903.6187  
Office: 251.410.6428



**Chris Black**

support@integrityit.us | (251) 206-7138 | www.integrityit.us



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## Chamber and Community Center Staff

### Executive Director

Tina Poiroux, AACE  
tpoiroux@swmcchamber.com

### Administrative Assistant

Hope Driskell  
hdriskell@swmcchamber.com

### Event Specialists

Calvin Dickerson  
Gary Turk

**CONTACT US at 251-666-2488 or the Chamber at 251-666-2846**  
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## Strength in Numbers



2020 - 2024



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