

# THE CORNER

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OCTOBER 2023

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



**SOUTHWEST MOBILE COUNTY**  
CHAMBER of COMMERCE

## Letter From the President

If you missed our First Annual Sporting Clay event, you missed out on a lot of fun. The weather was perfect and the comradery was even better. We had experienced shooters, as well as individuals that had never fired a gun before. The staff at Taylor Creek took the time to instruct and make sure everyone had a safe and fun time. We are already looking forward to next year so get your teams together. The Chamber is grateful to all of the businesses and individuals who participated and the event sponsors for helping provide scholarships for our 2023-2024 T.A.L.L. Students. If you are interested in sponsoring a scholarship please reach out to the Chamber Office Staff by emailing [info@swmcchamber.com](mailto:info@swmcchamber.com) or calling (251) 666-2846.

These cooler mornings could mean several things, but I am going to say it is time for our Annual Guns and Gear Raffle. We have a great variety that we will be giving away starting on November 1st and winding up on November 10<sup>th</sup>. As usual we will have one drawing for a gun each day as well as for one piece of gear. The exciting part is that if you win at any time during the raffle, your ticket gets put back in for more chances to win. We are limiting our raffle to 200 tickets at \$50.00 each. Tickets are available for purchase now from the Chamber office, online, or from any Board member.

We will be helping you to grow your business on October 19<sup>th</sup> with our Annual Business Expo. It looks to be a good turnout this year as we are bringing it back to our Chamber grounds. We have limited indoor and outdoor spaces available so reserve your space today by emailing the Chamber Staff, the deadline to sign up is October 5th. Queen Elizabeth said "It is often the small steps, not the giant leaps, that bring about the most lasting change." Come grow with us and remember there truly are "Strength in Numbers".

*Curtis Polk*

BLP Stores Division Manager

*"Strength in Numbers"*





# OCTOBER EVENT CALENDAR

1

## Food Drive Kick-Off



The SWMCC's Annual Alabama vs. Auburn Food Drive will begin October 1st and run through November 17th!



17

## 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.

4

## Monthly Business Luncheon

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

**Location:** John C. Williams Auditorium

**Speaker:** Duane Cannon with Holcim  
Suzannah Weeks with the American Cancer Society

17

## Coffee Chat

Join us for our monthly Coffee Chat as Leigh West from Southern View Media presents "DIY Digital Marketing Do's and Don'ts."



5

## Business After Hours

**Time:** 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm

**Location:** LUSH Florist & Gifts - West  
6808 Airport Blvd Suite E  
Mobile, AL 36608



19

## SWMCC Business Expo

**Time:** 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

**Vendor Soiree:** 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

**Location:** Tillman's Corner  
Community Center

We have limited vendor spaces available if you are interested in participating. Please email [info@swmccchamber.com](mailto:info@swmccchamber.com) or call (251) 666-2488 today!

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## CAPS Meeting

**Time:** 4:30 pm

**Location:** Tillman's Corner  
Community Center

31

## Halloween

We hope you have a fun filled night Trick-or-Treating with your family and friends!



**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



# BUSINESS NETWORKING

## SOUTHWEST MOBILE COUNTY

CHAMBER *of* COMMERCE

### OCTOBER BUSINESS LUNCHEON

Wednesday, October 4th, 2023

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



**Duane Cannon** is an accomplished Environmental and Public Affairs Manager with a diverse range of experience and qualifications. Duane served as a Security Specialist in the US Air Force for six years before pursuing his BS Degree in Chemical Engineering from Cal State University of Long Beach. After graduating, he worked in the pharmaceutical industry for two years, gaining valuable experience before transitioning to steel mills for two years and the cement industry for 26 years. Duane also has three years of experience as an electrician.

For the past nine years, Duane has been working as an Environmental and Public Affairs Manager at Holcim. In this role, he oversees environmental operations at the Theodore Cement facility, ensuring compliance across multiple facilities, spearheading community outreach initiatives, and serving as the primary liaison for government agencies and the public. Duane's extensive experience and expertise make him a valuable asset to the team at Holcim.



**Suzannah Weeks**, the Senior Development Manager at the American Cancer Society, will also be speaking in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Suzannah is a business management professional and fundraiser with a demonstrated history of success in the service and hospitality industry, non-profit and development, associations and political arena. She is skilled in business and event management, marketing, fundraising development, public relations, association management, communications and leadership.

Suzannah also has extensive experience in community outreach and development with a proven track record of success in sustainable growth.

According to the American Cancer Society, "Breast cancer is the most common cancer in women in the United States, except for skin cancers. It is about 30% (or 1 in 3) of all new female cancers each year." In honor of those who have fought or are currently fighting Breast Cancer, the SouthWest Mobile County Chamber of Commerce asks that all attendees wear pink to their Monthly Business Luncheon on October 4th, 2023.

## LUNCHEON SPONSORS



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.



**Rock & Roll Off's** is both locally owned and operated and proudly calls Mobile, Alabama, home. We hope and intend to be Mobile's leading dumpster rental service for years. Let us show you why Rock & Roll Off's Mobile Dumpster Rental Company is simply the best. It is our sincere desire that your experience is easy and that we provide the best cost solution for your business/project. Our friendly office staff will answer our phone lines when you call and they make sure that you understand the process and that you are getting the right size dumpster. We strive to maintain excellent customer service to those in need of dumpster rentals. As well as to make sure you are happy from start to finish.

We meet our client's needs for their waste management services. Big or small or everywhere in between, we can haul away your stuff. From small garage clean outs to full on home remodels we are here for you Mobile. We have many high quality roll off dumpsters that are durable and will withstand the elements to meet your needs.

## LUNCHEON CATERER



Rocky is the owner of Rock & Roll Off's and Fremin Ventures and she enjoys cooking for family, friends, nonprofit events and Chambers. You can find Rocky at the Greater Gulf State Fair in one of the four brick & mortar food huts during the 10 days the fair is open cooking beside her friends Tina & Russ with Grand Catering.

### Menu:

**Cajun Chicken Pasta**

**Seasoned Green Beans'**

**Mixed Green Salad**

**Garlic Bread**

**Sweet Tea/Unsweet Tea**

**Carrot Cake**



**\*\* \$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)**



# DIPLOMAT SPOTLIGHT



Cheryl Nicholls relocated to her mother's hometown of Mobile 12 years ago due to the Great Recession. A Michigan native, or Yankee as folks in the South like to call her, Cheryl obtained her bachelor's degree in journalism from Wayne State

University. Cheryl went on to write for numerous news outlets including the *Detroit Free Press*, the *Oakland Press*, *African American Family* magazine, *Mobile Bay Monthly*, the *Mobile Press Register*, the *Call News*, *Alabama* magazine and others.

Cheryl later transitioned her passion for photography into a viable business, Treasured Moments Lifestyle Photography - her heart and soul. She enjoys photographing corporate events, and portraiture along with landscape and fine art photography.

Cheryl is also the official photographer for the Southwest Mobile County Chamber of Commerce.

# SWMCC BUSINESS EXPO



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.

## 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 businesses to connect. This is a great way to meet new clients for your business.

## Christmas Event Sponsorship

Tree Lighting- November 27th, VIP Pancakes & Pajamas with Santa- December 1st, Pancake Breakfast with Santa- December 2nd, & Christmas Parade- December 2nd

### Title Sponsor-\$2,500

- Ride Antique Car in Parade ☐
- Premium Seating for 10 Guests at the Parade
- Company Photo Session with Santa at the Parade
- Stage Recognition at Tree Lighting
- 4 Free Breakfast Tickets
- Free Parade Entry (Business)
- Company Logo on Parade & Hwy 90 Banner
- December Website & Newsletter Recognition
- Sponsor a family for Christmas
- Tree Lighting/Cookie Sponsor
- Exhibit Space at Tree Lighting
- Company Logo & Link on all Marketing Material for Christmas Events

### Platinum Sponsor-\$1,200

- Parade Throw Sponsor ☐
- 2 Free Breakfast Tickets
- Free Parade Entry (Business)
- Company Logo on Parade & Hwy 90 Banner
- December Website & Newsletter Recognition
- Sponsor a family for Christmas
- Tree Lighting/Cookie Sponsor
- Exhibit Space at Tree Lighting
- Company Logo & Link on all Marketing Material for Christmas Events

### Gold Sponsor-\$750

- Sponsor a family for Christmas ☐
- Tree Lighting/Cookie Sponsor
- Exhibit Space at Tree Lighting
- Company Logo & Link on all Marketing Material for Christmas Events
- Company Logo on Parade Banner

### Banner Sponsor-\$100

- Company Logo on Parade Banner ☐

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE SELECT PAYMENT METHOD:

☐ Enclosed Check

☐ Invoice Me

☐ Credit Card

Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature : \_\_\_\_\_



**SOUTHWEST MOBILE COUNTY**  
CHAMBER of COMMERCE

Please submit this sponsor agreement to:  
SouthWest Mobile County Chamber of Commerce  
5055 Carol Plantation Road  
Mobile, AL 36619  
Or call (251) 666-2846 to pay by phone



**White-Spunner Realty** announced that two local businesses, **Tidal Wave Car Wash** and **Discount Tires**, have both leased land inside the **Albert P. Brewer Center Developmental Center** located on the corner of Schillinger Road and Hitt Road in West Mobile. Each lease encompasses a **1.25 acre** site, sitting adjacent to Schillinger Road and due north of grocery retailer **Aldi**. Build out for both new spaces are scheduled to jointly begin by the end of 2023.

Last month **Chris Harle with White-Spunner Realty** represented landlords in four local transactions.

Jackson, Mississippi-based **TRIO Community Meals** leased some 19,913 square-feet of space inside the **Saraland Loop Shopping Center** located at 100 Saraland Loop. TRIO supports congregate and home-delivered meals for senior nutrition programs.

**The Hispanic American Business Association (HABA)** leased a 5,849 square-foot site found at 260 Azalea Road West Mobile. Plans are in place for the nonprofit to open **The Continental Commissary**, a kitchen and business incubator for food start-ups.

**El Rincon Tacos and Margaritas** leased 1,200 square feet of eatery space at 1956 Cottage Hill Road, Suite B, and **Saddity Sweets** leased 1,200 square feet of bakery room at 5212 Cottage Hill Road, Suite D, both spaces are inside **University Oaks Shopping Center** found in West Mobile.

Hattiesburg, Mississippi-headquartered **Dirt Cheap** leased a 21,670 square-foot site found inside **Southview Plaza** on Highway 90 in Tillman's Corner. Dirt Cheap will occupy a footprint previously leased to a **Goodwill** location. **David Dexter with CRE Mobile** represented the landlord and **Harry Bell of Bellcore Commercial** worked for the tenant on the transaction.

**Jill Meeks with Stirling Properties** reported that, in September, two new tenants leased space inside **University Place** located at 820 University Boulevard in West Mobile.

**Eagle Market Makers** has set up shop, occupying a 2,100 square-foot footprint, and **Gehret Advisors LLC** has leased a 1,443 square-foot office space inside the retail center.

**Fairhope Brewery**, well known on both sides of the bay but operating solely in Fairhope for the past decade, has announced an expansion into Mobile with **The Wingman**, an experimental pop-up tasting room located at 656 St. Louis Street in Downtown Mobile. The new venture will concentrate on experimental concepts and new flavor profiles of beers and seltzers.

"The Wingman will be the place for us to try new things and introduce options that can't be found anywhere else. This interactive model will allow us to gather feedback from our guests. When our patrons get enthusiastic about a particular offering, we will consider putting it into larger-scale distribution." managing partner **Jim Foley** said.

The new brewery is expected to open by **early 2024** and will have indoor and outdoor seating. It will also be available for private event reservations.

**Jackson, Texas**-based gas station mega-retailer **Buc-ee's** held a groundbreaking ceremony last month for its **very first location in Mississippi**, located roughly an hour due west of Mobile in **Gulfport**.

The new Harrison County Travel Center will occupy **74,000 square feet, 120 fueling positions, 24 EV charging stations and create around 200 new jobs** when fully operational. A grand opening is slated for spring **2024**.

Buc-ee's favorites including Texas barbeque, homemade fudge, kolaches, Beaver Nuggets and fresh pastries will all be available.

"Harrison County is a vibrant community with stunning beaches," Buc-ee's vice-president of marketing **Stan Beard** said. "It's perfectly situated along I-10 between our Texas and Alabama stores and we can't wait to be the best place to stop on the Mississippi Coast."





## No More Payroll Worries

Payroll Vault offers the perfect payroll solution for small businesses. We provide complete localized payroll services, with all the workforce management solutions you need.



## FALL FESTIVAL

### Cloverleaf Baptist Church

14th  
OCT  
12-3pm

Join us for food, fun, and games!

6500 Three Notch Rd.  
Mobile AL 36619



✉ [pastor@cloverleafbaptist.net](mailto:pastor@cloverleafbaptist.net) ☎ 251-661-1883

## LEADERSHIP STUDENTS TOUR COURTHOUSE

### T.A.L.L. Program

Tillman's Corner Area Learning Leadership

The SouthWest Mobile County Chamber of Commerce's T.A.L.L. students toured the courthouse on Friday, September 22nd. They were greeted by the amazing staff and had the opportunity to hear from a few of Mobile's finest judges. Seeing the judicial process first hand brought both better understanding of our court system and insights into the importance of good decision making. Thank you Judge Wes Pipes, Judge George Zoghby and Judge Brandy Hambright. Your ability to teach and mentor our students while sharing your passion for the judicial system showed a great level of leadership. The Chamber looks forward to seeing how this brilliant group of students will use the information learned through its Leadership Program to one day impact the city of Mobile.





# NEW PARTNERS



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Mobile, AL 36608



**Chris Black**

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

# BUSINESS ADVANTAGE SPONSORS

## Honorary

Evonik Corporation  
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Polysurveying

## Diamond

Holcim

## Platinum

## Gold

Integrity IT Services  
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Mobile County Commission  
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

## Friends of the Chamber

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Kalifeh Bedsole Adams PC  
Lindsey and Waldo, LLC  
Magnolia Mortgage Company  
Occupational Health Center  
Poplar Home Waterproofing Inc.  
The Shoulder of the Central Gulf Coast  
Touching Hearts Senior Care

# INAUGURAL SPORTING CLAYS SHOOT

The SouthWest Mobile County Chamber of Commerce would like to thank the following sponsors and teams for their participation and support at the 1st Annual Sporting Clay Shoot on Friday, September 15th at Taylor Creek Sporting Clays. The Century Bank Team placed first and The Greater Gulf State Fair/ The Grounds Team placed second. The Best Individual Shooter Award was given to Trey Gardner with Roto-Rooter who hit 96 out of 100 clays. All proceeds from the event will go towards TALL Scholarships for 2024 graduates. If you would like to sponsor a scholarship please email [info@swmcchamber.com](mailto:info@swmcchamber.com).

## Sponsors

Holcim

Dick Russell's BBQ

Hill & Brooks Coffee and Tea Company

Brown & Root Industrial Services

Uniti Fiber

## Teams

Apache Industrial Services

Brown & Root Industrial Services

Century Bank

Greater Gulf State Fair/The Grounds

Pro 1 Painters

Roto-Rooter

Uniti Fiber



## We rarely think about breathing except when we have trouble doing it.

A common cause of breathing problems is Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease or COPD. COPD refers to a group of diseases that cause airflow blockage and breathing-related problems. It includes emphysema and chronic bronchitis. More than 16 million Americans have COPD, and millions more suffer from it, but have not been diagnosed and are not being treated.

Many people who are at risk for getting COPD have never even heard of it.

The leading cause of COPD is smoking, however, 1 in 4 with COPD have never smoked. Other risk factors for developing COPD include long-term exposure to second-hand smoke, pollution, harmful work-related chemicals as well as asthma, a childhood history of respiratory problems, and AATD, a genetic or inherited condition.

### Symptoms of COPD include:

- Constant coughing
- Shortness of breath while doing routine activities
- Excess mucus production
- Feeling like you can't breathe
- Not being able to take a deep breath
- Wheezing

Accordia Health providers can share more information about COPD and discuss ways for you to keep and stay healthy, including weight management and smoking cessation programs.

To make an appointment, Call: (251) 824-8320.



13833 Tapia Avenue • Bayou La Batre, AL 36509  
(251) 824-8320 • [Accordia-Health.org](http://Accordia-Health.org)



\*Accordia Health provides services regardless of a patient's ability to pay. Discounts are offered on services based on a Sliding Fee Discount Program depending 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. Translation services are available. Contamos con servicios de traducción disponibles.





Register today for the 3rd Annual Funnel Cake Run at the 2023 Greater Gulf State Fair! The race will be on Saturday, October 28 and start at 10 AM! We'll be accepting online forms till Wednesday, October 25. Forms will also be available for mail-in by clicking the button below. If registering by mail, entries should be postmarked by Friday, October 20!

If you're mailing in your form, please send cash or check payment. Checks can be made out to "Greater Gulf State Fair". Please mail them to our office at 1035 Cody Rd N, Mobile, AL 36608.

Early packet pick-up and late registration will be available at our office at 1035 Cody Rd N, Mobile, AL 36608 from 11 AM to 3 PM on Thursday, October 26. Packet pick-up and race day registration will be at the Greater Gulf State Fair the morning of the Run from 9 AM to 9:45 AM.

Awards include Top 3 Overall Male and Female and Top 3 Male and Female in age groups, 6 and under, 7-9, and 10-12

Race participants will receive short sleeve t-shirts. Shirts will be sized for men and women. T-shirts will be available on race day while supplies last. Shirts will not be re-ordered after the race. Join us for awards, food, fun, beverages and entry to the 2023 Fair after the Race!

## BUSINESS OF THE MONTH



The mission of Oak Park Church is the same mission Jesus gave his followers: Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

The vision of Oak Park Church is to create a community of authentic believers and to witness a city transformed by the life changing reality of the gospel, as people come to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

## 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. The information on your ticket must match your state issued Driver's License. All proceeds go towards TALL Leadership Program scholarships for 2024 graduates. For more information please call the Chamber Office at (251) 666-2846 or email [info@swmcchamber.com](mailto:info@swmcchamber.com).

**Eddie's Wholesale Jewelry**

**(251) 660-7296**

**3400 Government Blvd**

**Mobile, AL 36693**



**EDDIE'S PAWN**  
GUNS & JEWELRY

## OFFICER OF THE MONTH



Photographed By: *TREASURED MOMENTS*

Thank you Officer Nicholas Harmon for your commitment to our community!

**Baking Spirits Bright**  
THIS CHRISTMAS

<b>Tree Lighting</b> Nov. 27th 5:30 pm	<b>Pancakes &amp; Pajamas</b> Dec. 1st 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm	<b>Pancake Breakfast</b> Dec. 2nd 8:00 am – 10:00 am	<b>Christmas Parade</b> Dec. 2nd 10:30 am
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## Chamber and Community Center Staff

### Executive Director

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

### Administrative Assistant

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

### Rental Specialist

Jillian Baxter  
[jbaxter@swmcchamber.com](mailto:jbaxter@swmcchamber.com)

### Event Specialists

Calvin Dickerson & Gary Turk

**CONTACT US at 251-666-2488 or the Chamber at 251-666-2846**  
[www.swmcchamber.com](http://www.swmcchamber.com)

## Strength in Numbers



2020 – 2024



ALABAMA ACCREDITED  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

SIGN UP TO RECEIVE OUR MONTHLY  
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