

THE CORNER



FEBRUARY 2024

SOUTHWEST MOBILE COUNTY
CHAMBER *of* COMMERCE



SOUTHWEST MOBILE COUNTY
CHAMBER of COMMERCE

Letter From the President

Thanks to all who attended our January Luncheon and heard from many of our local candidates running for various offices. We had a great attendance, and we would like to wish good luck to all of the candidates. We hope you will all join us for our February Luncheon as well on Wednesday, February 7th, 2024.

On February 29th, Payroll Vault will be hosting our first Business After Hours of the year. This is a great networking opportunity and allows our partners to mingle, discuss business issues, voice concerns, and share solutions. Come join us and bring a business partner with you that might like to join our Chamber! Also, contact the Chamber Office if you would like to get on the calendar to host an After Hours Networking event.

Please pick up one of our 2024 Calendar of Events flyers. This is a great way to not only know what all is going on at the Chamber, but to also to be able to be a part of our upcoming events. You can plan ahead, add these dates to your calendar, and come enjoy these events that not only benefit our Chamber and community, but also allow us to network and share business strategies.

Our focus for 2024 is "Your Success is our Business." We are truly striving to be a source of promotion to our partners, and we need your help in letting us know what we can do to support and promote your business. Whether your business is celebrating an anniversary or milestone, or having a special sale or event, let the Chamber know so we can promote and support your efforts. We can also share your information with our partners and on social media. We are so appreciative of your support of our Chamber, and we want to thank you by being a source of support and help grow your business as well. Please let us know what we can do to contribute to your success.

"Coming together is a beginning, keeping together is progress; working together is success." Henry Ford

Sharon Murrell

Alabama Power Community Relations Manager



Alabama Power

Cover Photo By: The Mobile Rundown

"Your Success is Our Business"

BECOME A
MEMBER

JOIN TODAY

BECOME A CHAMBER REPRESENTATIVE:

We are looking to expand our Diplomat Program. If you are a current partner with a flexible work schedule and ability to collaborate, please join us for a meeting following the February Luncheon.

FEBRUARY EVENT CALENDAR

1

TALL Applications Open

Applications will be available on our website for interested 2024-2025 seniors. Please check the application guidelines as they have been updated.

All application materials must be turned in together.

19

CAPS Meeting

Community Advisory Panel

Time: 4:30 pm

Location: John C. Williams Auditorium

7

Monthly Business Luncheon

Time: 11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Location: John C. Williams Auditorium

Speaker: Richard Clark

Alabama Port Authority, Deputy Director

20

Coffee With The Chamber

Our monthly Coffee with the Chamber is a great opportunity to network with other business leaders and representatives. This opportunity is open for both current SWMCC partners as well as prospective partners.

7

Diplomat Meeting

Time: 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Location: Room D

If you are a Diplomat or are interested in becoming one, please join us for a Diplomat Meeting following the February Luncheon.



15

Grand Re-Opening

Time: 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Business: Holiday Inn Express & Suites

Location: 5190 Motel Ct

Mobile, AL 36619

Join us as we celebrate the Grand Re-Opening of one of our Chamber Partners.



AN IHG® HOTEL

29

Business After Hours

Time: 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm

Business: Payroll Vault

Location: 721 Oak Cir Dr E Ste. A

Mobile, AL 36609

We hope you will join us for a night of fun at as we learn more about a long standing partner's business.



BUSINESS

NETWORKING



SOUTHWEST MOBILE COUNTY

CHAMBER *of* COMMERCE

FEBRUARY BUSINESS LUNCHEON

Wednesday, February 7th, 2024

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



Richard "Rick" Clark is the Alabama Port Authority's deputy director. Joining the APA in 2019, he is a seasoned professional with over 30 years of maritime industry experience. Before joining the Port, Rick served as interim chief operating officer and U.S. manager of operations for GT USA – a subsidiary of Gultainer, one of the world's leading international ports and logistics solution providers. In this role, he led the execution of GT's first customer contract with SpaceX at their multipurpose cargo terminal in Port Canaveral, Florida. Rick began his career at Cooper T. Smith in New Orleans before joining Puerto Rico

Marine Management, Inc. to direct the company's terminal, cargo and warehouse operations.

Rick is active on numerous industry boards and community organizations, including previously serving as the president of the Propeller Club Port of Canaveral and Port of Jacksonville, Florida. Rick also served as a New York Shipping Association board member and is a Community Partner Impact Award recipient from the University of North Florida Transportation and Logistics Flagship Program.

A native of Mobile, Alabama, Rick graduated with a Bachelor of Science in business management from Trinity Southern University and attended the University of South Alabama and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, New York. Rick and his wife, Jeanne, currently reside in Daphne, Alabama.



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BUSINESS OF THE MONTH



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www.holcim.com

LUNCHEON CATERER



ITALIAN KITCHEN

Chicken Alfredo

Spaghetti with Meat Sauce

Salad

Breadsticks

Dessert



**** \$15.00 Current Partners**

**** \$20.00 for Future Partners**

EVENT TICKETS ARE LIMITED.

RSVP by Tuesday, February 6th

to reserve your seat!

Tickets can be purchased online at

www.swmchamber.com



SOUTHWEST MOBILE COUNTY
CHAMBER of COMMERCE

2024 BUSINESS EXPO

"Your Success is our Business"

FRIDAY, APRIL 5TH
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

VENDOR SOIREE:
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

TILLMAN'S CORNER COMMUNITY CENTER
5055 CAROL PLANTATION RD
MOBILE, AL 36619

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

IF YOU WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION OR AN APPLICATION PLEASE EMAIL INFO@SWMCCHAMBER.COM OR CALL (251) 666-2846.

REGISTRATION FEES SHOULD BE TURNED IN WITH THE APPLICATION. ALL APPLICATIONS AND FEES ARE DUE BY MARCH 22ND, 2024. INDOOR AND OUTDOOR SPACES ARE LIMITED SO BE SURE TO SECURE YOUR BOOTH TODAY!

**BOOTH REGISTRATION
FEES:**

PARTNER - \$125.00

NON PARTNER - \$175.00

**CHARITABLE NON PROFIT
- \$75.00**

OUTSIDE SPACE: \$75.00

IF YOU ARE A SPONSOR PLEASE CHECK WITH OUR STAFF TO SEE WHAT BOOTH DISCOUNTS MAY BE AVAILABLE TO YOU.

Last month, the 26th annual “State of the City and County” event held inside the Arthur R. Outlaw Convention Center saw Mobile Mayor Sandy Stimpson as well as Connie Hudson, Randell Duiett and Merceria Ludgood from the Mobile County Commission, unveil city and county projects targeted for development moving into 2024.

First discussed was the Civic Center, with leaders now about 45 days out from fully divulging the future for the 22-acre property. Upgrades will include the Arena, Theater and Expo Hall. Rehabilitation work is expected to cost more than \$200 million and contract negotiations are ongoing for a facilities manager. Two companies are bidding on the contract, familiar facilities manager ASM Global and new player OVG. The nearly 60-year-old geriatric site is reportedly costing the city about \$2 million per year for maintenance, an expense Stimpson said needs to stop. Among the first items projected for build out is a new parking garage to cost over \$38 million to complete. As reported in January’s newsletter, a new office building for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is also underway at the space.

The Mayor also assured the 700 people in attendance that the local Mardi Gras mystic societies entrenched at the space should not worry about upgrades. “What they’ll end up with is better than what they have. Period.” Stimpson said.

The I-10 Mobile Bridge and Bayway, projected to cost \$2.7 billion, are expected to start construction soon, with massive cranes moving into position and underway sometime this fall. The Alabama Department of Transportation did not commit to a definitive date, only confirming that construction will commence in 2024.

Connie Hudson followed the Mayor with an update on the aquatic center and soccer complexes. Overseen by Mobile County, these projects are still under construction and officials hope to make progress on them this year. The \$20 million aquatics center is slated for build out this year, although it is still around \$4.5 million short of full funding. Hudson said the county could issue another bond to finalize first phase financing, but the option ultimately taken still

remains uncertain. This summer, the soccer complex under construction will open five temporary fields to replace three existing spaces closed due to needing drainage issue repairs. Seven additional permanent fields, including a championship field, will be available after completion, per Hudson.

Meceria Ludgood gave an update on Africatown Hall. Situated on the site of the former Scott Credit Union building on Paper Mill Road, it will open in late May. The hall will serve as a food bank as well as headquarters for the Africatown Redevelopment Corporation. Ludgood said a master plan is under development this year for the creation of a civil rights and cultural heritage district within Africatown. The Walker Collaborative is working on the project with the goal of restoring historic significance to the community, Ludgood explained.

Stimpson concluded with a discussion of road work and traffic light synchronization improvements slated for this year. City road projects, financed mainly through Mobile’s Capital Improvement Plan, have poured \$15 million into resurfacing work this year, reportedly the highest amount ever paid out. Streets and thoroughfares mentioned on the improvement list included Texas St., Zeigler Blvd., the intersection of MLK and Broad St., Hwy 45 and St. Louis Street.

In other news, MYER Companies, LLC is expanding operations by constructing a state-of-the-art, 10,000-square-foot steel building to house its coatings department at its 744 Blackburn Drive site in West Mobile. The \$2.6 million expansion is expected to create 26 new full-time jobs over the next three years. “With the latest technology and equipment, this new indoor paint and blast facility will allow our team to turn out high quality finished products, and do so in a very environmentally friendly way,” Bradley Myer, chief development officer at MYER Companies LLC, said.

For questions about the local real estate market and/or news tips regarding area happenings, please call and text inquiries to 251-219-8914 or email to ron@hflend.com

STAR STUDENT RECOGNITION PROGRAM

The SouthWest Mobile County Chamber of Commerce would like to thank its 2023-2024 Star Student Sponsors for making it possible to bring this program back. Congratulations to the following students who were recognized at the Business Luncheon on Wednesday, January 3rd

- Hanna Wall from Bright Academy sponsored by Burton Property Group
- Hollinger's Island Elementary sponsored by Evonik (No January Student)
- Meadowlake Elementary sponsored by Pilot (No January Student)
- Nan Gray Davis Elementary sponsored by Mobile Paint (No January Student)
- Mason Bodin from Pearl Haskew Elementary sponsored by Roberts Brothers - The Sessions Team (Elaine Sessions)
- Ady Hollinger from W.C. Griggs Elementary sponsored by Alabama Power



Early detection is the key to successfully treating cancers and diseases.

Cervical cancer used to be the leading cause of cancer death for women in the United States. However, in the past 40 years, the number of cervical cancer cases and deaths from cervical cancer have decreased significantly. This decline primarily results from many women getting regular Pap tests, a screening test that finds cervical precancer before it turns into cancer.

Regular screenings and open communications with your healthcare provider are crucial because many cancers and diseases – like cervical cancer – do not show any signs or symptoms in the early stages when they are most treatable.

Accordia Health and our team of providers are here to be your medical home treating all of your physical and mental health needs. Call today for an appointment.



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BORN TO CELEBRATE MOBILE MARDI GRAS 2024

The schedule below includes downtown Mobile parades. All downtown parades roll on Route A except where noted.

For up-to-date Mobile Mardi Gras info, follow **Mobile Mardi Gras** on Facebook or visit us at mobile.org or our friends at mobilemask.com.

Days, times and routes are subject to change.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26

6:30 pm..... Conde Cavaliers Parade

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27

2:00 pm..... Bayport Parading Society Parade, Mystic DJ Riders

6:30 pm..... Pharaohs Parade

7:00 pm..... Conde Explorers Parade

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1

6:30 pm..... Order of Polka Dots Parade

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2

6:30 pm..... Order of Inca Parade

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3 (Senior Bowl)

1:00 pm..... Mobile Mystics Parade

1:30 pm..... Mobile Mystical Revelers Parade, Mobile Mystical Friends

6:30 pm..... Maids of Mirth Parade (Route G)

7:00 pm..... Order of Butterfly Maidens Parade

7:30 pm..... Krewe of Marry Mates Parade

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4

6:30 pm..... Neptune's Daughters Parade

7:00 pm..... Order of Isis Parade

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5

6:30 pm..... Order of Venus Parade

7:00 pm..... Miracle On the Bay, Order of Many Faces Parade

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6

6:30 pm..... Order of LaShe's Parade, Order of Olympia

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8

6:30 pm..... Mystic Strippers Society Parade

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9

6:30 pm..... Crewe of Columbus Parade, Krewe de Secondline

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10

12:00 noon..... Floral Parade

12:30 pm..... Knights of Mobile Parade

1:00 pm..... Mobile Mystical Ladies Parade

1:30 pm..... Order of Angels, Joy of Life Parade

5:45 pm..... Mystics of Time Parade (Route H)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11 (Joe Cain Day, Super Bowl)

2:00 pm..... King Elexis I Motorcade (Route E)

2:30 pm..... Joe Cain Procession

5:00 pm..... Le Krewe de Bienville Parade

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12 (Lundi Gras)

12:00 noon..... King Felix III Parade

12:00 noon..... Floral Parade

3:00 pm..... MLK Business & Civic Organization Parade (Route D)

3:30 pm..... MLK Monday Mystics Parade (Route D)

4:00 pm..... Northside Merchants Parade (Route D)

7:00 pm..... Infant Mystics Parade (Route F)

7:30 pm..... Order of Doves Parade (Route F)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13 - Mardi Gras Day (FAT Tuesday!)

10:00 am..... Order of Athena Parade

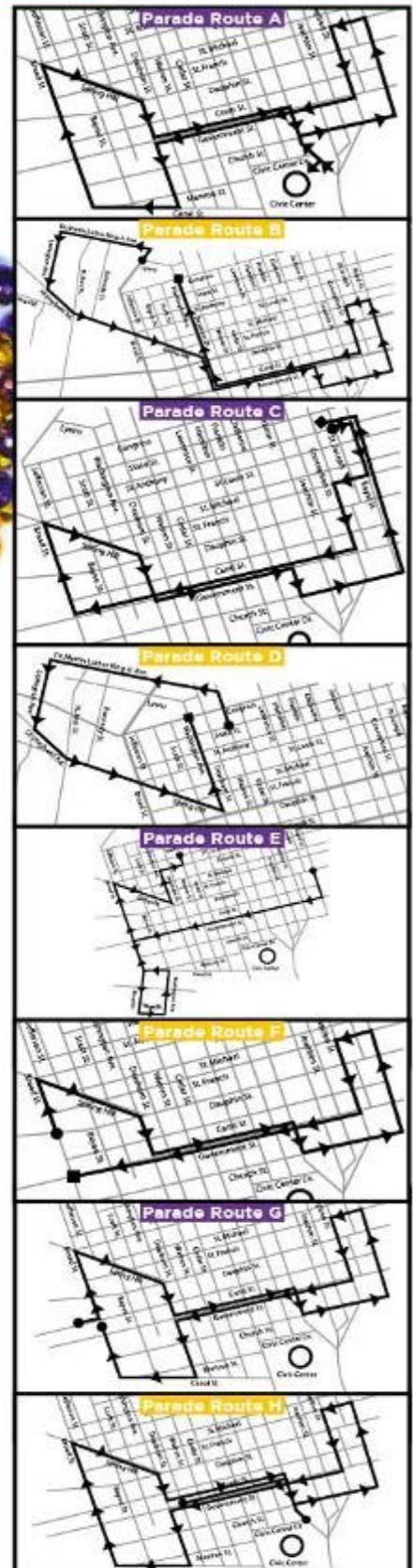
12:30 pm..... Knights of Revelry Parade

1:00 pm..... King Felix III Parade

1:30 pm..... Comic Cowboys Parade

2:00 pm..... MAMGA Mammoth Parade (Route B)

6:00 pm..... Order of Myths Parade (Route C)



AWARDS GALA SPONSORS

The SouthWest Mobile County Chamber of Commerce hosted its Annual Award's Gala on Friday, January 19th, 2024. This year's event was "Viva Las Vegas" themed and featured music by Leonard Houston. Thank you to all of the sponsors, volunteers, award recipients, businesses, and attendees who made this event possible. We would also like to thank the politicians who took the time to write resolutions for our award recipients as well as those who presented this year's awards. It was an honor to recognize such outstanding members of our community for their hard work and dedication. Award nominations for 2024 will open up within the next few months. If you know someone who qualifies for the Impact Award, Citizen of the Year, Spirit of the Community, Diplomat of the Year, or Teacher of the Year; please visit our website for nomination forms. If you would like more information on the award qualifications or nomination process, feel free to call the Chamber Office at (251) 666-2846.

PROJECT HOMELESS CONNECT



Sharon Murrill, Rocky Fremin and Tina Poiroux attended Housing First's 10th Annual Project Homeless Connect. There were many available resources to many underserved and unsheltered Mobilians. This "one-stop shop" event also provided healthcare screenings, legal services, work identifications/licenses, and food and clothing to those in need. Infinite Opportunities was just one of the many non-profits that also participated in this event. We appreciate all of the volunteers who organized and hosted Project Homeless Connect for Mobile and Baldwin County's Homeless.



NEW CHAMBER PARTNERS



**Alabama House of
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(Margie Wilcox)**

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margie.wilcox@alhouse.gov
104 South Lawrence St.
Mobile, AL 36602



CrowderGulf LLC

(251) 459-7430
aramsay@crowdergulf.com
www.crowdergulf.com
5629 Commerce Blvd E
Mobile, AL 36619



Hammerhead Kayaks

(251) 533-1830
hammerheadkayaks@gmail.com
www.hammerheadkayaks.net
5597 Highway 90
Theodore, AL 36582



Homefront Lending, LLC

(251) 509-7791
ross@hflend.com
19940 Hwy 181 Suite C
Fairhope, AL 36532



Mission of Hope Ministries

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www.missionofhopeministries.net
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Proshield Pest Control
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American WeatherStar
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Godfather's Pizza
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Uniti Fiber

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OFFICER OF THE MONTH



Thank you to Corporal Jamal Slaughter for his commitment to our community!



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www.swmcchamber.com

Strength in Numbers



2020 - 2024



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