

THE SOUTHWEST MOBILE COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

# THE CORNER

FRIDAY, MARCH 1ST, 2024





LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

# SHARON MURRILL

"YOUR SUCCESS IS OUR BUSINESS"

Time is flying and we will be embarking on one of my most favorite seasons soon, Spring. All the trees, plants, and flowers start to bud, grow, and bloom. As we begin this new season, we are hopeful for the same thing to happen with our partners; that their businesses bud, grow, and bloom. We also welcome your assistance in reaching out to potential partners to join us so we can help grow, support, and enhance their businesses as well.

Congratulations to Infinite Opportunities for winning the fire pit at our February luncheon. All partners who had renewed their membership in January had their name in the drawing. Thanks to all who have renewed their membership, and to those who have not done so, please join us and renew yours also!

Do not forget to vote on March 5th, 2024, in the Alabama State Primary election. We have had many of the candidates attend our luncheons and speak at our Candidate Forum in January. If you were unable to attend, please educate yourself and exercise your Constitutional duty to vote.

On March 21st, we will once again be honoring our First Responders with a drive thru appreciation lunch. Please contact the Chamber staff if you would like to sponsor, donate items for the swag bags, or volunteer at the event. It is very heartwarming to see the appreciation on the faces of those who serve us so well in our communities.

Last year we brought the Small Business Expo back to the Community Center and it was a huge hit! We will once again be hosting this event on Friday, April 5th, at the Community Center from 2:00-5:00pm. Please contact the Chamber staff if you would like to have a booth. This is also a great time of networking with some incredible door prizes too!

As you can see, we have a lot of fun events and networking opportunities going on at the SouthWest Mobile County Chamber. We look forward to seeing you at our luncheon on Wednesday, March 6th. Feel free to bring a guest with you and as always, **YOUR SUCCESS IS OUR BUSINESS**. Let us know what we can do to help grow and support your business and contribute to your success.

"If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else". Booker T. Washington

*Sharon Murrill*

Alabama Power Community Relations Manager



Cover Photo from Canvas Art Plus.

# EVENT CALENDAR

MARCH 2024

5

## Voting

We encourage you to get out and vote on Tuesday, March 5th. Sample Ballots are available to view at the Tillman's Corner Community Center.

19

## Coffee With The Chamber

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

6

## Monthly Business Luncheon

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

**Location:** John C. Williams Auditorium

**Speaker:** Chris Curry

President, Mobile Airport Authority

**Caterer:** Grand Catering of Mobile

21

## First Responders Appreciation

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

**Location:** 5055 Carol Plantation Rd  
Mobile, AL 36619

All First Responders are welcome to free drive-thru lunch.

6

## First Responders Event Sponsorships Due

If you are interested in sponsoring our First Responders Appreciation Event, your payment and application are due on March 6th. Sponsorships turned in after this date will not be included on the event signage.

22

## Expo Applications Due

Applications and Registration Dues for the Chamber's Business Expo on April 5th are due on March 22nd. Please call the Chamber Office at (251) 666-2846 or email [info@swmccchamber.com](mailto:info@swmccchamber.com) for more information.

18

## CAPS Meeting

Community & Industry Partners  
Meet & Greet Event

**Time:** 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm

**Location:** John C. Williams Auditorium

31

## Easter Sunday

Happy Easter from the SouthWest Mobile County Chamber of Commerce. We hope you have a great day filled with family and friends.



MONTHLY BUSINESS LUNCHEON

# NETWORKING

MARCH 6TH, 2024

## LUNCHEON SPEAKER

**Thomas “Chris” Curry** was hired as the Executive Director of the Mobile Airport Authority in October 2017 and was later promoted to the position of President in September 2018. Upon his appointment to the position, he placed airline recruitment, evaluating the roles of Mobile Regional and Downtown Airports, and expanding business opportunities on the Brookley Aeroplex at the top of his priorities. Curry has spearheaded the Master Planning effort to transform the Mobile Downtown Airport at Brookley into a world class international multi-modal facility. His overall objective is to provide premium air service to the community and manage the assets of the Authority to achieve the greatest economic benefit to the customers of the region.

Since Mr. Curry’s arrival in Mobile, he has provided professionalism and expertise in representing MAA with the overall needs of its largest tenants, such as Airbus, ST Aerospace, and Continental Aerospace Technologies. During his tenure, Airbus has expanded the A320 production capability, begun building the A220 Aircraft and opened the Flight Works aviation experience center at the Mobile Aeroplex at Brookley. In addition, he spearheaded a new agreement with Continental Aerospace Technologies, where they invested \$75 million in a new state-of-the-art manufacturing facility. Further to his achievements, Mr. Curry also created a new organizational structure with high caliber talent designed to meet the challenges required to lead MAA into the future.

Because of Mr. Curry’s wealth of experience in the Airline industry, he was able to recruit Mobile’s first new airlines since 2003, Via Airlines and Frontier Airlines. Working with the FAA, he also managed the Metropolitan Airport Systems Study to determine the feasibility of moving commercial service from the Regional to the Downtown Airport. Under his guidance, the MAA developed a Master Plan in 18 months, a process that typically takes three years. The FAA recently approved this plan.



Mobile Airport Authority

## LUNCHEON SPONSOR



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# LUNCHEON CATERER



## *Grand Catering of Mobile*

gcofmobile@gmail.com

(251) 404-0356

*Brisket*

*Garlic Mashed Potatoes*

*Green Beans*

*Green Salad*

*Chocolate Brownie Delight*



**SPONSORSHIPS**

The SouthWest Mobile County Chamber of Commerce is accepting Luncheon Sponsorship applications for its Monthly Business Luncheons. Luncheon Sponsorships include an opportunity to speak briefly about the company to attendees, an event sponsorship sign, a sponsorship table inside the John C. Williams Auditorium, table signage, two individual Luncheon tickets, recognition in "The Corner" Newsletter, and website recognition. Sponsoring a Chamber Luncheon is a great opportunity to spread the word about your business and gives both current partners and prospective partners the opportunity to learn about what you offer. Luncheon Sponsorships are limited and available on a first come first serve basis. If you are interested in sponsoring one of this year's Luncheons, please reach out to the Chamber Office by calling (251) 666-2846 or emailing [info@swmcchamber.com](mailto:info@swmcchamber.com).

# BUSINESS OF THE MONTH



"The mission of the Meadowlake Elementary School is to accept the uniqueness of each child and to educate each student to be a responsible, productive citizen in an advanced, technological learning environment."

"The purpose of the Mobile County Public School System is to equip and empower college and career ready graduates."

**If you plan to attend an upcoming Luncheon, please register ahead of time as to ensure you have a seat!**

**\*\* \$15.00 Current Partners**

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

**EVENT TICKETS ARE LIMITED.**

**RSVP by Tuesday, March 5th**

**to reserve your seat!**

**Tickets can be purchased online at  
[www.swmcchamber.com](http://www.swmcchamber.com)**

# SOUTHWEST MOBILE COUNTY CHAMBER OFFICER OF THE MONTH

SPONSORED BY CENTURY BANK

Congratulations to Officer Logan Adams from the Mobile Police Department Precinct II on being selected as the Officer of the Month for February of 2024. Officer Adams was recognized for his accomplishment at our Business Luncheon on Wednesday, February 7th, 2024. The SouthWest Mobile County Chamber of Commerce would like to say thank you for your outstanding efforts and continued commitment to our community! Officer Adams is pictured to the right accepting his award alongside Captain Matthew James and SouthWest Mobile County Chamber Board President Sharon Murrill.



We are excited to announce that beginning in March of 2024, the Chamber will also recognize a Deputy from the Mobile County Sheriff's Office at each Monthly Business Luncheon. It is an honor to recognize these individuals for their bravery and dedication to our city. We appreciate the efforts of both departments and their leadership for their continued support of the SouthWest Mobile County Chamber.

## BROUGHT TO YOU BY



The SouthWest Mobile County Chamber of Commerce would like to thank Century Bank for sponsoring our Officer of the Month Program. We so appreciate their willingness to help recognize such outstanding members of our community. Without partners like Century Bank, the Chamber would not be able to impact the SouthWest Mobile County Area as it has. If your business is interested in helping to make an impact, please reach out to the Chamber Staff.

We have many opportunities available for both partners and prospective partners. You can contact the Chamber by phone at (251) 666-2846 or email at [info@swmcchamber.com](mailto:info@swmcchamber.com)!

"Century Bank is a proud member of the communities we serve. Our involvement in extracurricular activities, fund raisers, organizations and other local events is a priority for directors, officers and employees of Century Bank."

|| [www.centurybank.net](http://www.centurybank.net) || (251) 665-7020 || 5370 US-90, Mobile, AL 36619 ||

Last month Austal USA announced the start of design for a new manufacturing facility, part of a major expansion for its shipyard in Mobile. The expansion will sit south of Austal's current waterfront facility and include a new assembly building, waterfront improvements and a new shiplift system. Scheduled to begin this summer, it will also include a shiplift that will launch ships as they are completed in the assembly buildings. The system will also have the ability to retrieve ships and bring them back to the land-side facility. The assembly building will consist of three bays and enable erection of recently awarded steel-ship contracts, in addition to modules for submarine and other surface-ship programs. The footprint will provide more than 192,000 square-feet of covered manufacturing space, and sits on roughly 14.5 acres.

Holiday Inn Express & Suites, located at 5190 Motel Court in West Mobile, celebrated a grand reopening and reception on February 15 of last month. The hotel lobby and guest rooms have been renovated to provide visitors with smart technology. The space now features a newly renovated first floor and lobby with redecorated rooms and offers complimentary hot breakfast, Wi-Fi, 24-hour fitness and business centers, a 24-hour guest laundry facility, a 24-hour sundry shop, a boardroom, a meeting room and an outdoor pool.

Port St. Joe, Florida-based Wattco Electric has leased 3,000 square-feet of office space at 1459 Montlimar Court in West Mobile. James Henderson of Realty Executives Bay Group represented the tenant and William Youngblood of Youngblood Real Estate worked for the landlord.

Last month Cornerstone Caregiving leased 1,650 square-feet of rehab space at 3201 Dauphin Street in Mobile. Leigh Rendfrey with CRE Mobile worked for the home care center and Chris Harle of White-Spunner Realty represented the landlord on the transaction.

In February, Big A's Fine Food & Catering leased 3,600 square-feet of space at 326 Azalea Road in West Mobile. Chris Harle of White-Spunner Realty represented the landlord and Eric Coleman of RE/MAX Realty Professionals worked for the tenant on the deal.

Last month, former Louisiana-based Ralph & Kacoo's Seafood chain (now owned by Nacogdoches, Texas-based investor GTF) held a grand reopening to fanfare, after shuttering for nearly two years due to financial restructuring nationwide that witnessed the dissolution of affiliate, Café Del Rio. It is located at 1595 Battleship Parkway on the Causeway.

For financial questions about the real estate market and/or news tips about local developments, please email [ron@hflend.com](mailto:ron@hflend.com) or call and text to 251-219-8914.



(251) 219-8914

# REAL ESTATE CORNER

BY : RON SIVAK



# STUDENT PROGRAMS

## BUILDING TOMORROW

### STAR STUDENTS

Each month, the SouthWest Mobile County Chamber of Commerce recognizes students from local elementary schools for their dedication to learning.

This program would not be possible without the 2023-2024 Star Student Sponsors. Congratulations to the following students who were recognized at the Business Luncheon on Wednesday, February 7th, 2024.

- **Bradley Seiter** from Bright Academy sponsored by Burton Property Group
- **Dylan Stauter** from Hollinger's Island Elementary sponsored by Evonik
- **Gracie Reeves** from Meadowlake Elementary sponsored by Pilot
- **Jace Miller** from Nan Gray Davis Elementary sponsored by Mobile Paint
- **Silvia Beck** from Pearl Haskew Elementary sponsored by Roberts Brothers -  
The Sessions Team
- **Addilyn Paul** from W.C. Griggs Elementary sponsored by Alabama Power



### T.A.L.L PROGRAM

The SouthWest Mobile County Chamber of Commerce makes instilling leadership skills into today's youth a top priority. The Chamber has a Student Scholarship Program for high school seniors called the Tillman's Corner Area Learning Leadership (T.A.L.L.) Program. Most recently, the 2024 Class visited the State Capitol and toured with Senator David Sessions and Representative Margie Wilcox. We would like to thank these individuals for taking the time to tour with our students and provide them with such intricate knowledge about our government. If you know a student who would be a great fit for the program, applications are now available for 2024-2025 seniors. Digital applications can be found at [www.swmccchamber.com](http://www.swmccchamber.com) and paper copies are available in the Chamber Office.





# FIRST RESPONDERS

The SouthWest Mobile County Chamber of Commerce is hosting its 11th Annual First Responders Drive Thru Lunch on Thursday, March 21st. The event will take place from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Tillman's Corner Community Center (5055 Carol Plantation Rd, Mobile, AL 36619). All first responders are welcome to stop by and pick up a free lunch, prepared by Dick Russell's Bar-B-Q, and swag bag.

If you are interested in sponsoring the First Responders event, there are multiple levels available. Sponsorships must be paid by March 6th in order for your business to be included on the Event Sponsorship Sign. For more information please email [info@swmccchamber.com](mailto:info@swmccchamber.com) or call (251) 666-2846.

The Chamber is also accepting Swag Bag donations. Please email [info@swmccchamber.com](mailto:info@swmccchamber.com) if you are interested in donating.



**SOUTHWEST MOBILE COUNTY**  
CHAMBER of COMMERCE

## The SWMCC's 11th Annual FIRST RESPONDERS

Thursday, March 21st

### FREE DRIVE THRU LUNCH

From 11:00 am - 2:00 pm  
Tillman's Corner Community Center  
5055 Carol Plantation Rd, Mobile, AL 36619  
If you plan to attend please call (251) 666-2846 to RSVP.



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*So are you.*

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NEXT LEVEL



*"Your Success is Our Business" .....* As we reflect of the climate of business in our community, I am reminded of the things I have learned as being the Executive Director here at the chamber. Most small businesses need leaders and managers that care about their employees. Not everyone is a natural leader or manager, but there's a lot you can do to create a positive and productive culture in your business. Here at the Chamber, we pride ourselves in Coaching, Mentoring, Networking Opportunities Training and Workshops for everyone. Providing resources to businesses and their leaders is just one of the many assets we give our partners. Creating a culture of leadership and management will help you build a great company culture and a successful business. Employees who feel comfortable and engaged and believe that your business is a safe and positive work environment will perform better and be less likely to move on to other opportunities. I am excited about the strategies the Chamber has planned to help you build a successful work environment. We are working to help you build a positive reputation, trust in the community, learn to be engaging, and be more open to feedback. I am proud of the community we live in, work in and play in daily and appreciative of the extra mile our partners take by taking those steps to further improve our community. As we encourage each of our partners to challenge one another we want to see each of you make an impact! Let us know how we can help you as a Chamber create this culture.

(251) 666-2846

[tpoiroux@swmcchamber.com](mailto:tpoiroux@swmcchamber.com)

## 2024 BUSINESS EXPO

The SouthWest Mobile County Chamber is accepting applications for its Annual Business Expo on Friday, April 5th, 2024. The Expo will take place from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm at the Tillman's Corner Community Center (5055 Carol Plantation Rd, Mobile, AL 36619). The Chamber has both indoor and outdoor booths available, as well as discounted booths for charitable non-profits and certain Business Advantage Sponsorship levels. All applications and registration fees must be turned in by March 22nd, 2024.

If you are interested in sponsoring the Business Expo, the Chamber has multiple packages available. Sponsorships must be paid by March 8th in order for your business to be included on the Event Sponsorship Sign. For more information please email [info@swmcchamber.com](mailto:info@swmcchamber.com) or call (251) 666-2846.

**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@SWMCCCHAMBER.COM](mailto:INFO@SWMCCCHAMBER.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."





# NEW PARTNERS



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 www.arcpointlabs.com  
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**Broussard Agency, Inc**  
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 rbroussard1@allstate.com  
 www.agents.allstate.com  
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 Mobile, AL 36695



**Infinite Opportunities**  
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 www.infiniteopp.org  
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 ElaineSessions.RobertsBrothers.com



**Elaine Sessions**

Associate Broker

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 Office: 251.661.4660

# 2024 BUSINESS ADVANTAGE SPONSORS

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## Platinum

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Mobile County Commission  
 Mobile County Sheriff's Office  
 Payroll Vault  
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 Evonik Corporation  
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 Proshield Pest Control  
 The Grounds

## Bronze

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

## Chamber and Community Center Staff

### Executive Director

Tina Poiroux, AACE  
tpoiroux@swmcchamber.com

### Administrative Assistant

Hope Driskell  
hdriskell@swmcchamber.com

### Rental Specialist

Jillian Baxter  
jbaxter@swmcchamber.com

### Event Specialist

Calvin Dickerson & Shirley Rayford

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

# "Your Success is Our Business"



SIGN UP TO RECEIVE OUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER AND INFORMATION ABOUT  
OTHER CHAMBER OPPORTUNITIES

BY EMAILING US AT [INFO@SWMCCHAMBER.COM](mailto:info@swmcchamber.com)

OR SIGNING UP THROUGH OUR WEBSITE AT [WWW.SWMCCHAMBER.COM](http://WWW.SWMCCHAMBER.COM)



2020 - 2024



ALABAMA ACCREDITED  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE