



THE CORNER

A SOUTHWEST MOBILE COUNTY CHAMBER PUBLICATION



JULY 2025



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Joshua T. Woods

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, THE GROUNDS

CHAMPIONING *INNOVATION,* INSPIRING *PROGRESS*

Why Supporting Local Matters Now More Than Ever

As we move through another busy season here in our community, I want to take a moment to talk about something that continues to sit at the heart of everything we do — supporting local.

Local businesses are more than storefronts and service providers. They are neighbors, friends, coaches, volunteers, and community investors. They sponsor our ball teams, donate to our schools, and step up when our community faces hard times. When you support a local business, you're not just making a transaction — you're making an investment in the future of your hometown.

In recent years, we've seen just how vital our small and locally owned businesses are to the strength and resilience of our economy. These businesses create jobs, foster innovation, and add unique character to our community that can't be replicated elsewhere. And yet, they often operate with the slimmest of margins, relying heavily on loyal customers and community engagement.

Right now, they need us — not just during the holiday rush or Small Business Saturday, but every day.

Whether it's grabbing lunch at the café down the street, hiring a local contractor, shopping at a neighborhood boutique, or attending a chamber-sponsored event, your support creates a ripple effect. Dollars spent locally are more likely to stay in our economy, support other businesses, and generate local tax revenue that directly benefits our schools, roads, and public services.

As a Chamber, we remain committed to championing our local business community. But we can't do it alone. We need your voices, your support, and your presence. I challenge each of you to make a conscious effort this month to shift even a small portion of your regular spending to a local business. Share their stories, leave a positive review, or simply say thank you.

The success of our local businesses is the success of our community. And together, we can ensure that both continue to thrive.

Thank you for all you do — and for being a part of this mission.

Josh Woods

SWMCC Board President

THE SOUTHWEST MOBILE COUNTY CHAMBER'S

EVENT CALENDAR

JULY 2025

2

Monthly Business Luncheon

Time: 11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Location: John C. Williams Auditorium

Speaker: Mayoral Candidate Forum

Caterer: Sheepshead Eats

21

Kids Day Vendor Deadline

We hope you will consider joining us as a vendor for our biggest event of the year!

Email our office at info@swmccchamber.com for more information.

4

4th of July

The Chamber and Community Center offices will be closed in honor of this holiday.

We hope you have a great weekend celebrating our freedom with friends and family!

21

CAP Meeting

Time: 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm

Location: John C. Williams Auditorium

SMIA hosts a Community Advisory Panel (CAP) Meeting each month. The objective is to provide citizens the opportunity for an open dialogue with industry, to help citizens better understand industry, and to help local industry understand community concerns.

9

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Time: 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Location: Mary's Southern Cooking

Join us in showing support for this valued business and enjoy an opportunity to network with fellow chamber partners.

22

Kids Day Preparation

Join us for our "Pack the Bag" event at 2:00 pm where we will fill back packs with school supplies to give out at Kids Day. There will be a Volunteer Meeting following "Pack the Bag."

15

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.

26

2025 Kids Day

Time: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Location: Tillman's Corner Community Center

"Ahoy Mateys! Set Sail for the SouthWest Mobile County Chamber of Commerce's 12th Annual Kids Day!"



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MONTHLY BUSINESS LUNCHEON

NETWORKING

JULY 2ND, 2025

MAYORAL FORUM

The Southwest Mobile County Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce that this month's Business Luncheon will feature a special Mayoral Candidate Forum. The event will take place on Wednesday, July 2nd, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the John C. Williams Auditorium, located at 5055 Carol Plantation Road in Mobile.

This forum is a unique opportunity for our chamber partners, business leaders, and community members to hear directly from the individuals seeking to lead our city. Candidates will be invited to share their vision, priorities, and plans for addressing the issues that matter most to our region—particularly those that impact the local business environment, economic development, infrastructure, public safety, and workforce readiness. Attendees will also have the opportunity to speak to each candidate one on one after the meeting.

As a nonpartisan organization, the Chamber does not endorse or support any one candidate. Our mission is to provide a platform for civic engagement and informed decision-making, and we believe that hosting this forum is one way we can fulfill that mission. We are committed to equipping our partners and neighbors with the tools they need to make informed choices at the ballot box.

Strong leadership at the city level has a direct effect on the vitality of our local economy. Decisions made by the next mayor will influence the business climate, regulatory environment, and quality of life for years to come. Whether you're a small business owner, a manager of a larger enterprise, or a resident who cares deeply about the future of Mobile, your voice—and your vote—matters.

JULY LUNCHEON SPONSOR



I am a full-time, licensed Realtor and a dedicated New Homes Specialist at D.R. Horton Homes, proudly representing America's #1 Home Builder in Mobile County. My core mission is to assist my clients in achieving their homeownership goals, deeply valuing the importance of customer service in every transaction.

I embarked on my real estate journey in 2016 with Levin Rinke Realty, located on the scenic Pensacola Beach. During my tenure there, I was recognized as a Top Gun producer, thanks to my commitment to excellence and my deep understanding of the market dynamics in the Pensacola area.

My passion for real estate is driven by a firm belief that owning real estate is a fundamental step in wealth building. I strive to provide first-class service and am devoted to helping my customers navigate the complexities of the home buying process with ease and confidence.

In addition to my role at D.R. Horton Homes, where I have been a consistent top producer since 2021, I am an active member of the Women's Council of Realtors in both the Pensacola Chapter and the Mobile, AL chapter. I also serve on the SW Chamber of Commerce Board, further contributing to my community and industry.

My professional motto, "Serve customers with the highest level of first-class service," reflects my dedication to not just meeting, but exceeding, the expectations of those I work with. Let's connect and explore how I can assist you in your journey to home ownership.

Alan Bottoms, New Home Specialist

7856 Westside Park Dr Ste E Mobile, AL 36695 | M: 850.261.5353 | Email: GABottoms@drhorton.com

BUSINESS OF THE MONTH



CRE Mobile is a team of seasoned professionals with over 160 years of experience in all facets of real estate. Starting in 2013, NAI Mobile was formed by the merging of Peebles & Cameron and Gleason & Roberds resulting in a diverse and robust partnership with a unique presence as a full-service real estate firm in southwest Alabama.

In 2021, our firm fully rebranded into CRE Mobile. In an effort to provide the highest level of client service, in an ever changing industry, we decided a more modern and refined image was needed to reflect the true nature of our team, our talents and our approach to executing business. We landed on a concept inspired by the many places, spaces and shapes that encompass commercial real estate.

CRE Mobile is currently involved in the representation and/or management of an existing portfolio in excess of 2 million square feet in the Mobile & Baldwin County markets of Alabama.

We emphasize client first relationships and align our goals with yours knowing the future of your asset depends upon our performance to deliver results. Success comes from being on the same page – from the big picture down to the small details. We employ the collective resources of our 160+ years of experience, regional presence and top level marketing to establish and maintain a seamless partnership.

BECOME A PARTNER



Joining the SouthWest Mobile County Chamber means becoming part of a close-knit, family-like community where businesses support each other's growth. Unlike traditional memberships, the Chamber refers to its members as "partners," emphasizing collaboration and mutual success. As a partner, you'll have access to valuable resources, networking events, and business development opportunities that help you thrive in the local market. The Chamber's dedication to fostering relationships and providing support ensures that your business is never alone in its journey.

With a strong focus on local prosperity, the Chamber advocates for a business-friendly environment and contributes to the region's economic growth. By joining, you're not only gaining visibility through marketing and event opportunities but also participating in initiatives that benefit the entire SouthWest Mobile County community. Become a partner today and experience the power of collaboration and connection that can take your business to new heights.

BUSINESS ADVANTAGE SPONSORS

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Holcim
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Motivation Media

Gold

Mobile County Sheriff's Office
Payroll Vault

Silver

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Evonik Corporation
Polysurveying of Mobile
Premier Cleaning & Janitorial
Proshield Pest Control
The Grounds

Bronze

American WeatherStar
Blue Rents
Brown & Root Industrial Services
Cadence Bank
Climate Control Service Experts
CRE Mobile
Family Security Credit Union
Godfather's Pizza
Rock & Roll Offs

Friends of the Chamber

Accelerated Accounting
Autry Greer & Sons, Inc.
Dick Russell's BBQ
Express Employment Professionals
Kalifeh Bedsole Adams, P.C.
Lindsey & Waldo, LLC
Mobile Coca-Cola Bottling Co. United
Mobile Memorial Gardens Funeral Home
New Horizons Credit Union
Occupational Health Center
The Shoulder of the Central Gulf Coast

THE NEXT LEVEL

COLUMN



Why Your Voice Matters: Advocacy Through the Chamber

When people think of a Chamber of Commerce, they often picture ribbon cuttings, networking events, and local promotions — and while those are certainly important pieces of what we do, one of our most powerful roles is often the one least visible: advocacy.

Your Chamber is a voice for business. That means we listen to you — our partners — and speak on your behalf to local, regional, and even state and national leaders. Whether it's addressing regulations, zoning issues, workforce development, or infrastructure concerns, we are constantly working to ensure that the needs and concerns of our business community are heard, understood, and acted upon.

We know that as a business owner or professional, your time is stretched thin. You're focused on keeping your doors open, your team supported, and your customers happy. That's exactly why the Chamber steps into this role — so that you don't have to carry the weight of advocacy alone.

But here's the truth: we can't advocate effectively without your voice.

When you share your experiences, your challenges, and your goals with us, you give us the insight we need to take those issues to decision-makers. Your stories help us put a human face on the numbers, and that's what creates meaningful change. Whether you're concerned about workforce shortages, transportation access, or rising operational costs — we want to hear it. Because when one business is affected, our entire economic ecosystem feels the impact.

The stronger our collective voice, the more influence we have.

That's why I encourage each of you to stay engaged. Attend our luncheons, respond to our surveys, serve on committees, or simply pick up the phone and let us know what's on your mind. Advocacy isn't just about government — it's about representation, relationships, and results. And it works best when it starts with you.

At the Chamber, we don't just promote business — we protect it. And with your voice behind us, we're stronger than ever.

Thank you for allowing us to serve and represent you.

Tina Poiroux

Executive Director

SouthWest Mobile County Chamber of Commerce

(251) 666-2846



SOUTHWEST MOBILE COUNTY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



SOUTHWEST MOBILE COUNTY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Kids Day

JULY 26TH, 2025
9:00 AM TO 1:00 PM

TILLMAN'S CORNER COMMUNITY CENTER

5055 CAROL PLANTATION RD. MOBILE, AL 36619

PARKING: W.C. GRIGGS ELEMENTARY

TROLLEY PICK-UP: FIRST BAPTIST TILLMAN'S CORNER

FREE SCHOOL SUPPLIES & UNIFORMS AT 9:00 AM

SNOW CONES & FOOD TRUCKS

GAMES & BOUNCE HOUSES

PETTING ZOO

VENDOR BOOTHS

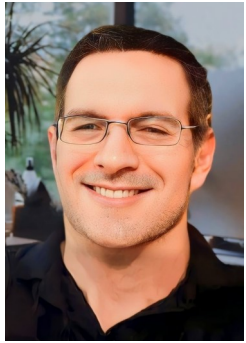
COSTUME CONTEST AT 11:30 AM

BEACH BALL DROP AT 12:00 PM



BY : RON SIVAK

— THE REAL ESTATE CORNER —



Last month the Mobile County Commission announced that work will begin in July on the property located between Mobile Government Plaza and the County Government Annex; eventually transforming the site into the new Mobile Government Plaza Pocket Park. Construction plans are aimed at creating an appealing space for outdoor lunches, breaks, meetings and small community events. Key features include a new circular fountain as the focal point; upgraded landscaping and green space; new benches, lighting and flagpoles; paver replacement for improved walkability; and security cameras. Almost 1,000 people work in Government Plaza, and the Downtown Mobile Alliance estimates nearly 20,000 are employed across the Downtown Mobile area. Funded by the American Rescue Plan Act, the \$1.4-million project was created to create a safer, greener and more inviting outdoor space. Build out is anticipated to be finished by February 2026. WAS Design, Inc. provided design services, and the construction contract was awarded to J. Payne Organization, Inc.

The Frenchman Mobile, a local art space collective, is hosting a grand reopening of its new space in Downtown Mobile, to be marked by a ceremony on July 11. The Excelsior Brass Band will lead a parade featuring the Azalea Trail Maids, Never Greens, and The Frenchmen Partners. The festivities will start at the shop's current location, 12c

North Jackson Street, then progress to the new venue found at 222 Dauphin Street for the ribbon-cutting. The shop owners stated that the new space brings greater visibility, easier access for shoppers and an expanded platform for the 70-plus artists, makers and small businesses comprising the artist association.

John M. Delchamps, associate broker with Merrill P. Thomas Co. Inc., announced the lease last month of an 800-square-foot office suite with a private restroom to Total Mobility Physical therapy located at 3925 Springhill Avenue in West Mobile. The office is within walking distance of Langan Park and near the intersection of Old Shell Road and McGregor Avenue. Richard Lyon, founder of Total Mobility Physical Therapy, combines his clinical expertise and business acumen to offer personalized, one-on-one care to patients in his hometown.

Mike Reid, director of brokerage at Merrill P. Thomas Co. Inc. recently leased Suite G, a 225-square-foot office space located at 762 Downtowner Loop West in West Mobile, to Hairadicator Electrolysis. The landlord for the property is Triple S Properties, LLC. The new business is operated by local owner David Hardee, a seasoned electrologist with more than 40 years of experience who is bringing his expertise to the Gulf Coast region.

For questions or news tips about local real estate, please email ron@hflend.com or call/text 251-219-8914.

Now Accepting New Pediatric Patients!

At Accordia Health, we offer comprehensive pediatric services, caring for the needs of newborns, toddlers, adolescents, and teens.

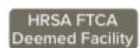
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SOUTHWEST MOBILE COUNTY CHAMBER

FIRST RESPONDER SPOTLIGHT

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE



Please join us in congratulating Officer Ryker Blanco of the Mobile Police Department, who has been named our Officer of the Month! This honor recognizes Officer Blanco's outstanding dedication to public safety, his unwavering commitment to serving others, and the professionalism he brings to the job each and every day. Whether responding to calls, assisting fellow officers, or engaging with residents, Officer Blanco continually demonstrates what it means to go above and beyond in the line of duty.

We are proud to spotlight Officer Blanco's exceptional service and the positive impact he makes on our community. Recognitions like this serve as a reminder of the vital role our law enforcement officers play in creating a safe and supportive environment for all.



Congratulations to Deputy Admire Gant of the Mobile County Sheriff's Office for being recognized as Deputy of the Month at our June Business Luncheon! Deputy Gant was honored for his unwavering dedication, professionalism, and exceptional service to the citizens of Mobile County. His daily efforts to uphold the highest standards of law enforcement have made a meaningful impact on the community he serves.



Deputy Gant's commitment to safety, integrity, and public service sets a strong example for others in the field. We are proud to recognize his hard work and the positive difference he makes through his role. Please join us in thanking Deputy Gant for his outstanding contributions and continued service to our community.



SPONSORED BY

The SouthWest Mobile County Chamber of Commerce would like to thank Century Bank for sponsoring our Officer of the Month and Deputy of the Month Programs. We so appreciate their willingness to continuously recognize such outstanding members of our community.

"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."



BECOME A VENDOR

Become a Vendor at Kids Day – Share Your Business with Hundreds of Local Families!

Calling all local businesses, organizations, and entrepreneurs! The Chamber is now accepting vendor applications for our upcoming Kids Day celebration — a family-friendly community event filled with fun, learning, and excitement for children of all ages.

This is a perfect opportunity to showcase your products or services directly to local families. Whether you offer children's clothing, educational programs, crafts, sweet treats, or family resources, we'd love to have you join us. Vendors are encouraged to make their booths engaging by offering games, giveaways, or kid-friendly activities to help make the day memorable.

Not only is Kids Day one of our most well-attended events of the year, but it's also a fantastic way to build brand awareness, connect with new customers, and demonstrate your support for the community. Spots are limited and fill up quickly, so don't wait—secure your space today and be a part of something special!

For more information or to apply to be a vendor, contact the Chamber office by emailing info@swmcchamber.com or calling (251) 666-2846.



T.A.L.L. PROGRAM CLASS OF 2026

Introducing the T.A.L.L. Class of 2026: Tomorrow's Leaders, Starting Today

The Chamber is proud to announce the students selected for the T.A.L.L. Class of 2026! These outstanding young leaders represent a variety of schools throughout our community and were chosen for their leadership potential, academic achievement, and commitment to service.

After a competitive application and interview process, twelve students were selected to take part in this year-long leadership development program. Throughout the year, these students will participate in interactive sessions focused on local government, business, education, public safety, and more. They'll gain hands-on experience, build professional connections, and develop a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing our region.

We're excited to invest in the future through these bright, motivated students, and we can't wait to see how they grow and lead in the months ahead. Please join us in congratulating the T.A.L.L. Class of 2026—we're confident they'll make our community proud.

Justin Anderson, Alma Bryant High School

Mary Linda Greenwood, McGill Toolen Catholic High School

Rishi Gupta, St. Luke's Episcopal School

Alayah Jones, Mary G. Montgomery High School

Joanna Junaid, Cottage Hill Christian Academy

Kyler Kemmeter, Theodore High School

Caroline King, Baker High School

William Kringel, Baker High School

Reshm Mody, Mobile Christian School

Barrett Porter, McGill Toolen Catholic High School

John Mastin Vallianitis, UMS-Wright Preparatory School

Tucker Winter, Cottage Hill Christian Academy

TILLMAN'S CORNER COMMUNITY CENTER

Host Your Next Event at the Tillman's Corner Community Center

Planning a special event, meeting, or celebration? Look no further than the Tillman's Corner Community Center, your local and affordable event space right in the heart of the community! Whether you're organizing a baby shower, corporate luncheon, birthday party, or wedding reception, we have a space to fit your needs.

The center offers three versatile rooms available for rent:

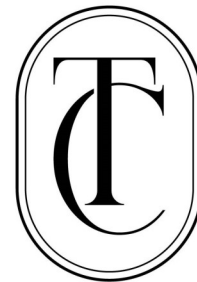
The Auditorium, our largest space, is perfect for weddings, banquets, and large gatherings. It features a stage, sound system, and plenty of room for dining or entertainment setups.

The Camellia Room is ideal for mid-sized events such as family reunions, workshops, or company trainings.

The Azalea Room provides a more intimate setting for smaller meetings, clubs, or interviews.

Each room is climate-controlled and includes access to tables, chairs, and on-site parking. Affordable rental rates and flexible setup options make the Tillman's Corner Community Center a favorite for locals planning all kinds of events.

To check availability or schedule a tour, contact the Community Center Office at (251) 666-2488. Let us help you make your next event both memorable and stress-free!



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helping communities recover

MEET



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Jillian Baxter
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Event Specialists

Calvin Dickerson and Catherine Hartsock

For Rental Information call the Tillman's Corner Community Center at (251) 666-2488
For Chamber Information call the SWMCC at (251) 666-2846



ALABAMA ACCREDITED

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Sage Health
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Dale Hatcher

Community Outreach Specialist

251-298-8848

dale.hatcher@sage.health