

# THE CORNER

A SOUTHWEST MOBILE COUNTY CHAMBER PUBLICATION



JUNE 2025





LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Joshua T. Woods

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, THE GROUNDS

# CHAMPIONING *INNOVATION,* INSPIRING *PROGRESS*

In the fast pace of business, it's easy to get caught up in day-to-day operations and lose sight of the larger picture. But taking stock of where we are — as individuals, organizations, and as a collective business community — is a vital part of progress. It helps us identify what's working, recognize opportunities for growth, and recommit to the goals that matter most.

Here at the Chamber, we've had a dynamic first half of the year. From successful networking events and advocacy wins to meaningful collaborations with local leaders, we've seen firsthand what's possible when people come together with a shared purpose. Behind each ribbon-cutting, legislative effort, and business seminar is the commitment of partners like you — leaders who care deeply about creating a thriving, inclusive, and forward-moving local economy.

## **Mid-Year Is a Strategic Moment**

Now is a smart time to reassess your 2025 goals. What has your business accomplished since January? Where have you gained ground, and where do you still need support? Whether you're looking to expand your visibility, navigate local regulations, or simply connect with others facing similar challenges, the Chamber is here to be a resource and a catalyst.

## **More Than a Membership — A Partnership**

Being part of the Chamber means more than attending events. It means having a seat at the table. It means having a voice in policy discussions, access to educational opportunities, and being connected to a network of business owners and professionals who understand the value of collaboration over competition.

If you haven't yet explored some of our offerings, I encourage you to take a fresh look. The Chamber does not only provide services; it provides tools to help you grow, lead, and make a lasting impact in our region.

## **Looking Ahead Together**

June also marks a season of renewed energy. As summer brings more community activity, we're excited about upcoming events that offer new ways to connect and engage. Whether you're a longtime partner or a new face at the table, your voice matters. Your perspective shapes how we advocate for businesses, how we design programs, and how we move our mission forward.

This Chamber is only as strong as the people in it — and fortunately, we are surrounded by strength. Every success story, every challenge overcome, and every bold idea shared reinforces the value of what we're building together.

So as we head into the second half of the year, let's lean into the momentum we've built. Let's continue to show up, support one another, and seize the opportunities that lie ahead. Your continued partnership is not only appreciated — it's essential.

*Josh Woods*

SWMCC Board President

# EVENT CALENDAR

JUNE 2025

4

## Monthly Business Luncheon

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

**Location:** John C. Williams Auditorium

**Speaker:** 5-on-5 Non-Profit Luncheon

**Caterer:** P.S. Taco Company

15

## Happy Father's Day!

This Father's Day, we celebrate the dads, grandfathers, and father figures who show up, work hard, and support their families. Join us in taking the time to honor the men who make a lasting impact not only in our families but in our community.

9

## First Responder Appreciation

The Chamber Team will be dropping off gift baskets to local first responder stations to show appreciation for their dedication to protecting our community.

Thank you to everyone who made a monetary donation or donated items for the gift baskets!

17

## 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.

10

## First Responder Appreciation

The Chamber Team will be dropping off gift baskets to local first responder stations to show appreciation for their dedication to protecting our community.

Thank you to everyone who made a monetary donation or donated items for the gift baskets!

20

## First Day of Summer

Whether you are attending local events, visiting small businesses, or just enjoying the sunshine, summer is officially here!

14

## Flag Day

The Chamber Team will be dropping off gift baskets to local first responder stations to show appreciation for their dedication to protecting our community.

Thank you to everyone who made a monetary donation or donated items for the gift baskets!

27

## July Luncheon Preregistration Deadline

The deadline to purchase an online ticket for the July Luncheon is June 27th at 5:00 pm.

**No tickets will be sold at the door, attendees must be preregistered.**



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## MONTHLY BUSINESS LUNCHEON

# NETWORKING

JUNE 4TH, 2025

## LUNCHEON SPEAKERS

Our 5-on-5 Nonprofit Luncheon is a unique opportunity to hear directly from five local nonprofits making a real difference in our community. Each organization is given five minutes to share their mission, highlight their work, and inspire us with the impact they're creating. It's a fast-paced, meaningful event that brings awareness, connection, and support to those working on the front lines of community change.

 **BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF SOUTH ALABAMA** Boys & Girls Clubs nurture the potential of all young people, regardless of their background, abilities or circumstances. We foster a sense of belonging and encourage supportive relationships that deepen respect and understanding for others. Our programs provide access to experiences and opportunities for young people to develop their confidence, skills and sense of self-worth.



The mission of the **Dumas Wesley Community Center (DWCC) of Mobile, Alabama** is to EDUCATE, EMPOWER and ENRICH our local community through collaborative programs of Christian service that provide for immediate human needs, strengthen family life, develop leadership and encourage personal responsibility.

DWCC is a neighborhood based non-profit organization located in the Crichton community. The majority of households in Crichton are headed by single mothers with an average annual family income of less than \$25,000. 99% of the clients served directly by DWCC are low-income and approximately 95% are minority.



**Ozanam Charitable Pharmacy** is Alabama's only licensed charitable pharmacy. It provides free prescription medications to uninsured individuals in Mobile, Baldwin, Washington, and Escambia Counties. As a licensed 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, we focus primarily on maintenance medications for chronic illnesses, such as heart disease, diabetes, and high blood pressure.



At **Rebuilding Together**, we make essential repairs to help our neighbors stay in their homes.

Our work often goes beyond each home. Local affiliates who are rooted in the community work closely with community residents and leaders to revitalize our communities. Together, we create and execute plans to address some of the needs of each specific community.

Through our work, we are also positioned to address the long-term recovery of communities struck by natural disasters.



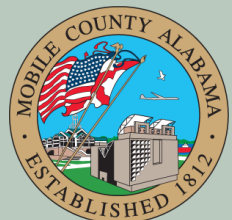
**United Way of Southwest Alabama's** mission is to improve the quality of life in the community.

Where there's a community need, there's the United Way. From advancing health and education to strengthening livelihoods and local resilience, we connect people to possibility in Choctaw, Clarke, Mobile, and Washington Counties. Join us in taking action so all can thrive.

## LUNCHEON SPONSOR



**Connie Hudson**  
**Mobile County Commission**  
**District 2**



# BUSINESS OF THE MONTH



## Our vision

Helping people, companies and communities prosper.

## Our mission

We meet customers where they are in their financial journey, providing expert advice and a broad array of products and services to help them reach their goals. While delivering value to our shareholders, we foster a workplace where teammates thrive and communities prosper.

## Our values

- Value relationships
- Put customers at the center of our business
- Do right by others
- Embrace inclusivity
- Create a great place to work

# 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

## Honorary

Evonik Corporation  
Mobile County Commission  
Mobile County Sheriff's Office  
Polysurveying of Mobile

## Diamond

CrowderGulf LLC  
Holcim  
Integrity IT Services  
Motivation Media

## Gold

Mobile County Sheriff's Office  
Payroll Vault

## Silver

Alabama Power  
Rita Broome Agency  
Broussard Agency, Inc  
Evonik Corporation  
Polysurveying of Mobile  
Premier Cleaning & Janitorial  
Proshield Pest Control  
The Grounds

## Bronze

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

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New Horizons Credit Union  
Occupational Health Center  
The Shoulder of the Central Gulf Coast





COLUMN

THE NEXT LUNCHEON

THE

## Giving Back: A Call to Lead with Purpose

As the 5-on-5 Nonprofit Luncheon approaches, I want to take a moment to speak not just as your Chamber Executive Director, but as a member of this community who has personally seen how deeply giving back can shape not only the lives of others—but our own.

It's easy to think of giving as a one-way street: something we offer outward, from those who have to those who need. But if you've ever volunteered your time, shared your resources, or partnered with a cause greater than yourself, you know something profound: giving back gives something back to you as well.

On a personal level, giving cultivates a deeper sense of connection. In a world where it's easy to feel isolated by busyness and responsibility, giving realigns us with what matters most—our shared humanity. It restores perspective, builds empathy, and reminds us that behind every statistic is a story, and behind every challenge is a chance to uplift someone else.

For business leaders, the impact is just as transformative. Today's workforce, especially younger generations, are looking for more than just a paycheck—they're seeking purpose. Businesses that invest in their communities consistently see higher employee engagement, better retention, and a stronger brand reputation. Consumers notice, too. In fact, studies consistently show that people prefer to support businesses that give back. In other words, generosity isn't just good—it's good business.

The 5-on-5 Nonprofit Luncheon is our chance to put this into practice. Five remarkable nonprofits will share their missions, their challenges, and the real, tangible ways they are changing lives right here in our community. They aren't just asking for donations—they're offering opportunities for partnership, collaboration, and shared impact.

I encourage you to come with open ears and open hearts. Ask not just, "What can I give?"—but also, "What can I learn? Who can I become through this? How can my business be a force for good beyond the bottom line?"

When we give back, we build more than a better community—we build a better version of ourselves. And in doing so, we lead not just with strategy, but with purpose.

Let's show up. Let's be present. Let's invest in what matters.

*Tina Poiroux*

Executive Director

SouthWest Mobile County Chamber of Commerce

(251) 666-2846



SOUTHWEST MOBILE COUNTY  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

## LEARNING LEADERSHIP

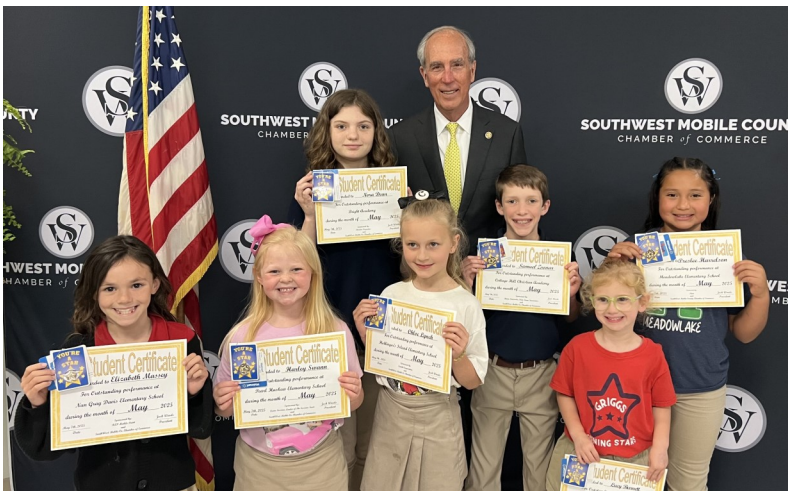
# STUDENT PROGRAMS

## EMPOWERING SUCCESS

### 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 our Star Student Sponsors. Congratulations to the following students who were recognized on Wednesday, May 7th, 2025:

- **Nora Dean** from Bright Academy sponsored by Burton Property Group
- **Samuel Zvonar** from Cottage Hill Christian Academy sponsored by Brian Lancaster, State Farm
- **Chloe Lynch** Hollinger's Island Elementary sponsored by Evonik Corporation
- **Natalie Umanzor Meraz** from Meadowlake Elementary sponsored by Pilot
- **Elizabeth Massey** from Nan Gray Davis Elementary sponsored by BLP Mobile Paint
- **Harley Swann** from Pearl Haskew Elementary sponsored by Roberts Brothers - The Sessions Team
- **Lucy Burnett** from W.C. Griggs Elementary sponsored by Alabama Power



### HANKINS SPOTLIGHT

#### Hankins High Achiever Award: Honoring Excellence at Hankins Middle School

The SWMCC is excited to announce the launch of the Hankins High Achiever Award, a new initiative designed to recognize and celebrate the exceptional students at Hankins Middle School. This award aims to spotlight young individuals who have not only excelled academically but have also demonstrated strong leadership, community involvement, and a dedication to making a positive impact in their school.

We are proud to announce that the fifth recipient of the Hankins High Achiever Award was Kennedy Harrison. Kennedy has shown remarkable commitment to her studies, maintained an outstanding academic record, and consistently gone above and beyond to help peers and contribute to the school community. Whether through involvement in extracurricular activities, volunteering, or simply being a positive role model, she has set a shining example of what it means to be a dedicated and engaged student.

We would also like to extend our deepest appreciation to Treasured Moments Lifestyle Photography whose generous support has made the Hankins High Achiever Award possible. Their commitment to education and local youth ensures that we can continue to recognize the hard work and accomplishments of our students, fostering an environment where excellence is celebrated and encouraged.

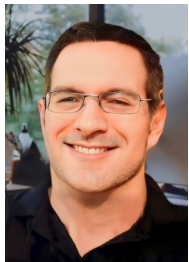
As we look to the future, we are excited to continue honoring bright and motivated students through this award, and we look forward to seeing many more students at Hankins Middle School recognized for their dedication, passion, and contributions to their school and community.





BY : RON SIVAK

## — THE REAL ESTATE CORNER —



The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) State Parks Division announced that work at Meaher State Park on the Causeway is mostly complete. RV reservations are available, and reservations will be available soon for the park's Americans with Disabilities Act-accessible tiny cabins. The work was funded by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill settlement. "With the RESTORE money, we were able to add 46 campsites, four tiny cabins, a new campground store and a new bathroom for the campground," director Matthew Capps said. "We previously had a drive-through-style check-in booth where all operations were housed. Now, we will have a brand-new building that will house a store, offices and even provide space for some of our educational and interpretive programs."

Some 1,010-square-feet of office space, Suite B & C located at 3090 Dauphin Square Connector in West Mobile, was leased last month to Alpha Health, a medical consulting practice specializing in a variety of treatments aimed at improving health, wellness and vitality. The company plans to open in July and provides personalized care and advanced therapies tailored towards specific needs. Alpha's services include testosterone therapy, weight loss solutions, sexual health, hair treatment and peptide therapies. Mike Reid, director of brokerage services at Merrill P. Thomas Co., Inc. handled the lease transaction.

A former grocery store built in the early 1950s and located at 5566 4th Street in Satsuma sold last month for \$90,000. The new West Mobile-based owner plans to open a dog care business at the site with expectations to open this summer. James Henderson of Realty Executives Bay Group represented both sides in the transaction, and most recently the space was leased by an arts and crafts shop.

In May, an out-of-state investor paid \$475,000 for 28,712-square-feet of industrial space sitting on 2.75 acres and located at 1701 Navco Road in West Mobile. Crawford Stitt of White-Spunner Realty represented the sellers in the transaction. Cameron Weavil of The Weavil Co. worked for the buyers on the deal.

Chris Harle of White-Spunner Realty, who represented the seller in the transaction, reported that a local investor paid \$160,000 last month for approximately 1.3 acres of property found at 96 East Drive in West Mobile. Shabbir Hossain of NextHome Star Real Estate worked for the buyer.

In May, online cabinetry wholesaler Lanae leased 29,050-square-feet of space found at 65 Sidney Phillips Drive in West Mobile, according to Chris Harle and Leigh Dale Younce of White-Spunner Realty, who represented the landlord on the transaction.

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

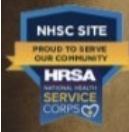
## Is forgetfulness a normal sign of aging or a sign of something more?

Misplacing keys happens to everyone, but if you've noticed more frequent memory lapses, confusion, or changes in behavior—it may be time to talk to someone who understands.

This June, during **Alzheimer's & Brain Awareness Month**, talk to an Accordia Health provider about your concerns, understand your risks, and learn how to protect your brain health.

  
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## SOUTHWEST MOBILE COUNTY CHAMBER

# FIRST RESPONDER SPOTLIGHT

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE



Congratulations to Officer David Marston of the Mobile Police Department, who was honored as Officer of the Month at our Chamber Business Luncheon on Wednesday, May 7th. Officer Marston's dedication and commitment to serving the citizens of Mobile exemplify the very best of our local law enforcement.

We also extend our thanks to Century Bank for sponsoring this award and helping us recognize the everyday heroes in our community. Their continued support makes it possible to shine a light on those who go above and beyond in service.



We are proud to recognize Deputy Jennifer Chisholm of the Mobile County Sheriff's Office, who was honored as Deputy of the Month at the May Business Luncheon. Deputy Chisholm's dedication, professionalism, and commitment to public safety exemplify the kind of service that strengthens our community every day. Her recognition is a reminder of the important role our law enforcement officers play in keeping Mobile County safe.



A heartfelt thank you goes to Century Bank for sponsoring this well-deserved award. Their continued support of our program helps highlight the individuals who go above and beyond in their roles. We're grateful for community partners like Century Bank who help us celebrate the people making a difference.



## 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."



# BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

At this year's Small Business of the Year Luncheon on May 7th, we had the pleasure of honoring three outstanding local businesses that exemplify excellence, innovation, and community commitment. These businesses were selected as finalists for our 2025 Business of the Year award, and we are proud to recognize each of them for the positive impact they make in our area.

Congratulations to Rita Broome Allstate, who was named our 2025 Business of the Year! Rita and her team consistently go above and beyond to provide trusted service, community support, and strong leadership in the local business community. Their dedication sets a shining example for others and represents the very best of small business values.

We also extend our sincere congratulations to our finalists, Above and Beyond Yoga & Salt Therapy and Bright Academy. Above and Beyond Yoga & Salt Therapy promotes health and wellness through unique, holistic services that have made a lasting impression on their clients and the wider community. Bright Academy continues to shape the future by providing a nurturing and engaging learning environment for children.

Thank you to all three businesses for your hard work, passion, and contributions. We're honored to celebrate you and all the small businesses that make our community stronger every day.

We would also like to thank Mayor Sandy Stimpson for presenting the award and Payroll Vault for being this year's title sponsor.



## AHOY MATEYS! SET SAIL FOR KIDS DAY 2025!

This pirate-themed event is scheduled for Saturday, July 26th from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Tillman's Corner Community Center (5055 Carol Plantation Rd, Mobile, AL 36619). The Chamber hosts this event in order to prepare local children for the upcoming school year by providing free backpacks with school supplies and uniforms. It will also feature snow cone and ice cream trucks, vendors, bouncy houses, games, a Beach Ball Drop at 12:00 pm and more!

We are accepting sponsorship applications up until July 3rd and vendor applications until July 11th. Our indoor booths are reserved for medical entities offering healthcare for children in attendance. If you are unable to have a booth or sponsor the event but would like to help, we are in need of donations of school supplies and cases of bottled water. All donations can be turned in at the Chamber Office (5055 Carol Plantation Rd, Mobile, AL 36619). Please contact the Chamber Office at (251) 666-2846 for more information or to request a list of the specific school supplies that are needed.





## BOARD SPOTLIGHT



Apryl Sessions Crowder has served on the Board of Directors for the Southwest Mobile County Chamber since 2024 and is currently the Treasurer.

Apryl Sessions Crowder is the Office Manager for Coca-Cola Bottling Co. UNITED, Inc. at the Mobile, Alabama facility. Apryl has been responsible for directing, coordinating, and planning community involvement, in addition to managing a team in sales for reporting, completion of route settlement and processing accounting for the Mobile

location. Apryl celebrates seven years with Coca-Cola UNITED in November 2025.

Apryl is originally from Grand Bay, Alabama, and now resides in West Mobile with her husband, Jim Crowder. They enjoy traveling and fishing as much as possible and spending time with family who are all now located in Mobile.



## BELLINGRATH GARDENS

Join us for the Gulf Coast Chinese Lantern Festival as Bellingrath Gardens & Home transforms into a breathtaking display of light and artistry. As night falls, the Gardens will turn into a luminous dreamscape, where 41 towering, handcrafted light sculptures glow with vibrant colors.

Visitors will journey through the estate, where each glowing display tells a story through plants, animals, and fantastical creatures, blending ancient tradition with modern innovation. Many displays invite interaction—dance with vibrant figures, play games, and immerse yourself in the fun.

As you explore, you'll find endless opportunities for photos and laughter with awe-inspiring moments that will stay with you long after the night ends. Bring your whole family, invite your friends, and be part of this extraordinary festival—because some experiences are too wonderful to miss.



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equipment

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## Chamber and Community Center Staff

### Executive Director

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

### Administrative Assistant

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

### Event Coordinator

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

### 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



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