

# SC THE CORNER

A SOUTHWEST MOBILE COUNTY CHAMBER PUBLICATION



MARCH 2025



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Joshua T. Woods

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, THE GROUNDS

CHAMPIONING

INNOVATION,

INSPIRING

PROGRESS

Dear Chamber Partners,

As we welcome the month of March, it's the perfect time to reflect on the strength of our community and the vital role that every partner plays in making the SouthWest Mobile County Chamber a thriving, successful organization. Together, we continue to build connections, create opportunities, and support each other's growth. This month, we want to highlight the importance of getting involved and taking advantage of the many opportunities to network, collaborate, and expand your reach within our Chamber.

Networking goes beyond just exchanging business cards; it's about developing meaningful relationships that can open doors to new possibilities. Whether it's attending one of our monthly events, joining an industry-specific group, or connecting with fellow partners through a referral or collaboration, every interaction is an opportunity to strengthen the fabric of our community. The power of a strong network cannot be underestimated, and by actively participating in our events and initiatives, you position yourself for success while helping to elevate others in the process.

Speaking of events, I want to make sure you have marked Partner Appreciation Day on your calendars. This special event will take place on May 9th, and it promises to be a celebration you will not want to miss. We will be hosting a crawfish boil, a fantastic opportunity to unwind, connect with fellow partners, and celebrate all that we have accomplished together. Best of all, this event is free to all renewed partners, as our way of saying thank you for your continued support and commitment to the Chamber.

We are truly grateful for the partnership and the incredible energy that each of you brings to our organization. Your involvement helps us continue to grow and achieve great things, both individually and as a collective. As we move through the spring season, I encourage you to take full advantage of the networking opportunities that are available to you. From attending events to engaging with fellow partners, every moment you spend connecting with others can lead to valuable opportunities for your business and for our community.

Thank you for your dedication, your passion, and your unwavering commitment to making this Chamber such a vibrant and dynamic network. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events and especially at Partner Appreciation Day! Together, we will continue to create success and foster a community that thrives.

Best regards,

Josh Woods

*Josh Woods*

SWMCC Board President

Cover Photo: Birdon

# EVENT CALENDAR

MARCH 2025

<p><b>28</b></p> <p><b><u>March Luncheon Preregistration Deadline</u></b></p> <p>The deadline to purchase an online ticket for the March Luncheon is February 28th at 5:00 pm. Any tickets purchased at the door (if available) will be \$25.00 per person, regardless of partner status.</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p><b><u>Annual Awards Gala Ticket Deadline</u></b></p> <p>An evening of distinction awaits at our esteemed Gala, where we gather to celebrate excellence and honor those whose achievements inspire.</p> <p>Tickets are available online at <a href="http://www.swmcchamber.com">www.swmcchamber.com</a></p>
<p><b>1</b></p> <p><b><u>TALL Applications Open</u></b></p> <p>The SWMCC Board and Staff are excited to announce that TALL Applications for 2025-2026 high school seniors are now available. Applications are available on our website and in the Tillman's Corner Community Center lobby.</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p><b><u>CAPS</u></b></p> <p>Community Action Panel Meeting</p> <p><b>Time:</b> 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm</p> <p><b>Location:</b> John C. Williams Auditorium</p>
<p><b>3</b></p> <p><b><u>Happy Mardi Gras!</u></b></p> <p>We hope you all have an exciting day celebrating Mardi Gras in Mobile, where it all began. The Chamber and Community Center offices will be closed Monday, March 3rd, and Tuesday, March 4th.</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p><b><u>Coffee with the Chamber</u></b></p> <p>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.</p>
<p><b>5</b></p> <p><b><u>Monthly Business Luncheon</u></b></p> <p><b>Time:</b> 11:30 am - 1:00 pm</p> <p><b>Location:</b> John C. Williams Auditorium</p> <p><b>Speaker:</b> Mark Scott, Birdon</p> <p><b>Caterer:</b> Chicken Salad Chick</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p><b><u>Lights. Camera. Commerce. Annual Awards Gala</u></b></p> <p><b>Time:</b> 7:00 pm</p> <p><b>Location:</b> John C. Williams Auditorium</p> <p>Be sure to join us for this prestigious awards night.</p>
<p><b>5</b></p> <p><b><u>Annual Awards Gala Committee Meeting</u></b></p> <p><b>Time:</b> 1:30 pm</p> <p><b>Location:</b> Camellia Room</p> <p>Open to Chamber Board and Diplomats.</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p><b><u>April Luncheon Preregistration Deadline</u></b></p> <p>The deadline to purchase an online ticket for the April Luncheon is March 28th at 5:00 pm. Any tickets purchased at the door (if available) will be \$25.00 per person, regardless of partner status.</p>

## SMALL BUSINESS WEEK: MARCH 3RD - 7TH

The Chamber Board and Staff are excited to celebrate the small businesses within our community throughout Small Business Week! This year, we will be highlighting one small business each day on our social media. For a chance to be featured, please submit a short paragraph answering the prompt: "What does being a small business owner mean to you?" to [info@swmcchamber.com](mailto:info@swmcchamber.com) by February 28th, 2025.

## MONTHLY BUSINESS LUNCHEON

# NETWORKING

MARCH 5TH, 2025

### LUNCHEON SPEAKER

Mark Scott has dedicated over 25 years to the field of human resources, with a strong focus on workforce development in the shipbuilding industry.

In September 2024, Mark was appointed as the Human Resources and Workforce Development Manager for Birdon's Alabama shipyard. In this role, he leads the company's Human Resources functions, overseeing labor planning for both professional and craft roles, including engineers, administration, safety, planning/scheduling, and production.

Mark is instrumental in leading Birdon's workforce development efforts and creating pipelines from high schools, community colleges, and other public training providers. Additionally, he represents the shipyard in economic development efforts with the State of Alabama, Mobile County, and the City of Bayou La Batre.

Mark holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Delta State University and an MBA from Columbia Southern University.



**Mark E. Scott**

**Manager of Human Resources  
and Workforce Development**

# Birdon

### MARCH LUNCHEON SPONSOR

# ROCK & ROLL OFFS



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# BUSINESS OF THE MONTH



At Core, we work hard to deliver the best mix of skills and equipment to satisfy the needs of each project in the most timely and cost effective manner.

Our management team has more than 150 years of combined experience in maritime and logistical services and our staff are expertly qualified in stevedoring and operating industrial equipment.

**Core owns and operates Theodore Industrial Port, one of the largest, privately-held port facilities in the Southeast.**

With a depth of 40 feet and two docking facilities with length capacity at 1,300 feet and 1,700 feet, we are equipped to handle multiple vessels simultaneously up to Panamax Class. The port is situated on the Theodore Ship Channel, a federally maintained deep water ship channel extending off the west bank of the Mobile Ship Channel in Alabama.

**Our facilities and expertise combined with our deep water port facility allow us to execute more efficiently with faster response, better project management and closer coordination with customers.**

The result is the highest quality projects, delivered on time and within budget. These capabilities also allow us to work with a diverse range of clients, predominantly focused in oil and gas services, fabrication, custom logistics, and cargo handling — including bulk, break bulk and project cargo. We also operate one of the world's largest bulk woodchip handling facilities for customers manufacturing pulp, paper and medium density fiberboard.

## LUNCHEON TICKETS

If you plan to attend the Chamber's Monthly Business Luncheon, **you must purchase a ticket for the event by Friday, February 28th at 5:00 pm.** Event tickets are available online at [www.swmccchamber.com](http://www.swmccchamber.com). Prospective partner and guest tickets are \$22.00 per person, while current partners can purchase a discounted ticket at \$17.00 per person. If your business purchased prepaid luncheon tickets, please email [info@swmccchamber.com](mailto:info@swmccchamber.com) to reserve your seat(s).

**Individuals who purchase a ticket online or reserved a prepaid seat will be eligible for the new "Fast Pass" Registration.** An email will go out to those who are eligible on March 5th with further instruction on this process.

**For anyone who does not preregister, you will be charged \$25.00 per person at the door (depending on availability). This change applies to all attendees, regardless of whether they are representing a renewed partner or prospective partner.**

# BUSINESS ADVANTAGE SPONSORS

# 2025

### Honorary

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

### Diamond

Holcim  
Integrity IT Services

### Gold

Mobile County Sheriff's Office  
Payroll Vault

### Silver

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

### Bronze

American WeatherStar  
Cadence Bank  
Family Security Credit Union  
Godfather's Pizza  
Rock & Roll Offs

### Friends of the Chamber

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

Interested in becoming a  
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Reach out to a member of our  
staff for more information!



COLUMN

THE NEXT LEVEL

THE

### Gateway Initiative: A Collaborative Effort for a Beautiful Future in Tillman’s Corner

As we move into 2025, we’re excited to share the ongoing progress of the Gateway Initiative, a beautification project aimed at revitalizing the heart of Tillman’s Corner. This transformative project has been made possible through the collaboration between the SouthWest Mobile County Chamber, the City of Mobile, and Visit Mobile, and we are thrilled to see the impact it will have on our community and the businesses that call it home.

The first phase of this ambitious initiative will span from I-10 down Highway 90 to Rangeline Road, setting the stage for a welcoming and vibrant gateway into our region. We are proud to announce that this first phase is on track for completion by 2025, marking a major milestone in the revitalization of Tillman’s Corner. This project is expected to progress through three to four phases, each contributing to the overall beautification and enhancement of the area.

The Gateway Initiative is a significant undertaking, with a price tag of \$1 million, made possible through a combination of private and public funding. But the success of this project goes beyond just dollars and cents—it is a true testament to the power of collaboration within our community. The partnership between local businesses, the City of Mobile, and Visit Mobile is a shining example of how we can come together to make a lasting impact on the region.

As we look forward to the success of the Gateway Initiative, it is clear that the involvement of businesses and individuals in our community will be key to ensuring the long-term success of this project. Not only will it enhance the aesthetic appeal of our area, but it will also contribute to the economic growth and stability of Tillman’s Corner. As we continue to build momentum, we encourage businesses to actively participate, support the project, and help foster a sense of pride in our community.

In addition to the Gateway Initiative, we have exciting events on the horizon, including our annual Awards Gala on March 21st, which will serve as a fundraiser for the SouthWest Mobile County Chamber Foundation. This foundation will play a vital role in supporting the continued beautification and upkeep of the Gateway Initiative. Funds raised from this event will directly contribute to maintaining the area and ensuring that we continue to make progress in improving our community.

We invite everyone to join us for this special evening to celebrate the achievements of our local businesses and community leaders. Purchasing a ticket and attending the gala is a great way to show your support for this important cause. By coming together, we can ensure the Gateway Initiative’s success and contribute to the ongoing growth and beauty of Tillman’s Corner.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to this transformative project. Let’s continue to work together to create a brighter, more vibrant future for our community.

*Tina Poiroux*

Executive Director  
SouthWest Mobile County Chamber of Commerce  
(251) 666-2846



SOUTHWEST MOBILE COUNTY  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

# 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, February 5th, 2025:

- **Braelynn Sanford** from Bright Academy sponsored by Burton Property Group
- **Kenzie Clark** from Cottage Hill Christian Academy sponsored by Brian Lancaster, State Farm
- **Bryson Ellingburg** from Hollinger’s Island Elementary sponsored by Evonik Corporation
- **Travis Perry** from Meadowlake Elementary sponsored by Pilot
- **Zeva Merrill** from Nan Gray Davis Elementary sponsored by BLP Mobile Paint
- **Cooper Cox** from Pearl Haskew Elementary sponsored by Roberts Brothers - The Sessions Team
- **Karam Haifa** 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 second recipient of the Hankins High Achiever Award was Peyton Hallman. Peyton 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



Oslo, Norway-headquartered oil and gas supplier, SLB OneSubsea, has announced the construction of a new 24,000-square-foot building at its complex found at 7611 Lake Road South inside Theodore Industrial Park. The development will enable Primo, a Denmark-based plastic profile manufacturer, to supply polyvinyl chloride (PVC) profiles for subsea cables - a key component of the SLB OneSubsea umbilical design. The \$5.8-million facility is expected to create 12 new jobs in the region and further strengthen the industrial ecosystem supporting the oil and gas sector. "The collaboration for the PVC profile extrusion facility marks an important step in Primo's expansion into the U.S. market," PrimoCEO Claus Tønnesen said.

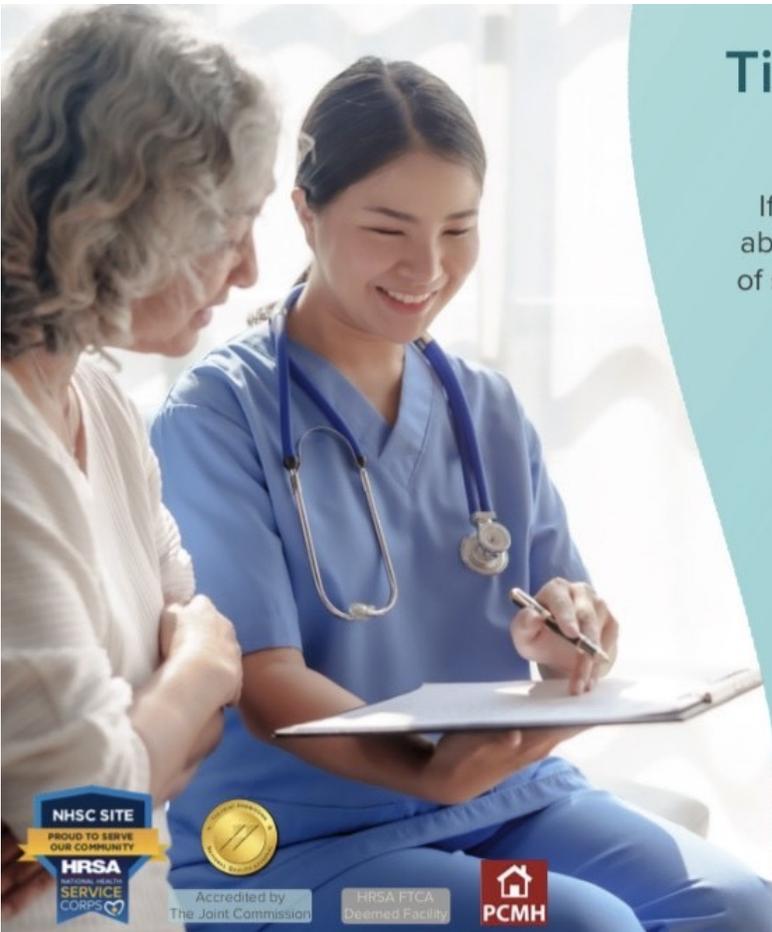
In an update, plans are still on track for Arcelor Mittal to begin building its \$1.2-billion advanced non-grain-oriented electrical steel manufacturing facility in Calvert starting sometime during summer of this year. The new project is anticipated to spin off over 1,300 local construction jobs during its build-out phase, and more than 200 permanent on-site positions will support the plant's ongoing operations after completion. The development has been heralded by many local experts as a transformative event that will strengthen the local economy and reinforce Mobile County's role as a major regional player in sustainable steel production and electric vehicle manufacturing. The site will reportedly be capable of producing up to 150,000 metric tons of steel per year at peak capacity and production lines begin rolling by 2027.

An indoor pickleball facility, PickleRage, is tentatively scheduled to open this May in West Mobile near University Boulevard inside the Regency Square Shopping Center. It will occupy the old Lagniappe Home Store building and the 43,000-square-foot space will feature 12 indoor CushionX courts used by professionals. Amenities will include a fully stocked pro shop, a lounge, a party room, locker rooms and showers. PickleRage will also offer lessons from area professional players, along with the ability to reserve courts in advance. Local business partners Jonathan Keith and Mark Howard are co-owners of the new venture.

Locally owned boutique staffing and employment firm, Fit Recruiting, held a grand opening at its new 2,200-square-foot office last month located at 2602 Dauphin Street. The 13-year-old local company specializes in providing skilled professionals across multiple industries, including accounting, information technology, office administration and executive searches.

In February Baptist Children's Homes moved to a new 4,500 square-feet of office space located at 1400 Montlimar Drive in West Mobile. Jill Meeks and Steadman Bethea with Stirling Properties handled the lease 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.



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# FIRST RESPONDER SPOTLIGHT

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE



Congratulations the following Deputies of the Month from the Mobile County Sheriff's Office who were recognized at our Business Luncheon on Wednesday, February 5th. Your outstanding service, commitment, and dedication to keeping our community safe does not go unnoticed.

October: Detective Michael Pozobyt

November: Deputy Darian Pennington

December: Deputy Billy Givens

Detective Amber Beckham of the Mobile Police Department was also recognized at the Business Luncheon as the SWMCC Officer of the Month. Her dedication, hard work, and commitment to excellence make a difference every day and we are proud to highlight her accomplishments.



## 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.”



SOUTHWEST MOBILE COUNTY  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

LIGHTS.  
CAMERA.  
COMMERCE.

*gala*

FRIDAY, MARCH 21ST, 2025

JOHN C. WILLIAMS AUDITORIUM  
5055 CAROL PLANTATION ROAD  
MOBILE, ALABAMA 36619

PRESENTED BY:  
COASTAL HUMAN RESOURCE GROUP  
MOBILE COUNTY COMMISSIONER RANDALL DUEITT

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT:  
[WWW.SWMCCHAMBER.COM](http://WWW.SWMCCHAMBER.COM)



# — LIGHTS. CAMERA, COMMERCE —

## Lights. Camera. Commerce.

An evening of distinction awaits at our esteemed Gala, where we gather to celebrate excellence and honor those whose achievements inspire. This elegant occasion will showcase the presentation of prestigious awards, recognizing outstanding contributions across various fields. Join us for a night of refined elegance, as we pay tribute to excellence and the remarkable individuals who embody it.

We are excited to announce the distinguished recipients of this year's awards, which will be presented at the Lights Camera Commerce Gala on Friday, March 21st. This night of refined elegance will be a celebration of excellence, recognizing the individuals and organizations that have made a significant impact on our community.

The following award recipients will be honored for their dedication, leadership, and outstanding contributions:



• **Citizen of the Year: Marty Carrell (Women's Resource Center)**

Marty Carrell has demonstrated unwavering commitment to our community, especially through her work with the Women's Resource Center. Her passion for empowering individuals and advocating for those in need is truly inspiring, and we are proud to recognize her as this year's Citizen of the Year.



• **Impact Award: Mostellar Medical Center**

Mostellar Medical Center has made an incredible impact on the health and well-being of our community. Their tireless efforts to provide quality healthcare and exceptional service have truly made a difference, and this award honors their dedication to improving lives every day.



• **Teacher of the Year: Amanda Davidson (Nan Gray Davis Elementary)**

Amanda Davidson embodies the spirit of dedication and excellence in education. Her passion for nurturing young minds and her commitment to the success of her students make her a standout educator. We are thrilled to recognize Amanda as Teacher of the Year for her outstanding contributions to education.



• **Diplomat of the Year: Jerry Hamilton (PuroClean of Mobile)**

Jerry Hamilton has gone above and beyond in his role as a Diplomat, consistently offering his time and support to the Chamber and our community. His efforts in fostering relationships, promoting local businesses, and supporting the growth of our area make him a truly deserving recipient of the Diplomat of the Year Award.

We invite you to join us for this exciting evening of celebration and recognition. The Lights Camera Commerce Gala will be an unforgettable night, bringing together community leaders, businesses, and partners to celebrate the excellence that drives our region forward. Please mark your calendars for March 21st, and prepare for a spectacular evening as we honor these exceptional individuals and organizations. Your presence will make this night even more special as we pay tribute to their incredible achievements.

# NEW PARTNERS



**Mama's on Dauphin**  
(251) 432-6262  
www.mamasondauphin.com  
220 Dauphin Street  
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**Mary's Southern Cooking**  
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## Chamber and Community Center Staff

### Executive Director

Tina Poiroux, AACE  
tpoiroux@swmccchamber.com

### Administrative Assistant

Hope Driskell  
hdriskell@swmccchamber.com

### Event Coordinator

Jillian Baxter  
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**



**ALABAMA ACCREDITED**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



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TODAY!**

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