

THE CORNER

JANUARY 2024



SOUTHWEST MOBILE COUNTY
CHAMBER *of* COMMERCE



SOUTHWEST MOBILE COUNTY
CHAMBER of COMMERCE

Letter From the President

Happy New Year! I hope you were all able to enjoy time with family and friends during the Christmas holidays. What a great time of the year to be able to slow down, relax, and enjoy spending time with those who mean so much to us.

I'm sure most of you are like me and felt like 2023 was the fastest year ever. Although the time seemed short, our Chamber accomplished so much last year. We were blessed to end the year with 243 partners and welcomed many new partners to our Chamber. We appreciate everyone sharing the news of the good things going on at SouthWest Mobile County Chamber. Each of you are helping us grow, and for that, we are extremely appreciative.

Last year, Curtis' slogan was "Strength in Numbers." I feel that this served us well and kept us focused as we continued to grow last year. This year we want to be an encouragement to our partners, always be forward thinking, and continue to meet the needs of our community. Our slogan will be "Whether you're downtown, in town, or around town your success is our business." We hope you will embrace our mission and join us as we grow our Chamber.

Our January Luncheon will be quickly approaching after the new year, January 3rd. This luncheon will provide us with the opportunity to hear from the many politicians who will be running for office. Please mark your calendars and join us as this will be a great way to hear the different platforms and allow you to make an educated decision on election day.

We are making some changes to our Diplomat program so be listening for opportunities to join this team who promotes our Chamber, assists with our events, luncheons, and helps with outreach to potential partners.

I look forward to serving as President of the SouthWest Mobile County Chamber in 2024. I am so blessed to be a part of this Chamber and have enjoyed serving and volunteering for many years with many of you. I hope you will all engage with us in 2024 as we strive to promote our partners and make a difference in the community we serve.

To be successful, you have to have your heart in your business, and your business in your heart." — Thomas Watson Sr.

Sharon Murrill

Alabama Power Community Relations Manager



"Your Success is Our Business"



Cover photo by Adobe Stock.

JANUARY EVENT CALENDAR

1

New Year's Day

We hope you all have a great first day of 2024 spent with your family and friends. The Chamber office will be closed Monday, January 1st and Tuesday, January 2nd in lieu of this holiday.

2

Office Closed

The SouthWest Mobile County Chamber of Commerce and Tillman's Corner Community Center offices will be closed. Please feel free to leave a voicemail and we will get back with you on Wednesday.

3

Monthly Business Luncheon

Time: 11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Location: John C. Williams Auditorium

Speakers: Political Forum Guests

15

CAPS Meeting

Community Advisory Panel

Time: 4:30 pm

Location: Tillman's Corner
Community Center

16

Coffee With The Chamber

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



**RUNNING
FOR OFFICE?**



SOUTHWEST MOBILE COUNTY
CHAMBER of COMMERCE

**SIGN UP TO PARTICIPATE
IN THE SWMCC'S
POLITICAL FORUM AT OUR
UPCOMING BUSINESS
LUNCHEON ON
JANUARY 3RD, 2024
FROM 11:30 AM TO 1:00 PM**

19

Annual Awards GALA

Time: 6:30 pm

Location: John C. Williams Auditorium

We hope you will join us for a night of fun at our Annual Awards Gala!



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

**CALL THE SWMCC OFFICE
(251) 666-2846**

SOUTHWEST MOBILE COUNTY

CHAMBER *of* COMMERCE

JANUARY BUSINESS LUNCHEON

Wednesday, January 3rd, 2024

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

POLITICAL FORUM

The SouthWest Mobile County Chamber of Commerce will be hosting a political forum during its January Luncheon. Political Candidates running for certain offices in 2024 will be given an opportunity to speak. In order to participate, participants will need to be preregistered. Each candidate will have a table along the side of the Auditorium they are responsible for decorating. They may place campaigning materials on their assigned table, but should refrain from placing campaign materials around the building. After each candidate has a chance to speak, luncheon attendees will be able to visit any table of their choosing and ask further questions. If you are interested in participating in the political forum, please reach out to the Chamber Staff at (251) 666-2846. If you are interested in attending, we encourage you to preregister online at www.swmccchamber.com

YEAR IN REVIEW

During the Business Luncheon, we will take a moment to commemorate 2023. The year was filled with record-breaking events, countless awards and recognitions for Chamber Partners, and unforgettable acts of service towards the Tillman's Corner Community. On behalf of the SouthWest Mobile County Chamber of Commerce, we would like to say thank you to 2023 Board President Curtis Polk for his dedication to this Chamber. Mr. Polk has given 110% not only over the past year while serving as President, but since he became a representative of the Chamber. Many of the SWMCC's great achievements would not have been possible without his leadership and service. We look forward to continuing to work with Mr. Polk as he joins our Advisory Board.



BUSINESS NETWORKING

LUNCHEON SPONSOR



At Integrity IT Services we go above and beyond to help our small community. We are a small, local company that provides excellent and timely service to those in need of assistance with problems that may occur. From outstanding customer service to exceptional problem solving skills, we hold ourselves to the highest of standards to make sure our job is adequately done.

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5219 US-90 Suite C

Mobile, AL 36619



BUSINESS OF THE MONTH



Come by and see Gina Germany, owner of Java Hut. "Big things come from small packages, and this hut has the best coffee this side of Mobile! With two drive throughs we can minimize your wait time and provide you with timely service with a smile!"

(251) 586-8074

www.javahutmobile.com

6343 Airport Blvd

Mobile, AL 36608



LUNCHEON CATERER

Time To Eat

Homemade Lasagna

Chicken Alfredo

Tossed Green Salad

Grilled Mixed Veggies

Field Peas

Yeast Rolls

Paradise or Peanut Butter Pie

Prepaid Lunches

This is a reminder that any prepaid lunches purchased at the beginning of 2023 expired in December of 2023. If you would like to prepurchase luncheon tickets for 2024, please select that option on your 2024 Partner Invoice or reach out to the Chamber Staff. Payments for prepaid lunches must be in by Friday, December 29th if you plan to use prepaid lunches at the luncheon on January 3rd, 2024. Payments received after this date will be available for later Luncheons. If you have already purchased 2024 Lunches, please email the Chamber Staff to RSVP.

**** \$15.00 Current Partners**

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

EVENT TICKETS ARE LIMITED.

RSVP by Tuesday, January 2nd

to reserve your seat!

Tickets can be purchased online at

www.swmchamber.com

SWMCC CHRISTMAS EVENT WRAP UP

The SouthWest Mobile County Chamber of Commerce would like to say thank you to the sponsors, volunteers, partners, participants, and Tillman's Corner Community for making its 2023 Christmas Events possible. Although this year's Christmas Parade was postponed due to the threat of inclement weather, the participants and community rallied to show their support.



With over 70 entities, this year's parade has been deemed one of the largest in the parade's history. It was also found to have unwavering Community support with a record crowd. If you were unable to participate this year, we would love to see you in next year's line-up. The Chamber allows walking groups, floats, antique cars and more!

TALL STUDENTS VISIT MAYOR SANDY STIMPSON



Tillman's Corner Area Learning Leadership

more about our judicial system. This was an amazing opportunity for our students that they will be able to look back on for years to come.

The SouthWest Mobile County Chamber of Commerce's T.A.L.L. students visited the Mayor's Office on Tuesday, November 28th. A special thank you to Mayor Sandy Stimpson and his staff for welcoming our students and allowing them to learn



The TALL Students also enjoyed volunteering at the Chamber's many Christmas Events over the past month. The group had the opportunity to serve hot cocoa at the Christmas Tree Lighting, assist with crafts at VIP Pancakes & Pajamas, help children with their Letters to Santa at the Pancake Breakfast, decorate for the Board and Diplomat Christmas Party and ride in the Christmas Parade. They are pictured to the left at the Christmas Tree Lighting on November 27th.

The City of Mobile, Burton Property Group (BPG) and Kessler Capital announced last month plans to develop Mobile's first (and currently only) mixed-use waterfront hospitality and entertainment development. River Walk Plaza will be located on city property on the opposite side of Water Street from the end of Dauphin Street. The new project will sit adjacent to the Mobile Convention Center, bookending the Gulf Quest Maritime Museum and Cooper Riverside Park. The idea was made a reality following the City of Mobile's request for proposals last year for a potential development on the downtown waterfront. BPG is a Mobile-based real estate developer, and Kessler Capital is a Savannah, Georgia-based hospitality developer. Alabama native, architect Gray Reese, President of Gray Reese LLC. Architects, is designing the project. River Walk Plaza is intended to be a destination venue for living, working, dining, and interacting with the waterfront. The site will include high-end condominiums and a luxury hotel; class-A office space; and multiple food, beverage, and retail options. To allow for better logistics, the project will be engineered to provide vehicle and pedestrian access over Water Street and the CSX train tracks. The project is targeting a groundbreaking for early 2025.

Media, Pennsylvania-headquartered convenience chain Wawa broke ground at its first store in Mobile County last month at the intersection of Cottage Hill and Sollie Roads with plans to open by November 2024. Last month's groundbreaking was the second in the region, after one held in June 2023 in Fairhope. Two more additional sites were also announced as under contract. One at the intersection of Schillinger and Old Government Street in West Mobile, and another at Schillinger and Silver Pine roads in Semmes. Wawa invests approximately \$6.5 million in new stores, and each location employs up to 40 employees. Wawa also presented a \$5,000 donation at the event to Feeding the Gulf Coast, reportedly providing 25,000 meals for needy families.

A new Piggly Wiggly grocery store opened last month to fanfare. It is located at 306 S. University Boulevard in West Mobile. The footprint, formerly home to another grocer called Bruno's Supercenter, will house a number of local

partners. These include Flying Pig Coffee Co., Bistro Foods, Three Georges, Namans International Foods, Pigfish Seafood, Lush, Vital Juice, Royal Pharmacy, Cammie's Old Dutch Ice Cream Shoppe and Fresh Sushi.

Pratt Thomas with Merrill P. Thomas Co. Inc. and David Tunstall with McAleer Tunstall Company, LLC represented the sale of a .75 acre of property for \$647,500. The land is located near the intersection of Schillinger Road S and Hitt Road and will soon be home to a Freddy's Frozen Custard and Steakburgers eatery. A grand opening is for later this year.

Cornerstone Caregiving leased some 2,404 square-feet of office space found at 3201 Dauphin Street in Mobile. Leigh Rendfrey of CRE Mobile represented the tenant in the transaction. Chris Harle worked for the landlord on the deal. The company will move its headquarters to the new, larger footprint sometime during the spring of this year from their current site at 2655-B Old Shell Road.

Last month the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers leased 10,240 square-feet of renovated office and warehouse space located at 1242 Montlimar Drive in West Mobile. Chris Harle with White-Spunner Realty represented the landlord in the transaction. Tim Mills of The Cummings Co. worked for the tenant.

A 6,650 square-foot property, found at 2051 Government St, in Mobile was sold last month for \$1.14 million. It was bought by Lyons Capital Group and is currently leased by an Advance Auto Parts retailer. The transaction was handled by Pratt Thomas with Merrill.

Just 4 Us Lounge leased a 3,600 square-foot building found at 2301 Dauphin Island Parkway in December, and plans to open early this year, according to Pratt Thomas and Pam Helland of Merrill, who handled the deal.

Orlando, Florida-based Tex-Mex chain Tijuana Flats, held a restaurant grand opening in December at 283 McGregor Avenue in West Mobile with events supporting the Dumas Wesley Community Center.

STAR STUDENT RECOGNITION PROGRAM



The SouthWest Mobile County Chamber of Commerce would like to thank its 2023-2024 Star Student Sponsors for making it possible to bring this program back. Congratulations to the following students who were recognized at the Business Luncheon on Wednesday, December 6th:

- Jack Zender from Bright Academy sponsored by Burton Property Group
- Hollinger's Island Elementary sponsored by Evonik (No December Student)
- Hattie Heathcoe from Meadowlake Elementary sponsored by Pilot Catastrophe
- James Baumgartner from Nan Gray Davis Elementary sponsored by Mobile Paint

-Emaleigh Doggett from Pearl Haskew Elementary sponsored by Roberts Brothers - The Sessions Team (Elaine Sessions)

-Anna Grace Bowen from W.C. Griggs Elementary sponsored by Alabama Power

Get Your New Year Started on the Right Foot.

Exercise is essential to good health. So is regularly consulting a healthcare provider and having an annual physical. The Accordia Health providers can help develop a long-term plan to get you on the right path to a healthy lifestyle.

Take the first step: call Accordia Health for an appointment today.

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NEW CHAMBER PARTNERS



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B. E. Brown & Co. Mortuary

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info@bebrownco.com

www.bebrownco.com

5817 Grelot Rd

Mobile, AL 36609



Mobile County
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MCPSS Career Tech Department

(251) 221-4029

www.academiesofmobile.com

1 Magnum Pass

Mobile, AL 36608

CHRISTMAS EVENT SPONSORS

Thank you to all of the following companies for sponsoring our 2023 Christmas Events: Christmas Tree Lighting, VIP Pancakes & Pajamas with Santa, Pancake Breakfast with Santa, and Christmas Parade. These events would not have been possible without your generous donations.



TITLE SPONSORS



PLATINUM SPONSOR

GOLD SPONSOR

SILVER SPONSOR



BRONZE SPONSORS

Accelerated Accounting

Godfather's Pizza

Pro Shield Pest Control

American WeatherStar

Gulf Coast Graphix

Rock and Roll Offs

CRE Mobile

Huntington Learning Center

Southern View Media

Family Security Credit Union

Mobile's Best Storage

The Grounds

THANK YOU TO OUR 2023 BUSINESS ADVANTAGE SPONSORS

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Evonik Corporation
Mobile Coca-Cola Bottling Company
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Diamond

Holcim

Platinum

Gold

Integrity IT Services
Keesler Federal Credit Union
Mobile County Commission
Mobile County Sheriff's Department
Payroll Vault

Silver

Alabama Power
Evonik Corporation
Pro 1 Painters
Treasured Moments Lifestyle Photography

Bronze

Accelerated Accounting
American Weather Star
Brown and Root
Corsentino Chiropractic
CRE - Mobile
Family Security Credit Union
Godfathers Pizza
Gulf Coast Graphix
Huntington Learning Center
Premier Cleaning & Janitorial
Proshield Pest Control
Rock & Roll Offs
Singing River Health Systems
Southern View Media
The Grounds
Uniti Fiber

Friends of the Chamber

A Spot of Tea
BASF Corporations
Dex Imaging
Dick Russell's BBQ
Elite Mobile Real Estate
EverLoved Veterinary, LLC
Fremin Ventures, LLC
Gulf Coast Graphix
Holiday Inn Express & Suites
Kalifeh Bedsole Adams PC
Lindsey and Waldo, LLC
Magnolia Mortgage Company
Occupational Health Center
Poplar Home Waterproofing Inc.
The Shoulder of the Central Gulf Coast
Touching Hearts Senior Care

2024 BUSINESS ADVANTAGE SPONSORSHIPS

SOUTHWEST MOBILE COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

DIAMOND LEVEL INVESTMENT - \$5,000.00

- Annual Partnership included in sponsorship
- Business is highlighted as a guest speaker at the Business of the Year Luncheon and at the Annual Awards Gala
- Representative will be given the opportunity to assist in handing out awards at the Annual Awards Gala
- Entryway display table available to you for marketing materials at all Monthly Business Luncheons
- Special partnership opportunities and donor recognition with our T.A.L.L Leadership Program
- Dedicated guest table with signage provided for Business of the Year Luncheon and Annual Awards Gala
- One title sponsorship for our Christmas Parade plus float registration and Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony
- One Business Networking Social hosted at your business (includes marketing event)
- One title sponsorship for a Coffee with the Chamber event and our Business of the Year Luncheon in May
- Twelve admission tickets to our Monthly Business Luncheon PLUS bring a guest (up to twelve per year)
- One Diamond Level event sponsorship (selection request due by Feb 1st)
- Free vendor booth registration at our Annual Business Expo and Premium placement choice.
- Premier logo sponsorship banner displayed on our website www.swmcchamber.com for one year
- Presented with Award of Sponsorship at our December Business Luncheon
- Four half page sized ads in "The Corner" (Our monthly newsletter distribution)
- Exclusive 25% venue rental discount for the Tillman's Corner Community Center
- Diamond size sponsorship logo printed on all event publications (e.g. Banners, flyers, t-shirts, etc.)
- Sponsorship recognition in "The Corner" (Our monthly newsletter distribution) and on our website
- 26"x20" Logo signage displayed in front of the Tillman's Corner Community Center all year

PLATINUM LEVEL INVESTMENT - \$3,500.00

- Annual Partnership included in sponsorship
- Business is highlighted as a guest speaker at one Monthly Business Luncheon
- One title sponsorship for our Christmas Parade OR Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony
- One Business Networking Social hosted at your business (includes marketing event)
- One title sponsorship for a Coffee with the Chamber event and two Monthly Business Luncheons (excluding May)
- Twelve admission tickets to our Monthly Business Luncheon
- One Platinum Level event sponsorship (selection request due by Feb 1st)
- Free vendor booth registration at our Annual Business Expo
- Logo sponsorship banner displayed on our website www.swmcchamber.com for six separate months
- Presented with Award of Sponsorship at our December Business Luncheon
- Four quarter page sized ads in "The Corner" (Our monthly newsletter distribution)
- Exclusive 20% venue rental discount for the Tillman's Corner Community Center
- Platinum size sponsorship logo printed on all event publications (e.g. Banners, flyers, t-shirts, etc.)
- Sponsorship recognition in "The Corner" (Our monthly newsletter distribution) and on our website
- 26"x18" Logo signage displayed in front of the Tillman's Corner Community Center all year

GOLD LEVEL INVESTMENT - \$2,500.00

- Annual Partnership included in sponsorship
- One title sponsorship for our Christmas Parade OR Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony
- One Business Networking Social hosted at your business (includes marketing event)
- One title sponsorship for a Coffee with the Chamber event and one Monthly Business Luncheon
- Nine admission tickets to our Monthly Business Luncheon
- One Gold Level event sponsorship (selection request due by Feb 1st)
- Free vendor booth registration at our Annual Business Expo
- Logo sponsorship banner displayed on our website www.swmcchamber.com for three separate months
- Presented with Award of Sponsorship at our December Business Luncheon
- Two quarter page sized ads in "The Corner" (Our monthly newsletter distribution)
- Exclusive 15% venue rental discount for the Tillman's Corner Community Center
- Sponsorship recognition in "The Corner" (Our monthly newsletter distribution) and on our website
- 24"x18" Logo signage displayed in front of the Tillman's Corner Community Center all year

SILVER LEVEL INVESTMENT - \$1,200.00

- One title sponsorship for a Coffee with the Chamber event
- Six admission tickets to our Monthly Business Luncheon (excluding business of the year in May)
- One Silver Level event sponsorship (selection request due by Feb 1st)
- Half-priced vendor booth registration at our Annual Business Expo
- Logo sponsorship banner displayed on our website www.swmcchamber.com for two separate months
- Presented with Award of Sponsorship at our December Business Luncheon
- Two business card sized ads in "The Corner" (Our monthly newsletter distribution)
- Exclusive 10% venue rental discount for the Tillman's Corner Community Center
- Sponsorship recognition in "The Corner" (Our monthly newsletter distribution) and on our website
- 20"x14" Logo signage displayed in front of the Tillman's Corner Community Center all year

BRONZE LEVEL INVESTMENT - \$500.00

- Three admission tickets to our Monthly Business Luncheon (excluding business of the year in May)
- One Bronze Level event sponsorship (selection request due by Feb 1st)
- Half-priced vendor booth registration at our Annual Business Expo
- Logo sponsorship banner displayed on our website www.swmcchamber.com for one month
- Presented with Award of Sponsorship at our December Business Luncheon
- One business card sized ad in "The Corner" (Our monthly newsletter distribution)
- Exclusive 5% venue rental discount for the Tillman's Corner Community Center
- Sponsorship recognition in "The Corner" (Our monthly newsletter distribution) and on our website
- 18"x12" Logo signage displayed in front of the Tillman's Corner Community Center all year

FRIEND OF THE CHAMBER LEVEL INVESTMENT - \$250.00

- Sponsorship recognition in "The Corner" (Our monthly newsletter distribution) and on our website
- Presented with a Certificate of Sponsorship at our December Business Luncheon
- 15"x10" Logo signage displayed in front of the Tillman's Corner Community Center all year

Please mail payments to the Southwest Mobile County Chamber of Commerce at 5055 Carol Plantation Road, Mobile, AL 36619 or complete an application through our website.

Contact Name: _____ Telephone # _____ Email: _____

Business Name: _____ Address: _____

Sponsorship Level: _____ Amount Enclosed: _____ Check # _____

OFFICER OF THE MONTH



Photographed By: M. TREASURED PHOTOGRAPHY

Thank you to Corporal Darrell Tucker for his commitment to our community!

Kellie Martin
Market Sales Leader, Mortgage
NMLS 251587

SYNOVUS

synovus.com/kelliemartin
kelliemartin@synovus.com
P: 251-450-1371 C: 251-605-8753 F: 877-701-3939
170 St Francis Street, Mobile, AL 36602

CHAMBER BUSINESS AFTER HOURS



NETWORKING AT ITS BEST..

We are looking for businesses to host a monthly Business After Hours event at your location. It is a great opportunity to have the Chamber in your office and showcase the many wonderful items you sell, the services you provide or the activities that you perform. Schedule today and get more information on how to get on our calendar for 2024.

Hosting an After Hours Networking event gives members/partners an opportunity to network and socialize in a fun, relaxed atmosphere after the regular working day. This event is meant to be fun and is a great way for businesses to connect. This is a great way to meet new clients for your business.

Chamber and Community Center Staff

Executive Director

Tina Poiroux, AACE
tpoiroux@swwmcchamber.com

Administrative Assistant

Hope Driskell
hdriskell@swwmcchamber.com

Rental Specialist

Jillian Baxter
jbaxter@swwmcchamber.com

Event Specialists

Calvin Dickerson & Gary Turk

CONTACT US at 251-666-2488 or the Chamber at 251-666-2846
www.swwmcchamber.com

Strength in Numbers



2020 - 2024



ALABAMA ACCREDITED
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

SIGN UP TO RECEIVE OUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER AND OTHER CHAMBER OPPORTUNITIES BY EMAILING US AT INFO@SWMCCHAMBER.COM