

# THE CORNER



DECEMBER 2023

**SOUTHWEST MOBILE COUNTY**  
CHAMBER *of* COMMERCE



**SOUTHWEST MOBILE COUNTY**  
CHAMBER of COMMERCE

## Letter From the President

If you are like me, the Holidays bring about many stresses and pull your attention in several directions. In the midst of this busy season, I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving spent with family and friends. The Chamber was able to give 200 Thanksgiving dinners to families within the Tillman's Corner community because of your generosity. Thank you to everyone that donated to our Alabama vs. Auburn Food Drive and volunteered their time to help sort and distribute this year's bounty.

With Thanksgiving behind us, we will jump right into the Christmas Season with our Tree Lighting on November 27th, followed by the VIP Pajamas with Santa Experience on Dec 1st and Pancake Breakfast on Dec 2nd. Our Christmas Parade is set to begin at 10:30 am on Saturday, December 2nd and will follow the usual route through Tillman's Corner. The Chamber's Annual Christmas Giveback is also quickly approaching. If you or your business is able to donate toys or would like to sponsor a family please reach out to the Chamber Staff.

We hope you will join us for our last monthly luncheon on Wednesday, December 6th. Our Guest speaker will be Christy Taylor with Austal USA and the event will be catered by Grand Catering.

I am looking forward to our upcoming Business After Hours event on Thursday, December 7th. It is being hosted by Bright Academy at 5:00 pm at 3590 Pleasant Valley Road, Mobile, AL 36609.

We will not have our Coffee with the Chamber this month so I will take this moment to wish everyone a very Merry Holiday Season and a Happy New Year too!

*Curtis Polk*

BLP Stores Division Manager

*"Strength in Numbers"*



# DECEMBER EVENT CALENDAR

## **1** VIP Pancakes & Pajamas with Santa

Each participating child will decorate Christmas cookies, create a Gingerbread house, eat a pancake breakfast, and have a photo taken with Santa.



## **2** Pancake Breakfast with Santa

**Time:** 8:00 am - 10:00 am

**Location:** Tillman's Corner Community Center

Breakfast is free for children 10 and under and available for \$5.00 for adults and older children.

## **2** Christmas Parade

**Time :** 10:30 am

We hope you will join us for our Annual Christmas Parade through Tillman's Corner. This year's floats will be competing to win the "Baking Spirits Bright" themed Best Float Competition.



## **6** Monthly Business Luncheon

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

**Location:** John C. Williams Auditorium

**Speaker:** Christy Taylor, Austal USA

## **7** Business After Hours

**Time:** 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

**Location:** Bright Academy  
3590 Pleasant Valley Rd  
Mobile, AL 36609

## **19** Coffee With The Chamber

There will be no Coffee with the Chamber throughout the holiday months. Please use this time to spend celebrating with your friends and family. We hope you will join us again in the New Year!

## **19** Coffee Chat

Coffee Chat has also been postponed until January of 2024. We look forward to seeing you once again in the New Year and hope you will encourage others to attend with you! This is a great opportunity to network with other Chamber partners.

## **20** Christmas Giveback

Each year the Chamber helps provide Christmas gifts for local families in need, but we need your help to do so. If you are able to donate new, unopened toys please have them in by December 20th. We are also accepting monetary donations.

## **25** Merry Christmas!

We hope you have a wonderful Christmas with your loved ones. The Chamber office will be closed Monday, December 25th and Tuesday, December 26th in honor of this holiday.

## **31** New Year's Eve

We hope you all have a great night ringing in the New Year with family and friends. The Chamber office will be closed Monday, January 1st and Tuesday, January 2nd.



# SOUTHWEST MOBILE COUNTY

CHAMBER *of* COMMERCE

## DECEMBER BUSINESS LUNCHEON

Wednesday, December 6th, 2023

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



As the Austal USA Chief Operating Officer for Transformation, Christy Taylor oversees Human Resources, Production Control, IT and Supply Chain Management operations in addition to other business integration, leadership, and strategy roles, which are critical to the success of our ship construction and service businesses. Her focus is developing and integrating companywide system and process synergies across these functions to ensure we are aligned in pursuit of our strategic goals.

Taylor is a seasoned and forward thinking senior financial professional with more than 25 years of progressive experience in finance and operations management. Since joining Austal USA in 2007, she has successfully developed and negotiated rates, effectively managed costs and developed strong partnerships to deliver on other contractual requirements with the United States government. Her proven ability to formulate and implement financial strategies as well as organizational policies and programs optimize company performance and shareholder value.

Taylor holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from Georgia State University and a master's degree in accounting from Central Florida University. She is a licensed CPA in the states of Alabama and Florida as well as a Chartered Global Management Accountant and a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (CPAs), the Alabama Society of CPAs, and the University of South Alabama Accounting Advisory Board.

Taylor is a key member of the Austal USA Leadership team, a coach and mentor to many leaders as well as an ambassador of Austal USA's culture and values.

Austal USA is a ship manufacturer headquartered in Mobile, Ala., with service centers in San Diego and Singapore and a technology center in Charlottesville, Va. With the most modern steel panel line in the shipbuilding industry, Austal USA manufactures both aluminum and steel ships. Austal USA leverages a moving module production line and strict adherence to lean manufacturing principles to consistently deliver on-schedule and on-budget. Austal USA's service business provides global support to U.S. Navy, Military Sealift Command and other customers. Austal USA's San Diego Service Center includes a waterfront facility that has the capability to drydock small combatants and similar sized ships. Earning 23 safety excellence awards, Austal USA continues to be one of the safest shipyards in America.

BUSINESS

NETWORKING



## LUNCHEON SPONSOR



**MOBILE COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S OFFICE**  
SHERIFF PAUL BURCH

The Mobile County Sheriff's Office is the second largest in the state, with a staff of over 600 serving more than 400,000 citizens across an area of some 1,200 square miles.

The Sheriff's Office serves through four divisions: administrative services, field operations, support services and correction. Our correction division which operates the Mobile Metro Jail, has an average daily population of some 1500. In order to best fight crime while saving taxpayers millions of dollars, the Sheriff's Office also administers a 325-bed minimum security barracks that houses prisoners who are put to work in order to earn their keep.

## BUSINESS OF THE MONTH

*D' Michaels*

*7101 Theodore Dawes Rd  
Theodore, AL 36582  
251-653-2979*

This a great place if you want to enjoy a great cheesesteak, pizza, gyro, burger, and many more items! You won't find a more friendly place to eat, and a more friendly store owner than Fred Heierbacher. It was Fred's dream to open up a great place serving the foods he grew up eating as a child and young adult. D'Micheals has been a great success, and if you do not believe it, come find out for yourself!

## LUNCHEON CATERER



*Grand Catering of Mobile*

[gcofmobile@gmail.com](mailto:gcofmobile@gmail.com)

(251) 404-0356

### Menu:

Brisket

Twice-Baked Potatoes

Green Beans

Salad

Dessert



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

**\*\* \$18.00 for Future Partners**

**EVENT TICKETS ARE LIMITED.**

**RSVP by Tuesday, December 5th  
to reserve your seat!**

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

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# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CELEBRATES TEN YEARS



The SouthWest Mobile County Chamber of Commerce's Executive Director, Tina Poiroux, celebrated her 10th Anniversary with the Chamber on November 6th, 2023. Tina is such a light to all of our partners, sponsors, and Board Members. We are grateful not only for her constant encouragement of others, but also for her dedication to bettering the SWMCC. Over the past ten years, Tina has not only fostered growth for the Chamber but has made it a priority to make a difference in the Tillman's Corner Community. She has served wholeheartedly by introducing our TALL Program to promote leadership skills in local students; directing Kid's Day at which free backpacks, uniforms, and school supplies are given out; and preparing free breakfast for children on the morning of the Christmas Parade. Thank you Tina for everything you have done over the past ten years. We appreciate you and look forward to seeing the change you bring over the next ten years!

"This Chamber is the best! I pray God will continue to give me new vision and insight for many years to come. Thank you for loving me and looking past all of my mistakes. I hope to see you all at the Chamber soon." - Tina Poiroux, Executive Director of the SWMCC

## TALL STUDENTS VISIT MOSTELLAR MEDICAL CLINIC



Tillman's Corner Area Learning Leadership

The SouthWest Mobile County Chamber of Commerce's T.A.L.L. students toured the Mostellar Medical Center on Tuesday, October 24th along with our Chamber Vice President, Sharon Murrill. A special thank you to Todd Stork, Director of Operations/COO, and the others members of the Mostellar team for welcoming our students and taking the time to teach them more about the medical field. Our students absolutely loved this experience, especially those interested in the nursing field. Mostellar Medical's

mission is to provide quality, culturally competent primary and preventative health services to the residents of south Mobile and Washington Counties of Alabama without regard to their ability to pay. The Chamber looks forward to seeing how this brilliant group of students will use the insights and experiences from this tour to one day impact the lives of others and the city of Mobile.



Last month it was reported that Mobile Mayor Sandy Stimpson's office forwarded a lease agreement to Amtrak that would allow the train service to build a stop in Downtown Mobile to support a new passenger rail route.

The agreement is viewed as one of the final steps required before twice-daily service is restored along the Gulf Coast. "Our expectation is to get it executed quickly and go before the council for approval," Candace Cooksey, city spokeswoman said. The train stop will be a platform, instead of a building, per Cooksey, with its construction to be considered after passenger rail service is restored, which is anticipated for 2024.

Restoration progress of the passenger line has slowed while waiting on roughly \$179 million in consolidated rail infrastructure and safety improvements program funding to finance capital improvements along the route. The grant was authorized by the Federal Railroad Administration last September.

The Mobile Airport Authority (MAA) is set to receive 100 acres of property from a swap involving the University of South Alabama Foundation and Alabama State Port Authority. The site, formerly owned by USA, is located near Mobile Bay on the east side of the future \$350-million five-gate terminal and parking garage for the Brookley Aeroplex. It is also due south of the future Brookley by the Bay.

"For us this piece of property is probably the most important parcel we could purchase because of its location to the runway, east of the airport. It is to be used for large aviation and general aviation business." Chris Curry, MAA president said.

In return, the Mobile County Industrial Development Board is set to receive 100 acres of predominantly wooded land near Tanner Williams Road, within the 3,000 acres of MAA property at the Mobile Regional Airport in West Mobile. Also included in the transaction was the Port Authority's acquisition of approximately 43 acres in Brookley for approximately \$5 million. This property will be used for a future Port of Mobile expansion.

IMC, one of the largest marine drayage providers in the U.S., has broken ground on a new facility at 5627 Todd Acres Drive in Theodore. The 12-acre development includes office space, parking for trucks, and storage for wheeled containers and chassis. This centrally located facility is near the Port of Mobile and will include a fenced yard with 24-hr monitored and security-controlled access for secured storage for IMC clients. The new facility is expected to be operational by February 1, 2024, and will employ 25 people. There are plans to add more drivers in the future.

Two 1,500-square foot office suites, located at 5011 Government Blvd. in West Mobile, have been leased by Mike Reid of Merrill P Thomas Co. Inc., who represented the landlord, Valerie Herring, and both tenants in the transactions. Suite A was leased to Party & Play for Kids and will be a learning center and private party room for children. Suite B was leased to Mortgage Team 1, Inc., a family-owned and -operated mortgage broker specializing in home financing.

Local investors paid \$730,000 in November for the 9,000-square-foot flex space found at 1248 Montlimar Drive in West Mobile. Chris Harle of White-Spunner Realty represented the buyers, and Joey Betbeze of Betbeze Realty worked for the sellers in the transaction. The new owners plan to lease the space, which includes office, showroom and warehouse areas.

Last month Mobile-based New Horizons Credit Union held a grand opening for its Cottage Hill Branch located at 9154 Cottage Hill Road in Mobile. The recently constructed 2,000-square-foot facility features modern banking technology with three drive-up lanes, a deposit-capable ATM and a touch screen information area.

Stirling Properties' Mobile office has announced that McCarron Services LLC. has purchased a 0.80 acre site located at 4178 Alden Dr. in West Mobile. Jill Meeks handled the transaction.

For questions or news tips regarding, the local real estate market, please email [ron.sivak@gmail.com](mailto:ron.sivak@gmail.com) as well as call or text to 251-219-8914.

SOUTHWEST MOBILE COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
CHRISTMAS EVENT SCHEDULE:



Christmas Tree Lighting

5:30 PM  
HOT COCOA & SNACKS



Vip Pancakes & Pajamas

6:30 PM – 8:30 PM, TICKETS \$25  
SMALL GIFT, PHOTO WITH SANTA, PANCAKES & CRAFTS



Breakfast with Santa

8:00 AM – 10:00 AM  
FREE FOR KIDS UNDER 10, \$5 FOR ADULTS



Christmas Parade

10:30 AM  
FLOATS, THROWS, & SANTA



5055 CAROL PLANTATION RD, MOBILE, AL 36619



## NEW PARTNERS



### **Burger Box**

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[juanpalmas10@gmail.com](mailto:juanpalmas10@gmail.com)

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### **Burton Property Group**

(251) 650-7245

[mallory@burtonprop.com](mailto:mallory@burtonprop.com)

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

41 West I-65 Service Rd N

Mobile, AL 36608

## PARTNERS ON THE MOVE

# Wilkins Miller

Wilkins Miller was recognized by the Bay Business News on November 17th : “WILKINS MILLER NAMED A BEST FIRM FOR YOUNG ACCOUNTANTS: Wilkins Miller, an accounting and advisory firm with offices in Mobile and Fairhope, has been named one of the “Best Firms for Young Accountants” by Accounting Today for the second time. Wilkins Miller came in fourth spot out of only 10 firms in the country to be recognized. Firms are selected from Accounting Today's “2023 Best Firms to Work For.” They must have a minimum of 15 employees younger than age 30. The response rate for that age range must be greater than or equal to 40%, and firms must have an 80% average positive response from them.”

We hope you will join us as we congratulate one of our newest partners on their recent success.

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Mobile County Commission  
Mobile County Sheriff's Department  
Payroll Vault

### Silver

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Treasured Moments Lifestyle Photography

### Bronze

Accelerated Accounting  
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Brown and Root  
Corsentino Chiropractic  
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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

# STAR STUDENT PROGRAM



The SouthWest Mobile County Chamber of Commerce would like to thank its 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, November 1st:

- Sheldon Ethredge from Bright Academy sponsored by Burton Properties
- Cottage Hill Christian Academy sponsored by Pilot Catastrophe (No November Student)
- Hollinger's Island Elementary sponsored by Evonik (No November Student)

- Braedyn Reichert from Meadowlake Elementary sponsored by Brian Lancaster State Farm Insurance
- Zoey Floyd from Nan Gray Davis Elementary sponsored by Mobile Paint
- Sophia Ham from Pearl Haskew Elementary sponsored by Roberts Brothers - The Sessions Team (Elaine Sessions)
- Jayden Whatley from W.C. Griggs Elementary sponsored by Alabama Power

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# PANCAKE BREAKFAST

The SouthWest Mobile County Chamber of Commerce is “Baking Spirits Bright” this holiday season. One of the Chamber’s most beloved events is back and will take place December 2nd from 8:00 am to 10:00 am at the Tillman’s Corner Community Center. This year’s “Pancake Breakfast with Santa” will offer a FREE pancake breakfast to children ages ten and under as well as the opportunity to take a picture with Santa. Older children and parents will be able to purchase breakfast for \$5.00 per person. Following this event, we would like to invite attendees to stay and watch the Chamber’s Annual Christmas Parade. The Parade will begin at 10:30 am and make its way through Tillman’s Corner. If you have any questions or would like more information, please call (251) 666-2846.



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SOUTHWEST MOBILE COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**Pancake Breakfast with Santa**

**DECEMBER 2ND**

**8:00 AM – 10:00 AM**

CHILDREN 10 & UNDER EAT FREE, PARENTS & OLDER CHILDREN CAN PURCHASE BREAKFAST FOR \$5 PER PERSON.

5055 CHOCOLATE PLANTATION RD  
MOBILE, AL 36689  
(251) 666-2846  
INFO@SWMCCCHAMBER.COM




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# OFFICER OF THE MONTH



Photographed By: *TREASURED Moments*

Thank you to Officer Joshua Weaver for his commitment to our community!

## Touching Hearts Senior Care

'Touching seniors hearts'

**Gina Germany**  
Co-Owner, CEO



3263 Demotropolis Rd., Ste. 10  
Mobile, AL 36693  
Office: (251) 445-4204  
Fax: (251) 445-4205  
gina@touchingheartsseniorcare.com  
www.touchingheartsseniorcare.com



## Chamber and Community Center Staff

### Executive Director

Tina Poiroux, AACE  
tpoiroux@swmcchamber.com

### Administrative Assistant

Hope Driskell  
hdriskell@swmcchamber.com

### Rental Specialist

Jillian Baxter  
jbaxter@swmcchamber.com

### Event Specialists

Calvin Dickerson & Gary Turk

**CONTACT US at 251-666-2488 or the Chamber at 251-666-2846**  
**www.swmcchamber.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](mailto:INFO@SWMCCHAMBER.COM)