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What's Your
Favorite
Restaurant?

**Kemira
Invests in
Mobile**

**Innovation
PortAL
Breaks Ground**





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From the Publisher - Bill Sisson

Infrastructure Matters

It's no secret that America's infrastructure is crumbling. Despite being the richest country in the world, the United States ranks 11th for infrastructure competitiveness, according to the World Economic Forum. The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) prepares state-level report cards on the condition of infrastructure, such as roads, bridges, ports, water, wastewater and public transit.

America's cumulative GPA stands at a dismal D+, and grades by state range from A to F. Alabama comes in at a C-. It would take billions of dollars to upgrade our failing systems, but I'm convinced it is going to be absolutely necessary for the U.S. and Alabama to continue to grow economically – and to ensure shared growth and prosperity for ourselves and future generations.

But ever-growing demands on that infrastructure will require the Mobile Area Chamber to remain out front in our efforts to advocate for increased funding for deep water access at the port, the I-10 bridge project, road widening projects around the city, the expansion of our airports and continued water and wastewater improvements to our aging systems.

From an economic development standpoint, a weak infrastructure is a community's most significant barrier to



growth. With our region's excellent transportation framework, this is an area where Mobile can, and does, compete handily.

This will be important work to ensure we remain on the short list for site selectors, and to make sure we protect our quality of life for all our citizens.

Alabama's and Mobile's ability to realize our competitive potential depends on making smart infrastructure choices in the critical upcoming years. We must respond to economic, demographic and fiscal changes so we can help our people and businesses continue to thrive and prosper.



ON THE COVER

We asked the Mobile Area Chamber team about their favorite downtown dining spots, and Von's Bistro was on the list. Pictured is co-owner Von Larson, who blends a variety of cuisines with family recipes. Read about others on pgs.17-21. *Photo by Jeff Tesney.*

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The team at Kemira is proud of the investment being made in its Mobile facility. Currently the company employs 60 and will increase that number by 32 percent.

Kemira Makes Significant Investment in Mobile Facility

Kemira, a leading global polymer producer serving the pulp and paper, oil and gas, and water treatment industries, plans to invest \$70.8 million in its Mobile facility. The company uses chemistry to add optimal quality, functionality and strength to paper and board products, ensure the safety and hygiene of water and food packaging and maximize yield from energy resources.

The project will create an additional 20 jobs, growing Kemira's workforce by 32 percent, to handle new process operations, increased logistics and support functions at the site.

Richard Ryder, Kemira's Mobile plant manager, said

construction will begin this year on the project, which will be operational in 2021. "We are expanding on our current footprint and will significantly increase production to meet our customers' demand in the oil and gas industry," he said.

"There has been significant growth in the area's manufacturing and chemical sectors, whose companies historically provide high-paying jobs for our community. I look forward to seeing what the future holds for Kemira as they continue to excel in Mobile," said **Shelby Glover**, the Mobile Area Chamber's senior project manager of economic development.

"This expansion by Kemira is about more than just jobs – it's about a global company reinvesting in our city and renewing a relationship that dates back more than 80 years. When existing businesses are thriving in combination with new jobs and investment, that's a winning formula," said City of Mobile Mayor **Sandy Stimpson**.

"We are very excited about Kemira's decision to expand operations in Mobile County to meet customer demand. Their additional \$70 million capital investment and 20 jobs further demonstrate Mobile's growing attraction for foreign direct investment," said Mobile

County Commission President **Connie Hudson**.

The existing site first opened in 1938, initially focused on the area's lumber and pulp and paper businesses. Mobile is one of three Kemira facilities in the United States, with the others in Columbus, Ga., and Aberdeen, Miss. Kemira's parent company, Kemira Oyj, is based in Helsinki, Finland, with its American headquarters in Atlanta. 

You'll see this symbol  with stories featuring Chamber initiatives.



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Hayley Van Antwerp, Innovation PortAL's executive director, has worked for this groundbreaking for several years and couldn't hold her excitement.

Mobile's Entrepreneurial Center Begins Renovation & New Construction on Permanent Facility

Innovation PortAL reached another major milestone in its quest to retain, support and accelerate the central Gulf Coast's highest-performing startups. Community, business and education leaders celebrated the organization's groundbreaking in February.

"Innovation PortAL is modern day economic development," said **Frank Lott** with Heritage Homes, who serves as both PortAL board chair and the Chamber Foundation chair, during his opening comments. "When this facility is complete – there will be very few, if any, like it in the Southeast."

Signaling the start of a modern day meets historic transformation at 358 St. Louis St., the 30,000-square-foot facility will be home to Class A



Instead of traditional shovels, Innovation PortAL officials celebrated the start of their renovation and new construction project with sledge hammers and hardhats.



This group represents the initial group of community leaders who rallied around the creation of Innovation PortAL. Pictured left to right are: **Bill Sisson**, Mobile Area Chamber; **Frank Lott**, Heritage Homes; **Hayley Van Antwerp**, Innovation PortAL; **Merceria Ludgood**, Mobile County Commission; **Lynn Chronister**, University of South Alabama; **Bestor Ward**, Ward Properties; and **George Talbot**, City of Mobile.

office space, collaborative workspaces and a classroom. Located in the heart of Mobile's burgeoning technology corridor, other amenities will include event spaces, conference rooms, open areas and two courtyards.

Expected to open in spring 2020, Rogers & Willard is serving as the lead contractor. The construction of PortAL's state-of-the-art innovation center is partially funded by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration and is subject to associated federal laws and regulations.

Most important, said **Hayley Van Antwerp**, PortAL's executive director, "The space will give a permanent home to the organization's

entrepreneurial-focused individual, group and community programs. I am thrilled to see Innovation PortAL coming to life, and am confident the opportunity before us can move the needle for our regional economy."

During the groundbreaking, Van Antwerp also shared several recent developments, starting with the news PortAL was granted 501(c)(3) status and was launching the PortAL Fund, a campaign to raise early-stage funding for high-growth startups.

"Innovation PortAL is the embodiment of our region's burgeoning startup community. And the most exciting thing is its role as the hub of our entrepreneurial ecosystem, said **Bill Sisson**,

Chamber president and CEO. "Without question, Innovation PortAL will help ensure Mobile's economic place in the 21st century."

In addition, the crowd heard from two program clients – **Trey Byrum**, founder and CEO of Global Inspections, the parent company of Scottsman Tools and Alabama Pipe Welders Academy, and **Andrea Moore**, president and chief operating officer of M2 Solutions, a company working with owners and investors of new or existing structures to reduce long-term maintenance costs.

Both entrepreneurs credited the program for the personal assistance, strategic guidance and introductions to mentors and potential investors. 

Mobile County Acquires Waterfront Property on Escatawpa River

The Mobile County Commission earlier this year approved the purchase of the Escatawpa Hollow, a 45-acre campground located on the Alabama/Mississippi state line off Moffett Road, on the south side of U.S. 98. County officials say future plans include improving the campground to add more campsites, walking trails, river access and other features.

“This is a great project for Mobile County,” said Commission President **Connie Hudson**. “I’m very happy about this opportunity to expand recreational and water access to all of our citizens.”

The purchase will be funded through Mobile County’s Gulf

of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA) public access acquisition project. The money is generated from federal oil and gas leases in Alabama’s offshore waters. GOMESA funds are authorized for coastal protection, conservation, restoration and hurricane protection, as well as mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife or natural resources.

The purchase of the park will enhance the county’s planned countywide Blueway paddling trail, with the Escatawpa segment allowing canoe and kayak enthusiasts to paddle from northwest Mobile County to Moss Point, Miss. The Blueway Trail is being funded by RESTORE Act



money generated from the Deepwater Horizon oil disaster. The new county campground and park will give outdoor

enthusiasts another camping venue in addition to Chickasabogue Park, located in Chickasaw.



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Thames Batré Named One of Alabama's Small Businesses of the Year

Local insurance agency Thames Batré was presented an Alabama Small Business of the Year Bronze Award from the Chamber of Commerce Association of Alabama (CCAA) and the Business Council of Alabama (BCA) during the association's annual meeting. The firm was recognized in the 51-100 employee category.

Two other Mobile Area Chamber members were nominated as finalists in the 1-10 employee category: local marketing firm BlueFish and payroll preparation company Payroll Vault.



Pictured above from left to right are: Bill Sisson and Jena Berson, Mobile Area Chamber; Bo Mattei, Thames Batré; Robbie Baker, Hancock Whitney; Heather Brothers New, Gadsden Etowah Chamber; and Jeremy Arthur, Chamber of Commerce Association of Alabama.

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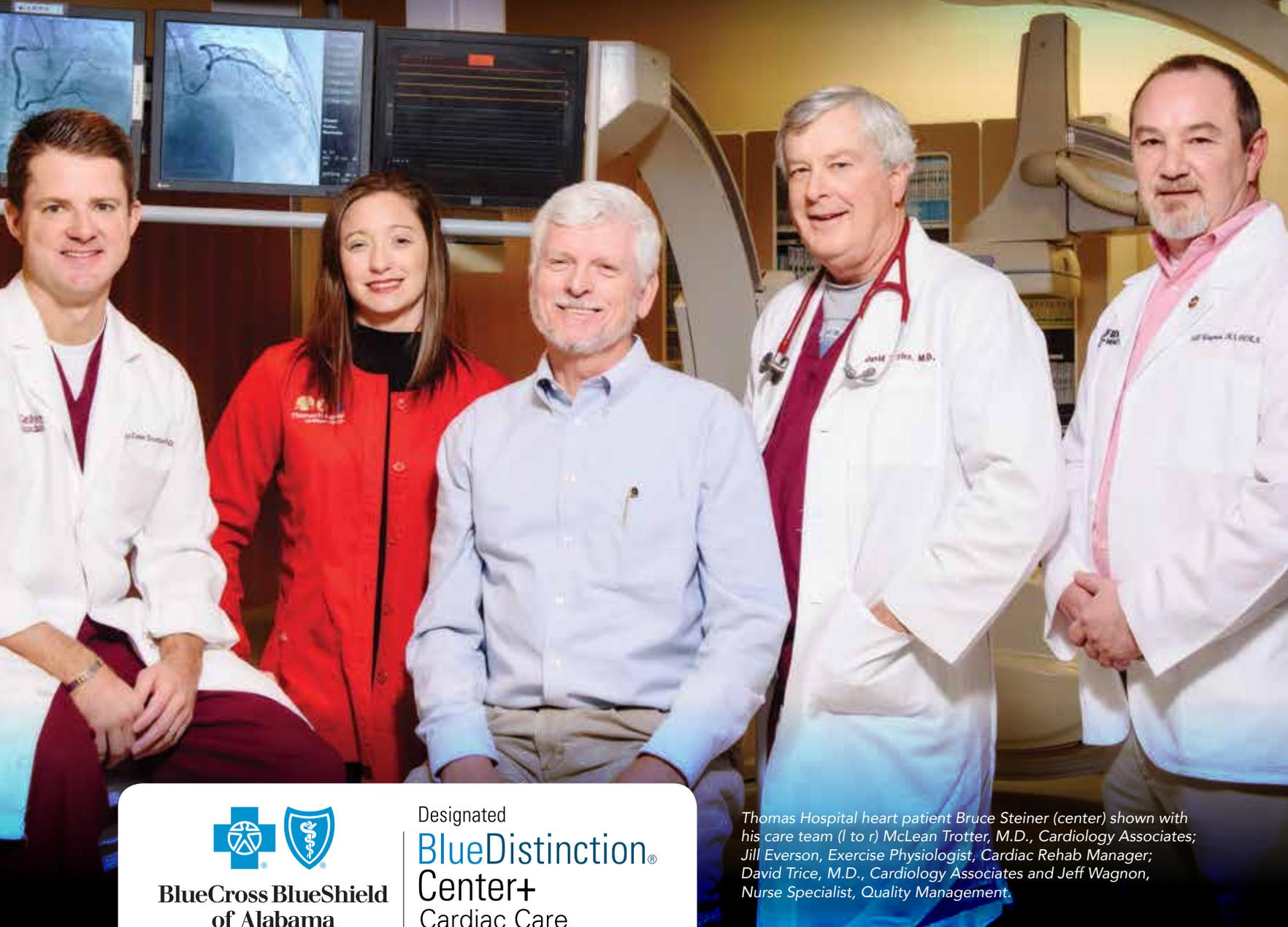
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Chamber Adds Foreign Investment Focus to Industry Recruiting

The Mobile Area Chamber has a lot of experience in recruiting in the global market. Since 1997, the organization has operated an award-winning international trade program with efforts focusing on trade education and existing industry exports.

The Chamber is now reinvesting in this well-established and successful trade program, making international engagement a priority to attract foreign investment.

Along with a third-party consultant, a new strategy was completed with action steps to enhance Mobile's foreign investment readiness and



Stimpson



Shepard

recommended partnerships. To coincide with these plans, the Chamber is making several staffing changes, including naming **Christina Stimpson** as director of international business. To support and round out the strategy, **Kayley Shepard** moved into the role of international trade manager.

Currently, Mobile is home to more than 50 foreign-owned

companies with more than 13,000 employees. Since 1960, 19 countries representing 13 industry sectors have invested here, with more than half of those since 2000.

The Chamber has been a leader in the international sector across the state and region, and adding this attraction strategy will put Mobile in a league of its own, said Stimpson.

"This transformational project will result in new investment here, new families moving here and an ever-increasing awareness of Mobile as a top venue for global commerce," she said. ☺☺

Foreign Investment in Mobile

- 19 countries with local investment
- \$1.99 billion of manufactured goods exported from Mobile
- 13,500 local jobs from foreign investment



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Green Magic Landscape LLC: Creating Curb Appeal

The husband and wife team of Carita and Larry Koen Jr., pictured at one of their many projects, where Green Magic Landscape LLC worked on the entrance for this newly developed community in Mobile.

Green Magic Landscape LLC has carved out an interesting niche in the local lawn care and landscaping industry.

Aside from the usual mowing and hedge-trimming in the yards of homes and businesses in Mobile and Baldwin County, the three-year-old company specializes in maintenance and beautification of foreclosed or abandoned properties.

In a city that has taken great pains in its recent efforts to reduce the number of eyesores in its streets and neighborhoods, that's a niche that is in demand.

"Green Magic is committed to keeping the communities of our city beautiful," said owner **Larry Koen Jr.** "We take pride

in providing area beautification by creating curb appeal and lush outdoor spaces. It is our mission to eliminate the number of eyesores in the community and create a clean, green image."

Green Magic's work in this area helped the company land a contract with the City of Mobile's weed abatement project. It's helped those abandoned or foreclosed properties hold their value, reduced the risk of vandalism and has drawn praise from some neighbors of the neglected properties.

"We take pride that our efforts improve our neighborhoods and communities," Koen said. "It also brings joy to the neighbors of

the properties that we improve."

Green Magic Landscape is the Mobile Area Chamber's Small Business of the Month.

A Murphy High graduate, Koen developed a passion for landscaping at an early age under the tutelage of his grandfather. After working for several landscaping companies and expanding his knowledge of the industry, he and his wife Carita struck out on their own and founded Green Magic in 2016.

The company client list also includes a wide range of residential and commercial clients, particularly managed properties and those needing debris removal.

Koen hopes to expand the company to other regions along the Gulf Coast and in north Alabama. He's also looking for opportunities to mentor young people who are looking to pursue lawn and landscape maintenance as a career – possibly through local community colleges.

Want to be featured here? Go to mobilechamber.com to submit an application, or contact Danette Richards at 251-431-8652 or drichards@mobilechamber.com. There is no cost/fee associated with the Small Business of the Month program.

How Process Cadence Can Help Your Business



Brandon Gibson

By Brandon Gibson

In today's increasingly challenging and fast-paced workplace, teams must work interdependently to accomplish organizational goals. Just as successful athletic teams depend on players to "buy in" to their role in achieving a win for the team, business owners can apply these disciplines to their teams in the workplace to foster innovation and achieve a competitive edge.

Pride of purpose is achieved when the "process cadence" is applied to business.

There are five key elements that can shape your team's engagement and success as outlined below:

Discipline

"Never suffer from the pain of regret, only suffer the pain of discipline."

The most successful teams practice traits that require individuals to be consistent in doing their jobs. You must instill belief into each individual that they are needed and included in the mission of the team. Implement a mentality of trust, fairness and efficiency, to provide consistent wins throughout the organization.

Commitment

"In essence, you make your choices, and then your choices make you."

Having a no-excuse policy generates a culture that breeds team members who hold themselves and others accountable. Actively developing habits and coaching to improve those habits are critical to successful teamwork.

Effort

"Hard work beats talent when talent doesn't work hard."

Teams that operate at a high standard consist of individuals who are conscientious about what needs to be done. Consistent performance from team members sets the foundation for incoming members to match the standard of excellence, creating a winning culture.

Toughness

"Stand guard at the door of your mind."

Being tough doesn't always have to do with competition in sports. You must stay mentally sharp and focused to complete your job and contribute to team goals.

Pride

What is your purpose? What is your vision? Is it clear and precise?

Knowing the answers to these questions will demonstrate buy-in to your team, organizational and individual goals. But most importantly, an attitude of gratitude will bring profound success. Make a habit of telling your teammates that you are proud of them and appreciate them. Those few words will generate continuous positive relationships thriving with energy into your organization.

Research shows that effective work gets done through groups and teams that make decisions and work interdependently by communicating and coordinating with people across boundaries of all kinds including talent, expertise, status and distance.

Brandon Gibson will share the methodology of applying process cadence to teams in business to achieve winning results at "The Process for Team Engagement Workshop" on Thursday, April 11, in Mobile. Gibson, formerly from Mobile, was an athlete on Alabama's 2009 and 2011 National Championship football teams.

Fast Facts

What: The Process for Team Engagement Workshop

When: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Where: Dauphin's, RSA Trustmark Building, 107 St. Francis St. #3400

Speaker: Brandon Gibson

Topic: "The Process for Team Engagement"

Cost: Mobile Area Chamber members - \$179.

If three or more employees attend, the company will receive a 20 percent discount.

Contact: Mary Patterson at 205-348-7049 or 205-348-3000

For additional information or to register, visit www.theprocess.ua.edu

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**MOBILE AREA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

In February, the Mobile Area Chamber hosted its annual meeting at the Mobile Convention Center. More than 1,000 members joined in the evening presented by Trustmark. Highlights included Daniel Dennis with Roberts Brothers Real Estate being introduced as 2019 board chair, an after-party featuring four catering stations and a concert by Jonsey's Crowned Jewelz Band. The theme Join Our Journey introduced attendees to some new Chamber initiatives in 2019. Pictured on these two pages are some of the sights from this year's event.

To learn how your company can sponsor this fun-filled event, contact Carolyn Golson at cgolson@mobilechamber.com or 251-431-8622. *Photos by Jeff Tesney.*





Leavell Investment Management

Leavell Investment Management Inc. is located on St. Joseph St. in downtown Mobile. Pictured above are (from left to right) Dalton Nix, John Wade Therrell, Richard Stimpson, Janet Hayes, Leigh Morton, Holly Alves, Mary Shannon Hope, Andrew Grinstead and Mike Hofto.

Company officials: Andrew Grinstead, president; Richard Stimpson, chairman; Janet Hayes, chief operating officer; Mike Hofto, chief financial officer; and Tim Healey, chief investment officer

Years in business: 40

Brief company description: Leavell Investment Management Inc. is a Mobile-based, independent investment advisor registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Serving as a fee-only advisor, and held to a fiduciary standard, Leavell provides investment solutions to individuals, retirement plans, corporations and foundations. Today, Leavell employs 18 investment professionals, has an additional office in Birmingham

and is one of the larger independent investment counseling firms in the Southeast.

Why are you located in Mobile?

“The firm’s founder, Tom Leavell, set up shop in Mobile 40 years ago,” said Grinstead. “He developed a reputation as a comprehensive investment advisor who would sit on the same side of the table with clients. Over the years, these deep-rooted client relationships have grown beyond state lines, but our allegiance to Mobile has fueled investment in our downtown building and the hiring of local talent.”

Why do you support the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce’s Partners for Growth initiative? “We think

that a rising tide lifts all boats, meaning the benefits of a prospering local economy will be enjoyed by all,” said Grinstead. “As a part of the Partners for Growth initiative, we share the vision with our Chamber that creating more jobs, and better jobs, in our local community will allow more Mobile residents to further their careers and economically prosper, while preserving and enhancing a level of pride that we have for our city.”

What do you see as Mobile’s greatest potential?

“The natural resources, people, history and tradition of Mobile make it a great place to work, live and raise a family,” said Grinstead. “These factors are contributing to the magnitude

of recent investment and expansion efforts made by local and outside investors. We share the excitement surrounding Mobile’s momentum and are excited about the path we are on.”

Length of continuous Chamber membership: Since 1968



Partners for Growth (PFG) is the Mobile Area Chamber’s long-term economic and community development program. For more information, contact **Natalie Franklin** the Chamber’s investor relations manager, at 251-431-8636 or nfranklin@mobilechamber.com.

What's Your Favorite Restaurant?



Photo by Jeff Tesney

The Downtown Mobile Alliance recently published a map showcasing the many restaurants in downtown Mobile. It points out the location of more than 52 restaurants within the downtown area with eateries offering Italian, Mexican, barbecue, Americana and everything in between. There are plenty of options to choose from on any given day.

The Mobile Area Chamber is located in downtown Mobile, in the heart of all these restaurants. Chamber staff dish on their favorite things to eat at their favorite restaurants all within walking distance (with a couple of favorites that you will need to drive to.) We encourage you to support our thriving, hard-working member restaurants. Meet them on the following pages.



Photo by Jeff Tesney

Von's Bistro

69 St. Michael St., Mobile

I love Von's Bistro - Crispy Pork Spring Rolls (appetizer) and Shrimp Fried Rice

Carolyn Golson
Vice President, Membership



Wintzell's Oyster House

107 St. Frances St., Ste. 3400, Mobile

Wintzell's Oyster House's fried fish and shrimp basket entrées and their wonderful Southern hospitality.

Odetta Stutts
Director of First Impressions



The Ruby Slipper

2100 N. Royal St., Mobile

Ruby Slipper for brunch – especially the stuffed french toast.

Kayla Morgan
Research and Marketing Manager
Economic Development



Dauphin's

107 St. Frances St., Ste. 3400, Mobile

Dinner at Dauphin's chef's table – fish of the day.

The view is unbelievable.

Bob Chappelle
Chief Operating Officer



NoJa

6 N. Jackson St., Mobile

NOJA is always great and a favorite spot when economic development prospects are in town.

Colton Cureton
Project Manager
Economic Development



Mediterranean Sandwich Co.

274 Dauphin St., Mobile

Mediterranean Sandwich Shop is my favorite, because the food is always good no matter what you order. The owners are awesome and are a great small business story.

Marion Randall
Event Manager
Communications & Marketing



Pollman's Bake Shop
107 St. Francis St., Mobile



The Admiral Hotel, Mobile
Curio Collection by Hilton
251 Government St., Mobile

Pollman's Bake Shop – I love their pimento cheese sandwich and all of their desserts of course. The cookies are always so delicious.

Jena Berson
Director of Business Retention and Expansion
Economic Development

The Admiral Hotel's breakfast is always delicious.

Carolyn Wilson
Administrative Assistant
Communications & Marketing



Panini Pete's
102 Dauphin St., Mobile

The beignets at Panini Pete's – drizzled with lemon.

Shelly Mattingly
Executive Assistant to the
President and CEO



The Noble South

203 Dauphin St., Mobile

The Noble South's vegetable plate.

Shelby Glover,
Senior Project Manager
Economic Development

219

219 Conti St., Mobile

219 – Thai chicken wrap and tomato basil soup

Danette Richards
Director
Small Business Development



Spot of Tea

310 Dauphin St., Mobile

Eggs Benedict and strawberry iced tea are the best.

Brenda Rembert
Administrative Assistant
Small Business Development

*The Battle House
Renaissance Mobile*

26 N. Royal St., Mobile

**Crab cakes from The Trellis Room
are light and so fresh, and the sauce is divine.**

Ashley Horn
Director Digital Media & Design
Marketing & Communications



*Renaissance Mobile
Riverview Plaza Hotel*

64 S. Water St., Mobile

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That's exactly what you'll find at the
Riverview's Harbor Room.**

Susan Rak-Blanchard
Director
Marketing & Communications

Support our local members when you are dining in downtown Mobile (or beyond).

219
219 Conti St.

Burger King
659 Government St.

Dauphin's
107 St. Francis St.

Don's Café & Catering
273 N. Broad St.

GulfQuest
155 S. Water St.

McDonald's
658 Government St.

**Mediterranean
Sandwich Co.**
274 Dauphin St.

NoJa
6 N. Jackson St.

Panini Pete's LoDa
102 Dauphin St.

Perdido Queen Cruises
1 S. Water St., Berth B

Pollman's Bake Shop
107 St. Francis St.

**Renaissance Mobile
Riverview Plaza Hotel**
64 S. Water St.

The Admiral Hotel Mobile
251 Government St.

**The Battle House
Renaissance Mobile**
26 N. Royal St.

The Noble South
203 Dauphin St.

The Ruby Slipper Café
100 N. Royal St.

Spot of Tea
310 Dauphin St.

Von's Bistro
69 St. Michael St.

Wet Willie's
200 Dauphin St.

Wintzell's Oyster House
605 Dauphin St.

Duncan Gillis



Company: BBB Industries LLC

Title: CEO

Hometown: Fairhope

Education: Gillis earned bachelor's and master's degrees in business administration from Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y.

First job: Delivering newspapers (two routes) and washing dishes at a restaurant.

Previous experience: Gillis has international experience in a number of sectors, most recently serving as CEO of John Crane, a leading supplier of mechanical seals and related components for process industries. He was also CEO of Algeco Scotsman, a privately held global service company specializing in modular space and secure storage. Gillis held senior positions at United Technologies, Procter & Gamble and McKinsey & Co. He also served as a U.S. Army infantry officer (Airborne ranger).

Accomplishments: "I took a gap year in 2016 to become a certified private pilot with an instrument rating, and I'm the proud father of two wonderful sons and a great daughter-in-law," he said.

Secret to success: "I married a great woman, and I'm fortunate to have constantly worked with people who are very good at their jobs and make me better."

Brief company description: Headquartered in Daphne, BBB Industries LLC remanufactures alternators and starters for the automotive, medium- and heavy-duty trucks, industrial, agriculture, small engine and other markets. The company's undercar division remanufactures power steering products for automotive industry original equipment manufacturers and aftermarkets.



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Chamber Hosts Military Affairs Lunch

The Mobile Area Chamber will host its 32nd annual Military Appreciation Luncheon on Wednesday, April 3, from noon to 1:30 p.m. at USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park.

During the event, the Chamber will honor **Capt. Hal Pierce** with the **Maj. Gen Gary Cooper** Outstanding Service Award. Named in honor of Cooper, a native Mobilian, a former member of the Alabama State Legislature and a two-star general in the U.S. Marine Corps, the award embodies his continued dedication and service not only to the nation, but to the state and Mobile area.

Pierce served in the U.S. Navy and Naval Reserve for 31 years in the Far East and all

over the United States. He held four commands and was an instructor at the Naval War College, the Naval Academy, the Pentagon and Naval Education and Training Center in Pensacola. In his 45 years in Mobile, he has served as Navy port coordinator and brought more than 130 Navy ships on visits to Mobile. He continues to serve veterans, maritime and military communities of Alabama.

In addition to the outstanding service award, ROTC and JROTC cadets from area schools will be honored, and awards will be presented to members of the community who have demonstrated exceptional service to men and women in uniform.



Cox

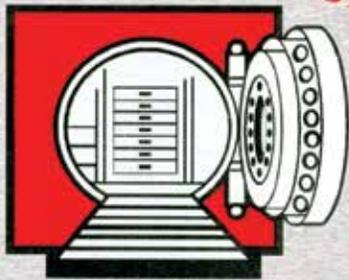
The keynote speaker for the event is **Nathan Cox**, CEO of 68 Ventures, a holding company in Mobile engaged in development and homebuilding, titles, mortgages and other strategic ventures. Before joining 68 Ventures, Cox

was an infantry officer in the U.S. Marine Corps, serving with the 3rd Battalion, 6th Marines in Iraq.

Tickets are \$30 each and can be purchased by contacting **Mallory Tyson** at 251-431-8621 or by registering securely online at events.mobilechamber.com.

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Fast Facts

What: Military Appreciation Luncheon

When: Wednesday, April 3

Time: Noon to 1:30 p.m.

Where: Battleship Memorial Park, Aircraft Pavilion

Speaker: Nathan Cox, 68 Ventures CEO and USMC Veteran

Cost: \$30 per ticket, tables of eight available for \$240

Tickets: Available online at events.mobilechamber.com

Chamber Taking Active Role in Census 2020

The Chamber’s community and governmental affairs team is taking an active role in helping get Alabama counted in the 2020 census. Gov. Kay Ivey authorized and tasked the Alabama Counts 2020 Census committee to develop a comprehensive strategic plan to implement across the state. The Chamber is collaborating with partner agencies and will lead efforts locally to raise awareness of the census.

Air Service Task Force Reorganized

With new developments in commercial air service and a Downtown Mobile Airport project ongoing, the Chamber’s air service task force is meeting monthly. The group is charged with being a proactive voice for existing and expanded air service in Mobile and Baldwin counties. During the kickoff meeting, Mobile Airport

Authority (MAA) President and CEO Chris Curry updated the group on the timeline for the new downtown terminal and presented an update on MAA’s master plan.

New Investment in 1702

The Chamber’s entrepreneurial leadership program, 1702, is being revived and overhauled under the leadership of Henry O’Connor with Jones Walker LLP as chair. A new board was formed, and a strategic plan for moving the program forward is underway. Currently, the next class of entrepreneurs is being recruited, and formal programming will begin in the near future.

National and International Outreach

Chamber President and CEO Bill Sisson continues to serve on the board of directors for the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE) and serves on the board’s

finance committee. He also continues to be on the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Committee of 100 and in February was asked to participate in a 15-person mission to Tel Aviv, Israel, sponsored by the U.S. Chamber and supported by the Israeli government.

Recent Media Relations Outreach

The Chamber’s communications and marketing team works with local, national and international media on a regular basis. Recently the team assisted reporters on topics including the Airbus A220 line and groundbreaking, Forum Alabama with Sen. Richard Shelby, State of the Economy, economic development incentives and recent project announcements, foreign direct investment, business headlines in 2018 and the economic impact of Mardi Gras.

Chamber Names New Ambassador

Tim Wills with Boys & Girls Clubs of South Alabama was named a Chamber ambassador. Ambassadors are a group of volunteer members who assist the Chamber with a variety of projects, including event registration, member visits and ribbon cuttings. To learn more about this group, contact Dawn Rencher at 251-431-8649 or drencher@mobilechamber.com.

New Board of Advisors Named

The Chamber announced several new Board of Advisors members, bringing the number to 250. The newest members are Gulf Coast Auto Group, Marine Exhaust Systems of Alabama and Top Talent Recruiter. To learn more about this group of influential members, contact Shelly Mattingly at 251-431-8655 or smattingly@mobilechamber.com.

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Chamber staff and ambassadors helped cut ribbons and celebrate grand openings at BenchMark Physical Therapy, Comcast, Cost Plus World Market, Honest Air, SA Recycling, The Simple Greek, Tyndall Federal Credit Union and Walmart Online Grocery and Delivery Service. For more information, contact Dawn Rencher at 251-431-8649 or drencher@mobilechamber.com.

Executive Roundtable Meeting

The Chamber's Executive Roundtable, a forum for small business owners and managers, meets monthly. Recent speakers have included Chamber President and CEO Bill Sisson, who spoke on economic development efforts, and Micah McGuire, communications

director and health coach with Physicians Health Solutions, who discussed "Working in the Age of Overwhelm."

Chamber Hosts Group from United Kingdom

The Chamber's international trade division recently hosted the Atlanta-based Consul General of the United Kingdom on a visit to Mobile. The consul general had meetings and tours with Airbus, MAAS Aviation, Alabama State Port Authority and local government officials. Among the topics discussed were the impact of foreign investment in our community and the state of Mobile's local economy.

Growth Alliance Task Force Meets

The Chamber's Growth Alliance Task Force, a committee to support minority-owned businesses, holds

monthly meetings. Recent presenters included Archnique Kidd, supplier diversity manager with the City of Mobile, who spoke on the residential sidewalk repair program for small concrete contractors; and Judy Sigler, reference manager with the Ben May Main Library, who highlighted the library's new business connection center and careers program.

The task force subcommittees (business development, finance and outreach) presented their goals and action plans for the year.

ED Team Visits Seattle for Aerospace

Two members of the Chamber's economic development team attended and sponsored the Seattle European-American Air Forum in January. The day-long seminar focused on the

international aerospace industry and addressed challenges facing the aviation supply chain and the Airbus-Boeing duopoly. Panel and speaker topics included the global supply chain, the transportation revolution and reshaping international trade, among other topics.



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Mark D. Fillers leads the south Alabama market for Renasant Bank, a 113-year-old financial services institution with more than 170 locations in Mississippi, Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia and Florida. Prior to joining Renasant Bank, he served the south Alabama market in commercial banking for more than 15 years. Fillers graduated from The University of Alabama with a bachelor's degree in small business management and entrepreneurship and completed a

master's degree in business administration through Auburn University's executive MBA program. He is past chairman of the board for United Way of Southwest Alabama and is in a leadership role for the University of South Alabama's Upward and Onward campaign. Fillers has served in other board capacities including with the Mobile Area Chamber and the Mobile Area Council Boy Scouts of America.



Cliff Lambert is the CEO and manager of the Gulf South Region for Corporate Environmental Risk Management. He has a bachelor's degree from the University of Cincinnati and a master's degree from George Washington University. He has served as a senior operations manager for Jacobs Engineering Group; vice president and board member for Volkert Inc.; and president and CEO of the Lambert Co. Lambert is a graduate of the Atlanta Regional Leadership Institute and is a

member of the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce Transportation Policy Committee.

For more information about the Chamber's board of advisors, contact Shelly Mattingly at 251-431-8655 or smattingly@mobilechamber.com.

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Ransom Ministries

Ransom Ministries was founded in 2010 by Matt and Tara Armbruster, who started the first Ransom Café. Ransom ReProgram is a job readiness and life skills training course and Ransom Recycle is an electronics recycling program. Both are offered as opportunities for participants to earn a paycheck while receiving skills training. For more information, visit ransomministries.com.

AMBASSADOR of the month



Photo by Jeff Tesney

Lisa Kavanagh is the operations manager for the Junior League of Mobile. She joined the Chamber's ambassador program in 2011 and continues making goodwill visits to fellow members and welcoming new businesses to Mobile. Kavanagh is the Chamber's Ambassador of the Month.

Ambassadors are volunteers who support the Mobile Area Chamber by visiting members, assisting with events and ribbon-cuttings. To learn more, contact Dawn Rencher at 251-431-8649 or drencher@mobilechamber.com.

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APRIL 2019

For information on Chamber events, visit events.mobilechamber.com.

2 MEMBERSHIP 101

Come meet other members and Chamber staff to learn about the many ways to benefit from your membership.

When: 8 to 9 a.m.

Where: Mobile Area Chamber, 451 Government St.

Contact: Elizabeth Nelson at 251-431-8617 or enelson@mobilechamber.com

No charge, but seating is limited. RSVP requested. Free parking.

3 MILITARY APPRECIATION DAY

This event includes awards presented by all branches of the military and recognition of distinguished JROTC and ROTC cadets. See story on pg. 24.

When: Noon to 1:30 p.m.

Where: USS ALABAMA Battleship Memorial Park, Aircraft Pavilion

Cost: \$30 per person or \$240 for table of eight

Contact: Mallory Tyson at 251-431-8621 or mtyson@mobilechamber.com

Seating is limited. Reservations required by March 22 and payment due at time of reservation.

Sponsors:



Venue:



Photography:



9-10 AIDT LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT TRAINING LSI

AIDT Leadership Development training programs introduce team leaders, supervisors and managers to effective leadership responsibilities, communication skills, teamwork and motivation techniques.

When: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days

When: Noon to 1:30 p.m.

Where: Mobile Area Chamber, 451 Government St.

Cost: \$50 per person for members/\$60 for nonmembers, includes course materials, lunch and snacks

Contact: Natalie Franklin at 251-431-8636 or nfranklin@mobilechamber.com

Seating is limited. Reservations are required and no cancellations after March 6. Class size is limited to 25.

16 EXECUTIVE ROUNDTABLE **Members Only*

A monthly forum exclusively for Chamber-member small business owners and managers.

When: 8 to 9 a.m.

Where: Mobile Area Chamber, 451 Government St.

Speaker: Brian Harold, managing director of APM Terminals Mobile

Topic: "Meeting the Port of Mobile's Full Potential"

Contact: Brenda Rembert at 251-431-8607 or brembert@mobilechamber.com

No charge, but RSVP requested. Free parking.

Sponsor:



25 BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

When: 5:30 to 7 p.m.

Where: Location coming soon

Cost: \$5 for members or \$10 for potential members

Contact: Dawn Rencher at 251-431-8649 or drencher@mobilechamber.com

Reservations are not needed.



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Who's New



Connally



Bridges

The **Alabama Kidney Foundation (AKF)** named **Becki Connally** director of corporate and community partnerships. She will lead all major gift efforts for the AKF in Alabama.

In other news, **Riley Bridges** was promoted to Mobile-area director and will oversee all local fundraising and educational endeavors in south Alabama.



Truland Homes hired **Jeff Wayne** as Gulf Coast east division president to continue Wayne expanding into the South Walton and Bay County markets of Florida. Wayne has almost two decades of experience in the homebuilding industry.

Wilkins Miller LLC accounting and advisory firm hired five team members: **Hayley Carlton, Patrick Fisher, Willa Lyle, Jerri Kissel** and **Blaine Baronet**. Carlton received a bachelor's degree of business administration with a concentration in marketing from the University of South Alabama. Fisher earned an integrated bachelor's degree of science and master's degree of business administration from the University of Mobile. Lyle and Kissel each bring more than 20 years of experience in accounting to the team. Baronet, who joined as an administrative student worker, is a help desk solutions provider.

Shonnda Smith was named director of parks and recreation for the City of Mobile. She is currently a member of the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) and serves

on the program committee for conference sessions and the NRPA Magazine editorial board.



Garner



Boyer

BBB Industries LLC announced two executive promotions: **Chris Garner** to executive vice president of sales and **John Boyer** to executive vice president of marketing and product management.



Thompson



Daffin



Carter



Tucker



Matheson



Reynolds

Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate - Main Street Properties Mobile office welcomed several new agents: **Chamyne Thompson, Mary Daffin, Kimberly Carter, Emily Tucker, Alexandra Matheson, Andre Reynolds** and **April Durden**.

Premier Medical Group promoted **Bettina McGahagin** to chief financial officer. She joined the practice in 1992 and was previously the accounting director.



McNair

Gov. Kay Ivey appointed **Stephen McNair**, owner and senior consultant of McNair Historic

Preservation Inc. in Mobile, to serve a four-year term on the Southern Rail Commission. The commission's goal is to promote the safe, reliable and efficient movement of people and goods to enhance economic development along rail corridors; provide transportation choices; and facilitate emergency evacuation routes.

The **SSI Group (SSI)** named **James Jay Colfer** as the new chief operating officer. Colfer brings more than 25 years of healthcare information technology experience. He graduated from St. Mary's College in Moraga, Calif., with a bachelor's degree in health services administration.



Derr



Rawden

Altaworx promoted **Forrest Derr** to executive vice president; **Jaime Rawden** to vice president of partner development and marketing; and **Lydia Walker** to vice president of operations.

The **University of South Alabama (USA)** named **Dr. Matthew Reichert** assistant vice president for research. Reichert will lead the research development, learning and communication unit of USA's Office of Research and Economic Development.

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Porter



Mans



Sansaricq



Burch

USA Health welcomed several physicians to the medical team:

Dr. Barry Porter was recently appointed director of operations for emergency medicine and radiology. Porter earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from Spring Hill College and master's degree in human performance management and a doctorate in systems twinning from the University of South Alabama. He also completed Lean Six Sigma green belt certification at Johns Hopkins

School of Medicine.

Gary Mans was named associate vice president for marketing and communications. He earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Florida in Gainesville, Fla., and a master's degree in public administration from The University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Dr. Jean Sansaricq, adjunct assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the University of South Alabama College of Medicine, is an obstetrician and gynecologist at USA University OB-GYN. He earned a medical degree from the University Mayor Royal Y Pointifice San Francisco Xavier in Sucre, Bolivia.

In addition, urologist **Dr. Kristie Burch** joined the USA Physicians Group clinic. Burch earned a medical degree from Louisiana State University School of Medicine in New Orleans. She is also a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons and is board-certified by the American Board of Urology.



Sugg

Dr. Rebecca Sugg was recently appointed associate professor of neurology at the University

of South Alabama College of Medicine and serves as a neurointerventional vascular neurologist with USA Physicians Group. Sugg earned a medical degree from the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Medicine. She is board-certified in neurology and vascular neurology by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology. She is also certified in neuroimaging by the United Council for Neurologic Specialties.



The **JLL Gulf Coast Office** added two retail brokerage team members. **Emily Miller** and **Lisa Elcan** will focus on retail tenant representation and agency leasing throughout the Gulf Coast.



Davis

Megan Davis joined **Candlewood Suites - Downtown Mobile** as sales director. Davis

has worked in the hotel industry for more than 25 years and is a certified meeting professional with the Events Industry Council. She graduated from the University of South Alabama with a bachelor's degree in hotel and hospitality management.

Business Endeavors

TAG/The Architects Group announced completion of the new Student Commons Building at **St. Paul's Episcopal School**. The two-story, 25,000-square-foot facility includes offices, classrooms, an innovation lab, kitchen and cafeteria facilities and counseling offices, and will serve as a hub of student activity on the St. Paul's campus. TAG served as the local architect.

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Harvey and Thomas Orthodontics will open a third location on Snow Road in the fall of 2019.

*

USA Health opened the first pediatrics complex care clinic (PCCC) in Alabama for children with medical complexity at the Strada Patient Care Center. **Dr. LaDonna Crews**, associate professor of pediatrics at the University of South Alabama College of Medicine and a general pediatrician with USA Physicians Group, led the establishment of the PCCC.

In other news, USA Health opened USA University OB-GYN, located at 524 Stanton Rd.

*

BBB Industries acquired equity interests of Remy North American Rotating Electric business.

Well Done

The **University of South Alabama** department of neurology, a leading provider of care for people living with

multiple sclerosis in the Mobile area, was officially recognized as a Partner in MS Care by the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. The program recognizes providers who have demonstrated knowledge and expertise in treating patients with MS.

*

Mobile County Board of Health elected officers for 2019: **Dr. Matthew Cepeda**, chairman; **Dr. Joseph Ewing Bornstein**, secretary; and returning members **Dr. C.M.A. "Max" Rogers IV**, **Dr. Barbara Mitchell**, **Dr. Nina Ford Johnson** and **Dr. William O. Richards FACS**. Mobile County Commission President **Connie Hudson** also is a member on the board.

*

The **University of South Alabama College of Medicine** was approved by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) to establish a new residency training program in emergency medicine. The

program received accreditation in January and will welcome the first class of residents in July. Emergency medicine is a three-year residency training program, and USA will have six residents per year for a total of 18 residents.

*

Somerby of Mobile is a 2019 award winner recognized by Top Rated Local for senior living communities in Alabama. Somerby of Mobile received dozens of reviews from five verified review sites, earning them a rating score of 93.96 and a 2019 Top Rated Local award for ranking among the top 10 senior living communities in Alabama.

Community News

Two area companies made donations to community projects. Steelmaker **SSAB** donated more than four tons of locally-produced steel plate to USS ALABAMA Battleship Memorial Park for use in the battleship's ongoing restoration. The 20 sheets of steel plate, each

measuring four feet by eight feet, will be used to restore three of the ship's upper decks.

SSAB previously donated steel in 2002 for the hull repair of USS ALABAMA and again in 2010 for superstructure repairs after Hurricane Katrina.

*

Quincy Compressor donated an air compressor to two local volunteer fire departments- the Perdido Volunteer Fire Department and the Loxley Volunteer Fire Department. Firefighters can use the compressors to inflate tires on fire trucks, complete general maintenance items and perform tasks such as sanding, painting and more.

Submission deadline for Member News is two months prior to publication. News releases should be one or two brief paragraphs. Photos must be professional headshots, labeled with the person's last name, and must be 300 dpi at full size and saved in an eps, tiff or jpg format. Send your information to news@mobilechamber.com.

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The Mobile Area Chamber was awarded a five-star rating by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the highest designation given. Of the 6,936 chambers in the U.S., only 203 are accredited, and of those only 103 have achieved five-star distinction. The Mobile Area Chamber has been accredited by the U.S. Chamber since the designation's inception more than 40 years ago.



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Know a company interested in benefiting from Chamber membership? Contact Jackie Hecker at 251-431-8642 or jhecker@mobilechamber.com. Also, find a membership directory at members.mobilechamber.com.

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251-473-9575
www.gregspprofessionalbarberbeautysalon.com
Beauty Salons

Gulf Coast Auto Group
Alex Diaz
2900 Government Blvd.
Mobile, AL 36606
251-476-8080
www.chevygulfoast.com
Automobile Dealers-New & Used Cars

Heron Lakes Country Club
Carlos Serrano
3851 Government Blvd.
Mobile, AL 36693-4398
251-706-6371
www.heronlakescountryclub.com
Country Club

Kimley-Horn & Associates
Randy Palmer
11 N Water St., Ste. 10290
Mobile, AL 36602
251-643-8353
www.kimley-horn.com
Consulting Actuary

Mobile Area Council Boy Scouts of America
William Bryant Jr.
2587 Government Blvd.
Mobile, AL 36606-1697
251-476-4600
www.bsamac.org
Youth Organizations & Centers

Nova Espresso
Tim Gautreaux
306 St. Anthony St.
Mobile, AL 36602
251-263-9343
www.novaespresso.coffee
Coffee Shop

Perdido Queen Cruises
Anna Jones
1 S. Water St., Berth B
Mobile, AL 36602
251-948-6611
www.perdidoqueen.com
Entertainment

Pink Post Office Boutique
JulieAnna Lindsey
5015 Cottage Hill Rd.
Mobile, AL 36609
251-442-7782
www.ppoboutique.com
Boutique

RDavis Electric
Ronnie D. Davis
P.O. Box 2510
Semmes, AL 36575
251-581-0065
Electrical Contractor

Remington College
Jesse Klenk
828 Downtowner Loop W.
Mobile, AL 36609-5593
251-343-8200
www.remingtoncollege.edu
School-Academic-Colleges/University

Salon West Hairdressers
Rachael Weeks
1751 Old Shell Rd.
Mobile, AL 36604
251-378-8665
www.west54hundred.com
Hair Salon

SEZ Aerospace USA LLC
Aimee Williamson
11 N. Water Street
RSA Tower Ste. 10620
Mobile, AL 36602
251-243-8335
www.sezaerospaceusa.com
Aerospace

Skye Connect Inc.
Alice M. Gordon Holloway
209 20th St. N., #173
Birmingham, AL 35203
201-785-7593
www.skyeconnect.com
Logistics-Full Service

Specialty Home Services LLC
Sylvia Browder
9945 Dominion Dr. S.
Mobile, AL 36695
251-680-6464
www.specialtyhomeservicesllc.com
Construction

TEKSystems Inc.
Olivia Martin
11 N. Water St., 10th Floor
Mobile, AL 36602
251-460-3269
www.teksystems.com
Technology Business Solutions

The Nature Conservancy in Alabama
Judy Haner
2100 1st Ave. N., Ste. 500
Birmingham, AL 35203
205-251-1155, Ext. 107
www.nature.org/alabama
Nonprofit Organization

The Neutral Solution
Elam Holley Jr.
2129 1st Ave. N.
Birmingham, AL 35203
205-202-6608
www.theneutralsolution.com
Mediation

Waffle House
Jared Johnson
5121 Halls Mill Rd., Lot 1
Mobile, AL 36693
251-402-3313
www.wafflehouse.com
Restaurants

As of 1/31/19

2019 SPRING EVENTS



Camellia Classic Car Show
Saturday, April 6



Easter Egg Hunt
and Breakfast with the Easter Bunny
Saturday, April 13



Easter Sunrise Service
Sunday, April 21



Mother's Day Evening Garden Concert
Saturday, May 13

bellingrath.org

12401 Bellingrath Gardens Road • Theodore, Alabama
(251) 973-2217 • 800-247-8420

Unless otherwise noted, Gardens open at 8 AM.
Home tours hourly from 9 AM to 4 PM. Closing at 5 PM.

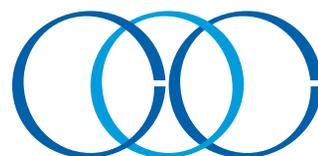
Bellingrath
Gardens and Home



believe in **mobile** belong to the **chamber**

advocacy

... we work to create an
environment that promotes
business and community growth



MOBILE AREA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE