

BUSINESSVIEW

MOBILE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

DECEMBER 2021/JANUARY 2022

A portrait of Michael Chambers, a middle-aged man with white hair, smiling. He is wearing a dark suit, a light blue shirt, and a blue patterned tie. The background is a green ivy-covered wall.

**MICHAEL
CHAMBERS
NAMED
OUTSTANDING
ENTREPRENEUR**

**DEVELOPMENT
TRANSFORMING
MOBILE'S ECONOMY**

**MEET MOBILE'S
CITY LEADERS**

MEET THE AUTHORITY.

For every business IT challenge.



Your partners in IT.

Our team of super-specialized engineers partner with businesses of all sizes - taking on your toughest IT challenges and finding new opportunities.

Connectivity. Data security.
Cloud services. We're ready for it.

cspire.com/business



2021 YEAR IN REVIEW

- Austal USA established the Austal West Campus Ship Repair in Mobile
- Austal USA was awarded Maintenance and Modernization Contracts for East Coast and West Coast-based LCS
- Austal USA was awarded a \$44 million Autonomous Design and Construction Contract for EPF Program
- Austal USA entered the Steel Shipbuilding Market, winning a \$145 million U.S. Navy Steel Multi-Ship Contract
- Austal USA received a Contract Award for EPF 15

**WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO
ANOTHER GREAT YEAR IN 2022!**



austalusa.com

BUSINESSVIEW

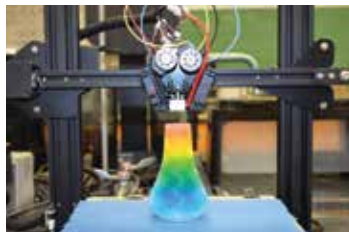
MOBILE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

DECEMBER 2021/JANUARY 2022



28 ON THE COVER:

Michael Chambers was named Outstanding Entrepreneur by the Mobile Area Chamber. Read more on pages 28-29. Photo by Chase Webster.



IN THE ISSUE

- 7 News from Canfor, MTC Logistics, University of Mobile and University of South Alabama
- 14 Small Business of the Month: American WeatherStar
- 16 Chamber's 2022 Legislative Agenda
- 20 Meet Mobile's City Leaders
- 24 Innovator of the Year: MTC Logistics
- 27 Manufacturer of the Year: Austal USA
- 28 Outstanding Entrepreneur: Michael Chambers
- 31 Economic Development Transforming Mobile's Economy
- 36 Investor Focus: Moffatt & Nichol
- 38 Executive Profile: Adele Hapworth, The American Equity Underwriters Inc.
- 39 Featured Board of Advisors
- 40 Chamber at Work
- 43 Ribbon Cuttings
- 44 Byrne Promoted to Business Attraction Manager
- 45 Chamber Announces New Membership Team
- 46 Calendar
- 48 Member News
- 51 New Members

ABOUT THE MAGAZINE

BUSINESS VIEW (USPS 952-700) is published 10 times a year, monthly, except for the June/July and December/January issues, by the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce.

451 Government St., Mobile, AL 36602
251.433.6951 • mobilechamber.com

POSTMASTER send address changes to
Attn: Finance Department BUSINESS VIEW
Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 2187, Mobile, AL 36652-2187
or email info@mobilechamber.com ©2021

Associate Publisher Nancy W. Hewston
Executive Editor Ashley Horn
Managing Editor Jennifer Jenkins
Copy Editor Michelle Irvin

Additional Writers and Editors
Mike Dumas, Mike Herndon,
Susan Rak-Blanchard and Carolyn Wilson

Printing Services: Panaprint Inc.

Graphic Design: Wise Design Inc.

Advertising Account Executive:
René Eiland • 251.431.8635
reiland@mobilechamber.com



EDITOR'S NOTE:

MEETING THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE BUSINESS

Ashley Horn

After 20+ years working at the Mobile Area Chamber and on this magazine, I have been able to help expand the Chamber's reach to the area and learn about the diversity of jobs here. I have an overall appreciation for the people who are working to better their lives, better our community and realize we genuinely care for one another.

My favorite part of the job is visiting with business owners and seeing where and how they work and getting to know the people behind the business. Meeting these people has strengthened my faith in humanity and made me proud to live in the Mobile area.

The culture of our people and the industry growth over the past few decades has made me realize we live in an amazing place.

This magazine has also grown and changed, and more changes are in the works for 2022. We will offer more features on Mobile, more member events and will spotlight members in interesting and different ways. The Chamber's goal is to be a progressive advocate and to promote our local businesses and members. As its main communications tool, this magazine allows us to share the area's business news and tell about the people who make up our area and help fuel our economy. Thanks for reading.

BISHOP STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE IS ***MOVING FORWARD!***

Construction on the Advanced Manufacturing Center and the Center for Health Sciences is expected to be completed this fall!

The Advanced Manufacturing Center will be filled with programs approved by businesses and industries to help train a workforce for the manufacturing, process maintenance, and other industry-related jobs and careers in our area.

The Center for Health Sciences will provide Nursing and Physical Therapy Assistant students experience in treating patients and solving complex problems in state-of-the-art simulation labs.



For more information:
call us at **251-405-7005**
email us at **communications@bishop.edu**

Bishop State 
A Great Place To **Start™**

NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

No employee or applicant for employment or promotion shall be discriminated against on the basis of any impermissible criterion or characteristic including, without limitation, race, color, national origin, religion, marital status, disability, sex, age or any other protected class as defined by federal and state law.



www.bishop.edu

We can't predict where life will take you, but we can help you plan for it.

Be sure your financial goals align with your long-term needs

When it comes to family health care costs, you may have some needs that are more pressing than others. We can help. We'll work closely with you to help create a financial approach that's designed for you and your loved ones. To learn more, please give us a call today.



Whiting Bradford Wealth Management Group

Palmer Whiting, CFP®, CPFA, CPWA®

Managing Director
Wealth Management Advisor

251.345.0289
palmer_whiting@ml.com

D. Austin Bradford, CFP®

Vice President
Resident Director

251.345.0262
austin.bradford@ml.com

Merrill Lynch Wealth Management

3674 Dauphin Street
Mobile, AL 36608

251.345.0300
fa.ml.com/whiting_bradford



This material should be regarded as general information on health care considerations and is not intended to provide specific health care advice. If you have questions regarding your particular situation, please contact your legal or tax advisor.

Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated (also referred to as "MLPF&S" or "Merrill") makes available certain investment products sponsored, managed, distributed or provided by companies that are affiliates of Bank of America Corporation ("BofA Corp."). MLPF&S is a registered broker-dealer, registered investment adviser, Member SIPC and a wholly owned subsidiary of BofA Corp.

Banking products are provided by Bank of America, N.A., Member FDIC and a wholly owned subsidiary of BofA Corp.

Investment products: **Are Not FDIC Insured** **Are Not Bank Guaranteed** **May Lose Value**

The Bull Symbol and Merrill are registered trademarks of Bank of America Corporation.

Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards Inc. owns the certification marks CFP® and CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ in the U.S. CPWA® is a registered service mark of the Investment Management Consultants Association dba Investments & Wealth Institute.

© 2021 Bank of America Corporation. All rights reserved.

MAP3058329 | AD-09-21-0373 | 471554PM-1220 | 09/2021

CHAMBER-RECRUITED MTC LOGISTICS HOLDS OPENING CELEBRATION



MTC Logistics ribbon cutting at its refrigerated cargo facility in Mobile featured local government officials, company executives and local partners.

In late October, Baltimore-headquartered **MTC Logistics** cut the ribbon on its refrigerated cargo facility in Mobile, a project previously recruited by the Mobile Area Chamber and Team Mobile. The company recently completed a \$61 million investment and is in the process of adding 75 new jobs to the area.

MTC broke ground in 2019 on what is now one of the largest distribution centers of its kind in the country, designed to provide shippers with seamless supply chain solutions focused on global commerce.

“Before the doors on the new MTC Logistics facility were open in Mobile, the company drew Ren Seafoods to the area,” said **David Rodgers**, the Chamber’s vice president of economic development. “It is one sign of how much this investment is needed along the central Gulf Coast.”

Earlier this year, Ren Seafoods announced a seafood processing facility and distribution hub in Mobile to be near MTC Logistics.

MTC President **Andy Janson** said he believes the timing is critical for the Mobile facility’s opening and addressed what the future holds.

“The supply chain, and more importantly the perishable food supply chain, is front-page news these days, and our timing to develop an out-of-the-box solution for this sector of the nation’s food supply chain in partnership with the Mobile community is very rewarding,” said Janson. “Our optimism is so strong at this point we are already in discussion about a significant expansion, which will only add additional jobs and opportunities in this wonderful community.”

“The expansion to Mobile is helping MTC serve a valued long-term customer who needed a port location to service their southeastern customers,” said **Harry Halpert**, chairman of MTC Logistics and CEO of Hoffberger Holdings LLC, the parent company of MTC Logistics.

“Mobile’s ‘find a yes’ attitude, which pervades local government and its business community, fits well with MTC’s service-oriented culture,” Halpert added.

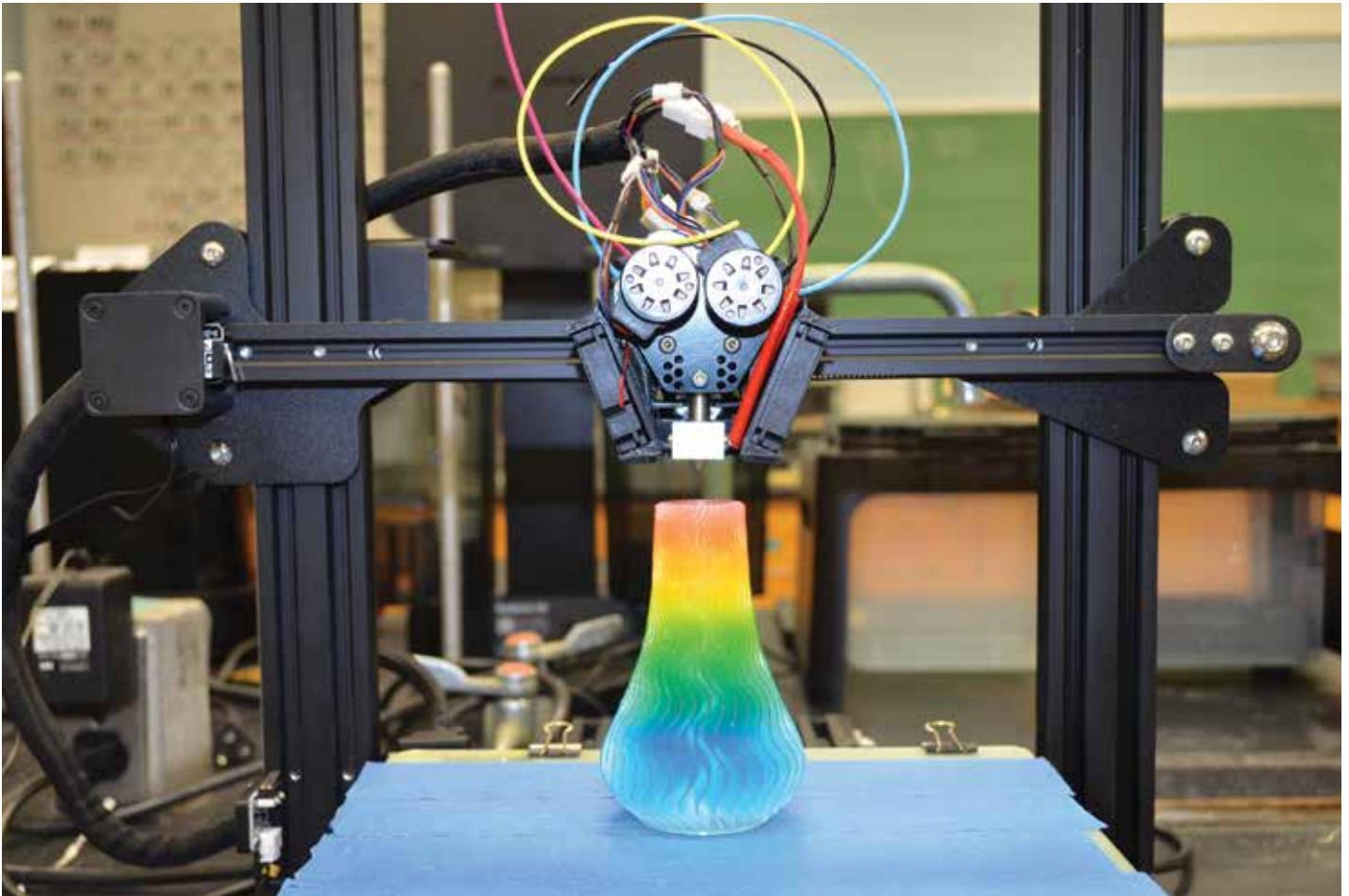
“MTC’s cold storage distribution facility adds a new dimension to the expanding operations at the Port of Mobile,” said **Greg Canfield**, Alabama Secretary of Commerce.

“The supply chain, and more importantly the perishable food supply chain, is front-page news these days, and our timing to develop an out-of-the-box solution for this sector of the nation’s food supply chain in partnership with the Mobile community is very rewarding.”

Andy Janson, president, MTC Logistics

Consumers throughout the Southeast will see these products on their dining room table, and the new Mobile facility will help lower transportation costs and assure ready availability, according to MTC officials.

USA EXPANDS ITS 3D LAB WITH PURCHASE OF NEW PRINTERS



The **University of South Alabama** is purchasing several mid-range 3D printers, including a metal printer and several smaller ones.

The expanded lab will help build university and industry partnerships and greatly benefit researchers university-wide, according to **Dr. Matthew Reichert**, assistant vice president in the office of research communications.

“Collaborations with local industry will provide support for prototyping objects to inspect before production, as well as provide production-quality objects for testing before full implementation,” he said.

In addition, students are “being trained on some of the latest equipment and software for additive manufacturing,” he said.

Additive manufacturing, also known as 3D printing, is the process of creating an object by depositing material layer by layer to build up the object. In contrast, subtractive manufacturing is the process where material is removed until the desired object is produced, i.e. sculpting, lathe-turning and milling.

The majority of the funds for the new printers came from a CARES Act Recovery Assistance grant, along with contributions from the university.

“Collaborations with local industry will provide support for prototyping objects to inspect before production, as well as provide production-quality objects for testing before full implementation.”

Dr. Matthew Reichert, assistant vice president, office of research communications, University of South Alabama

This project was made possible by regional planning efforts led by the South Alabama Regional Planning Commission. The university also had letters of support for their proposal from numerous local companies including Arkema, Airbus, Austal USA, Continental Motors and Evonik.



**GIVE YOUR BUSINESS
A COMPETITIVE EDGE**

TOTAL CONNECTIVITY SOLUTIONS

Mediacom Business delivers the efficiency your businesses needs to adapt to any situation. Drive productivity with quality solutions – all from a single strategic partner.



**ULTRA-FAST
BUSINESS INTERNET**



**ADVANCED
DATA SECURITY
PROTECTION**



**BUSINESS Wi-Fi
FOR A BETTER
CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE**



**FEATURE-PACKED
BUSINESS PHONE**



**ENGAGING
BUSINESS
TV & MUSIC**



**100% FIBER-OPTIC
DATA & VOICE
SOLUTIONS**

**MEDIACOMSM
BUSINESS**

Call Today: 866-955-2225



Local Expertise.
New Location.

1301 US Hwy 98, Daphne

We deliver all the products and services you need to succeed – along with a high level of personal attention and unexpected hospitality. And since we're a community bank, we have a deep understanding of the communities we serve. Visit our Daphne location and experience the River Bank & Trust difference.

DAPHNE
1301 US Hwy 98

MOBILE
4630 Bit and Spur Rd.



RIVERBANKANDTRUST.COM | 251.626.7790

To see more follow us on    and 



The University of Mobile offers on-campus and online bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in more than 75 academic programs. Founded in 1961, the university is affiliated with the Alabama Baptist State Convention and is located 10 miles north of Mobile.

UNIVERSITY OF MOBILE CELEBRATES ITS DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY

After 60 years, the University of Mobile (UM) celebrated its diamond anniversary during its fall semester with events, exhibits and merchandise. More than 14,000 alumni have walked the halls of the Christian university since it was chartered on Dec. 12, 1961, as Mobile College. The first freshman class enrolled in 1963, and the 67-member charter class graduated in 1967.

Mobile College became the University of Mobile on July 1, 1993. The name change reflected a new organizational structure that set the stage for future growth in academic programs, athletics, facilities and student life. Today, UM has more than 1,600 students and 185 full-time employees. Students are from 34 states and 24 nations.

"The University of Mobile is developing a long-term campus master plan, which would include new residential housing, expanded dining opportunities, expanded athletic facilities as well as a University Center. Looking ahead, we want to continue our growth in the healthcare field through new partnerships with local hospitals, and build on our partnerships with local school systems," said UM President **Dr. Lonnie Burnett**.

The University of Mobile has more than 75 academic programs offered through the College of Arts and Sciences, School of

Business, School of Education, Alabama School of the Arts, Center for Christian Calling, graduate and professional programs, and the College of Health Professions that includes the School of Nursing, School of Health and Sports Science and School of Nurse Anesthesia.

"We are excited about our growing academic programs, including the doctor of nurse anesthesia practice in our new School of Nurse Anesthesia, College of Health Professions. This is the first and only DNAP program in Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Georgia," said Burnett.

The University of Mobile's diamond anniversary celebrations included a scholarship banquet featuring retired NFL New Orleans Saints quarterback Archie Manning, an Alumni of the Decade award and a Christmas Spectacular featuring more than 20 ensembles and more than 200 students from the University of Mobile Alabama School of the Arts. In addition, UM will host a history exhibit on display in Weaver Hall on campus, and limited-edition Diamond Collection merchandise is available at the University of Mobile store, The U. Proceeds from the Diamond Collection will go toward scholarships to assist future students.

CANFOR INVESTS IN MOBILE MILL



Canfor Southern Pine is investing in new equipment at its local sawmill. The Canadian-based company relocated its U.S. headquarters to Mobile in 2016, three years after the initial announcement Canfor was purchasing Mobile's Scotch & Gulf Lumber.

Over the years, Canfor has made numerous upgrades to the mill, and this latest investment will further increase productivity and safety. It also ensures viability, said **Lee Goodloe**, general manager of operations.

Canfor processes high-quality yellow pine to the tune of 75 truckloads a day. Much of the wood is used in residential construction and sold predominately in big box stores throughout the Southeast. The remaining inventory is transported either by rail or truck to other U.S. sites, as well as to China, Europe and the Caribbean, with some exported through the Port of Mobile.

"We are proud of our unwavering commitment to excellence, safety and customer satisfaction, which allows us to safely and efficiently deliver quality products to our customers around the globe," Goodloe said.

The company maintains four floors in the Van Antwerp building in downtown Mobile with 85-plus employees, and the mill employs another approximately 125 people.

"Our workforce has a long history with this mill, and they are the ones responsible for its success and a culture that has drawn second-generation employees," added Goodloe.



The workforce at Canfor Southern Pine has a long company history. Pictured here are two generations of employees. On the right is Willie Brown, a dry kiln supervisor who has 32 years of service, and on the left is his son Cornelius Kidd, lead dry kiln operator who joined the company 16 years ago.

"It's encouraging to see Canfor's continued investment in our local sawmill and maintaining more than 200 jobs," said **David Rodgers**, the Mobile Area Chamber's vice president of economic development. "Their operation is critical to Mobile's housing market, especially considering the demand for building materials during the COVID pandemic and the current supply chain backlog."



WARD TRUCKS
Mobile - Pensacola - Tallahassee

1-800-476-6841
2101 Perimeter Road, Mobile, AL 36615

[f](#) [i](#) [in](#)

A plan to navigate what's next. Ask about your personalized Regions Greenprint.SM

Planning ahead helps you go with the flow. Regions LifeGreen® checking accounts come with Greenprint, a personalized financial plan to help you navigate what's next in life. Make an appointment with a Regions Banker today and feel more comfortable with your financial future.

Switch at regions.com



© 2021 Regions Bank. Regions and the Regions logo are registered trademarks of Regions Bank. The LifeGreen color is a trademark of Regions Bank.



Founded in 2004, American WeatherStar employs 36 employees at its Irvington location. Photo by Mike Dumas

AMERICAN WEATHERSTAR'S GROWTH IS THROUGH THE ROOF



Photo by Mike Dumas

Eight years ago American WeatherStar (AWS) was named the Mobile Area Chamber's Small Business of the Month, then in 2015 the company was selected as a Small Business of the Year finalist. Since that time the fluid-applied roof restoration company has steadily continued to grow.

Since founding the company in 2004, owner **Brian O'Donnell** has believed in an organic business model, where company success and targeted enterprise dictate its growth. That's how AWS progressed from renting space to owning its own building off Halls Mill Road to establishing a five-acre campus in south Mobile County.

The 36-employee company is once again recognized as Small Business of the Month.

Industry expertise and a long view of expansion dictated another major shift for the company, which had for more than a decade sold goods manufactured by other companies. Three years ago, O'Donnell and his team decided it was time to make their own products, moving from a private-label model to one where the quality of the AWS brand would extend from source manufacturing to contract fulfillment in more than 35 states across the country, as well U.S. territories Puerto Rico and Guam.

"It has been the biggest change ever for us," O'Donnell said. "That evolution took hold shortly before the COVID-19 pandemic shook up businesses around the world. Because all businesses have roofs, they can use the products and services for which AWS is known."

Above all else, weathering such enormous challenges allows O'Donnell to keep AWS's employees as his first priority, a philosophy that connects directly to customer service.

"I treat my people as equals and teammates, and just by their nature they are going to take care of the customer so that our business will prosper," he said. That spirit filters to the company's philanthropic endeavors, as well, as AWS supports a range of projects, including organizations such as the Child Advocacy Center and those benefiting veterans and the families of law enforcement.

"It's simply the right thing to do," O'Donnell said.

As a 16-year member of the Mobile Area Chamber, he's had a chance to sample a wide range of Chamber events, and the annual Business Expo has long been his favorite.

COMPANY NAME: American WeatherStar

LOCATION: 8095 Padgett Switch Rd., Irvington

WEBSITE: americanweatherstar.com

PHONE: 800.771.6643

COMPANY OWNER: Brian O'Donnell

Photo by Mike Dumas



Merry Christmas

AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

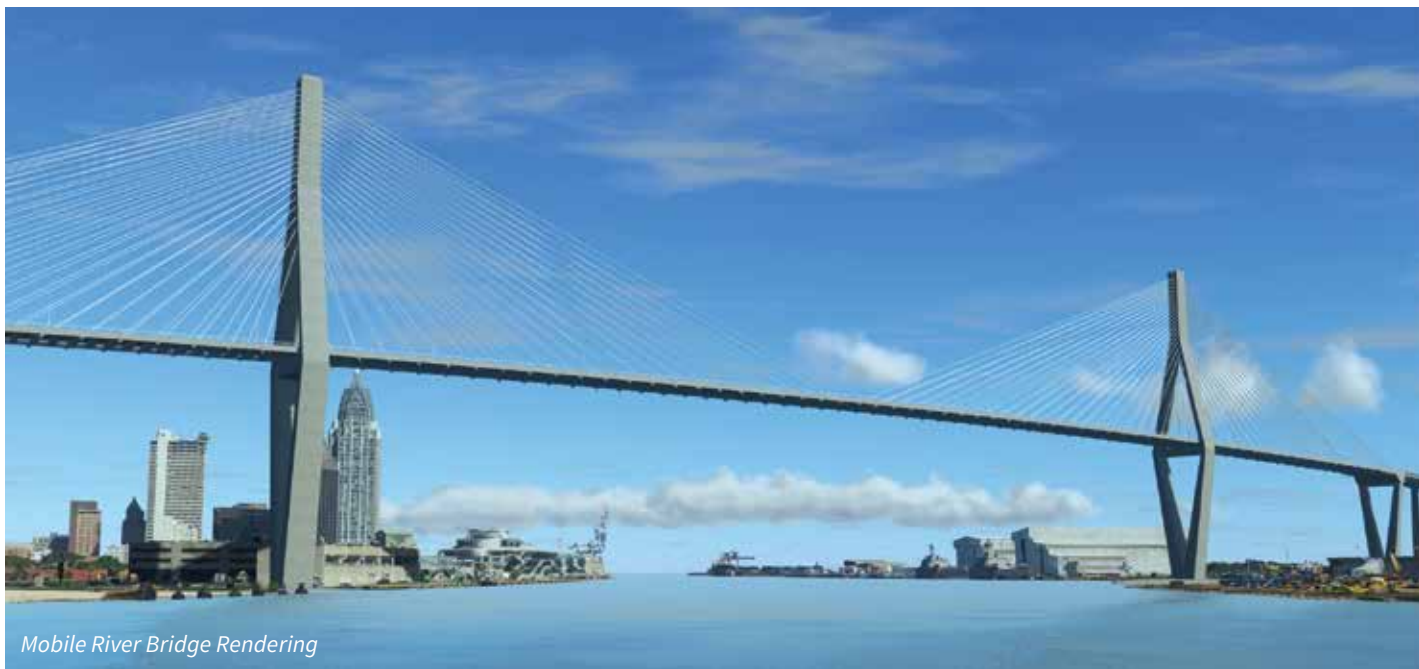
"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called Wonderful
Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace."

Isaiah 9:6



COMMUNITY BANK

f t i COMMUNITYBANK.NET • MEMBER FDIC



Mobile River Bridge Rendering

2022 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

The Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce has served as the Mobile area's progressive business advocate since 1836. Mobile connects Alabama to the world, and the Chamber is here to advocate for business-friendly legislation that grows Mobile and Alabama's influence in the region, across the country and around the world.

FUNDAMENTAL FOUNDATIONS FOR ALABAMA

- Support increasing Alabama's investment in transportation infrastructure to sustain and promote economic growth, job creation, quality of life and public safety. Chamber members recognize the need for more state resources to address highway, bridge and other road maintenance and capital needs in Mobile, specifically for building the I-10 Mobile River bridge and completing the four-laning of U.S. Hwy. 98 from Mobile's city limits to the Mississippi state line.
- Work in support of the Mobile Airport Authority's efforts to secure final funding to transition air service to Mobile's downtown airport at the Mobile Aeroplex at Brookley.



Mobile Downtown Airport

- Advocate for adequate funding for Alabama's education budget, including Alabama's First-Class pre-kindergarten, career tech, dual enrollment and other innovative programs, in order to ensure a competitive increase in student scoring, higher graduation rates and competitive college and career ready graduates; maintain high academic standards and expectations for all Alabama students such as those found in the Alabama College and Career Ready Standards or Common Core.



USA Health Children's and Women's Hospital

- Support a fiscal year 2023 state budget appropriation for the University of South Alabama that reflects the institution's positive impact on its students, community and the Mobile region, along with additional funding to support USA Health in recognition of its unique mission as the region's only academic healthcare provider with a Level One trauma center, burn unit and neonatal intensive care facility.

- Preserve the integrity of Alabama's First Congressional District through the 2021 redistricting process, keeping Mobile and Baldwin counties together as a congressional district to build upon the united regional and business leadership that is unique to southwest Alabama.

SUPPORTING SMALL BUSINESSES, AMERICA'S LARGEST EMPLOYER

- Preserve jobs and economic growth in all sectors through the reduction of overly burdensome regulations.
- Encourage the representation and engagement of the Alabama Innovation Commission and the Alabama Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Council to improve the creation and growth of small businesses and entrepreneurial development in Alabama as well as workforce development opportunities across the state.
- Support the growth and development of Mobile's entrepreneurial community and Innovation Portal's mapping of entrepreneurial talent to meet the growing technological needs of industry with state funding opportunities. Promote efforts to provide much-needed programming, skills training and funding for entrepreneurial clients, as well as engage local industry to identify technological solutions to small business challenges.
- Protect an employer's right to provide a safe workplace by opposing any legislation that would keep an employer or property owner from restricting firearm possession on company property.
- Support measures to replenish the state's unemployment insurance trust fund that mitigates the impact of increased taxes on Alabama businesses, particularly small businesses.

A HEALTHY ALABAMA

- Support measures to address a growing opioid crisis in Alabama that is potentially detrimental to the availability of a qualified workforce, workplace safety and overall community health.
- Support a provider-driven approach to reforming Alabama's current Medicaid program to ensure access to care, control costs and maximize the return of Alabama's tax dollars to the state.
- Seek a permanent funding source for Mobile's Programs for All-inclusive Care of the Elderly (PACE) and the expansion of such programs across the state in order to draw down increased federal funds for the medical care of the state's growing nursing home population at a cost savings to Medicaid.



Innovation Portal

GOOD STEWARDSHIP OF ALABAMA'S NATURAL RESOURCES

- Support the continuation of federal payments to Alabama, specifically Mobile and Baldwin counties, from the 2006 Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA). Under GOMESA, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas receive a share of revenue from oil and gas drilling in federal waters, which helps address coastal restoration, hurricane protection and watershed management programs in coastal Alabama.
- Advocate for investments in climate-resilient infrastructure, like a new I-10 bridge, in an effort to mitigate damage from future storms.



Offshore oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico



KEEPING ALABAMA OPEN FOR BUSINESS

- Advocate for the protection of businesses, both large and small, from legislation that would open the door to frivolous lawsuits, especially coronavirus-related litigation.
- Continue support for the renewal of economic development tax incentives, the Alabama Jobs Act and the Growing Alabama Tax Credit. These programs are the foundation of the state's economic development efforts and are tied to the state's largest new industry announcements in recent years.
- Advocate for legislation that creates an attractive environment for economic development, ensuring Alabama is widely known as a business-friendly state.
- Support the funding and construction of the proposed I-10 Mobile River Bridge and partner with the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Alabama Department of Transportation to actively seek construction funding through Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) Grants and other sources.
- Support the extension of the state income tax credit through 2029 for rehabilitation of certified historic structures, a proven incentive for bringing more investment capital into projects that will use it directly for job creation and sustained economic activity.
- Support the renewal of the tax exemption for certain materials used in the reconfiguration of aircraft – materials that ultimately become part of a completed aircraft.



Photo courtesy the Governor's Office

- Support growth in the film and music industry in the state of Alabama by advocating for raising the \$20 million incentive cap.
- Continue support to fund the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mobile District Civil Works program to deepen and widen the Mobile Ship Channel as well as the annual operations and maintenance dredging, and maintain necessary funding for the operation and maintenance of Alabama's commerce waterways, including the deepening of the Bayou La Batre and Coden ship channels.

TRAINING AND ADVANCING ALABAMA'S WORKFORCE

- Continue to identify needs and support demand-driven strategic workforce training initiatives in south Alabama's key economic growth sectors, including aerospace, maritime, advanced manufacturing and tourism.
- Work to meet the need for able-bodied workers in the region by advocating for reentry and job skills training programs for those currently in correctional facilities, serving sentences for non-violent crimes.

MADE BY ALABAMA, FOR AMERICA AND THE WORLD

- Maintain federal military contracts with Mobile-area employers, particularly the U.S. Navy's shipbuilding blueprint for the future, which includes current and future small surface combatants and auxiliary ships to incorporate autonomous and unmanned surface vehicles and Expeditionary Fast Transports.
- Support free and fair trade and investment policies that expand access to international markets, reduce trade barriers and increase foreign direct investment, creating a level playing field to put Mobile-area families, businesses and workers first and improving the overall international competitiveness of Alabama exporters.



Photo by Michael Dumas





MEET MOBILE'S CITY LEADERS

This fall's municipal elections meant the mayor and all seven city council seats were up for grabs. The City Council and the Mayor were sworn in to their new terms in November. Here's an introduction to these elected officials and their districts.

Mayor Sandy Stimpson

Contact: 251.208.7395 or
mayorstimpson@cityofmobile.org

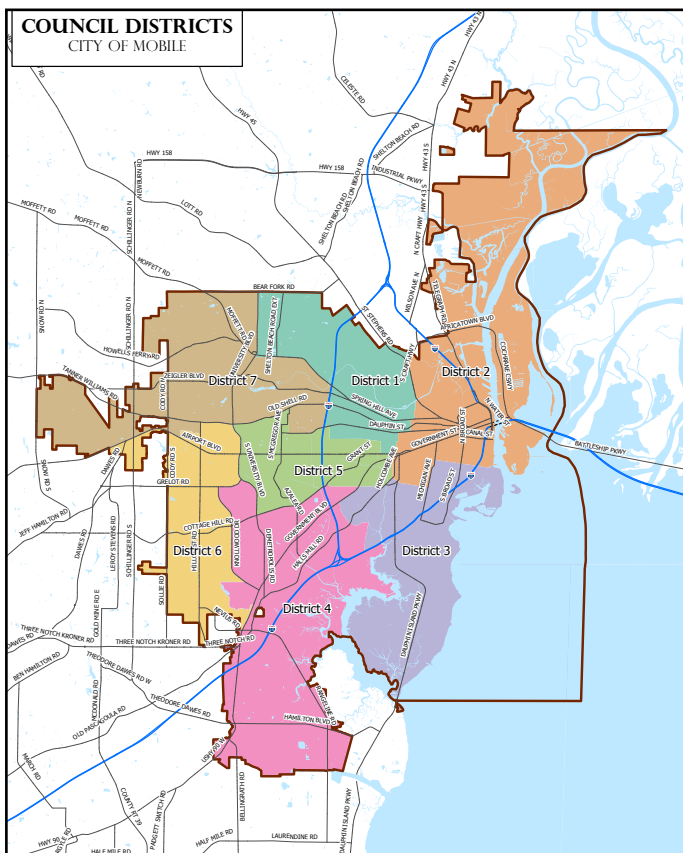


Since assuming office in 2013, Mayor Sandy Stimpson's tenure has been marked by notable achievements. Stimpson and his team have executed such initiatives as Map for Mobile, an increase in the delivery of infrastructure improvements and the city's first supplier diversity program. The theme for the administration's third term is "Uniting Mobile Through Action," and the aim is to fulfill the overall vision of One Mobile – a safer, more business- and family-friendly city.

Stimpson's leadership has led to city finance reform to put the city on sound financial footing, reducing bonded indebtedness by nearly \$100 million, and unfunded liabilities for pension and benefits by \$200 million, leading to credit rating increases from both Moody's and S&P. During the same period, he has built and maintained a two-month rainy day reserve fund and awarded five raises for city employees.

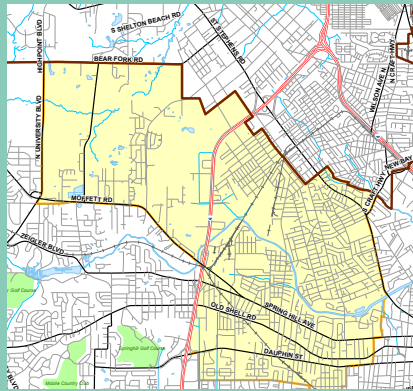
His civic and business endeavors, both locally and statewide, have included serving on the boards of the Boys & Girls Club of Southwest Alabama; the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce; the Alabama Policy Institute; the Business Council of Alabama; and The University of Alabama President's Cabinet.

A graduate of The University of Alabama with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering, Stimpson had a nearly 40-year career in his family's lumber manufacturing business prior to entering public service.





DISTRICT 1
Cory Penn



District 1 – Cory Penn

Contact: 251.208.7441 or council1@cityofmobile.org

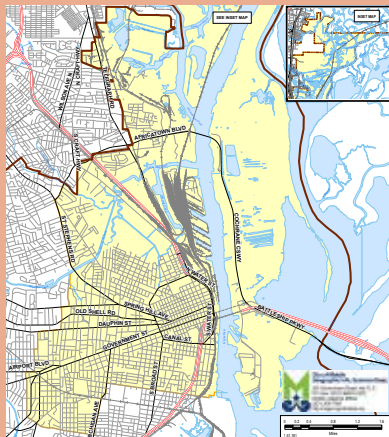
Cory Penn is the new city council representative for District One. Penn was an educator at Chastang Middle School in Trinity Gardens with Mobile County Public Schools until 2017. He currently serves as the branch director of the Boys & Girls Club of Southwest Alabama. In addition, he is the co-founder of the Chastang Elite Service Club, designed to help boys discover their purpose and give them the skills to have a successful life. Penn and a friend started Mighty Breakthrough Entertainment (MBE), which promotes events and produces music. As a result, Penn was invited to co-host the Gospel Hits 1 Video Show that aired locally and nationally.

He has served on the board of Mobile Community Action Inc. and is currently the unit director at Kiwanis Boys and Girls and the student pastor at Right Way Christian Center Church.

Penn studied history at Stillman College in Tuscaloosa and is a graduate of Leadership Mobile.



DISTRICT 2
William Carroll



District 2 – William Carroll

Contact: 251-208-7441 or council2@cityofmobile.org

William Carroll is a native of Mobile and lifelong resident of District Two. A commercial and residential builder with a specialty in historic restoration, he is president of William Carroll Inc.

He is a graduate of McGill-Toolen High School and earned a bachelor's degree in architectural construction engineering from Florida A&M University. Carroll is a three-time college football All-American and played in the 1993 Senior Bowl.

He is past president of the Mobile County Chapter of Habitat for Humanity and the Family Counseling and Girls Club. He is a participant in the Oakleigh Venture Revolving Funds; a volunteer for United Way Southwest Alabama and a volunteer coach for the Catholic Youth sports program. He is a member of St. Mary Catholic Church and of the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity.



DISTRICT 3
C.J. Small



District 3 – C.J. Small

Contact: 251.208.7441 or council3@cityofmobile.org

C. J. Small was voted president of the Mobile City Council. He is a graduate of John S. Shaw High School and an active member of the Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist Church. He received an associate's degree in funeral services from Gupton-Jones College in Atlanta and a bachelor's degree in human resources from Faulkner University in Montgomery.

He is the owner of Small's Mortuary & Cremation Services. He is a member of the Alabama Funeral Director and Morticians Association, where he is the District One representative. Small is a member of the National Funeral Directors and Morticians Association, serves as secretary of the Epsilon Nu Delta Mortuary Fraternity, and sits on the board of directors for Mobile Civic Center, City of Mobile Citizens' Budget and Finance Advisory Committee and Oakdale Community Service Club.

He is a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc., where he was named 2011 "Kappa Man of the Year." He also is a member of 100 Black Men of Greater Mobile and the Mobile Area Mardi Gras Association, serving as king in 2008. He is the chaplain of the MLK Adult Mardi Gras Association, a Partner in Education with Mobile County Public Schools and sponsors one of the largest toy drives in the city of Mobile during the Christmas holidays.



DISTRICT 4
Ben Reynolds



DISTRICT 4 – Ben Reynolds

Contact: 251.208.7441 or council4@cityofmobile.org

Ben Reynolds represents the citizens of District Four. His family has been a part of the Dog River community for decades and has been involved in its development in various capacities.

Reynolds is currently the general manager/owner of Practical Builders LLC, a property and casualty insurance adjusting firm. He previously held positions with TuffShed, Modular Space Corp. and Allstate Insurance. He volunteers his time to the Riviere Du Chien Property Owners Association, serving as its president, is a member of the City of Mobile Golf Course Advisory Board and as an ambassador for the Mobile Area Water and Sewer System.

Reynolds earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Faulkner University.



DISTRICT 5
Joel Daves



DISTRICT 5 – JOEL DAVES

Contact: 251.208.7441 or council5@cityofmobile.org

After a 30-year career in banking, **Joel Daves** retired in 2013 and he was elected to the District Five place on the Mobile City Council and was re-elected by wide margins in 2017 and 2021.

Daves earned a bachelor's degree from the University of the South at Sewanee, Tenn., and received a law degree from Stetson University College of Law in St. Petersburg, Fla.

He graduated with distinction from the Stonier Graduate School of Banking at the University of Delaware.

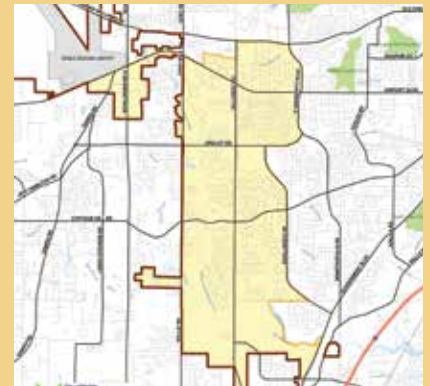
He is a past board member of the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, Mobile Museum of Art, Montgomery Symphony, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce, Huntsville Symphony Orchestra, Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce, Alabama Symphony, Virginia Samford Theatre and Vulcan Park.

Daves was appointed by both Gov. Bob Riley and Gov. Robert J. Bentley to the Alabama State Council on the Arts and served as chairman of that organization from 2017 to 2019. He has twice been named to the board of trustees of the Alabama Department of Archives and History, receiving Alabama Senate confirmation, and currently serves as chairman of that organization. He is past chairman of United Way of Southwest Alabama and served as co-chairman of the Mobile Area Education Foundation's 80/20 Initiative.

He served in the U.S. Navy and U.S. Navy Reserve, retiring as a commander.



DISTRICT 6
Scott Jones



DISTRICT 6 – SCOTT JONES

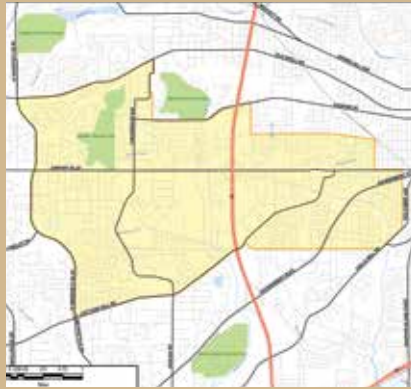
Contact: 251.208.7441 or council6@cityofmobile.org

Born in Frankfurt, Germany, and adopted by U.S. Army parents, Scott Jones was brought to America as a baby and moved to Mobile in 1978. He became a naturalized U.S. citizen at 18. He graduated from Vigor High School and enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1988. After his service in Berlin, Jones continued his education at the University of Mobile and completed the ROTC program at the University of South Alabama. He earned a bachelor's degree and commission and a master's degree and post-graduate certification in educational organization leadership from Northcentral University. He served on active duty as an officer and Apache helicopter pilot, retiring in 2012 as a lieutenant colonel. He served for four years in combat zones in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Since retiring from the military, Jones has worked in the civilian sector as a regional manager and program manager for various companies internationally. He is currently an aviation missile analyst for Program Executive Office Missiles and Space.



DISTRICT 7
Gina Gregory



DISTRICT 7 – Gina Gregory

Contact: 251.208.7441 or council7@cityofmobile.org

Mobile City Council Vice President **Gina Gregory** was first elected in 2005, representing District Seven. Since then, she has been re-elected four times. As council president, she was the first woman ever to be elected as an officer in Mobile City Council history by her colleagues.

Previously, Gregory was the city's public relations director and spokesperson under former Mayor Mike Dow. During that time, Gregory was an integral part of Dow's executive staff, overseeing the mayor's communications, the city's special events department and sister cities activities. After leaving her post, Gregory worked with MDi Media Group as the company's public relations director before serving as the community affairs leader with Hargrove Engineers + Constructors.

Gregory has a broad background in media and government, including reporting and anchoring the news at Mobile's WKRG-TV, WSFA-TV in Montgomery, WCJB-TV in Gainesville, Fla. and WJXT-TV in Jacksonville, Fla.

Before becoming an elected official, Gregory served as the associate director for the Alabama Petroleum Council in Montgomery, as a public affairs representative and lobbyist. She was a member of the Business Council of Alabama, and participated in regional and national legislative conferences.

Gregory graduated from the University of Florida with a bachelor's degree in broadcast journalism and a minor in political science. She is a graduate of Leadership Alabama and Leadership Mobile, a member of the Junior League of Mobile and the Senior Bowl Committee, and she serves on the board of directors for Ashland Place United Methodist Church.

District Maps from Maps.cityofmobile.org



Stephanie Hale
Co-Owner
Coastal Stone & Cabinetry

The success of your business is our business.

There's a bank for those who want a local bank with more capabilities. One with an expert team that combines service with passion to put your best interests above all. A bank that's been named "One of America's Best Banks" by Forbes in 2021. A bank that's not just here, but one that's here to advise and assist on ways to keep you growing.

Learn more at synovus.com/MobileAL

SYNOVUS
the bank of here

Synovus Bank, Member FDIC.



MTC Logistics will be hiring a total of 75 employees at its new Mobile facility. Among the leadership team in place, pictured from left to right, are: Jeff Frazier, general manager of warehouse operations; Michelle Miller, office manager; Reno Frazier, operations manager; and Brooks Royster, vice president of international supply chain solutions.

INNOVATOR OF THE YEAR: MTC LOGISTICS

Weeks after **MTC Logistics** celebrated the opening of its Mobile facility in October, the company was named the Mobile Area Chamber's Innovator of the Year.

"Not only is the facility making a huge impact on the Port of Mobile and APM Terminals by filling a need that existed in our area, MTC has already shown us the impact the company will have on our future economic development efforts," said **David Rodgers**, the Chamber's vice president of economic development.

In addition to drawing seafood processor Ren Seafoods to Mobile, the new facility is providing a marketplace for Alabama poultry to reach the world through the Port of Mobile.

"It is extremely gratifying to return to Mobile with this meaningful project, which allows us to better compete in the global marketplace," said **Brooks Royster**, vice president of international supply chain solutions for MTC Logistics, when asked about the significance of the Chamber's award.

MTC contracted with ARCO Design/Build to construct a temperature-controlled international distribution center like no other. And the result was exactly what they wanted, according to Royster.

This fall, MTC officials learned their new facility was one of six international finalists for the Built by the Best Award by the Controlled Environment Building Association (CEBA).

Two factors that help determine the finalists are project complexity and innovation. And MTC's Mobile facility excels in those categories, said Royster.

"On the outside, it looks like any distribution center. But inside there are numerous components working simultaneously to cool or freeze food," said Royster. "Not only is it unique to Mobile, it is one of the largest, if not the largest, of its kind in the U.S."

— JANUARY 12 —

STATE OF THE ECONOMY

The Chamber's annual State of the Economy event will feature discussions with Mobile business leaders and industry experts in three areas of focus. Participants also will hear from a noted site selector and be presented the results of the 2021 State of the Economy survey.

WHEN: 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

WHERE: The Battle House Renaissance
Mobile Hotel & Spa, 26 N. Royal St.

TOPICS: Port & Logistics, Workforce &
Education, Downtown Development

COST: \$40 for members only

CONTACT: rsvp@mobilechamber.com,
251.433.6951

Reservations required.

TITLE SPONSOR



PNC BANK

PRINTING SPONSOR

CALAGAZ PRINTING

SPONSORS

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama, Austal USA, Millard Maritime,
Signature Flight Support, Alabama & Mississippi Export Railroad



MOBILE AREA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



PAGE & JONES

— 1892 —→

***CORPORATE OFFICE**

52 N. JACKSON ST | MOBILE, AL 36602

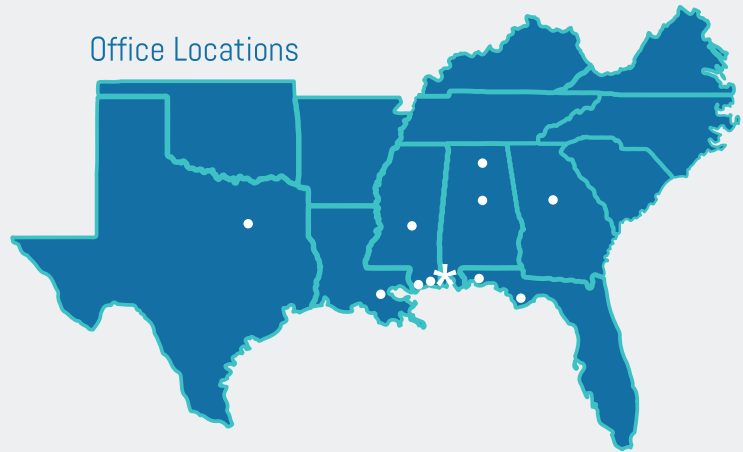
251.287.8700 | PAGEJONES.COM

INFO@PAGEJONES.COM

CHB LICENSE #2843

FMC LICENSE #1567

Office Locations



*Strengthened by Our
Network of Agents Worldwide*

CUSTOMS BROKERS | FREIGHT FORWARDERS | SHIP AGENTS | NVOCC

RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE *for all of life's moments*

No matter what stage of life you're in, BancorpSouth is here for all your financial needs. We've served customers for more than 145 years. You can count on us to continue growing to meet your needs no matter what comes. We're right where you are.

CONNECT WITH US TODAY.

ONLINE | MOBILE | ATM | BRANCH

BancorpSouth.com/FindALocation



BancorpSouth



©2021 BancorpSouth Bank, a division of Cadence Bank. All Rights Reserved. Member FDIC.



Austal USA is expanding its capabilities significantly with a new facility to build steel ships. Pictured in front of the building under construction from left to right are Christina Sashington, structural welder and the company's youngest employee; Rusty Murdaugh, president; Mike Bell, vice president of operations; and Curtis Greenhouse, electrical foreman and the company's oldest employee.

MANUFACTURER OF THE YEAR: AUSTAL USA

While conducting its work of building aluminum combat and transport vessels for the U.S. Navy, Austal USA made numerous changes to its business operations to ensure a long future in Mobile.

That continuous forward-thinking makes the company a standout for the Mobile Area Chamber's 2021 Manufacturer of the Year award, according to **David Rodgers**, the Chamber's vice president of economic development.

In March, the company broke ground on its steel manufacturing line to meet the emerging U.S. military demand for steel ships. This summer, Austal was awarded the contract to create the functional design of the Navajo-class Towing, Salvage and Rescue Ship (AT-ATS) – the company's first steel new construction contract. Before year-end, the company was awarded a \$145 million multi-ship contract for the AT-ATS.

The AT-ATS will support U.S. fleet operations, including oil spill response, humanitarian assistance and wide area search and surveillance. The line is expected to be ready to cut steel in April 2022.

"On behalf of Austal USA's great team of shipbuilders, our teammates and our suppliers, we are honored to receive this prestigious award from the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce," said Austal USA President **Rusty Murdaugh**.

"Austal has celebrated several major achievements this year, and we are proud of the resilience displayed by our workforce to overcome adversity and continue contributing to our nation's defense. The Mobile-area community is an instrumental part of our success and a very large part of what makes Austal USA such a successful and strong company."

After purchasing additional waterfront property in 2020, Austal established a ship repair facility that has seen a "booming response," according to company officials. The Austal West Campus repair facility will service commercial and government ships.

"As one of Mobile's largest employers, the day-to-day impact on our economy is critical. It's rewarding to see Austal USA take the steps to secure its future here as well as the commitment of the 4,000-plus area residents who are employed there," said Rodgers.

A portrait of Michael Chambers, an older man with white hair, smiling. He is wearing a dark suit, a light blue shirt, and a patterned tie. He is standing in front of a stone wall and a wooden railing, with his right hand resting on the railing.

OUTSTANDING ENTREPRENEUR: MICHAEL CHAMBERS

As a young man attending The University of Alabama, to make ends meet **Michael Chambers** once bought 100 small refrigerators and rented them to his fellow students. Around that same time, he also helped manage apartment complexes, and bartering services that ranged from rent collecting to swimming pool cleaning to put a roof over his head.

His industrious spirit was well earned and, eventually, properly rewarded, resulting in decades of success as a businessman, community activist and educator.

Originally from Anniston, Chambers has dedicated his time and talents to south Alabama, creating both private-sector businesses and opportunities for marginalized entrepreneurs — adding tensile strength to the area's business community.

He is currently associate vice president of research at the University of South Alabama (USA), and has been named the Mobile Area Chamber's 2021 Outstanding Entrepreneur.

Photo by Michael Dumas



Chambers is the executive director of Coastal Conversations, a platform for increased civic awareness and regional engagement. Recently, the group held a conversation with former Pittsburgh Mayor Tom Murphy (pictured on the left with Chambers), who discussed pathways for communities looking to grow and prosper.

Chambers understands the value of collaboration, encouragement and hard work — and has the scars to prove it. These scars, he said, help guide others away from similar pitfalls.

“I have made a lot of mistakes in business,” he said. “One of the things that I think helps this area, which I love, is educating people on how to avoid problems, issues and mistakes early on.”

Early in his career, Chambers sought to invest in multiple ventures at a time, which was a double-edged sword in that it could create and mitigate risk within his portfolio. Often, his instincts bore out, which led him to create or co-create companies such as InnoRx Pharmaceuticals, which delivers ocular drugs, and Swift Biotech, a company that’s working on the detection of early-stage endometrial and ovarian cancer.

Now, Chambers’ strategy of investment tends to target people, instead of industry. A longtime mentor, since 2017 he has led the National Science Foundation’s Innovation Corps (I-Corps) program at USA, which funds innovative, team-based entrepreneurship with other area small business resource partners. He helped create USA’s Minority Business Accelerator and is also the executive director of the RAMP small business mentoring program. Licensed to the college by MIT, RAMP currently serves 16 local companies.

When Chambers connects with his mentees, he’s not only looking to help them with what they don’t know, but also “what they don’t know they don’t know.”

“The key is being open to other people’s ideas,” he said.

In 2014, Chambers served as the chairman of the Mobile Area Chamber’s board of directors. During his term, he not only

stressed mentorship but also entrepreneurial training, which led to the creation of the 1702 program for young professionals.

“Both an innovator and mentor, Michael Chambers embodies the spirit of what the Outstanding Entrepreneur award was meant to celebrate,” said **Bob Chappelle**, the Mobile Area Chamber’s interim president and CEO. “Not only has he started two companies, he continues to look for ways to help other entrepreneurs build their businesses.

“And he does so by bringing others into the fold who offer their expertise, creating a series of partnerships that will make an impact on Mobile’s business community for decades to come.”

Both an innovator and mentor, Michael Chambers embodies the spirit of what the Outstanding Entrepreneur award was meant to celebrate.”

Bob Chappelle, interim president and CEO,
Mobile Area Chamber

Chambers has tremendous enthusiasm for that community, and in particular sees the value in its inter-organizational logistics, which help court, and land, major industrial investments and relocations in the area.

“You can make one phone call and everybody you need to collaborate on a project will be in the room, from the Chamber, city council and the county commission, to the mayor’s office and universities,” Chambers said. “Everyone comes together, and that’s really true of the entrepreneur ecosystem here.”

“Everyone wants to collaborate and make things work.”



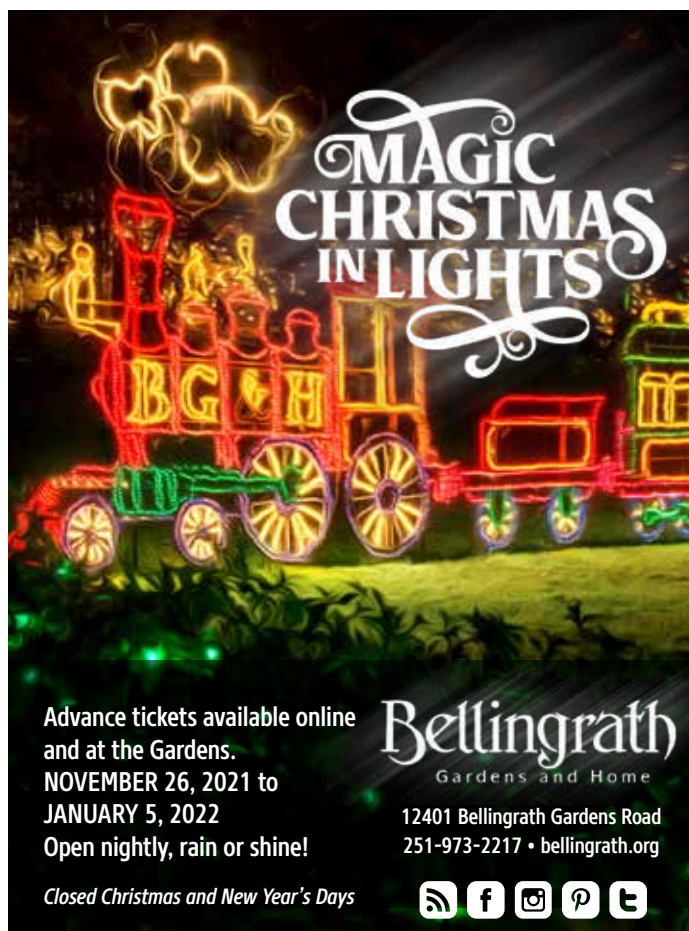
Jewelry designer and owner of Harvest Jewels Rosemary Corte had a chance to meet with Michael Chambers, who leads the RAMP program she participated in last year. Corte told him the program was invaluable to her business operations during the COVID pandemic. She said it saved her business.

Solutions that fit your business to a

For more than 130 years, Trustmark has provided an array of products and services to meet the financial needs of businesses of every size. From deposits, loans and online tools, to cash management and trusted advice, we've helped businesses grow and succeed. Let us go to work for you. **Learn more at trustmark.com.**



MEMBER FDIC



MAGIC CHRISTMAS IN LIGHTS

Advance tickets available online and at the Gardens.
NOVEMBER 26, 2021 to JANUARY 5, 2022
 Open nightly, rain or shine!

Bellingrath
 Gardens and Home

12401 Bellingrath Gardens Road
 251-973-2217 • bellingrath.org

Closed Christmas and New Year's Days



GROW YOUR BUSINESS!

We can design, print and mail postcards directly to your ideal targets to help your business grow – making **YOU** look great on paper.

- Full-Service Printing
- Design Services
- Variable Data Printing
- Direct Mail
- Signs & Banners
- Letterpress

GWIN'S
 COMMERCIAL PRINTING
SINCE 1973

251.438.2226 www.gwins.cc 957 Springhill Ave., Mobile, AL 36604

<https://www.facebook.com/gwinsprinting>



35 YEARS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AND TRANSFORMING MOBILE'S ECONOMY

In 1985, the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce launched a five-year initiative – funded by a public-private partnership – to drive economic development and market Mobile to companies looking to expand or relocate. Thirty-five plus years later and six subsequent multi-year initiatives later, the Chamber's economic development efforts are impressive.

Mobile is consistently listed among various "top places" rankings and has transformed its economy to become the envy of communities throughout the Southeast and the United States.

"We are deeply appreciative of the \$11 million invested by our 140-plus investors," said **David Rodgers**, the Chamber's vice president for economic development. "The return on investment has been outstanding. Without their support, we

would not have been successful in recruiting thousands of jobs and billions of dollars of investment to Mobile."

With recent and continuing investments and job growth in aerospace, shipbuilding/maritime, logistics and advanced manufacturing industries, Mobile is a globally significant player in those industries and continues creating economic growth and prosperity for our local businesses and residents.

From January 2018 to June 2021, Chamber staff secured 28 attraction and expansion projects and roughly \$2 billion of capital investment, bringing more than 1,600 direct jobs with an annual average salary of \$59,500. These investments yielded new annual business output of \$1.6 billion.

THE PERFECT BUSINESS CLIMATE

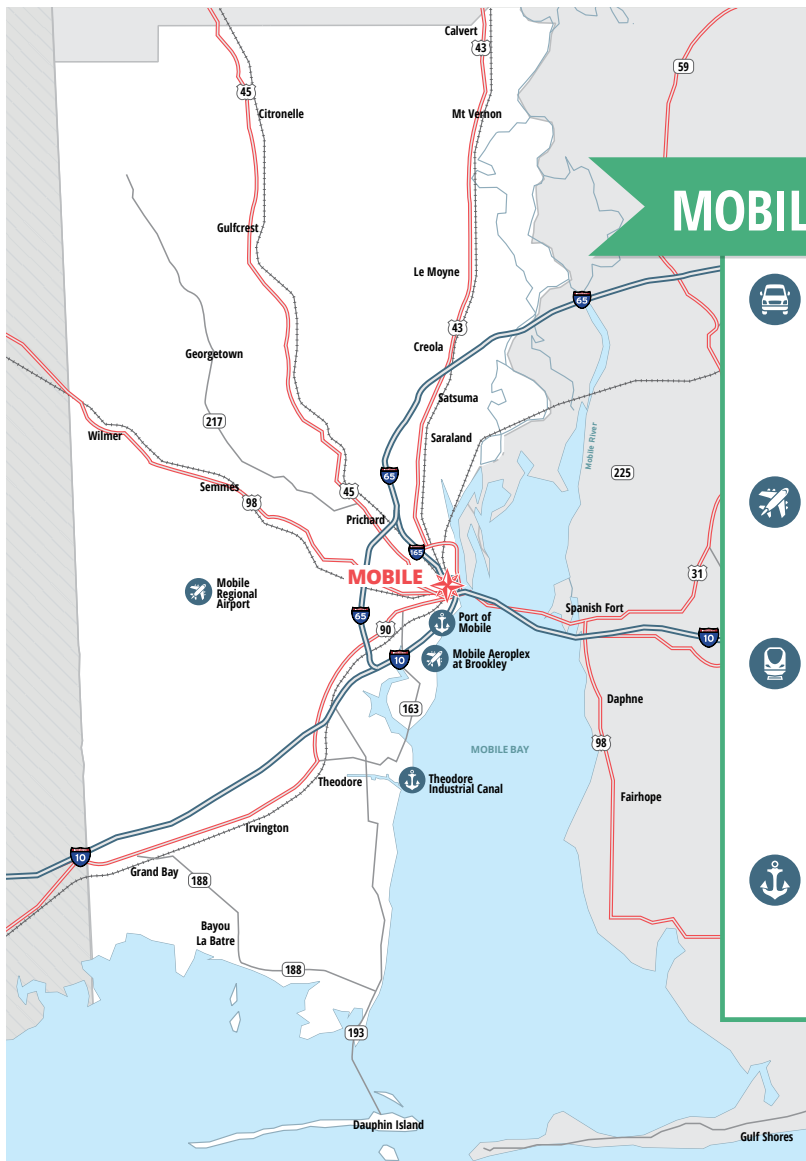
One of the largest cities on the Gulf Coast, and just one hour from the nation's most beautiful white sand beaches, Mobile is where commerce meets coastal and the bay meets booming industry.

As a major port city, Mobile is an economy organized around a unique mix of industry specializations. Powered by world-class talent and unmatched infrastructure, Mobile has the right combination of business-friendly policies and low business costs to attract global companies and cultivate homegrown successes.

Under the leadership and guidance of the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce, the economic development department represents economic development activity for the City of Mobile and Mobile County.

The Chamber's work is focused on four priority areas — jobs, talent, existing industry and international opportunities.

Each priority requires many private and public-sector partners to achieve success and support growth in the Mobile region. The collaborative approach we call Team Mobile consists of business and community economic development leaders dedicated to growing the area's economy.



MOBILE'S LOGISTICAL ADVANTAGES



ROADS

I-65, I-10: Mobile provides companies with highway transportation access to major markets across the U.S. Two major interstate highways converge in Mobile, with I-10 extending east to Jacksonville, Florida and west to Los Angeles, California, while I-65 extends from Mobile north to Chicago, Illinois.



AIR

Two Airports: The Mobile Airport Authority operates two airports: Mobile Regional Airport (MOB) – commercial – and the Mobile Downtown Airport (BFM) at Mobile Aeroplex at Brookley – general aviation.



RAIL

Five Class I Railroads:

- Burlington Northern, Norfolk Southern and short line Alabama and Gulf Railroad
- CSX
- Canadian National Railroad
- Norfolk Southern
- Kansas City Southern



WATER

Port of Mobile: The Port of Mobile offers public deepwater terminals with direct access to five Class 1 railroads, two interstate systems (I-10 and I-65) and weekly rail ferry service to Coatzacoalcas, Mexico.

RETURN ON INVESTMENT

JANUARY 2018 - JUNE 2021

\$2 BILLION
IN NEW CAPITAL INVESTMENT

28

ATTRACTION
AND
EXPANSION
PROJECTS

NEW ANNUAL
REVENUE

MOBILE COUNTY
MUNICIPALITIES

\$6M

MOBILE COUNTY

\$2.8M

STATE OF
ALABAMA

\$16.1M

MOBILE COUNTY
SPECIAL TAX
DISTRICTS

\$2.5M

ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION TO TOTAL

REVENUE

COUNTYWIDE

\$2,812,021

MUNICIPALITIES

\$6,063,099

SPECIAL TAX DISTRICTS

\$2,548,698

STATEWIDE

\$16,126,258



ECONOMIC ACCOLADES

TOP 5 **FDi Magazine**
Ranked Mobile No. 5 for best FDI Strategy in the United States to attract investors. (2019)

smartassetTM
Ranked Mobile in the
TOP 10

places in the U.S. receiving the greatest amount of investment in their local communities. (2018)

Global Trade
MAGAZINE
Ranked Mobile in the

TOP 20

seaport communities that help drive the U.S. Economy. (2020)



BUSINESS FACILITIES

Ranked Mobile No. 5
Best Business Climate for population under 200,000. (2021)

TOP 5



Lists **ALABAMA** as the **second largest** recipient of **Aerospace FDI** based projects since 2003. (2020)



Mobile's **Airbus and AM/NS Calvert expansions** contributed to **Gold Shovel award for Alabama**. (2020)



35 YEARS OF RESULTS

2003-2007

8,200 New Jobs

\$47,111 Average Annual Wages

\$5.18 Billion
in New Capital Investment

2008-2012

8,208 New Jobs

\$53,959 Average Annual Wages

\$2.2 Billion
in New Capital Investment

2013-2017

1,802 New Jobs

\$48,845 Average Annual Wages

\$1.45 Billion
in New Capital Investment

JAN. 2018-JUNE 2021

1,646 New Jobs

\$59,500 Average Annual Wages

\$2 Billion
in New Capital Investment

TEAM MOBILE... A WINNING PARTNERSHIP

The Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce serves as the lead economic development engine for the City of Mobile and Mobile County. The region's continuous economic development success can be contributed to the collaborative efforts of Team Mobile. Team Mobile is a diverse group of economic development advocates consisting of local utility and educational entities, the City of Mobile, Mobile County, the Mobile Airport Authority, the Alabama State Port Authority, the Alabama Department of Commerce and the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce. Team Mobile provides ready access to resources and agencies that help economic development projects succeed.

A few of Mobile's key assets include:

- Five Class I railroads and Interstates 10 and 65 lead to major U.S. markets
- Mobile Downtown Airport and Mobile Regional Airport
- The 11th largest port by tonnage in the U.S.
- Skilled workforce in a right-to-work state
- AIDT - national leader in training and workforce development programs
- Strong foreign investment presence, including more than 60 companies representing more than 20 countries
- 1,650 acre (667 ha) center for aviation and logistics - Mobile Aeroplex at Brookley

- Established clusters in key industries: aviation/aerospace, chemical, shipbuilding, steel manufacturing, distribution and logistics
- 1.4 million people with a median age of 38 living within 60 miles
- Low cost of living and doing business

TEAM MOBILE

Alabama Department of Commerce
Alabama Power
Alabama State Port Authority
City of Mobile
Economic Development Partnership of Alabama
Mobile Airport Authority
Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce
Mobile County
Mobile Downtown Alliance
Spire
University of South Alabama
Visit Mobile




G.A.WEST
888-679-1965
www.gawest.com
Industrial Mechanical Electrical
Fabrication Maintenance
Civil & Site Work

MOFFATT & NICHOL



Moffatt & Nichol has a Mobile office in the RSA Tower. Pictured from left to right are Mary Beth Sullivan, Kari Servold, Peyton Posey, Meg Goecker and Don Blancher. Kate Dawson is not pictured.

Company officials: Meg Goecker, senior coastal scientist; Don Blancher, supervisory coastal scientist; and Mary Beth Sullivan, coastal engineer

Address: 11 N. Water St., Ste. 20220, Mobile

Number of local employees: 6

Website: moffattnichol.com

Years in business: 76

Brief company description: A global infrastructure advisory firm, Moffatt & Nichol provides engineering and consulting services to clients in the marine terminal, transportation, energy, environmental, federal and urban development markets around the world. With 35 offices throughout North America, Europe, Latin America and the Pacific Rim, Moffatt & Nichol's practice has expanded to support the larger demands of the goods movement industry globally. Locally, the firm has been active in the coastal restoration arena, working on numerous projects for the City of Mobile, Mobile County, the Alabama State Port Authority and others. The company strives to develop projects that support economic development but are in harmony with the ecology of the area. Examples of this approach are the Lightning Point Shoreline Restoration and the Bayou La Batre City Docks redevelopment projects (bayoulabatrecitydocks.com).

Why do you support the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce's Partners for Growth Initiative? "We support the Chamber's strategic initiatives, which we believe will foster a strong business climate for Mobile," said Blancher.

How long have you been a continuous Mobile Area Chamber Member? Since 2016

About Partners For Growth:

Growing Global, Investing Local 2018-2022, Partners for Growth is a five-year, public-private initiative of

the Mobile Area Chamber to grow and diversify Mobile's economy. Its five pillars include: 1) new business recruitment and investment attraction; 2) existing industry support, innovation and entrepreneurship; 3) workforce attraction, retention and development; 4) diverse business development; and 5) business advocacy and quality of place.

Join the Chamber's economic development investors by contacting David Rodgers, vice president, economic development, at 251.431.8657 or drodgers@mobilechamber.com.



Tickets start at \$20!    

MSO
MOBILE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
SCOTT SPECK
MUSIC DIRECTOR

The Gulf Coast's best holiday concert!

Joy to the World

Saturday, Dec. 11, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 12, 2:30 p.m.

Saenger Theatre

SPONSORED BY
ERNESTINE L. LENOIR CHARITABLE TRUST MARK & ALANE HOFFMAN

 Alabama Power  WKRG 5
MEDIA SPONSOR

MobileSymphony.org • 251-432-2010

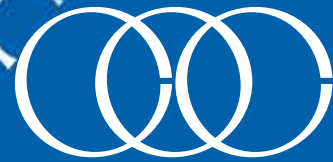
Keep Your Valuables
in a Coast

SAFE



COAST SAFE & LOCK CO., INC.
457 Dauphin Island Parkway
"At the Loop"
Mobile, Alabama 36606
(251) 479-5264

AL State Lic. # 1102



MOBILE AREA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

ANNUAL MEETING SAVE THE DATE

It's not too early to
mark your calendars
for the Mobile Chamber's
2022 Annual Meeting.

Doors open: 5:30 p.m.
Program begins: 6 p.m.

**SEE YOU
THURSDAY,
MARCH 10**

Meeting Presented By



Trustmark

ADELE HAPWORTH

THE AMERICAN EQUITY UNDERWRITERS INC. (AEU)

TITLE: CEO

HOMETOWN: Vienna, Va.

EDUCATION: Bachelor's degree in commerce from the University of Virginia

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE: Prior to joining AEU, Hapworth worked at McGriff, Seibels & Williams in the energy and marine division. Prior to her career in insurance, she worked in strategy consulting.

WHO OR WHAT INSPIRES YOU? Positive people

HIDDEN TALENT: I can sleep anywhere.

WHAT WORD WOULD YOU USE TO DESCRIBE YOURSELF? Efficient

SECRET TO SUCCESS: We are all here to serve.

FAVORITE FOOD/RESTAURANT: Lebanese cuisine

WHAT IS ONE OF YOUR LONG-TERM PROFESSIONAL GOALS? To develop everyone on the team to be in a position to succeed and grow.

WHAT ONE THING YOU COULD NOT GO A DAY WITHOUT? Coffee

YOUR GREATEST INDULGENCE? Good cheese

WHAT QUALITY YOU MOST LIKE IN PEOPLE? Good energy

WHAT IS YOUR MOST MARKED CHARACTERISTIC? I'm in a hurry. (Also my theme song by Alabama.)

BEST PLACE TO GET AWAY FROM IT ALL? Cumberland Island, Ga.

BEST THING ABOUT YOUR JOB? The amazing people I work with.

TOP BUCKET LIST TRIP: Petra, Jordan

BRIEF COMPANY DESCRIPTION: The American Equity Underwriters Inc. (AEU), an Amwins company, serves as program administrator for American Longshore Mutual Association Ltd., a group self-insurance fund authorized by the U.S. Department of Labor for waterfront employers in all 50 states under the U.S. Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act. Based in Mobile, AEU provides claims handling, loss control, longshore consulting and other support.



JOHN HOYLE

ALABAMA SCHOOL OF MATH AND SCIENCE

Hoyle is the president of the Alabama School of Mathematics and Science (ASMS), Alabama's only fully residential and public high school for highly motivated students seeking advanced studies in math, science and the humanities. ASMS was founded in 1989 to train Alabama's future leaders. Hoyle began working at ASMS in 2005 after moving to Mobile from New Orleans in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. He has worked in public schools for more than 20 years and believes education can unlock a student's full potential. Hoyle earned a doctorate in instructional design and development from the University of South Alabama.



JENNIFER JENKINS

JJPR

Jenkins is president and founder of JJPR, a full-service public relations and marketing agency ranked as one of the top PR firms in the state by *Business Alabama* and the recipient of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Women-Owned Business Achievement Award in 2020. A graduate of The University of Alabama with a bachelor's degree in communications, Jenkins has more than 20 years professional experience in the field of public relations and marketing and is accredited in public relations (APR). She is a graduate of the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses National Cohort as well as the Small Business Administration's Emerging Leaders program. She holds membership in and received the professional achievement award from both the Public Relations Council of Alabama and the Southern Public Relations Federation. She is also a member of the Public Relations Society of America and past president of the Junior League of Mobile. She currently serves on The University of Alabama's Blackburn Institute Advisory Board and the College of Communication's Oakley Mentor Society.



LEE WALTERS

GOODWYN MILLS CAWOOD

Walters serves as regional vice president for Goodwyn Mills Cawood's (GMC) Gulf Coast region having served on GMC's board of directors since 2015. Beginning his career as a wildlife biologist, Walters has been instrumental in developing GMC's environmental division and expanding the firm's footprint along the Gulf Coast. He is a professional wetland scientist in Alabama, one of the most ecologically diverse states in the country, due in large part to the countless species inhabiting its wetlands. As the office lead in Mobile, Walters works to sustainably grow all sectors of the business, including engineering, architecture, environmental, planning, geotechnical and disaster recovery. An advocate for giving back to the community, Walters is a member of the Alabama Coastal Foundation board and habitat restoration committee chair. He serves on the Dumas Wesley board of directors and Mobile Bay National Estuary Program's project implementation committee. Goodwyn Mills Cawood is a partners for growth investor.



CHAMBER AT WORK



1-2-3 FORUM ALABAMA In October, the Mobile Area Chamber hosted two Forum Alabama sessions designed to connect the business community with elected officials. Gov. Kay Ivey addressed a crowd two days prior to the start of the legislative special session based on redistricting. U.S. Sen. Tommy Tuberville addressed Chamber members earlier in the month and discussed the challenges in Congress. Due to the rising number of COVID cases in late summer, the Chamber hosted U.S. Rep. Jerry Carl virtually in September.

4-5-6 EAGLE AWARDS For the 24th consecutive year, the Mobile Area Chamber held the Eagle Awards, recognizing outstanding minority-owned companies for achievements and contributions to the local economy. LisaRaye McCoy, actress, model, businesswoman, fashion designer and philanthropist, was the keynote speaker. Prior to the awards, the Chamber hosted a Diversity Business Forum, addressing accessing capital for growth and expansion for small and minority-owned businesses. Eagle Award winners were Green Magic Landscape LLC (4) and Small's Mortuary Inc. (5). Spire was named the Rev. Wesley A. James Minority Business Advocate (6).

Photo by Willie Davis



Photo by Willie Davis



Photo by Willie Davis



A CONVERSATION ON DEI The Mobile Area Chamber held its fifth and final session with Chamber-member CEOs and corporate leaders on the initiative designed to improve diversity, equity and inclusion in the Mobile area. The committee, established in 2020, is also planning a series of subsequent meetings to determine next steps in the Chamber's DEI initiative.

7 RETAILER OF THE YEAR Nominated by the Chamber's small business development department, Melissa Cross with McAleer's Office Furniture was recognized as one of the Alabama Retail Association's 2021 Retailers of the Year. This is the second time the business was named a Retailer of the Year.

PORT CITY ADVANTAGES The Chamber's economic development team continues to work numerous projects for new and existing companies. Recent projects represented multiple industry sectors including aerospace, manufacturing/assembly, chemical and warehouse/distribution.



8 CHAMBER AND INNOVATION PORTAL The Chamber teamed up to help Innovation Portal win a \$50,000 grant from the U.S. Small Business Administration. Portal was one of eight recipients for the Small Business Innovation Research Catalyst competition, a new component aimed at spurring investment in underrepresented communities.



9

9 OPPORTUNITY MOBILE The Mobile Area Chamber hosted a group of Troy University Global Scholar students showcasing Mobile as a great city to live, work and play. The group tour, designated as Opportunity Mobile, included a welcome by City of Mobile Mayor Sandy Stimpson and stops at Airbus, Flight Works Alabama, Port of Mobile, APM Terminals, MTC Logistics and Innovation Portal.

BOB CHAPPELLE NAMED MOBILE AREA CHAMBER INTERIM PRESIDENT AND CEO

The Chamber's Board of Directors' Executive Committee named Bob Chappelle interim president and CEO. Chappelle joined the Chamber staff in March 2001 as executive vice president, and was later promoted to chief operating officer. He previously served interim roles in economic development, small business development and community and governmental affairs.



Chappelle

"With more than 20 years with the Mobile Area Chamber, Bob has the institutional knowledge needed to continue our program of work to ensure a smooth transition until a new president is named," said Chamber Chairman **Terry Harbin**.



Golson



Mattingly



Rak-Blanchard

LONGTIME STAFF RETIRE Carolyn Golson, the Chamber's vice president of membership, retired after 33 years of service. She served as vice president for 23 years and held several other positions during her tenure. Among her many accomplishments, Golson launched Chamber Chase, the organization's total resource development campaign and ran it for 25 years.

Shelly Mattingly retired after nearly 28 years at the Chamber. In her most recent position, she was the executive assistant to the Chamber's former President and CEO Bill Sisson. Previously, Mattingly worked in economic development and governmental affairs. Of the many areas she touched, she organized the Chamber's board of directors meetings and coordinated joint events with the Chamber's board of advisors.

Susan Rak-Blanchard, the Chamber's director of communications and marketing, retired after 26 years of service. She served as the organization's lead media liaison and worked with national and international media. She helped with dozens of new economic development project announcements, expansions, ground breakings and ribbon cuttings. Among many other initiatives, she led the Chamber through five major branding campaigns.

CHAMBER AT WORK | Ribbon Cuttings

Photo courtesy of Bellator Real Estate & Development



BELLATOR REAL ESTATE & DEVELOPMENT

1428 Hillcrest Rd., Mobile, AL 36695 | 251.343.7777
Real Estate



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH GROUP MOBILE

808 Downtowner Loop W., Mobile, AL 36609 | 251.341.9505
Recovery



FUSE KITCHEN

1000 Gaillard Dr., Mobile, AL 36608 | 251.219.9322
Restaurants



PURE BARRE MOBILE

1812 Old Shell Rd., Ste. B, Mobile, AL 36607 | 251.622.6205
Fitness Centers



STATE FARM – KIMBERLY COLEMAN

703 Bishop Ln. N., Mobile, AL 36608 | 251.243.0134
Insurance



URGENT CARE FOR CHILDREN

3980-G Airport Blvd., Mobile AL 36608 | 251.318.2603
Healthcare Services

For information on how the Chamber can help your business with a ribbon cutting or grand opening, contact Molly Tillman at 251.431.8649.



KAYLA BYRNE PROMOTED TO BUSINESS ATTRACTION MANAGER



The Mobile Area Chamber promoted **Kayla Byrne** to business attraction manager in the economic development department. She will be responsible for managing activities to attract industrial prospects to the Mobile area, including overseeing Mobile's industrial sites and buildings database and promoting Mobile as a top venue for global commerce.

Byrne joined the Chamber's economic development team in 2018 as marketing and research manager. In that role, she collected and analyzed data, developed and published a wide array of community and state research documents, updated marketing materials and responded to information requests.

"I am excited for the opportunity to support our economic development efforts in a new way," she said. "I look forward to working with Team Mobile and companies interested in investing in our community."

Byrne graduated from the University of South Alabama with a degree in business administration with a concentration in marketing management.

"Kayla will do well in this position," said **David Rodgers**, vice president of economic development. "Her work in the marketing and research area of the department has prepared her for this move."

Byrne can be reached at 251.431.8602 or kbyrne@mobilechamber.com.

Blue Fish

We Help Businesses Overcome Obscurity.

We are a minority-owned advertising firm focused on helping organizations get results. We have the agency experience that you need and can help with strategy, branding, graphic design, website design & development, traditional and digital ad buys, social media management, social media advertising, and more.

If you'd like to talk about how we can help you grow your business, give us a call and we'll get the conversation started.

hi@bluefishds.com | 251.287.9707

MOBILE AREA CHAMBER ANNOUNCES NEW MEMBERSHIP TEAM

Michael Galvin, the Mobile Area Chamber's senior vice president of member engagement, will assume oversight of the organization's membership department, following the retirement of **Carolyn Golson**, vice president of membership. In addition, **Molly Tillman** was promoted to director of membership.

Galvin joined the Chamber in July to help the organization implement industry best practices regarding member recruitment, engagement and retention, product and service delivery, and develop alternative revenue sources. He is adding oversight of the Chamber's membership department to his responsibilities. Galvin holds a bachelor's degree in marketing from the University of Tennessee.

Tillman joined the Chamber's membership department in May 2019, before being promoted to coordinator in the organization's economic development department. In her new role, she will be involved with member relations. She will manage several Chamber events, including the annual Business Expo, a business-to-business trade show that typically draws 2,500-plus attendees. Tillman will also coordinate the Chamber's volunteer ambassador program.

"Having the opportunity to have worked in two departments has really sharpened my skills to better assist our members in their efforts to prosper and sustain their business," said Tillman.



Galvin

Tillman holds a bachelor's degree in marketing management from the University of South Alabama.

"As a membership-based organization dedicated to Mobile's business community, the Chamber is working to increase its membership benefits and engagement. Mike and Molly will make a good team, combining new initiatives with institutional knowledge," said **Bob Chappelle**, the Chamber's interim president and CEO.



Tillman

Golson served as vice president of membership for 23 years and held several positions prior to that during her 33 years with the Chamber.

"Carolyn Golson built a strong program of work, including launching and managing the Chamber's total resource development campaign with a team of volunteers. She has 33 years invested in this Chamber and her knowledge and relationships will not be easily replaced," Chappelle added.

BECOME A MOBILE AREA CHAMBER MEMBER

Membership with the Mobile Area Chamber offers many opportunities to be involved, help our community, receive education and professional development and, most of all, attend networking events to get to know members like you. Join us.

Visit mobilechamber.com or scan the QR code for an application.



DECEMBER 2021

For more information on Chamber events, visit mobilechamber.com

1

STATE OF THE CITY AND COUNTY

Join us for a conversation with City of Mobile Mayor Sandy Stimpson and Mobile County Commissioners Merceria Ludgood, Connie Hudson and Randall Dueitt.

When: 8 to 9:30 a.m./Doors open at 7:30 a.m.

Where: Mobile Convention Center Ballroom

Cost: \$30 members/\$50 for future members or table of 8 for \$325 members/\$500 for future members (price includes breakfast)

Contact: Carolyn Wilson at 251.431.8606 or cwilson@mobilechamber.com

Reservations required.

Gold Sponsor: Mobile Area Water and Sewer System

Silver Sponsors: APM Terminals, Express Employment Professionals, Mobile Airport Authority

Program Sponsors: Austal USA, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama, C Spire Business, Infirmary Health, Mitsubishi Polysilicon, Spire

Supporting Sponsors: CRE Mobile, Leavell Investment Management, McFadden Engineering, The Orthopaedic Group

9

MEMBERSHIP 101

**Members Only*

Meet other members and Chamber staff to learn more ways to benefit from your membership.

When: 8 to 9 a.m.

Where: Mobile Area Chamber, 451 Government St.

Contact: Molly Tillman at 251-431-8649 or mtillman@mobilechamber.com

Reservations requested.

21

EXECUTIVE ROUNDTABLE

**Members Only*

A monthly forum for Chamber-member small business owners and managers featuring speakers on important business topics.

When: 8 to 9 a.m.

Where: Mobile Area Chamber, 451 Government St.

Speaker: David Rodgers, vice president of economic development, Mobile Area Chamber

Topic: Economic Development Update

Contact: Brenda Rembert at 251.431.8607 or brembert@mobilechamber.com

Reservations requested.

Sponsor: BancorpSouth

24 & 27

CHAMBER CLOSED MERRY CHRISTMAS

31

CHAMBER CLOSED HAPPY NEW YEAR



**Phoenix
Restoration
Services**

Full Service Disaster Solutions

251.725.1779 phoenixrest.com

We are a locally-owned, full-service, commercial restoration company, specializing in mitigation, cleaning, contents and reconstruction services.

- 24 Hour Emergency Response
- Fire & Water Damage Clean-up and Repair
- Mold Remediation and Asbestos Abatement
- Contents Cleaning and Storage
- Commercial Reconstruction



General Contractors License #47231 • IICRC Certified Firm - Fire, Water & Mold
ADEM Asbestos Abatement License • Alabama Homebuilders License

JANUARY 2022

For more information on Chamber events, visit mobilechamber.com

3 CHAMBER CLOSED HAPPY NEW YEAR

12 STATE OF THE ECONOMY

**Members Only*

The Chamber's annual State of the Economy event will feature discussions with business leaders and industry experts. After the morning panel, participants will hear from a noted site selector and results of the 2021 State of the Economy survey will be presented.

When: 7:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Where: The Battle House Renaissance Mobile Hotel & Spa, 26 N. Royal St.

Topics: Port and Logistics, Workforce and Education, Downtown Development

Cost: \$40, for members only.

Contact: 251.433.6951 or rsvp@mobilechamber.com

Reservations required.

Title Sponsor: PNC Bank

Sponsors: Alabama & Mississippi Export Railroad, Austal USA, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama, Millard Maritime, Signature Flight Support

Printing Sponsor: Calagaz Printing

17 CHAMBER CLOSED DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

18 EXECUTIVE ROUNDTABLE

**Members Only*

A monthly forum for Chamber-member small business owners and managers featuring speakers on important business topics.

When: 8 to 9 a.m.

Where: Mobile Area Chamber, 451 Government St.

Speaker: Rusty Murdaugh, president, Austal USA

Topic: "Austal USA Updates and Exciting News"

Contact: Brenda Rembert at 251.431.8607 or brembert@mobilechamber.com

Reservations requested.

Sponsor: BancorpSouth

27 BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

Network with business professionals at this popular event.

When: 4 to 6 p.m.

Where: Old Majestic Brewing, 656 St. Louis St.

Contact: Molly Tillman at 251.431.8649 or mtillman@mobilechamber.com

No reservation needed.

Sponsor: Old Majestic Brewing

THANK YOU TO THE SPONSORS OF OUR DECEMBER/JANUARY EVENTS



WHO'S NEW

Franklin Primary Welcomes New Deputy COO



Walker

Lesley Denise Walker joined **Franklin Primary Health Center Inc.** as its new deputy chief operations officer. She brings more than 10 years of experience in public, private and community sectors, especially in the municipal jurisdictions, education, marketing and healthcare arenas. Walker holds a master's degree in public administration from the University of Georgia and a bachelor's degree in government from the University of Virginia.

Dauphin Creek Realty Expands Team



James



Johnson



Pettaway



Richardson

Dauphin Creek Realty and Associates welcomed four new Realtors: **Dorcell James, Stephanie Pettaway, Jekirra Johnson and Bernard Richardson.**

Spring Hill College Names New EVP, CFO

Spring Hill College named **Dr. Kenneth W. England** as executive vice president and chief financial officer. England has more than 12 years of experience in policy, budget operations, stewardship and engagement. He earned a

bachelor's degree in human resource management, a master's degree in education from Samford University and earned a doctorate in higher education administration from The University of Alabama.

Wilkins Miller Announces New Hires

Wilkins Miller LLC accounting and advisory firm named **Lydia Davis** as accounting clerk, **Tim Hopkins** as supervisor, **Samantha O'Dowd** as an associate, **Lauren Taylor** as billing assistant and **Carolyn Tierce** as accounting specialist. Davis is a graduate of Bishop State Community College with more than 25 years of experience in accounting and banking. Hopkins earned a bachelor's degree in computer information systems and a master's degree in accounting from Oakland University Rochester Hills. O'Dowd earned bachelor's and master's degrees in accounting from Samford University. Taylor graduated with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Colorado Technical University. Tierce earned a bachelor's degree in human sciences from Auburn University.

Bellator Hires New Realtors



Emmons



Monroe



Rowland



Womack

Bellator Real Estate & Development hired six Realtors: **Stephen Emmons, Denise Monroe, Lisa Richey, Pat Rowland, Jackie Skingel and Milton Womack.**

BUSINESS ENDEAVORS

UM to Offer Private Music Lessons

The **University of Mobile (UM)** will offer private music lessons for all ages available through The Academy in the Alabama School of Arts. The Academy will provide lessons in voice and instruments on the UM campus. Virtual lessons are available upon request. There will be opportunities for a recital performance each semester. Visit umobile.edu/theacademy for more information.

ASM Global Mobile Launches New Website

ASM Global Mobile, the home of the Mobile Saenger Theatre, Mobile Civic Center and the Arthur R. Outlaw Mobile Convention Center, launched its new website, asmglobalmobile.com. The website allows guests to access building specifics, event information and ticket sales for all three venues. The streamlined, modern design creates improved functionality, easy navigation and increased event information for guests and meeting planners.

Hargrove Partners with Precision Construction

Hargrove Engineers + Constructors, a full-service engineering, procurement and construction, automation, life sciences and technical services firm, has signed an alliance agreement with Precision Construction Management LLC, a general contractor and custom fabrication company in the food, beverage, pharmaceutical and industrial sectors.

24/7 Service at Home or the Office

KEITH COMFORT

For over 50 years Keith Air has been providing trusted services to the Mobile and Baldwin County areas. Our skilled, NATE-Certified service technicians are qualified to work on any residential or commercial air conditioning or heating system. 24/7 emergency services and maintenance plans available.

251-405-3102 • KEITHAIR.COM

MATT KEITH

WAYNE KEITH

BRENT KEITH



turn to the experts

Since 1964
KEITH
AIR CONDITIONING, INC.

River Bank & Trust Opens New Daphne Location

The opening of **River Bank & Trust's** new location at 1301 U.S. Hwy. 98 in Daphne features a "client living room," complete with a fireplace, TV, freshly baked cookies and a gourmet coffee bar. Customers will be treated to appreciation events throughout the year as well as complimentary windshield cleanings in the summer months.

History Museum of Mobile Breaks Attendance Records

The **History Museum of Mobile** announced a record-breaking attendance of 31,259 visitors in fiscal year 2020-21, a 28 percent increase over the museum's previous record of 24,516 visitors in the 2018-19 fiscal year. The museum's major exhibition, "Egyptian Mummies & Eternal Life," ran from Feb. 26 to June 27, 2021, and accounted for 13,965 of those visitors. Although the majority of visitors in the last year came from Mobile and Baldwin counties, guests visited from 48 states.

WELL DONE

Wilkins Miller Named in 100 Best

Wilkins Miller was named one of the 2021 "Best Accounting Firms to Work for" by *Accounting Today* for the seventh year in a row. Out of only 100 firms selected, Wilkins Miller was ranked 23rd in the mid-sized firms (50-249 employees) and one of four accounting firms in Alabama.



Dixon

In other news, **Lindsey Dixon**, a manager at Wilkins Miller, was named a "Leading Lady" by the Girl Scouts of Southern Alabama. The award celebrates individuals who are making a positive impact in their professional lives and in their communities.



Jones

Erin Jones, a partner at Wilkins Miller, was named to the 2021 Class of Associated General Contractors "40 Under 40." The list is comprised of individuals who demonstrate leadership, professional excellence and commitment to the construction industry throughout the state of Alabama.

ServisFirst Bank Names New Board Member



Williams

ServisFirst Bank Mobile added **Bonner Williams** as a board member. Williams is the vice president of ASM Recycling Inc., a commercial metal recycling company in Mobile. He is a graduate of The University of Alabama, where he received a bachelor's degree in biology.

MTC Logistics Named to Top Providers List

Food Logistics, the only publication dedicated to covering the movement of product through the global food supply chain, named **MTC Logistics** to its 2021 Top 3PL & Cold Storage Providers list. The list recognizes leading third-party logistics and cold storage providers in the cold food and beverage industry.

Welch Passes Examination



Welch

Kate Welch of **Wilkins Miller LLC** accounting and advisory firm successfully completed and passed the Uniform Certified Public Accountant Examination. Welch earned a

bachelor's degree in sports management from the University of South Alabama.

MOBILE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
SCOTT SPECK
MUSIC DIRECTOR

Tickets start at \$20!

Fireworks of Jupiter

Saturday, Jan. 22, 2022
7:30 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022
2:30 p.m.

Saenger Theatre

Jonathan Swensen, cello

SPONSORED BY

VOLKERT

J.L. BEDSOLE FOUNDATION

DICK & BETSY OTTS

MobileSymphony.org • 251-432-2010

Lagniappe is now Alabama's

LARGEST

Weekly

NEWSPAPER

77,000 READERS*
*NIELSEN RESEARCH

Mobile's Newspaper

Johnstone Adams Attorneys Named to Best Lawyer List



Collins



Harris



Perry



Rehm



Seiter



Smith



Turner



Watts



Welch

Johnstone Adams announced nine attorneys were selected for inclusion in the 2022 edition of The Best Lawyers in America: **Celia J. Collins, Ben H. Harris Jr., Wade B. Perry Jr., Elizabeth Darby Rehm, Lawrence J. Seiter, E. Watson Smith, Tracy P. Turner, R. Gregory Watts and Jessica L. Welch.** Welch was named among Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch in the category of tax law. This award recognizes lawyers who have been in private practice for less than 10 years in the United States.

Mobile County Wins ACCA Award

The **Mobile County Commission** recently received the Efficiency and Innovation Award from the Association of County Commissions of Alabama (ACCA). Mobile County won in the urban category with its anti-litter campaign, "Love Your Community."

ASID Awards Don Bowden

Don Bowden, president of **Bowden Architecture** received six gold (1st place) awards from the American Society of Interior Design (ASID) for the firm's work in commercial renovation and residential interior design. The award was presented at the Alabama Chapter of ASID annual event.

Mobile County Health Department Receives Funding

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), awarded more than \$48 million to 271 HRSA-supported health centers across 26 states, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia to expand HIV prevention and treatment. Family Health, the primary care division of the Mobile County Health Department, was among those awarded additional supplemental funding to expand HIV prevention services that decrease the risk of HIV transmission.

Chiropractor Receives Award



Lipka

Dr. Judy Lipka of **West Bay Chiropractic Center** recently received the Alabama State Chiropractic Association (ASCA) Lifetime Achievement Award, the highest honor bestowed upon an Alabama chiropractic physician whose career span exceeds 20 years. She was recognized for her specific and significant achievement in the chiropractic profession, the ASCA and the community.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Daphne Grad Receives Girl Scouts of the USA Gold Award Scholarship



Sampson

The **Girl Scouts of Southern Alabama** (GSSA) recognized Daphne High School graduate **Jordan Sampson** for receiving the Gold Award and the Girl Scouts of the USA Gold Award Scholarship. The scholarship award recognizes one outstanding Gold Award Girl Scout per council whose project exemplifies the core components of the award.

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 first and 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.

**SINCE 1916...
GREER'S GOT IT!
WE GUARANTEE IT!**

Greer's
MARKETS • SINCE 1916

Visit our new location at
260 ST. LOUIS STREET
MOBILE, AL 36602
OR SEE A LIST OF ALL OUR
OTHER LOCATIONS AT
greers.com

For Your
HOLIDAY
Essentials & Extras

Lucy Greer

FIND SOMETHING Special

- Bakery: pastries, tarts, cupcakes and more
- Coffee Bar + Cammie's Old Dutch Ice Cream Baristas available all day
- Made to order Kitchen Menu
- Salad, Soup, Olive & Hot Bar
- Specialty Meat and Seafood Selections
- Revelry Bloom Floral
- One of downtown's largest growlers and wine selections
- Lunch and Happy Hour gatherings indoors or on rooftop patio
- Save 6% on 6+ Wine Bottles

[@GREERSSTLOUISMARKET](https://www.instagram.com/greersstlouismarket)

BOARD OF ADVISOR ANCHOR QEA

Rob Howell
9797 Timber Circle Ste. B
Daphne, AL 36527
251.375.5270
anchorqea.com
Environmental Consultants

BAR-B-QUING WITH MY HONEY

Glenda Marks Witherspoon
1880 Airport Blvd.
Mobile, AL 36606
251.479.1089
facebook.com/BarBQuingWithMyHoney
Restaurants

BBW BEAUTY, BODY AND WELLNESS SPA

Leslie Jones
619 Wellington St.
Mobile, AL 36617
251.217.4748
Beautybodyandwellness.com
Spas

BIENVILLE CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

Josh Dindo
250 N. Jackson St., Unit 2
Mobile, AL 36602
251.721.1128
bienvillecs.com
Contractors-Commercial

ICE KREME KONECTION

Tomecia Watts
721 Monarch Dr. W
Mobile, AL 36609
251.423.4393
Ice Cream/Frozen Desserts

KWEST FINANCIAL SERVICES LLC

Kindrid West
10481 Corrine Dr.
Irvingston, AL 36544
251.243.3476
Credit & Debt Counseling Service

LODESTAR GROUP LLC

Colleen Harrison
6005 Vogel Rd.
Mobile, AL 36693
251.610.0710
Real Estate

NSPIRE U! LLC

Candace Houston
6845 U.S. Hwy. 90 E, Ste. 105
Daphne, AL 36526
251.288.0781
nspireu.org
Special Events

OLD MAJESTIC BREWING

Chad Marchand
656 St. Louis St.
Mobile, AL 36602
251.283.3132
oldmajesticbrewing.com
Bars

PURE BARRE MOBILE

Laura Taliancich
1812 Old Shell Rd., Ste. B
Mobile, AL 36607
251.622.6205
purebarre.com/location/mobile-al
Fitness Centers

QUEST PERFORMANCE STRATEGIES

John Hibbard
384 Fairhope Ave., Ste. 2
Fairhope, AL 36532
334.314.0114
questperforms.com
Consultant

SMARTBANK

Nate Sommer
3704 Dauphin St.
Mobile, AL 36608
251.599.1161
smartbank.com
Banks

SOUTHWEST ALABAMA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (SAWDC) ALABAMAWORKS!

Bridget Wilson
2203 Perimeter Rd., Ste. 100
Mobile, AL 36615
251.445.2090
sawdcalabamaworks.com
Nonprofit Organization

SPOTLESS CLEANING SERVICES LLC

Angela Boyd
8708 Augusta Dr.
Mobile, AL 36695
251.455.1284
Janitorial Service

THE PACT THEATRE CO.

Jacob Rowe
5025 Cottage Hill Rd.
Mobile, AL 36609
251.307.5056
thepactmobile.com
Arts Organization-Performing

URGENT CARE FOR CHILDREN

Arema Granger
3980-G Airport Blvd.
Mobile, AL 36608
205.847.2020
childrensurgent.com
Healthcare Services

V CORPORATE

Meagan Mangold
220 Furr St.
Mobile, AL 36607
251.209.9823
vcorporateservices.com
Accounting Service

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Holley Gordon
4770 Hamilton Blvd.
Theodore, AL 36582
251.408.5208
wm.com
Waste Management and Remediation Services

As of Oct. 31, 2021

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 web.mobilechamber.com/search.

CONNECT with us



FOLLOW us



mobilechamber.com/blog



The Mobile Area Chamber was awarded the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's highest designation. Of the 6,936 chambers in the U.S., only 3 percent achieved five-star distinction.

NEW MAJORS

NEW EXPERIENCES

NEW LOWER TUITION

— —

**ONE OF THE MOST AFFORDABLE
PRIVATE COLLEGES IN THE COUNTRY**

Spring Hill will inspire and ignite the
kind of purpose and preparation
students need to become

Real World Ready



SPRING HILL
COLLEGE

SHC.EDU

