

# BUSINESSVIEW

MOBILE CHAMBER

MAY 2022

## FAUST CHAIRS CHAMBER CHASE

SPOTLIGHT ON  
WEST MOBILE

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MOBILE CHAMBER

MAY 2022



## 24 ON THE COVER:

Tommy Faust with Trustmark Bank was picked to lead the next Chamber Chase campaign. Read more about how to be a part of this campaign on pages 24-26. Photo by Brian Jordan, FusionPoint.



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## ABOUT THE MAGAZINE

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## PUBLISHERS NOTE:

### GET ACTIVE, DON'T LITTER AND ENJOY MOBILE

Nancy Wall Hewston

When we say the Mobile Chamber, some people think downtown Mobile only. When you Google Mobile, Alabama, most of the images that pop up are of downtown. But the Mobile Chamber not only represents downtown but all of Mobile and Mobile County, and businesses in Baldwin, Washington and Clarke counties. We even have members from New Jersey and California.

So, we thought with this issue we would take a look at west Mobile and tell the story of what's going on in that part of town. So much is happening along with the population growth, and the Mobile County Commission was quick to point out all the work they are doing.

Did you know that in the last five years, Mobile County has completed 22 road improvement projects in west Mobile?

In addition to that story, you'll find lots of business news from across Mobile County including the incredible news from U.S. Sen. Richard Shelby that the Port of Mobile and the Mobile Airport Authority have been awarded much needed funds for improvement projects and more.

Lastly, we look at the efforts from the city and county to clean up the area through recycling and litter patrols. So much is happening in Mobile and the surrounding areas, and we hope you will get out there and get active, recycle, pick up your litter and enjoy all this great area has to offer.

# SEN. SHELBY HELPS GET TRANSPORTATION AND IMPROVEMENT FUNDING



The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) awarded a combined \$100 million to the Mobile Airport Authority (MAA) and the Alabama State Port Authority (ASPA) to construct multi-modal transportation assets in Mobile.

MAA and the ASPA jointly competed for the opportunity to use the USDOT Demonstration Program Grant to facilitate capital infrastructure improvements at the Port of Mobile and at the Mobile Downtown Airport (BFM). The competitive grant was authorized under the Consolidated Appropriations Act and is intended to increase the efficiency of freight movements by air, rail, highway and water.

“This is one of the most impactful federal grants during my time in Congress,” stated **U.S. Sen. Richard Shelby** (R-Ala.). “Mobile is uniquely positioned to become a major transportation hub, with infrastructure already in place for maritime, rail, aviation and highways. For many years, I worked to create those conditions by dredging the Port of Mobile and improving the airport. This program will build on that vision. Our Gulf Coast and the entire state of Alabama stands to benefit immensely from this funding in ways we can only imagine. Mobile has a lot to offer, and I am thrilled that we are utilizing its existing infrastructure to create a new transportation hub and economic power source for the entire state.”



MAA will also receive \$100 million, thanks to a government spending bill passed in Congress. Shelby made the spending request as part of the fiscal year 2022 appropriations.

According to a news release, this federal funding will be used for the design, planning and construction of improvements at BFM, including apron development and reconstruction, a new terminal, drainage, utility systems and other projects.

MAA is on course to build the new international terminal debt-free by the fall of 2024. The project is estimated to cost \$250 million, which includes a new international terminal and parking garage.

“We owe a tremendous amount of gratitude to Senator Richard Shelby. This project would not be possible without his support and leadership,” said **Elliot Maisel**, MAA chairman. “This investment puts us closer to our goal of building a new terminal debt-free, and that’s exciting. By avoiding debt, we can keep costs low for airlines and pass those savings along to our customers.”

# EVONIK TO BUILD \$176.5M METHYL MERCAPTAN PLANT



Evonik announced plans to invest \$176.5 million in a methyl mercaptan plant at its site in Mobile.

Methyl mercaptan, an intermediate in the production of MetAMINO (DL-methionine), is currently sourced from third parties. This backward integration step strengthens Evonik's site in Mobile as a global, best-in-class methionine hub for reliable and cost-optimized supply to North and South American markets. The plant is scheduled to come on-stream in the second half of 2024.

"The new methyl mercaptan plant in Mobile is another important step in the consistent implementation of our global methionine asset strategy," says **Johann-Caspar Gammelin**, head of Evonik's Nutrition and Care division. "We are securing our cash flow from the methionine business to finance our growth with system solutions in Nutrition and Care."

The global methionine production hubs in Antwerp and Singapore are already fully backward integrated, which contributes to improved supply security and a market-leading cost position. It also facilitates future and highly efficient debottlenecking over the next several years.

"In the market, we stand for quality, superior supply reliability and a high level of safety and technology standards in our assets," said **Dr. Emmanuel Auer**, head of the Animal Nutrition business line at Evonik. "The backward integration in Mobile eliminates transportation of hazardous chemicals and shows our continued commitment to responsible care and business sustainability. This ultimately positions us even better as a reliable partner for our customers in the Americas."

The investment is a building block of the division's sustainability strategy, as it will reduce the carbon footprint of DL-methionine from Mobile by about seven percent. More than 25,000 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents can be saved each year.

Methionine is used in livestock farming to feed animals healthily, efficiently and sustainably. With its science-based approach, Evonik's Animal Nutrition business line develops products, services and system solutions to help supply a growing world population with healthy, high-quality and affordable animal protein.

"This project was made possible by the pro-business environment in Alabama and the cooperation of the governor's office, Alabama Department of Commerce, Mobile County, city of Mobile and Mobile Chamber," said **Kel Boisvert**, vice president and site manager for Evonik in Mobile.

"Evonik was one of the first German companies to set up an operation in Alabama, and it's great to see that its Mobile plant is once again playing a central role in this world-class company's global growth plans," **Gov. Kay Ivey** said. "The significant investment Evonik is making in Alabama will not only solidify its industrial presence in Mobile but also allow us to continue to build on this long-standing partnership."

"Evonik is another example of a company that sees value in the local workforce," said Mobile Chamber Vice President of Economic Development **David Rodgers**. "Evonik has been a great corporate citizen since the 1970s, and this expansion ensures their site in Theodore will remain competitive for years to come."

# ADVANCED MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY CENTER HOME OF **STEM EDUCATION** AT BISHOP STATE



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# MOBILE UNITED CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

In 1972, Mobile United was created to provide an organized way to deal with and resolve community issues. Since then, it has been a staple in the business world by bringing people together through education, social services, public safety and more, to make Mobile a better place to live.

The organization’s mission is to unite the community through deliberative dialogue to train, convene and engage leaders for positive action.

Mobile United is able to accomplish these goals through its staple leadership programs: Leadership Mobile, Connect Mobile and Youth Leadership Mobile. These programs allow individuals to develop their leadership skills and engage in positive action for the betterment of our city.

**Chris Gibson**, executive director of Mobile United, says being a part of these programs is invaluable to the community and the business leaders engaged with the programs.

“We all know that the government sector can’t do everything by itself and that the nonprofit world, by design, plays by a different set of rules, so the business community is uniquely positioned to make the greatest impact on the world in which we live,” she said. The ancillary benefit is the networking it provides which oftentimes leads to lifelong relationships with classmates that may have otherwise taken years to develop.”

In addition to the programs, Mobile United hosts a number of committees and task forces to tackle such issues as natural resources, servant leadership, health services, public safety, diversity and inclusion, government and education.


“There is a great adage that I feel summarizes Mobile United’s mission up so well: If you want to go fast, go alone, but if

you want to go far, go together,” said Gibson. “It’s that same mentality that motivated 60 concerned citizens to gather at our first membership meeting on July 11, 1972, ‘bringing together into a cooperative effort a cross-section of the leadership of the community’ to say: how do we really effect change and move this city forward? And it’s the same mentality we still take in deliberating on issues and mobilizing our considerable collective resources to help move the needle in those respective areas.”

For more information about Mobile United, visit [MobileUnited.org](http://MobileUnited.org).

“There is a great adage that I feel summarizes Mobile United’s mission up so well: If you want to go fast, go alone, but if you want to go far, go together.”

**Chris Gibson**, executive director  
Mobile United

|  |   |
|--|---|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Since 1974, there have been 1,450 Leadership Mobile graduates.</li> </ul>  |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Since 1996, there have been 810 rising high school sophomores, juniors and seniors, Youth Leadership graduates.</li> </ul> |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Since 2015, there have been 119 Connect Mobile graduates of young professionals (21-35).</li> </ul>                        |



# \$70M INDOOR WATER PARK SET TO OPEN AS PART OF TROPIC FALLS

OWA Parks & Resort will open its new, \$70-plus-million indoor water park in Foley this month. The resort is rebranding and transforming its 14-acre amusement park with 23 rides and attractions, originally opened as The Park at OWA in 2017, into a tropical paradise named Tropic Falls. A new front gate will greet guests.

“We are incredibly proud of OWA, the direction it’s moving and the economic impact it continues to have on not only the local community but the state as well,” said **Cody Williams**, Creek Indian Enterprises Development Authority president and CEO. “With the addition of the new indoor water park and the wave pool, we will be creating an additional 400 new jobs for our community. That opportunity, to create such a strong impact for our community, is something we hold to the highest regard.”

The new water park will feature 100,000 square feet of indoor space with a retractable roof and sidewall, 11 total water slides, a lazy river and six slides at the slide tower, including Tangerine Scream, a 75-foot, free-fall slide with a drop floor. The water park will also feature outdoor amenities including a 30,000-square-foot wave pool called Big Water Bay, a surf simulator, private cabana rentals and outdoor dining.

“We are so excited to share that upon completion, Tropic Falls will be the only indoor water park in the United States with a retractable wall and retractable roof, allowing for the ultimate experience in Coastal Alabama climate control,” said **Kristin Hellmich**, the director of marketing and public relations for OWA Parks & Resort.

**“We are incredibly proud of OWA, the direction it's moving and the economic impact it continues to have on not only the local community but the state as well.”**

**Cody Williams**, President and CEO,  
Creek Indian Enterprises Development Authority

Owned and operated by the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, OWA’s name is derived from a Creek word for “big water.” The tropical theme of the 520-acre property was inspired by the Gulf of Mexico, minutes away via the Foley Beach Express.



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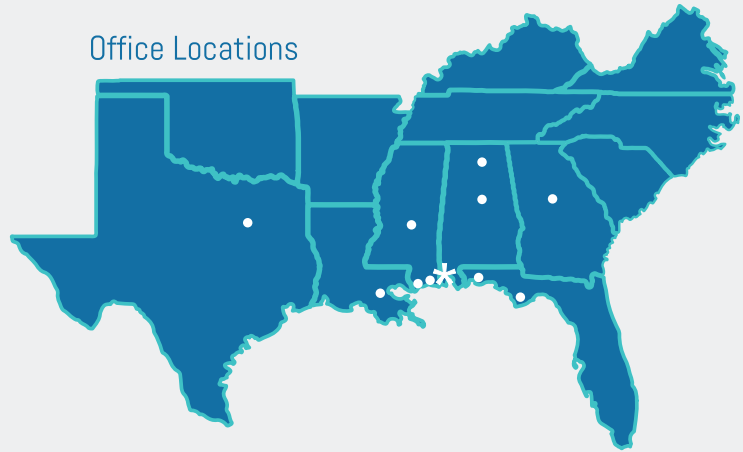
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## CONTINENTAL AEROSPACE TECHNOLOGIES RECEIVES ALABAMA GOVERNOR'S TRADE EXCELLENCE AWARD

Continental Aerospace Technologies was awarded a 2020 Governor's Trade Excellence Award. The annual award recognizes seven companies that support Alabama's thriving trade business by selling and exporting innovative global products.

"Continental is proud to be recognized by Governor Ivey for our production efforts and our worldwide distribution capabilities," said **Karen Hong**, Continental's president and CEO. "Our talented team manufactures and assembles every piston engine in one of the newest and most advanced general aviation manufacturing facilities. Our world-class employees are honored to bring global recognition to manufacturing excellence on the Gulf Coast with every engine we ship."

Since opening the Mobile manufacturing facility in 1966, Continental has shipped hundreds of thousands of piston aircraft engines to aviators in over 30 countries, according to the company. In addition, Continental provides engines, replacement parts and services to airframe partners, flight schools, fleet customers and aviators.

**Christina Stimpson**, director of the Alabama Department of Commerce's office of international trade, said this year's award winners can serve as role models for other Alabama companies looking to follow a similar path in exporting their goods and services overseas.

"We are proud to have worked with all the companies represented today and to have assisted them in identifying international opportunities," she said.

"The communities where they are located are fortunate to have them because, through exporting, they're diversifying the economy, growing their production, and creating and sustaining jobs."

**The communities where they are located are fortunate to have them because, through exporting, they're diversifying the economy, growing their production, and creating and sustaining jobs."**

**Christina Stimpson**, Director of Trade  
Alabama Department of Commerce

# BUILDING TWO STARTS SOON FOR SOUTH ALABAMA LOGISTICS PARK

One year ago, Team Mobile, in partnership with Burton Property Group, announced the South Alabama Logistics Park would be a reality and the new development would be built to attract warehouse, distribution and manufacturing operations.

Phase 1 broke ground on August 18, 2021, signaling construction to start on the 1,300-acre park's infrastructure. Located at 6501 Theodore Dawes Rd., near the I-10 Theodore Dawes exit in south Mobile County, the property has garnered attention from potential tenants and is almost full, says **Philip Burton**, president of Burton Property Group.

"Phase 1 is at 80 percent completion and we are at 50 percent capacity in the first building," said Burton. "We are pleased with the activity at the Park. Mobile is becoming known as a market to help relieve distribution congestion that will only continue."

The project is a three-year collaborative effort among the Alabama State Port Authority, Burton Property Group, city of Mobile, Mobile County and the Mobile Chamber. Phase 1 of the



park includes 6 million square feet, making this development the largest not only in southeast Alabama but also in the state.

"The activity and interest in the first building has been high and I am confident we will reach 100 percent capacity by its completion," said Burton. "So much so that building two is already starting."

For this project, the Mobile County Commission and Mobile City Council each voted to spend \$3 million to help develop roads and related infrastructure.

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# UNIVERSITY OF MOBILE OFFERS NEW NURSING PROGRAM

The University of Mobile (UM) announced it will begin a new associate degree in nursing program aimed at reducing nursing shortages.

The two-year associate degree in nursing (ADN) program will begin in August 2022, pending final approval by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges.

**Dr. Sarah Barnes-Witherspoon**, dean of the UM School of Nursing in the College of Health Professions, said the high demand for registered nurses will continue to be an issue into the future. Earning an associate degree in nursing can be a first step for students who want to quickly enter the workforce and begin earning a paycheck, then continue their education toward a bachelor's or master's degree while working full-time.

According to the news release, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics lists registered nurses among the top occupations in terms of job growth through 2030. Accounting for nurses who are retiring or leaving the field for other reasons, along with the growing demand, Barnes-Witherspoon said the Bureau of Labor projects 194,500 openings for registered nurses each year through 2029.

Students in the ADN program will gain hands-on experience in UM's Center for Excellence in Healthcare Practice. The center features skills labs and high-fidelity patient simulators to mirror scenarios students will experience in their professional nursing careers. The School of Nursing has agreements with more than 20 healthcare facilities that offer nursing students the clinical experiences they need to prepare for a career in their field.

In addition, UM is partnering with Infirmity Health to offer half-tuition scholarships for eligible students who enroll in the university's new nursing program.

Students who are awarded Infirmity Health scholarships will agree to work for the health system for a minimum of two years after graduation. Infirmity Health is the largest non-governmental healthcare system in the state of Alabama.

"Our partnership with Infirmity Health is a great benefit for students who want to become a registered nurse as soon as possible and step into a job right after graduation," said University of Mobile President **Lonnie Burnett**.


To apply or learn more, visit [umobile.edu/adn](http://umobile.edu/adn), or call Enrollment Services at 251.442.2222.

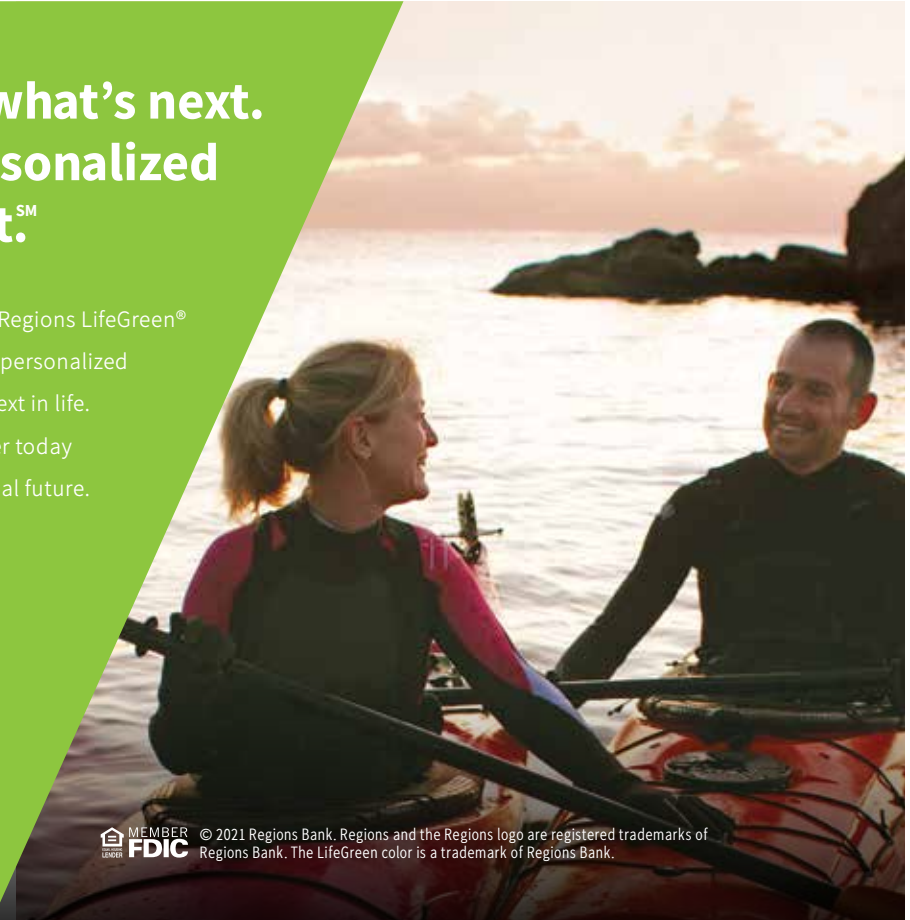
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A collage of four images related to industrial and construction work. The top-left image shows a large industrial structure with a complex metal framework. The top-right image shows a construction site with workers in safety gear and a long concrete structure. The bottom-left image shows a worker using a handheld electronic device. The bottom-right image shows a worker in a blue shirt working on a large piece of machinery.

  
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# USA HEALTH OPENS EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT IN WEST MOBILE



*USA Health's freestanding emergency department is located at 181 Hillcrest Rd. in west Mobile.*

USA Health celebrated the opening of its new freestanding emergency department at 181 Hillcrest Rd. in west Mobile. The state-of-the-art facility will provide convenient access to area residents with the most advanced emergency and diagnostic care available in the region.

“When people in west Mobile are in need of emergency care, they now have a facility that is fully staffed by physicians who are board-certified in emergency medicine,” said **Owen Bailey** MSHA FACHE, chief executive officer of USA Health. “This facility is the first part of a comprehensive medical campus designed to meet the emergency and everyday healthcare needs of patients – all designed to be convenient for the people of west Mobile.”

USA Health anticipates up to 15,000 patient visits per year at the location, which will operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Led by board-certified emergency medicine physicians, patient care will be supported by significant imaging capabilities including a CT scanner, an MRI, X-ray and ultrasound.

“While this facility may look like its only purpose is provide emergency medical care for people who come through its doors, it is so much more. Its impacts will be felt throughout the state and region,” said **John V. Marymont** MD MBA, executive vice president for medical affairs and dean of the University of South Alabama College of Medicine.

Located adjacent to USA's main campus, the new facility also will help to bring about new treatments, cures and preventions for diseases. The synergistic relationship between clinicians and basic scientists will be enhanced by this facility because of its proximity to the main University of South Alabama campus.

The facility also will impact the future healthcare workforce. USA Health recently started an emergency medicine residency program to increase the number of physicians specifically trained for emergency medicine. In addition to the medical school, USA has introductory and advanced educational programs in nursing, occupational therapy, physical therapy, physician's assistant, radiological services, and speech pathology and audiology.

“Alabama currently has a shortage of board-certified emergency medicine physicians to care for citizens locally and throughout our state,” said **Edward Panacek** MD, professor and chair of the USA department of emergency medicine. “This new facility will increase opportunities for our resident physicians to train with faculty physicians at a new location inside our academic health system.”



# MOBILE COUNTY TO PHASE OUT OUTDOOR WARNING SIRENS

For years, when the threat of severe weather was approaching Mobile County, sirens would sound to alert residents. With new technology available that is more reliable and less costly, the Mobile County Emergency Management Agency's outdoor warning sirens will cease operating this year, according to the Mobile County Emergency Management Agency Authority Board.

"In the past, the outdoor warning sirens were the only means of alerting local residents to tornadoes or hazardous materials events, but current technology provides faster, more efficient, more cost-effective and much more accurate location-based warnings," said **Shayne Lovitte**, Saraland Fire Rescue chief of operations and president of the Mobile County Emergency Management Agency Authority Board.

**In the past, the outdoor warning sirens were the only means of alerting local residents to tornadoes or hazardous materials events, but current technology provides faster, more efficient, more cost-effective and much more accurate location-based warnings."**

**Shayne Lovitte**

Chief of Operations, Saraland Fire Rescue and President, Mobile County Emergency Management Agency Authority Board

The decision to phase out the outdoor warning siren system was based on a cost-benefit analysis of updating the operating technology and aligning the system to current population centers. The existing system of 47 operational outdoor warning sirens covers less than 10 percent of Mobile County and uses radio-based technology that is becoming more difficult to repair as time progresses.

"The siren system created post-WWII was effective for its day, but is now severely limited in range and usage and is no longer aligned to where people live since Mobile County's population has shifted to the west and south," said Mobile County Commission President **Merceria Ludgood**.

To properly upgrade and position the siren system to cover Mobile County's population, approximately 300 new outdoor warning sirens would be needed, most in the fast-growing south and west portions of the county. Each existing siren has an approximately 1-mile outdoor auditory radius (much less if people are indoors). Additionally, the system does not allow only one siren to be activated, so a localized event like a waterspout near Dauphin Island requires that every one of Mobile County's sirens sound.



These systems are a better use of our collective resources and will provide the greatest level of protection for our community moving forward," said City of Mobile Mayor **Sandy Stimpson**.

Mobile County residents are strongly encouraged to engage more precise and efficient means of receiving location-based emergency alerts including:

- The free Mobile County EMA app (available through the Apple App Store or Google Play);
- Following Mobile County EMA on Facebook @MobileCountyEMA or Twitter@MobileA1EMA;
- The free Alabama SAF-T-Net app;
- The free Mobile County Communications District alerts app;
- Enabling smartphone wireless emergency alerts; and
- NOAA weather radios.

# RECYCLING EFFORTS PROVIDE 'A BRIGHTER, CLEANER FUTURE



Mobile County Recycling Center

Recycling has so many positives: it prevents pollution, reduces the need to harvest new raw materials, saves energy, reduces greenhouse gas emissions, saves money, reduces the amount of waste that ends up in landfills and allows products to be used to their fullest extent.

The Mobile County Recycling Center, in partnership with Goodwill, accepts sorted household recycling and regularly holds shred events.

The city of Mobile encourages its residents to recycle and offers two recycling locations for area citizens to recycle common household goods such as paper, plastic, glass, tin and cardboard – with no sorting needed.

To ensure the city's recycling efforts are adequate for its residents, the city is working on a grant to provide additional resources and greater public outreach.

To write the grant, the city used a study conducted by the University of South Alabama to gauge residents' knowledge, usage and expectations for city recycling options and services.

Survey findings show a strong majority of Mobilians (about 70 percent) find it very important to recycle, and more than half of the respondents already recycle, with many interested in more options.

"We were surprised to see how many community members were interested in having curbside recycling and then, even more importantly, how many were willing to pay for the opportunity," said City of Mobile Chief Resilience Officer **Casi Callaway**. "With the city of Mobile charging nothing for trash and garbage, we will need to charge for curbside if it is to move forward. Expanding recycling will have costs and we will have to ensure the benefit outweighs those costs."



City of Mobile Recycling location at Museum Drive.

“We want to work with citizens and stakeholders to see what additional services and resources the city of Mobile can bring to the table to incentivize recycling among all residents and make it as easy as possible for those who are already recycling to continue doing so,” said City of Mobile Mayor **Sandy Stimpson**. “Promoting and expanding recycling can result in less litter and a brighter, cleaner future for our families.”

To ensure there are no interruptions to the city’s current recycling efforts, the city has contracted with a secondary service to pick up, store and transport materials collected through the two city recycling centers.

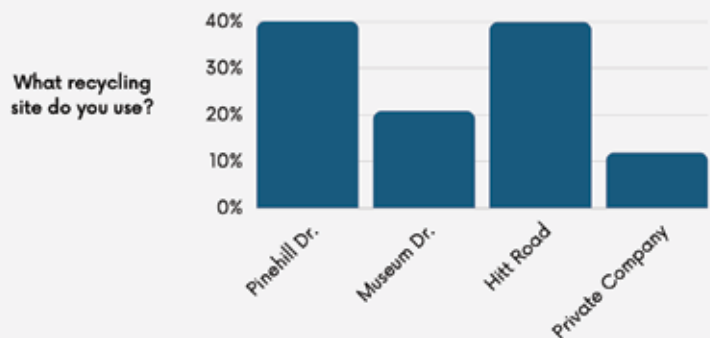
The city of Mobile’s grant application to ADEM includes a funding request to study the feasibility of additional recycling options along with education and an additional drop-off site. The cities of Bayou La Batre, Chickasaw, Creola, Dauphin Island, Saraland, Satsuma, and Semmes have all signed on to support this effort.

## RECYCLING SURVEY

*Results from University of South Alabama survey to gauge residents’ knowledge and usage of recycling efforts in Mobile.*

### DROP-OFF LOCATIONS

Responses are average percentages for responses from residents of the city of Mobile overall and all seven districts.



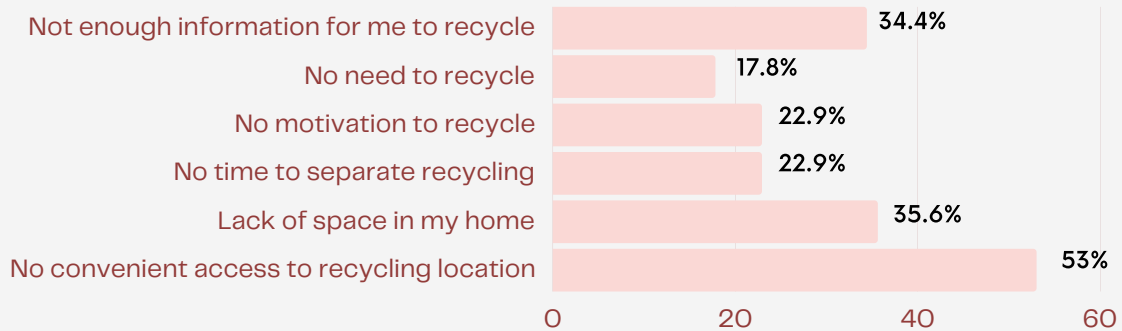
54% of respondents were interested in curbside recycling



Mobile County Recycling Center

## WHY DON'T YOU RECYCLE?

Responses are average percentages for responses from residents of the city of Mobile overall and all seven districts



## DID YOU KNOW?

The city of Mobile has partnered with area nonprofit organizations to make a comprehensive Environmental Education Program Guide available to every school in our community. The new program guide will help teachers, at every grade level, find a program and a partner that will fit their students.

Find the full Environmental Education Program Guide at: <https://tinyurl.com/yfxcu3a8>.

2021 City of Mobile Recycling Survey Prepared by: Thomas C. Shaw, Ph.D., director USA Polling Group and Jacklyn Bunch, Ph.D., associate director, USA Polling Group. For a look at the complete survey results, visit [cityofmobile.org](http://cityofmobile.org).

# FIGHTING THE BATTLE AGAINST LITTER



**No matter where you live, litter is and always will be an issue as long as there are people who refuse to properly dispose of their trash.**

## **Mobile County**

Mobile County Environmental Enforcement reported that in 2021, Mobile County crews picked up 9,569 30-gallon bags of litter. At 11 pounds per bag, that amounts to about 120,000 pounds of litter picked up by hand from 1,783 miles of Mobile County-maintained roadway in 2021. To compare, 9,569 30-gallon trash bags is what 61 families would generate in trash in a year.

In 2020, Mobile County crews picked up 4,720 pounds of litter from 1,536 miles of roadway.

To help in the cleanup, Mobile County now has The Mechanical Litter Picker (pictured above), which has picked up more than 2.6 million pounds of litter from 240 miles of Mobile County rights of way in 2021 and more than 1.6 million pounds of litter from 247 miles in 2020.

In addition to cleaning up, Mobile County has introduced several programs to get the community involved.

Love Your Community ([loveyourcommunity.com](http://loveyourcommunity.com)) is a county-wide project of Commissioner Connie Hudson. Funded in part by GOMESA (Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006) revenue, this program allows volunteer teams to time-bank hours spent picking up litter in designated areas, volunteering at recycling centers, etc., and later cash those hours in for grants to be spent on beautification projects in public rights of way.

Operation Clean Sweeps are environmental drop-off events for items other than trash or recycling. The Mobile County Environmental Enforcement holds seven or eight of these events over the spring and fall of each year.

The March 2022 event brought in 505 loads of rubbish for disposal as well as 472 tires and 8,655 pounds of electronics for recycling.

## City of Mobile

Last summer, the city of Mobile stepped up its efforts and created a campaign to address litter that included three parts: a detailed plan, an all-in approach and a focus on every Mobilian taking ownership over the problem.

The plan starts with education, and includes prevention, collection and enforcement. Education efforts include a combined booklet of all the education opportunities currently offered by nonprofits across Mobile.

Prevention efforts are growing with recycling expansion and the commitment by Burton Property Group, among others, to test adding trash cans to their shopping center parking lots.

Collection is a huge piece of the puzzle with the city of Mobile creating a pilot tracking project that can be found on its website – [cityofmobile.org/litter](http://cityofmobile.org/litter). In 2021, the city of Mobile’s Litter Crew picked up 54,400 pounds of litter from city streets and an additional 24,700 pounds collected from area waterways through a contract with Osprey Initiative. For 2022, the city has added a collection web tool for community members to share how much they collect along with where they are conducting clean-ups so there is a broader picture of all that community members are doing to combat litter.

“Community members know the locations of frequently used dumpsites in Mobile,” said City of Mobile Chief Resilience Officer **Casi Callaway**. “We need to watch them and report violators

together to send a clear message – if you dump trash illegally, you’re going to get caught.”

City efforts can only go so far, so they are asking area residents to help and get involved. If you see litter, pick it up. If you see someone littering from a vehicle, you can report to the city directly by calling 311 and provide a tag number, location and type of litter if you’re able to do so safely.

Next steps include enlisting businesses to take on more significant roles to stop litter. The more engagement in the effort, the better.

To join the City of Mobile’s Task Force, email [callaway@cityofmobile.org](mailto:callaway@cityofmobile.org) to get involved.

**“The single best way to eliminate litter is for each of us to take ownership over the problem.”**

**Casi Callaway**  
City of Mobile Chief Resilience Officer

“The single best way to eliminate litter is for each of us to take ownership over the problem,” Callaway said. “We can no longer step over it and ask who will pick it up. We need to engage in finding solutions so we can create a Litter-Free Mobile.”



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# LITTER BY THE NUMBERS

## Mobile County and City of Mobile Litter Reports for 2021

- Mobile County crews picked up 9,569 30-gallon bags.
- At 11 pounds per bag, that amounts to about 120,000 pounds of litter picked up by hand from 1,783 miles of Mobile County-maintained roadway in 2021.
- To compare, 9,569 30-gallon trash bags is what 61 families would generate in trash in a year.
- In 2020, Mobile County crews picked up 4,720 pounds of litter from 1,536 miles of roadway.
- The Mechanical Litter Picker has picked up more than 2.6 million pounds of litter from 240 miles of Mobile County Rights of Way in 2021 and over 1.6 million pounds of litter from 247 miles in 2020.
- The city of Mobile is creating a pilot tracking project that can be found from their website – [cityofmobile.org/litter](http://cityofmobile.org/litter).
- In 2021, the City of Mobile’s Litter Crew picked up 54,400 pounds of litter from city streets and an additional 24,700 pounds collected from area waterways through a contract with Osprey Initiative.

**9,569**  
30-gallon bags of litter picked up

**9,569 = 61**   
Amount of trash generated by 61 families in one year.

 **4,720 pounds of LITTER on 1,536 miles roadway**

**2.6M pounds of litter**  
picked up by the Mechanical Litter Picker from  
**240 miles**  
of Mobile County rights of way in 2021

**Over 1.6M pounds of litter**  
picked up from  
**247 miles in 2020**

 **54,400 pounds of litter**  
picked up on city streets in 2021 and an additional  
**27,700 pounds**  
collected from area waterways through a contract with Osprey Initiative 

**Bellingrath**  
Gardens and Home

**SUMMER EVENTS:**  
JUNE 8: Kids Gulf Discovery Day  
JUNE 15 - JULY 27: Wonderful Wednesdays

**OPEN DAILY**  
**8 AM - 5 PM**

    
[bellingrath.org](http://bellingrath.org) | 251.973.2217  
12401 Bellingrath Gardens Road  
Theodore, AL 36582

# TOMMY FAUST TO LEAD CHAMBER CHASE

If it's not broke, don't fix it. The saying definitely applies to the Mobile Chamber's annual Chamber Chase total resource campaign. As usual, this year's campaign includes dedicated volunteers and staff working to recruit new members, secure sponsorships for Chamber events and sell advertising space in Chamber publications. The ultimate goal is to help the Chamber continue its mission of being a progressive business advocate.

**Tommy Faust**, 2022 Chamber Chase Chairman and president of the Mobile and Baldwin County markets for Trustmark Bank, kicked off the campaign's 26th year. Chamber Chase runs from April to August.

"My teammates at Trustmark, and in particular **Rachel New**, have shown me the benefits of being active in the Mobile Chamber and Chamber Chase for several years," said Faust. "I have always been a supporter, but not directly involved like they have been. They challenged me to step up and do my best, so I promise to do that for them."

**My teammates at Trustmark, and in particular Rachel New, have shown me the benefits of being active in the Mobile Chamber and Chamber Chase for several years."**

**Tommy Faust**  
2022 Chamber Chase Chairman and president, Mobile and Baldwin County markets, Trustmark Bank

Trustmark has been part of the Chamber Chase campaign since its inception and has helped the Chamber secure sponsorships, as well as being a longtime sponsor of the Chamber's Annual Meeting.

"Our employees at Trustmark focus on teamwork as a daily way of life," said Faust. "Having another opportunity to allow the leaders in our company to shine in a competitive environment grows them as individuals, as well as helps them make new contacts who they can assist with their financial needs."

Chamber Chase can be beneficial to other companies, too, Faust added. "Investing in the Chamber during the Chamber Chase brings an extra level of attention to your business, as these investments are announced to let people active in the

Chamber know who is supporting the various activities of the Chamber," he said. "Also, the investor has a chance to be presented the full variety of opportunities so that they can pick which ones will have the greatest impact towards reaching their target audience."

"I could not have picked a better person to lead this year's Chamber Chase campaign than Tommy," said **Andrea Cape**, the Mobile Chamber's Senior Director of Membership. "To get him out front of his amazing team is going to be a great asset to all the volunteers and other teams overall. He is a great leader and I am looking forward to a great campaign."

The Chamber Chase campaign kicked off in April with a goal of \$1 million in memberships, sponsorships, advertisements and donated goods and services. To get involved as a volunteer, participate with a company team or simply donate a door prize for the volunteers, contact Cape at 251.431.8622, or email [acape@mobilechamber.com](mailto:acape@mobilechamber.com).

## 2022 CHAMBER CHASE TEAMS

*as of April 6, 2022*

|                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Alabama Power Co.                 | Mobile Chamber Board of Advisors          |
| Arkema                            | Mobile Chamber Growth Alliance Task Force |
| BancorpSouth                      | McAlee's Office Furniture                 |
| Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama | Renasant Bank                             |
| Blue Fish                         | Roberts Brothers                          |
| C Spire                           | Regions Bank                              |
| Century Bank                      | SmartBank                                 |
| Hancock Whitney Bank              | Spire                                     |
| Harper Technologies               | Trustmark Bank                            |
| LLB&B Real Estate                 | Truist                                    |
| Mobile Chamber Ambassadors        | Yellowhammer Investment Group             |





*Photo by Brian Jordan,  
FusionPoint*



Photo by Brian Jordan, FusionPoint

Trustmark Bank's Chamber Chase team includes from left to right, Rachel New, Wendy Turner, Dawn Finch, Tommy Faust and BJ Griswold.

## GET INVOLVED

### HOW CAN THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY BE A PART OF THE MOBILE CHAMBER'S ANNUAL CAMPAIGN?

- Visit the campaign website, [chamberchase.com](http://chamberchase.com), for ideas.
- Join the Mobile Chamber.
- Raise your visibility by joining the Mobile Chamber's board of advisors.
- Gain exposure for your company by sponsoring an event.
- Promote your business with an advertisement in a Mobile Chamber publication.
- Contact Andrea Cape at 251.431.8622 for details or to discuss ideas.



# Spotlight on West Mobile

The Mobile Area Association of Realtors website describes west Mobile as being “filled with fields of grass, land, lakes, farm life and nurseries. With a friendly, neighborly atmosphere, west Mobile is the perfect rural community to settle down in.”



*West Mobile neighborhood*

In 1947, the city of Mobile was measured at approximately 26 square miles. It now measures 180.07 square miles. Meanwhile, in 1,644-square-mile Mobile County (1,229 square miles in land and 415 square miles in water), one of the fastest-growing areas is west Mobile.

Less than 40 years ago, Cottage Hill Road ended at Schillinger Road. Country roads led to the end of Mobile County at the Alabama-Mississippi state line.

Once a forest of nurseries, Big Creek Lake and the regional airport, west Mobile is now a bustling and thriving area in Mobile County with more than 32 residential neighborhoods, approximately 36 schools, grocery stores, retail shopping, restaurants and more.

The Mobile Area Association of Realtors website describes west Mobile as being “filled with fields of grass, land, lakes, farm life and nurseries. With a friendly, neighborly atmosphere, west Mobile is the perfect rural community to settle down in.”

According to Google, west Mobile consists of eight ZIP codes, but most people consider it to be any part of the city and county west of Interstate 65.

“Mobile County is home to many friendly, engaged and collaborative communities. Through partnerships with our municipalities and community organizations, the County is able to provide both facilities and programs that directly impact quality of life,” said District 2 Commissioner and Mobile County Commission President **Connie Hudson**.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, in 2020 west Mobile grew by about 1,500 people more than in 2010. In west Mobile

(counting data from five area ZIP codes), the current population is approximately 153,000, with a median age of 37.3. The total housing units in the areas are roughly 68,975, and the median house value stands at \$134,640. *Source: JobsEQ, [chmuraecon.com/jobseq](http://chmuraecon.com/jobseq)*

To accommodate an expanding population and relieve traffic congestion, the Mobile County Commission reported it has completed 22 road improvement projects in the area in the last five years and has eight major road construction projects slated through 2027.

**To accommodate an expanding population and relieve traffic congestion, the Mobile County Commission reported it has completed 22 road improvement projects in the area in the last five years and has eight major road construction projects slated through 2027.**

Mobile County Engineering continues to plan for west Mobile’s growth through the Pay-As-You-Go program, which is a method of financing road and bridge improvements with no new taxes and no borrowed money. Funds are collected in advance of each road program.

But roads and infrastructure are only one aspect of the changes underway for the west Mobile community.



*Mobile County Soccer Complex*

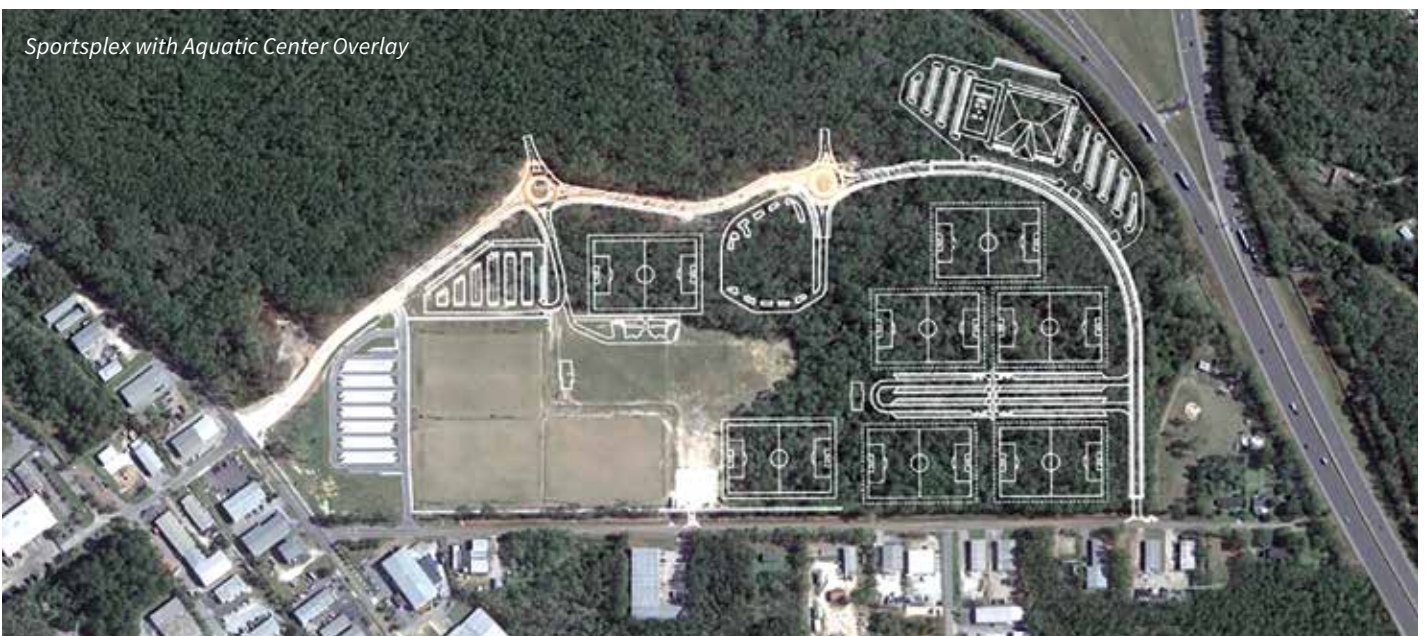
In Mobile County District Two, a few projects are being worked on to improve the quality of life of area residents, including the Mobile County Sportsplex, Semmes Senior Center and Escatawpa Hollow Park and Campground.

“Mobile County’s Sportsplex, which includes the Soccer Complex and Aquatic Center, is a major transformational project that, when complete, will greatly enhance sports tourism in the county, impact our local economy and provide state-of-the-art facilities to our local residents,” said Hudson.

In District Three, there are plans for a West Mobile County Park expansion on Leroy Stevens Road and a golf course and park on St. Andrews Drive. Using Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 (GOMESA) funds, Mobile County recently purchased approximately 100 acres of the former Linksman Golf Course. The property has about 2,500 feet of waterfront access leading to Dog River. The intention is to rehabilitate the golf course, with the remaining property transformed into a waterfront park with kayak launches, pavilions, picnic areas and more.

**“Mobile County's Sportsplex, which includes the Soccer Complex and Aquatic Center, is a major transformational project that, when complete, will greatly enhance sports and tourism in the county, impact our local economy and provide state-of-the-art facilities to our local residents.”**

**Connie Hudson**  
Mobile County Commission President



*Sportsplex with Aquatic Center Overlay*



*Escatawpa Hollow Park and Campground Welcome Center*

Over the past year, Mobile County completed the development of an Escatawpa Hollow Park and Campground Master Plan now being implemented in phases. To begin, additional land was purchased to expand the initial 45-acre park to approximately 200 acres and double the waterfront along the Escatawpa River. Phase 1A improvements include new restroom facilities, pavilions, picnic tables, walking trails, an RV campground, and improved access to the Escatawpa River for kayaking, canoeing, swimming and tubing. Phase 1A construction is on schedule to be complete in 2022.

Phase 1B improvements include renovations to the entrance log cabin to add a café and grill, a general store, an educational interpretive center, and a playground. Future phases are planned to include additional camping facilities, treehouse cabins, sports and outdoor recreational amenities, and a lodge and small conference center for indoor activities and meetings.

“The acquisition of the golf course and the expansion of waterfront access for the community were goals set prior to assuming this office,” said District 3 Commissioner **Randall Dueitt**. “I am pleased to have purchased the golf course, not only for the immediate area, but also as a resource for local community organizations, schools and the public as a whole. This project will not simply be an additional recreational facility; it will also be an avenue for job creation in south Mobile County.”

Big changes are on the horizon for west Mobile, and the opportunities for even more growth seem endless.

“West Mobile County is a hotspot area of growth and development for housing construction, industrial development and expanded sports and recreational facilities,” said Hudson. “It’s very exciting to see all of the activity underway and to be a part of making it happen.”



*Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail at Magnolia Grove*

# MOBILE: WE'VE GOT YOUR BACK.

by Ben Moncrief, executive vice president for Alabama, C Spire

Mobilians know about resiliency. Centuries of hurricanes, including storms like Frederic, Opal, Ivan and Katrina, have shaped and reshaped our landscape and livelihoods. Over that time, the flags of six nations have flown over the city, not counting indigenous settlements predating European exploration. We've seen a lot; and honestly, it makes my job easier.

As the executive vice president at C Spire for our rapidly growing Alabama markets, I have the privilege of working with business and community leaders to bring high-speed, broadband fiber internet to your doorsteps. In Alabama, we are investing half a billion dollars over three years to build and expand the fiber infrastructure necessary to keep areas like the Mobile metro competitive in business, education and quality of life.

Today, less than 30 percent of homes in both Alabama and Mobile County have access to fiber, yet broadband internet powered by fiber optics is recognized as an indicator of growth and a bellwether of future opportunity.

For businesses, C Spire Fiber internet's symmetrical Gigabit speeds mean the information you want is here, now; and documents you want to send are there, now. Residential homes hooked up to fiber can stream, surf and game on every device without buffering or slowing down, and schools are able to accommodate an entire student body and faculty for online learning. For startup entrepreneurs and remote workers based at home, fiber internet is a lifeline. In the advanced manufacturing and logistics industries that continue to power our local economy, fiber broadband's highly reliable, high-speed connectivity is essential to maintaining operational continuity no matter what Mother Nature brings our way.

At C Spire, we have more than three decades of experience working through the uncertainty of hurricanes and severe weather. The day after Katrina hit, our team had 60 percent of our towers restored. After five days, our network was the only operational cellular network on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. That experience has led us to develop best-in-class methods for deploying fiber internet, such as burying our lines underground to keep them safe from high winds and accidents. We're also prepared with backup generators at key hub sites along the Coast, and we deploy refueling supplies before, during and after major weather events.

Because of the entire C Spire team's commitment to the resiliency and reliability of our fiber network, my job here is easy. The benefits of fiber internet are self-evident; all we really have to do is build it strong, and then enable my teams with all the available tools needed to support our services with local, knowledgeable experts, 24/7.

That is what we're doing both here and across the state of Alabama. As we expand through Mobile and Baldwin counties, we also have teams working in communities to the north and east, like Tuscaloosa, Jasper, Trussville and Dothan. And we recently acquired Troy Cablevision.

Thanks to our 17,000 miles – and growing every day – of resilient, lightning-fast fiber infrastructure, I'm proud to say we have your back as we continue to raise the economic bar across the state.

## ABOUT THE EXPERT

*Ben Moncrief is the executive vice president for Alabama at C Spire, a diversified telecommunications and technology company providing comprehensive wireless communications, all-fiber broadband services, and managed and cloud services to consumers and businesses.*

*Moncrief oversees C Spire's fiber network expansion in Alabama, as well as the company's Home Services and Troy Cablevision divisions. Before joining C Spire, he served on Capitol Hill and practiced law in Birmingham. He is a graduate of Birmingham-Southern College.*





*VisionSpot Enterprises describes itself as the extra pair of hands for businesses around the globe. Pictured from left to right are Lamia Bolton, Dr. Valerie D.W. James and Noland Mackey.*

## VISIONSPOT ENTERPRISES PROVIDES ‘THE EXTRA PAIR OF HANDS’ FOR BUSINESSES

When **Dr. Valerie James** moved back to her hometown of Mobile, her company’s services to its global clientele didn’t skip a beat, but the business culture around Mobile Bay got a significant boost. James operates **VisionSpot Enterprises**, a consultancy firm that develops operations management strategies for leaders in a variety of industries by being “the extra pair of expert hands for businesses around the globe,” according to James, its president and CEO.

VisionSpot Enterprises is the Mobile Chamber’s Small Business of the Month.

Since she left her longtime home in California, where she founded her company in 1998, James has built a roster of clients and countless mentorship opportunities that have allowed VisionSpot’s influence and acumen to grow right alongside those it serves. And James says that having headquarters located in a completely different part of the country will only help its resonance for years to come.

VisionSpot Enterprises is comprised of two entities: VisionSpot Enterprise Strategies and the Solutions Maximizing Brilliance

(SMB) School of Leadership. Both involve onsite training and creating learning infrastructures within organizations. The company is “system agnostic,” James said, which means they customize process improvements and strategic planning depending on what each client needs.

The coronavirus pandemic created global shifts in workplace dynamics, which became an opportunity for VisionSpot Enterprises to pivot and dedicate resources toward building out its digital processes for operational efficiency and improvement with existing and prospective clients.

“Being that thought leader bringing a hands-on process of thinking things through with other leaders was a challenge,” James said. “We began working with people who were asked immediately overnight to work from home who had never worked from home before.

“And we had leaders who have never managed people who worked from home before, and we helped make sure they were still able to operate with the greatest level of efficiency while continuing to measure and monitor performance.”



One key way the company was able to create new strategies and develop evolutionary processes for its clients is hiring only highly experienced consultants – who number around two dozen.

“We pride ourselves in recruiting and hiring subject matter experts who specialize in certain areas,” James said. That includes those who focus on a range of areas, from human resources to workplace analytics, corporate structures to nonprofits.

“Our success partners have a wide range of professional experiences from working all over the world,” she said.

VisionSpot Enterprises is a committed supporter of the Mobile Chamber, where James serves as a board member and was vice chair of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in 2021. To James, the subject of diversity and inclusion isn’t solely about race, but “the diversity of experience, thoughts, industries, leaders and leadership.”

Mentorship is a consistent passion of hers, whether it’s through Innovation Portal — where VisionSpot maintains office space — or the RAMP Mentoring Program, housed at the University of South Alabama. She is also the founding president of the Alabama chapter of the National Association of Women Business Owners.

“My business reflects not only the diversity of the regions that we cover, but the people we serve,” she said. “Our primary focus is helping to take the growing pains out of expanding businesses by shaping and aligning their leadership strategy, structure and talent.”



**COMPANY NAME:** VisionSpot Enterprises  
**OWNER:** Dr. Valerie D. W. James  
**WEBSITE:** [visionspotenterprises.com](https://visionspotenterprises.com)  
**PHONE:** 866.970.1114  
**LENGTH OF CHAMBER MEMBERSHIP:** 5 years



*Pictured from left to right are Cosandra Williams, project manager; Lauren Chestang, special projects intern from Bishop State Community College; Anthony James, chief administrative officer; and Dr. Valerie D.W. James, founder & CEO.*

# TRINOVA IS ALL ABOUT PEOPLE



*The TriNova team works out of the facility built in 2010 at 4485 Laughlin Sr. S. off Halls Mill Road in Mobile. The building is visible from Interstate 10 with its distinctive palm trees.*



**Robbie Watson** wasn't ready to start his own business, even though he had thought about it. When the opportunity came to him to purchase a small existing business, he thought he could make it work. He started with the idea that whatever the business was, he would make it the best it could be in our area. That initial premise has grown into a global company working across multiple states and industries.

TriNova was started in 1952 by Frank A. Thomas. Watson has led the company for the last 20 years and to this day, his goal is still to make it the best it can be.

"I knew I wanted my own business one day and that whatever it was, it would be different," said Watson, TriNova's CEO.

**I knew I wanted my own business one day and whatever it was, it would be different.**

**Robbie Watson**  
CEO, TriNova

Instead of just being a company that sold products to support any and all instrumentation needs for all industries and plant processes, Watson wanted to offer more. With the complexity and specialized skills needed to properly use his products, he included training of his employees on the products they sold which led to training their customers on how to use the products they were purchasing.

"We didn't want to just sell the products and wish our customers good luck," said **Chad Green**, TriNova's director of sales. "We wanted to offer more to make sure the products were used as they were intended for customer safety and efficiency, and this level of customer service brings our customers back."

*Photo by Brian Jordan, FusionPoint*



As TriNova started to grow, it caught the attention of Endress + Hauser, a globally operating process and laboratory instrumentation and automation supplier based in Reinach, Switzerland.

This family-owned Swiss company that makes many of the parts TriNova sells created a partnership with Watson to provide support from product experts.

“Endress + Hauser has been a great partner over the years and encouraged me to expand the business into new territories,” explained Watson. “We were first asked to move into Tennessee, then Louisiana, Florida and now New York.”

TriNova has offices in Tennessee, Florida, Louisiana and Puerto Rico and will soon have a New York location. Each of these locations has its own set of technicians to serve the surrounding areas and train their customers on the products they sell.

“Even in those offices, we don’t just sell the products and training, but we understand the importance of giving back to the community where we work,” said Watson. “We encourage our employees to join their community in whatever way they can.”

Locally, the training has grown to help other training facilities. TriNova is hoping to expand their training to other companies and industries, and even to local schools.

“We help with craft training at AIDT,” said Watson. “We are the automation side of the training and can help them offer more specialized training through our facility.”

TriNova’s headquarters is located in Mobile off Interstate 10. The 40-plus employees in the office are like family. When groups come to the office, the trainees are met with a full-size instrumentation wall that is fully operational but also a full-size kitchen and dining area where they are served breakfast and lunch.

“In the early days, my mother would come to the office and make the employees breakfast and lunch,” said Watson. “She enjoyed cooking, and it made everyone feel special and part of our family. We kept that tradition, and it has made a world of difference with our customers.”

That family culture and taking care of the people who work for him has served Watson well. “We don’t have a lot of turnover,” he said. “We have lunch made in-house for our employees, and we gather together as much as possible to get to know each other as friends and not just co-workers.”

Working across all industries that have a need for instrumentation – such as chemical companies, bakeries, water, pharmaceutical, pulp and paper – TriNova found its niche. The company’s people are taking care of people.



Photo by Brian Jordan, FusionPoint

Pictured from left to right are Christian Harwood, Jeff Levensgood, Debra Kent, Robbie Watson, Kim Watson, Chad Green, Amy Elms and Ashley Wilkerson.



## INVESTOR FOCUS

# U-J CHEVROLET CO. INC.

**Company official:** Donald A. Urquhart III, dealer principal

**Address:** 7581 Airport Blvd., Mobile

**Number of employees:** 75

**Website:** ujchevy.com

**Years in business:** 82 years

**Brief company description:** Four generations of the Urquhart family have owned U-J Chevrolet over the past 82 years. The dealership was founded in 1939 by L.C. Urquhart, who opened the first showrooms on Craft Highway. Like all other General Motors dealers across the country, wartime production limited the number of new vehicles available for sale, so for its first few years, U-J's business consisted mainly of used car and truck sales. In 1965, L.C.'s son Donald moved the dealership into brand-new headquarters on the I-65 Beltline at the intersection of Highway 45. Donald's son Bud assumed control of the company in the early 1980s. Bud's son, Donald III, soon joined the management staff full-time. Population shifts in the mid-1990s necessitated another dealership move to west Mobile. Today, U-J is located in a new, state-of-the-art building on Airport Boulevard, just east of Schillinger Road, offering a full line of cars, trucks, sport utility vehicles and vans, as well as service operations, parts sales and collision repair.

**Why do you support the Mobile Chamber's Partners for Growth Initiative?** "The programs and initiatives of the Chamber support and enhance all of the Mobile area," said

Urquhart. "As individuals and other businesses thrive, so too does U-J."

**How long have you been a continuous Mobile Chamber member?** Since 1966

### About Partners For Growth:

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



the Mobile 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](mailto:drodgers@mobilechamber.com).

## EXECUTIVE PROFILE

# JUDY MITCHELL

## FRANKLIN PRIMARY HEALTH CENTER

**TITLE:** Chief operations officer

**HOMETOWN:** Mobile

**EDUCATION:** Bachelor's degree in nursing

**FIRST JOB:** Doing inventory at a bookstore

**PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS:** Earning board certifications in case management; certified professional in healthcare management; certified professional coder; and professional academy of healthcare management. Other professional accomplishments include leading the quality initiatives for Franklin accreditation with Joint Commission and recognition for Patient-Centered Medical Home with the National Committee for Quality Assurance.

**WHAT WORD WOULD YOU USE TO DESCRIBE YOURSELF?** Reliable

**SECRET TO SUCCESS:** I believe in doing my best with anything I do. I think there is always something to learn.

**DO YOU BELIEVE IN LUCK OR DESTINY?** Both

**BEST THING ABOUT YOUR JOB?** I work with an awesome team. They keep me motivated and inspired.

**WHAT IS THE MOST USEFUL THING YOU OWN?** My iPad and smartphone. I cannot remember what it was like before I discovered how useful these tools are.

**WHAT TREND MAKES YOU FEEL OLD?** My collection of Disney VHS tapes and my VHS player.

**FAVORITE FOOD/RESTAURANT:** My favorite food is seafood: blue crab, then gumbo with blue crab.

**WHAT QUALITY DO YOU MOST LIKE IN PEOPLE?** Work ethic and they are not afraid to roll up their sleeves.

**MODERN DAY HERO:** All healthcare workers who diligently worked on the front line during this pandemic.

**YOUR MOTTO:** Try even if you don't succeed, and keep the lessons you learn.

**WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE HERO OF FICTION?** My fictional hero is "Captain James T. Kirk" of the Starship Enterprise. I always admired his leadership style. Never give up.

**BRIEF COMPANY DESCRIPTION:** Franklin Primary Health Center is a federally qualified health center providing access to primary care and some specialty services. Most individuals without insurance can be seen based on their income and household size. Patients with insurance are also welcome. Franklin provides access to quality health services for uninsured and underserved individuals.





## TAMARA WEINART

### OUTOKUMPU AMERICAS

**Weinart**, a native of Mannheim, Germany, is the first female president to lead Outokumpu Americas. She holds a master's degree in finance from Manchester Business School, United Kingdom, and a master's degree in protected landscape management from the University of Greenwich, also in the U.K. Her career includes 17 years at Deutsche Bank in various countries, followed by a few years in the energy sector. In the stainless-steel industry, she was director of finance/investor relations at Inoxum GmbH (the stainless-steel division of ThyssenKrupp). After ThyssenKrupp sold its stainless operations to Outokumpu in 2012, she worked as vice president of investor relations in Helsinki, then as senior vice president of finance and control for BA EMEA, and most recently as senior vice president of Sales South Europe and Overseas.

## WILLIAM KILDUFF

### COMMUNITY BANK

**Kilduff** is the president of the Alabama Coast Division of Community Bank. He is a graduate of the University of Mississippi, with a bachelor's degree in business administration with an emphasis on banking and finance and a graduate of The Graduate School of Banking at Louisiana State University. Kilduff has more than 18 years of experience in the banking industry.



## JOHN "HANK" PARKER

### BAY LANDSCAPING

**Parker**, the president of Bay Landscaping, started the company in 2007 as a one-man show. After the first year, the company doubled in size and has continued to grow each year and has become a leader in the landscaping industry in the Mobile area. Parker attributes the company's growth to work quality and professionalism. He leads the company today with almost 30 landscape professionals offering services that include landscape maintenance, irrigation maintenance, landscape lighting maintenance, seasonal color, tree maintenance and more. Parker studied at the University of South Alabama.



# CHAMBER AT WORK



1



2

**1-2 CHAIRMAN'S RECEPTION** The Mobile Chamber held its annual Chairman's Reception to introduce the 2022 Mobile Chamber Chairman of the Board, Matt White, president of White-Spinner Realty, and to honor outgoing chair Terry Harbin.

**3 YP MOB LUNCH AND LEARN** The YP MOB held a Lunch and Learn event at Innovation Portal with guest speakers Chris Gibson, executive director of Mobile United; Moshae Donald, attorney and owner of Moshae Donald LLC; and Devin Ford, founder of Focus WC. The event sold out and had approximately 80 attendees.



3





**4-5 JO BONNER RECEPTION** The Mobile Chamber held a welcome reception in honor of Jo Bonner being named the new president of the University of South Alabama. The event was attended by Mobile Chamber board, investors and guests.

**6 BUSINESS RESOURCE BOOT CAMP** The Mobile Chamber’s Small Business Development department and its Growth Alliance Task Force held a Business Boot Camp for small and minority business owners to provide tools and information to manage and grow their companies. Presentations by Nathaniel Patterson, A Culture of Excellence, and Grover Brown, Community Enterprise Investments, covered grant programs available for businesses and micro-lending options. The Boot Camp concluded with a panel discussion about pitching to investors from Mel Washington, Alabama Small Business Development Center; Aiko Pickering, founder and owner of Monthly; and Dr. Thomas Nelson, Melton Center for Entrepreneurship Innovation (pictured above).

**NEW BOARD OF ADVISORS** The Mobile Chamber welcomed new board of advisor members (since October 2021). They are Rob Howell, Anchor QEA; Peter W. McMaster, Arcadis U.S.; Brandyn Ulmer, Atlas Industrial Outsourcing LLC; Jenny Klein, Austal USA; Leonardo Montenegro, AutoMOBILE International Terminal (AIT); Hutch Thompson, BankPlus; Robert Shreve, Burr & Forman LLP; Tony Sheffield, Canfor Southern Pine; Daniel A. Garland, Century Bank; Julie Baker, Chart; Ken Styron, Columbia Southern University; William “Bill” Kilduff, Community Bank; Karen Hong, Continental Aerospace Technologies; Gina McKellar, Crow Shields Bailey PC; Rick Gaviria, Hargrove Engineers + Constructors; Brian Blanchette, Ingalls Shipbuilding; Rachel Taylor, KDF Safety Services; Thomas “Lee” Waldrop, Revitalize Realty LLC; Teresa Williamson, Roberts Brothers Inc.; Ion Arregi, Sarralle; Nikki Hocutt, Seabulk Towing; Nate Sommer, SmartBank; Judy Lane, Strategy Advisors Inc.; Russell T. Steiner, Steiner Construction Co. Inc.; Glenda R Snodgrass, The Net Effect LLC; and Dominica Farmer, Waste Management.

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Sunday, May 22, 2:30 p.m.

Saenger Theatre

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NANCY ROWE



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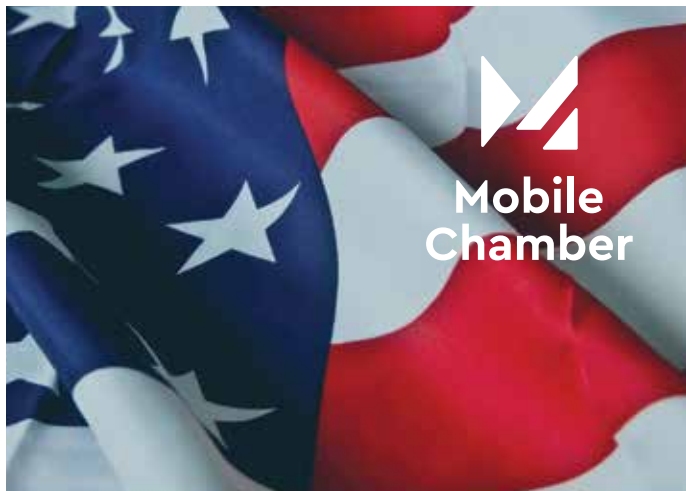
# MOBILE CHAMBER 185<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING



## Mobile Chamber

The Mobile Chamber hosted its 185<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, debuting a fresh new look and fresh new energy. The event was held at a new location at 23 East at Brookley and featured a video presentation, refreshments, live music and food. Trustmark was the presenting sponsor.





JOIN THE MOBILE CHAMBER FOR ITS ANNUAL

# MILITARY APPRECIATION LUNCH

MAY 10, 2022 | NOON TO 1:30 P.M.  
USS ALABAMA BATTLESHIP MEMORIAL PARK

The Military Appreciation Lunch will showcase active and veteran military members and awards will be presented to all branches of the military with recognition of distinguished JROTC & ROTC cadets.

TICKETS ARE \$50 FOR MEMBERS ALONG WITH ALL ACTIVE AND RETIRED MILITARY / \$75 FOR POTENTIAL MEMBERS AND INCLUDES LUNCH  
CALL 251-431-8606 OR EMAIL [CWILSON@MOBILECHAMBER.COM](mailto:CWILSON@MOBILECHAMBER.COM)

## MILITARY APPRECIATION LUNCH SET FOR MAY 10

The Mobile Chamber will host its annual Military Appreciation Lunch on Wednesday, May 10, from noon to 1:30 p.m. at USS ALABAMA Battleship Memorial Park.

During the event, the Chamber will present the Maj. Gen Gary Cooper Outstanding Service Award.

Named in honor of Cooper, a native Mobilian, a former member of the Alabama State Legislature and a two-star general in the U.S.

Marine Corps, the award embodies his continued dedication and service not only to the nation, but to the state of Alabama and Mobile area.

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

The keynote speaker for the event will be **Lt. Col. Alec Yasinsac**, who served 20 years as a communications and data systems officer in the U.S. Marine Corps. His Marine career was characterized by a balance of leadership and technology application. Yasinsac received a master's degree from the Naval Postgraduate School and a doctorate from the University of Virginia, where he was on faculty in the Naval ROTC unit. Both post-graduate degrees were achieved while on active duty.

After retiring from the Marines, Yasinsac joined the computer science faculty at Florida State University. He is currently a professor of computer science at the University of South Alabama School of Computing and has served as the school's dean for 13 years.

With research interests in information security, risk assessment, insider threats, computing forensics and electronic voting systems security, he has published more than 80 refereed workshop, conference and journal papers.

Tickets for the lunch event are \$75 and \$50 for Chamber members along with all active and retired members of the military and can be purchased by contacting Carolyn Wilson at 251.431.8606 or by registering securely online at [web.mobilechamber.com/events](http://web.mobilechamber.com/events).



**Lt. Col. Alec Yasinsac**

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# CHAMBER AT WORK Ribbon Cuttings



For information on how the Mobile Chamber can help your business with a ribbon cutting or grand opening, contact Michael Galvin at 251.431.8628.



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# LAYTON LITTLE JOINS THE CHAMBER'S COMMUNICATIONS AND ADVOCACY DEPARTMENT



The Mobile Chamber hired **Layton Little** as director of government affairs. He will work with government officials and serve as an advocate for Mobile area businesses on the local, state and federal levels. He will serve as the lead for the Chamber's Leaders Exchange event.

Little began his career at Deloitte and Touché as an auditor working with clients primarily focused on aerospace and defense, technology, retail and the restaurant industries. He was appointed a U.S. Senate page, serving all senators.

"I chose to work for the Mobile Chamber because of the economic benefit the Chamber has provided to the Mobile area for nearly 185 years," he said. "I have been able to see first-hand the economic impact a strong chamber can provide local businesses through building relations with local, state and federal leaders. As the new director of government affairs, I am so grateful for the opportunity to advocate on behalf of existing and future businesses."

Little graduated with dual bachelor's degrees in accountancy and finance from Mississippi State University. He earned a master's degree in international public policy from the University of London.

"Layton's experience and skillsets, coupled with his political acumen, will help the Mobile Chamber advance our priorities in a substantial way," said **Nancy Hewston**, vice president of communications and advocacy. "Layton will be an immediate contributor to the Chamber, and I have no doubt that he will prove invaluable to Mobile's business community. We are excited to welcome him to our team."

Contact Little at 251.431.8601 or [llittle@mobilechamber.com](mailto:llittle@mobilechamber.com).



**1**

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# Around Town

Note that these events are subject to change by the organizers. Check the websites listed below for more information and correct times and dates.

## Blessing of the Fleet

May 1 at 2 p.m.

Bayou La Batre

Decorated boats receive the church's blessing for full fishing nets in Bayou La Batre.

[stmargaretbayoulabatre.org/blessing-of-the-fleet](http://stmargaretbayoulabatre.org/blessing-of-the-fleet)

## Mobile Symphony Youth Orchestra Mother's Day Concert

May 1 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Medal of Honor Park, 171 Hillcrest Rd., Mobile

Join MSYO in a Mother's Day celebration.

[mobilesymphony.org/event/msyo-mothers-day-concert](http://mobilesymphony.org/event/msyo-mothers-day-concert)

## Gulf Coast Hot Air Balloon Festival

May 12-14

100 N. OWA Blvd., Foley

The South Baldwin Chamber of Commerce will host this annual festival in partnership with the City of Foley and OWA.

[gulfcoastballoonfestival.com](http://gulfcoastballoonfestival.com)

## 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Rufus B. Lee Gumbo Cookoff

May 20 from 5 to 8 p.m.

Cooper Riverside Park, downtown Mobile

The Propeller Club and the Port of Mobile host this annual gumbo cookoff. The event recognizes National Maritime Day, a day annually set aside to recognize America's maritime industry, and especially those who serve at sea.

[propellerclubofmobile.com/event/935](http://propellerclubofmobile.com/event/935)

## Hangout Music Festival

May 20-22

Gulf Shores

This three-day music festival on the beach features many of the top names in the music industry.

[hangoutmusicfest.com](http://hangoutmusicfest.com)

## Blue Star Salute & Armed Forces Day

May 21 from 6:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

USS ALABAMA Battleship Memorial Park

Hosted by the South Alabama Veterans Council, this event celebrates Alabama's military units and veterans.

[armedforcesdaymobile.com](http://armedforcesdaymobile.com)

## Read the Business View IN PRINT AND ONLINE

Enjoy articles from this issue on the Mobile Chamber's website – [mobilechamber.com](http://mobilechamber.com) – through our blog and under Chamber Publications.



The Chamber also shares magazine features through our social media channels – Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn. Visit [mobilechamber.com](http://mobilechamber.com) to find all our links. Share our digital magazine with your customers on your website and social media channels.

# MAY 2022

For more information on Mobile Chamber events, visit [mobilechamber.com](http://mobilechamber.com)

## 10 MILITARY APPRECIATION LUNCH

The Military Appreciation Lunch will showcase active and veteran military members, awards will be presented to and by all branches of the military and distinguished JROTC and ROTC cadets will be recognized.

**When:** Noon to 1:30 p.m.

**Where:** USS ALABAMA Battleship Memorial Park

**Cost:** \$50 for members along with all active and retired members of the military/\$75 for potential members

**Contact:** Carolyn Wilson at 251.431.8606 or [cwilson@mobilechamber.com](mailto:cwilson@mobilechamber.com)

*Reservations requested due to limited seating.*

**Sponsors:** Alabama Shipyard, Coastal Alabama Community College, C Spire, FMC, Keesler Federal Credit Union, Merchants Transfer Co.

**Venue Sponsor:** USS ALABAMA Battleship Memorial Park

## 11 PREPARING FOR BUSINESS GROWTH

Strengthen your Company's Position to Compete. This workshop will provide information and best practices for developing a capability statement, pricing/estimating processes, cash flow, negotiating skills and more tools to manage your company.

**When:** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Where:** Mobile Chamber, 451 Government St.

**Speaker:** Tom Quinn, eConstruction Estimating Institute

**Cost:** \$20 for members/\$25 for potential members, includes lunch

**Contact:** Brenda Rembert at 251.431.8607 or [brembert@mobilechamber.com](mailto:brembert@mobilechamber.com)

*Reservations required by May 6.*

## 11 COFFEE WITH THE CHAMBER

Start your day with the Chamber and network with other business attendees.

**When:** 8 to 9 a.m.

**Where:** Blue Fish, 920 Dauphin St.

**Contact:** Michael Galvin at 251.431.8628 or [mgalvin@mobilechamber.com](mailto:mgalvin@mobilechamber.com)

*Reservations are not needed.*

**Sponsor:** S&S Sprinkler

**Hosted by:** Blue Fish and P&J's Coffee

## 17 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 Chamber, 451 Government St.

**Speaker:** Todd Greer, executive director, Innovation Portal

**Topics:** "Fostering Innovation and Entrepreneurship"

**Contact:** Brenda Rembert at 251.431.8607 or [brembert@mobilechamber.com](mailto:brembert@mobilechamber.com)

*Reservations requested.*

**Sponsor:** BancorpSouth

## 25 DOING BUSINESS WITH THE STATE OF ALABAMA PROCUREMENT FORUM

*\*Members Only*

Finding and gaining new business is an ongoing challenge for all small companies. One of the most overlooked avenues for business growth is selling to the government, in particular the State of Alabama. Hear from the Alabama Department of Transportation, Alabama Department of Corrections and State Purchasing Director Michael Jones.

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

**Where:** The Battle House Renaissance Mobile Hotel & Spa

**Cost:** \$30

**Contact:** Brenda Rembert at 251.431.8607 or [brembert@mobilechamber.com](mailto:brembert@mobilechamber.com)

*Reservations required.*

*This program is funded in part by a grant from the Alabama Department of Commerce, Alabama Innovation Fund.*

**Hosted by:** Senator Vivian Davis Figures, District 33, Representative Adline Clarke, District 97, Representative Barbara Drummond, District 103, Representative Margie Wilcox, District 104

## THANK YOU TO OUR MAY EVENT SPONSORS





## WHO'S NEW

### Silver Ships Hires New Controller



Smith

**Silver Ships** hired **Rachael Smith**, a certified public accountant with 24-plus years of experience, to its financial team. Smith attended the University of South Alabama, where she earned a bachelor's degree in accounting and master's degree in business administration. Smith is a certified public accountant through Alabama State Board of Accountancy. She holds the chartered global management accountant (CGMA) designation through the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) and is a member of both the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Alabama Society of Certified Public Accountants professional trade organizations.

### Wilkins Miller Announces New Staff

**Wilkins Miller LLC** added **Glenda Romo**, an accounting specialist, and **Kelley McLean**, administrative assistant. Romo has a bachelor's degree in accountancy from the University of Sonora in Mexico. McLean has an associate degree in early childhood education from Coastal Alabama Community College.

### Hudson Named Mobile County Commission President



Hudson

District 2 Commissioner **Connie Hudson** is the new president of the **Mobile County Commission** and will hold the position until July 9, 2023, as part of the position rotation system among the three elected commissioners. Commissioner Randall Dueitt, who represents District 3, moves into the position of Mobile County Commission vice president and will serve as president in the final rotation beginning July 10, 2023.

### Continental Aerospace Technologies Appoints New President and CEO



Hong

**Continental Aerospace Technologies** named **Karen Hong** president and CEO. She previously served as the interim CEO. Before joining Continental, Hong held multiple executive positions at Chrysler Automotive, which is now Stellantis, and was recently the Global CFO for Joyson Safety Systems in Michigan. She has more than 25 years of diverse career experience.

### Alabama Shipyard Names New CEO

Gulf Coast ship repair services provider **Alabama Shipyard LLC** appointed **Greg Wagner** as the new CEO. Wagner graduated from the State University of New York Maritime College and has held various management and executive positions in marine operations, business development, and project and asset management.

## BUSINESS ENDEAVORS

### BSCC Partners With Airbus

**Bishop State Community College**, in partnership with **Airbus**, is offering an aviation manufacturing technology short certificate program for high school dual enrollment students beginning this fall. The 18-hour certificate will train students for a high-flying career in the aviation industry as they earn industry-recognized certifications and college credits from Bishop State. The training will take place at the Faulkner Career Technical Center and will include courses like Aviation Manufacturing, Aerostructure Assembly and Aviation Electrical Assembly.

### ALDI Opens First Store in Mobile

**Aldi** opened its first Mobile-Pensacola area grocery store in the Tillman's Corner area at 5021 Rangeline Crossing Dr. The company has an aggressive expansion plan with the goal of becoming the third-largest U.S. retailer by store count.

### WAVE Receives Grant to Modernize Bus Fleet

The U.S. Department of Transportation awarded the **City of Mobile** and **WAVE Transit System** a \$4.8 million grant. Together with local matching funds, the federal investment will help modernize the city's entire fixed-route fleet. With funding for 12 additional buses now secured, WAVE's entire fleet will soon be less than three years old.

### Infirmary Health Partners with Industrial Wellness Rehab

**Infirmary Health** and **Industrial Wellness Rehab (IWR)** entered into a strategic partnership to enhance the industrial rehabilitation services across the Gulf Coast region. Through this new partnership, Infirmary Health and IWR will strengthen outpatient services including industrial rehabilitation, physical therapy, sports medicine, orthopedics, corporate wellness and occupational medicine. For more information, visit [infirmaryhealth.org](http://infirmaryhealth.org).



## Visit Mobile Introduces New Website

**Visit Mobile**, the city's convention and visitors bureau, has launched a brand-new website, [WorkInMobile.com](http://WorkInMobile.com). The bureau is partnering with the City of Mobile and several other organizations across the city to promote hospitality as a career. Users will be able to create their own profile to see job cards that match their qualifications. [WorkInMobile.com](http://WorkInMobile.com) is a smart application that uses individual profiles and user preferences to filter out any non-matching positions to make searching easy.

## WELL DONE

### Thomas Hospital Earns National Recognition

**Thomas Hospital**, an affiliate of **Infirmiry Health**, recently earned recognition as a High Performing Hospital by *U.S. News & World Report* in its 2021-22 Best Hospitals rankings and ratings. Thomas Hospital has been recognized as high performing in the heart attack category, and it was the only hospital in Alabama to earn the high performing designation for maternity care. Thomas Hospital is home to the only open-heart surgery center in Baldwin County. Additionally, it boasts a new, state-of-the-art birth center where more than 1,500 babies are delivered annually.

### Promotions At Merrill Lynch

**Merrill Lynch** promoted **D. Austin Bradford** to first vice-president and **Archie LeGrone** to senior vice-president.

In addition, the following financial advisors earned recognition: Circle of Champions, **Palmer Whiting**; Circle of Excellence, **Kennon Drew** and **Garner Jeffery**; Chairman's Club, **D. Austin Bradford**; President's Club, **Lany Simmons**, **Parker Huddle**, **Archie LeGrone**, **Ann Richardson** and **Michael Shirk**.



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

## Cardiology Associates Performs Milestone Procedure

The structural heart team at **Cardiology Associates** completed its 1,000<sup>th</sup> transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR). The practice was the first in the area to offer this less-invasive alternative to open heart surgery to treat aortic valve stenosis. TAVR offers shorter recovery times, lower mortality rates and an improved quality of life.

## UM Alumnus Named 2022 Boykin Award Recipient

The **University of Mobile** honored alumnus and former basketball player **Treii Pace** with the 2022 Samuel Boykin Medal of Excellence, established in 2019 to honor the life of the late Samuel M. Boykin, the first African American graduate of the University of Mobile. The award acknowledges exceptional African American graduates of the Christian university who reflect the humility Boykin exemplified throughout life. Pace graduated from the University of Mobile with a bachelor's degree in human performance and exercise science. In 2021, he was named Teacher of the Year for Saraland Elementary School and the district.

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](mailto:news@mobilechamber.com).



## FEATURED PHOTOGRAPHER

### BRIAN D. JORDAN

Brian D. Jordan, a photography and videography professional with FusionPoint, has been capturing moments his entire life. Shortly after college graduation, Jordan started his own company to provide video and photo services to Mobile-area businesses. This began an almost 40-year career behind the lens.

In 1999, Jordan started FusionPoint, a creative services firm known for providing comprehensive marketing support solutions backed with a personal touch. In this role, he has truly been able to showcase a wide range of expertise as he supports clients both locally and across the country.

With this longevity in the business, Jordan has had the opportunity to get to know Mobile, its businesses and people in depth. His skills include proficiency in staged, candid and action photography; in-studio and on-location production; and photography and videography for a broad range of mediums.

In this issue, Jordan's work can be seen on the cover, the Chamber Chase article and member spotlight photos. To see more of his portfolio, visit [fusionpointmedia.com/services](http://fusionpointmedia.com/services).

### CONNECT with us



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As of 3/31/2022

Know a company interested in benefiting from Chamber membership? Contact Jackie Hecker at 251.431.8642 or [jhecker@mobilechamber.com](mailto:jhecker@mobilechamber.com). Also, find a membership directory at [web.mobilechamber.com/search](http://web.mobilechamber.com/search).

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