



## Recreation and Relaxation in Cullman

Summer is a vacation away from ordinary life with its beautiful breezes and hot rays of sunshine. Most people adore summer and explore creative options for get-aways, but if you're a big saver or a little strapped for cash, there's one possibility that might appeal to you in more ways than one: a staycation. What is a staycation? It's exploring our area's unique establishments, attractions, eateries, shops and pastimes. It's basically appreciating all of the inner workings of Cullman that we rarely get to take part of due to busy schedules. The following is just a sampling of

great places to visit in Cullman.

### Crooked Creek Civil War Museum

This place is home to a host of



Civil War memorabilia. Located on a battle site from the war, the area's rich history and heritage has afforded it an abundance of char-

acter. The area is even rumored to be a hotspot of paranormal activity, with several guests sighting ghosts. With over 40 acres of land with historical significance, a museum of rare collectibles where you can actually handle the artifacts, and a quaint bed & breakfast located on the property, this attraction will ensure that you receive a remarkable history lesson coupled with lots of fun. 516 County Road 1127, Vinemont, AL 35179. Phone: 256-739-2741

### Ave Maria Grotto

The Ave Maria Grotto, located on

the grounds of Alabama's first and only Benedictine Abbey, consists of over 125 miniatures, reproductions of famous churches, shrines and buildings. Encompassing an area of over three acres, this miniature fairyland sees visitors from all over the world. 1600 St Bernard Dr, Cullman, AL 35055. Phone: 256-734-4110

### Stony Lonesome OHV Park

Stony Lonesome is the first public OHV park of its kind in the state. Open year-round, the 1,456+

*continued on pg 10*

## From the Chamber President: Eat Your Heart Out Norm



**Leah Bolin**

President & CEO,  
Cullman Area Chamber  
of Commerce

If you spent any time in front of the television on a Thursday

night from 1982-1993 you most likely watched and laughed at the hit comedy Cheers. All of the characters were memorable, but the one that sticks in my mind is Norm. Every time Norm walked in the door, the whole room would yell, "Norm!" He loved his favorite watering hole but it wasn't the drinks that kept him coming back - it was the people.

Imagine arriving at a place where everyone (or at least nearly everyone) knows your name. You are welcomed by friends and acquaintances who are happy you're there.

Better still, most of them are ready to help you build your business and are even referring you to their family and friends. And you experience this environment several times a month. This is a place where you can hone your skills as well. You'll have the opportunity to attend educational programming at a fraction of the cost available to the public. Often you meet people here who have experiences you can learn from. You're introduced to the movers and shakers. You can even demonstrate your commitment to the community

by serving as a leader. Your only limit is you. If you haven't figured it out by now - I am talking about your local chamber of commerce - specifically The Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce. Our mission is to help you and your business or organization grow.

Below are a few of the small business services we offer:

**Promotions and publicity**—We run programs that offer promotional materials, events and activities to welcome new residents and

*continued on pg 11*

# www.CullmanChamber.org

**Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce**

PO Box 1104, Cullman, AL 35056-1104 | 256-734-0454 | F: 256-737-7443 | [info@cullmanchamber.org](mailto:info@cullmanchamber.org)  
[www.cullmanchamber.org](http://www.cullmanchamber.org) | [www.visitcullman.org](http://www.visitcullman.org)



# TOURISM

*continued from pg 9*

acre park features trails for ATVs, rock crawlers, dirt bikes, mountain bikers, equestrians, hikers, pedestrians, and much more. 10075 Alabama Highway 69 South Bremen, AL 35033. Phone: 256-287-1133

### Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament

Visitors to the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament are struck by its beauty and grandeur, often commenting on the atmosphere of peace that pervades the grounds and the ethos of prayer and reverence exuded by everything from the artwork to the architecture. 3222 County Road 548, Hanceville, AL 35077. Phone: 256-352-6267

### Smith Lake Park

Bring your tents, RVs or even stay in a cabin! Picnic under the pavilions, enjoy the playgrounds, cool off in the pool, and putt-putt golf until you're a pro. Don't forget about fishing and most of all; don't forget the most important family member, your pet! Everyone is welcome at Smith Lake Park. 416 County Road 385 Cullman, AL 35057. Phone: 256-739-2916

### Sportsman Lake Park



Enjoy camping, fishing, picnic areas, pavilions, paddle-boat-ing, putt-putt golf, a playground,

the new splash pad and a paved multi-purpose trail for bikers, inline skaters and walkers. There are plenty of ducks, geese and fish to feed from the lake's shore or the dock, and don't forget to ride the train along the lakeshore. 1544 Sportsman Lake Rd NW Cullman, AL 35055 Phone: 256-734-3052

### Cullman Wellness and Aquatic Center

You can swim in the indoor and outdoor pools with diving boards, water slides and children's play features. Make sure you take advantage of the basketball and volleyball gymnasiums. Or maybe you just need to relax in the lazy river or unwind in the hot tub. No matter what, CWAC has you covered with their various options for recreation and leisure. 1636 Field Of Miracles Dr. Cullman, AL 35055. Phone: 256-775-7946

### Hurricane Creek Park

Picnic beside the creek under the covered pavilion or at individual tables in the same vicinity. You can also go rock climbing, bouldering (on rock & deck), hiking, trail running and birding. Hurricane Creek Park has something for everyone. 22600 US Highway 31 Vinemont, AL 35179. Phone: 256-734-2125

### Cullman County Museum

The museum features nine galleries that showcase different aspects of life in early Cullman, including artifacts in three of the nine galleries to honor Alabamians who fought in the Civil War. With a consistent and ap



pealing variety of historic heritage, the Cullman County Museum is a haven for yesteryear. 211 2nd Ave. NE Cullman, AL 35055. Phone: 256-739-1258

### The Evelyn Burrow Museum

Pictured above The Burrow Museum's vast collection includes more than 5,000 objects primarily of porcelain, pottery, glass and bronze from the Victorian era to modern times. Highlights are on display in the Museum's main gallery. The museum is currently hosting its first Regional Sculptors Invitational Exhibit. Acclaimed regional sculptors, including the world-renowned artist Nall, have lent the museum numerous pieces of artwork that range from metalwork and glass to wood and paper and more. 801 Main Street NW, Hanceville, AL 35077. Phone: 256-352-8457



We have more information and brochures on all of these attractions and more in our new Visitor Center located at the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce - 301 2nd Ave. S.E. Cullman , AL 35055

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The Community Improvement Committee is seeking submissions for their Community Improvement awards. These awards are presented on a quarterly basis. The Committee hopes to inspire others to take action to preserve, protect and promote community improvement in Cullman. The next round of nominations are due on September 15. Nomination forms can be found on the Chamber website at [www.cullmanchamber.org](http://www.cullmanchamber.org) and should be printed off and brought by the Chamber office. For more information, please email [info@cullmanchamber.org](mailto:info@cullmanchamber.org) or call 256-734-0454.

#### 1st Quarter Winners

- Best Landscaping-Small DQ Grill & Chill
- Best Landscaping - Large Webb Wheel Aftermarket
- Best Curb Appeal - County Financial Lee Powell
- Best New Construction - Wallace State Community College School of Nursing and Center for Science
- Best Restoration- Cullman County Economic Development Building a Sense of Community - Cullman County Master Gardener Association Demonstration Garden

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**SATURDAY SERVICE AND PARTS!**

continued from pg 9

businesses to the area, ensuring that your business is front and center and ahead of the local competition. Additionally, business-to-business and business-to-consumer advertising and publicity opportunities are available to members exclusively.

**Networking**—While today's technology and the ability to network online is important, there's still nothing as strong as face-to-face communication where building trust, respect and name recognition is concerned.

**Events and programs**—The CoC facilitates a host of activities and events over the course of a given year, each designed to help you as a small business owner gain exposure and grow your business.

**Business Resources**—We offer small business counseling services, educational seminars, website and printed material, and a multitude of other marketing resources and tools.

**Government access and impact**—Because the local Chamber of Commerce speaks with a united

voice, one very much in favor of business interests, members are more likely to have an impact on government decision-making as part of a larger body than they would on their own. Additionally, elected officials are much more likely to entertain an audience of concerned local Chamber of Commerce members than they are any one individual business owner.

**An Office Away from the Office**—Small business owners, especially those who work from a small home office, have a place they can go to congregate with other professional. Moreover, you can use the Chamber's facilities to host clients and hold meetings, ensuring you have a more professional office environment available at a moment's notice. If you're not a member of the CoC you owe it to yourself to join today. As we begin this year's Total Resource Campaign (TRC) we hope you get involved. Join us. We want to help you build your trusted resource network so you can reap the benefit of being a part of the best business-building network in town. Plus, we are always glad you came.

# Friends. Family. Community.



**Mickey J Parrish** CLU ChFC CASL, Agent  
909 Fisher Street Southwest  
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# TOURISM

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The 2014 Farm to Fork dinner sponsored by Alabama Farm Credit will be held on August 16, 2014 from 6-9 p.m. at the Wallace State Community College School of Nursing and Center for Science Conference Center.



This year's chef will be Mauricio Papapietro of Brick and Tin Restaurant in Mountain Brook, AL. The first course will consist of Cullman County heirloom tomato salad with fresh peas and beans, sweet corn, cucumbers, basil and balsamic. The second course will be braised pork shoulder and slow roasted loin with zucchini,

squash, sweet peppers and cherry tomato gremolata. Dessert will be Cullman County peach custard parfait with shortbread cookies. Entertainment will be provided by Morrow and Laura Doss. Also, there will be a slide show presentation of vintage farm photos from the past. After working in fine dining for years, including several restaurants in Italy, Chef Papapietro started Brick and Tin restaurant in the historic financial district of downtown Birmingham in 2010. Relationships with farmers and purveyors drive the menus at Papapietro's restaurants which bring high-end, "slow-food" cooking techniques to a fast-casual setting. Specialties include homemade breads, farm-to-table meats and produce, soups, sandwiches and salads. If you would like to be placed on the waiting list for Farm to Fork Dinner tickets please contact the Chamber at 256-734-0454 or [info@cullmanchamber.org](mailto:info@cullmanchamber.org)



## ATTENTION MEMBERS!

We are updating our Chamber directory and we need your help! We recently sent out a survey for you to fill out. Please check your email and complete the survey, this will ensure the most accurate information available to prospective clients. Your business information will be printed in Classic Cullman/ Visit Cullman as well as the digital version at [CullmanChamber.org](http://CullmanChamber.org). If you have any questions please contact Director of Membership & Marketing, Magan Fromhold at [mfromhold@cullmanchamber.org](mailto:mfromhold@cullmanchamber.org)

# FARM Y'ALL

The Chamber's Agribusiness Committee invites you to attend the 2nd Annual Farm Y'all Festival presented by TriGreen Equipment. The event will be held on Saturday, August 23 at the Festhalle Market Platz from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Admittance is free for all attendees. Local farmers will be on hand with a steady supply of local fruits and vegetables. Regional and nationally celebrated chefs will once again prepare dishes featuring local foods for people to sample. Come see farmers compete in The Great Pumpkin Weigh Off. Entertainment, contests, games and good food... Come join us for a day of great family fun! The Festhalle Market Platz is located at the corner of Arnold Street and First Avenue NE in the city's historic Warehouse District. For more information, call the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce at 256-734-0454 or visit the Farm Y'all Festival website at <http://farmyall.com>. Event Sponsors: City of Cullman, Traditions Bank, Emily Niezer Johnston, LLC, TriGreen Equipment, LLC, Farmer's Poultry Supply, Inc., AK Equipment Rentals and Sales, Inc., American Proteins, Inc., First South Farm Credit, Harris and Graham, Inc., Cullman County Commission, Kress Farms, Cullman County IDA, Alabama Farm Credit, Alabama Farmers Cooperative, CullmanSense and Cullman County Extension.



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## JULY'S SMALL BUSINESS OF THE MONTH



Pictured left is Committee Chamber Retail Council Chair Maria Richter Schultz presenting the award to Mike and Samantha Way, along with Dairy Queen employees.

We recently presented our Small Business of the Month award to Dairy Queen of Cullman. The award is given monthly to a local small business that meets nomination requirements. Mike and Samantha Way were thrilled for their business to be selected for this honor. "We are very honored to be selected as Small Business of the Month. We know that God has blessed us and our business here in Cullman with loyal customers and employees, and as a result, we are able to give to our community and they always give back and for that we are very thankful," Samantha said. "If we could say one thing to our customers, it would be you are not just customers to us, you are more like family and thank you so very much."

## YOUR MISSION:

**TARGET:**

**AUGUST 12, 2014 4-6 PM**  
**102 1st Ave NE Cullman, AL 35055**

Brought to you by: **O.F. Richter & Sons Inc**

Join us at Top of the Town on September 6th from 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. We added new activities to the third quarter Business After Hours! We will have a dance instructor teaching the first steps of Swing Dance and a local mixologist teaching how to make those delicious cocktails! Please sign up online through your Member Profile, email [info@cullmanchamber.org](mailto:info@cullmanchamber.org) or call 256-734-0454. Tickets for current chamber members is \$15 or future members \$20. We look forward to seeing you and networking like never before!

## MIX • SHAKE • STIR AT THE

### TOP OF THE TOWN

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2nd Avenue SW | 4th Floor | Venue: Top of the Town



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# MEMBERSHIP

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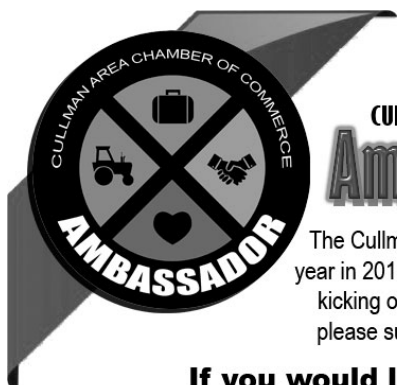
Thank you for your support & investment in the Cullman Area!

North Alabama Reporting Service	256-737-9770
The Arts of Dixie	1-299-308-0697
The Stewart Organization	205-969-3661
Bessie Mae Vintage Boutique	256-841-5855
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2014-15 Cullman Area CoC TRC   
**iChamber**  
*Connecting Your Business To Your Future*

Our TRC (Total Resource Campaign) is underway and our 2014-15 leadership includes: TRC Chair Susan Copeland of CRMC, Vice Chair Kim Arndt of Cullman Electric Cooperative, Vice Chair Robin Cummings of Peoples Bank of Alabama, and Vice Chair Suzanne Harbin of Wallace State Community College. The Chamber is thankful for the businesses that allow their employees to participate in the TRC program. If you would like to sponsor a program, please contact Magan Fromhold. Sponsorships for the 2015 year will be on sale starting August 6. You only have a short time frame to purchase so make sure you contact a representative today. Your sponsorships are vital to the work of the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce. We are grateful for our sponsors!



## CULLMAN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2015 Ambassador Program

The Cullman Area Chamber is gearing up for a GREAT year in 2015! We have a brand new Ambassador Program kicking off and if you would like to apply to participate please submit your application to the Chamber today.

**If you would like to apply please contact Magan at [mfromhold@cullmanchamber.org](mailto:mfromhold@cullmanchamber.org)**

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Kevin Wilburn, Pastor



**The Chamber's Morning BLEND**

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**BISCUITS & BUSINESS**

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**AUGUST 5**  
8:00 A.M. - 9:00 A.M.



### Come to our Chamber Morning Events!

Morning Blend is a chamber event held each third Wednesday of the month in the Commons Room of the CoC. You set the topic, Starbucks provides the coffee. This is a great opportunity to network with others in the community.

This quarter, Biscuits & Business will be held at Peoples Bank. Kevin Kilpatrick, VP and Sr. Lending Officer of Peoples Bank Government Capital Department, will be discussing SBA, AS-SBCI and other state and federal loan funding programs for businesses in the Cullman market. This is a free event for all chamber members. Call and make your reservation today!



108 Clark Street NE  
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**The Added Touch Too**  
[www.facebook.com/theaddedtouchtoo](http://www.facebook.com/theaddedtouchtoo)

## Community Luncheon

The next Community Luncheon will be on the fourth Friday of the month, August 22, 2014 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the All Steak restaurant in the banquet room. Our guest speaker for August is former First Lady Marsha Folsom. She is a respected business leader in the community. She owns her own business development consulting firm and serves as the Chief Development Officer of Resource Fiber, a company that is dedicated to the growing and manufacturing of bamboo in the Black Belt Region of Alabama. She is also founder and CEO of Alabamboo Partners, LLC, which is designed to promote the bamboo industry. This monthly event educates and inspires the community as a whole with special guest speakers and delicious luncheons.



The Community Luncheon is presented by Mickey Parrish State Farm Insurance & Financial Services and sponsored by Cullman Electric Cooperative. You may register at [www.cullman-chamber.org](http://www.cullman-chamber.org) or by calling 256-734-0454 or by emailing [info@cullmanchamber.org](mailto:info@cullmanchamber.org). There is a 48-hour cancellation policy and prices are as follows: chamber members - \$15; future members - \$20.

August Community Luncheon Sponsor:



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Thank you to our 2013-2014  
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Monday - Saturday



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FOR MORE DETAILS, CONTACT  
info@cullmanchamber.org  
256-743-0454



We are looking for Arts and Crafts Vendors, Classic Cars & Motorcycles, Musicians & Street Performers. We want to create an inviting atmosphere downtown; this will keep visitors coming back to our community! If you're a crafter, a cruiser or a performer, please call 256-734-0454 or email info@cullmanchamber.org.

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2ND THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH  
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Hops & Shops in downtown Cullman is coming up on August 14. The event is every second Thursday of each month from 4-9 p.m., highlighting the downtown area with over 40 local restaurants and retailers each offering extended hours, discounts and drawings. Each month, a local Alabama craft beer is featured that guarantees a new hops tasting experience every time. This month's featured craft beer will be from Blue Pants Brewery. There will be arts and crafts vendors, a horse drawn carriage, live music, street performances and a classic cruise in car show. There will be two drawings at the end of the night, including a hopper's drawing and a shopper's drawing. The hopper's drawing this month will be a dinner for two at our featured restaurant, Carlton's, and the shopper's drawing will be a special prize package that will be awarded at our featured store of the month, Southern Accents Wristbands for hopppers can be picked up at the Chamber of Commerce or (downtown location tbd) starting at 4 p.m. on the day of Hops & Shops. For more information or to register, call 256-734-0454 or email info@cullmanchamber.org. You can also receive updates from our Facebook page here: www.facebook.com/hopsandshopsnullman.



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