Have you ever sat by the ocean and gazed at the seemingly infinite horizon in front of you? Or looked up on a starry night to observe the millions of stars twinkling above? The world seems less busy and more unified when we are still and able to look at the bigger landscape of life. It is during these times of deep reflection that I am reminded of God’s greatness and my infinitesimal contribution on this Earth. The roles each of us play – business person, plant worker, nurse, electrician, teacher, welder – are all small roles in a much bigger picture. Individually, we can make a significant difference in people’s lives, but together we can change our community. The Bible often speaks of unity – it is vital to true success. I believe unity is what has brought Cullman County greatness, and I believe unity is what will continue to make us great.

LEAH BOLIN
CHAMBER PRESIDENT

We are all aware of how much growth Cullman County has experienced in the past five years. This has left many of us scrambling to meet new challenges with workforce, infrastructure and new growth strategies.

The Chamber of Commerce, the City of Cullman, Cullman County, our schools, our housing and commercial developers, our healthcare providers, and many of you are looking for ways to both capitalize on this progress and successfully maneuver the challenges of growth. I believe none of us has the answer but all of us have the solution. King Solomon, the wisest of all men, said, “Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken.” Solomon observes that teamwork brings about greater productivity – “[they] accomplish more than twice as much as one”; greater results – “get a better return for their labor”; and greater security – “if . . . one falls, the other can . . . help” and “two can stand back-to-back and conquer.”

I can truly say that Cullman has dedicated men and women working hard to keep Cullman on the path of success. The excitement surrounding all the activities, new and old business development, as well as generous job opportunities really does make Cullman County the greatest place to live, work and play. Together, we can make it even better for our children and grandchildren.

#CullmanIsUnited
TOURISM — INDIVIDUAL SERVICE AWARDS

Ricky Self, center, receives the Heart of the House Award from Josh Wiggins and Leah Bolin.

Hospitality Volunteer of the Year David Warren of Cullman Aerial Photography, center.

The Rising Star Award goes to Rachel Dawsey of North Alabama Agriplex.

The Savvy Retail Sales Associate Award is presented to Deanna Millican of Doug Doggett Jewelers.

Dustin Tubbs of Stone Bridge Farms receives the Superior Service Award.

The Silver Spoon Award is given to Krissie Harlan-Spitzer of Stone Bridge Farms and Carlton’s.
TOURISM — INDIVIDUAL SERVICE AWARDS

Tracy Reza of Hampton Inn receives the White Glove Award.

Tourism Professional of the Year is Elaine Fuller of Cullman County Museum.

TOURISM — BUSINESS AWARDS

Sabrina Hudson of Peinhardt Farms accepts the award for Exceptional Festival or Event.

Donnie Wilson receives the Best Attraction Award for the Evelyn Burrow Museum at Wallace State.

Doug Davenport and Tyler Lynsey are recipients for Near Nature, Near Perfect Award at Stony Lonesome OHV Park.

Lisa Jones, representing Southern Accents Architectural Antiques, receives the Spirit of Cullman Award.

Margaret Hamm, owner of Monograms Plus, is the winner of the Rockin’ Retailer Award.

Josh Wiggins, left, and Leah Bolin announce The Red Door Cafe as Extraordinary Everyday Eatery.
TOURISM — COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT AWARDS

Assistant Principal Kim Hall accepts the award for Organization with Best New Construction for Cullman High.

Wallace State’s Johnny McMoy is presented with the award for Organization with Best Restoration.

REHAU is recognized for the Best Landscaping Award for a large business.

The award for Best Landscaping, small business, was presented to Smith Lake RV Resort.

Johnny Grantham accepts the award for Camp Meadowbrook for Building A Sense of Community.

The Abbey Byre at St. Bernard is winner of the Best Restoration Award.

The Distinguished Life of Service Award was presented posthumously to Mother Mary Angelica of the Annunciation. The Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament accepted the award.
JUNE COMMUNITY LUNCHEON FEATURES LEE MCBRIDE AS SPEAKER

Join us on June 24, 2016 for our next Community Luncheon, which will be held at the All Steak Restaurant in the Banquet Room from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Our guest speaker is Lee McBride. He has worked with farmers from all backgrounds for the past seven years in Alabama.

As the former Local Food Coordinator and Director of Local Food for the North Alabama Farm Food Collaborative, Lee has worked with farmers to build capacity and overcome regulatory barriers for entering and maintaining wholesale business.

Lee has facilitated relationships and transactions between wholesale buyers and Alabama Farmers, creating sales opportunities and long term relationships. As the single point of contact, Lee has developed a demand for locally grown products, ensuring reliable, high quality products that are available to Alabama’s wholesale buyers.

For the year of 2016, preplanned sales into wholesale buyers on behalf of Alabama farmers exceeded $650,000.

After nearly four years of service to the Collaborative and a successful one-year transition to a new FFC coordinator, Lee is now a Technical Service Provider for Crotovina, Inc.

With 37 years’ experience in horticulture, Lee is also a Consulting Arborist serving the North Alabama region through his company, Landscape Management Consultants, Inc.

Lee and his wife Shannon have been residents of Cullman County for almost two years now.

Tickets are $15 for Chamber Members and $20 for future members. Call 256-734-0454 or email info@cullman-chamber.org to reserve your seat.

Thank you to our 2016 Presenting Sponsor Shirley Quattlebaum – State Farm and to our Monthly Premier Sponsor Spectrum Business.

Summer Samplers

Join us for a celebration of local foods with our Business After Hours event, Summer Samplers, on June 16, 5:30-7 p.m. The Cullman area’s premier business networking event is scheduled in “The Breezeway” next to the Chamber building (301 2nd Avenue SW).

Pack plenty of business cards and come ready to make new contacts. If you are a Chamber member restaurant and would like to participate, call 256-734-0454. The cost is $15 for members and $20 for future members. There is a 48-hour cancellation policy. Summer Samplers is presented by HH Technologies, Inc. and entertainment is sponsored by Lamar Advertising.
2ND FRIDAYS IS BACK

It’s the shop late, eat local event you have all come to love. The Chamber of Commerce & Cullman City Park & Recreation have partnered together to bring 2nd Fridays back to the Cullman Area!

This will be held at the Festhalle Market every second Friday from June through September, come see what the Cullman area has to offer after dark.

This event features live music, children’s activities, crafts, fresh produce, and a Cruise-In. June’s featured produce is Squash and The Red Door Café will be giving samples of fresh produce. Live entertainment will be provided by Round 2.

Thanks to Cullman Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram for being the 2016 Presenting Sponsor!
Have you ever driven down a road so many times that you fail to see the progress of new homes or businesses until they are almost complete? Progress, at times, is not always visible until it is almost complete. If have you been in Cullman County long enough, you too, may fail to see its progress. Cullman County has numerous departments and offices which serve our community.

As we examine a small portion of what progress is happening, remember to keep your eyes on Cullman County.

Given that money and budgets are always tight, Cullman County has had to look for alternate solution from its Parks, Roads, and everything in between. Most everyone understands that Cullman County has several parks. What some may not be aware of, are the number of events that take place within the Cullman County Park and Recreation Department; however, until recently, Cullman County was not allowed to host events or races that allowed for a winner to receive “winnings.” In order to help drive up tourism and provide an economic impact, Cullman County sought legislation in 2015 that authorized them to conduct events allowing for the collection of fees and disbursements to the winners. This legislation is opening up a number of new events in Cullman County and driving new tourism. Cullman County recently moved forward with technology commonly referred to as microsurfacing. Microsurfacing is a road maintenance tool that involves laying a mixture to roadways to prevent deficiencies in pavement conditions and prolong its life. Due to the likely cost savings of microsurfacing, Cullman County could save taxpayers long-term and potentially allow for more roads to get needed attention. Cullman County is seeking new and innovative ways to progress our community.

Make it a priority to not just “drive around” Cullman County oblivious to its progress. After all, Cullman County’s progress is your progress.

Heath Meherg
Griffith, Lowry

June Small Business of the Month Winner

Katherine Morgan State Farm & Financial Services

909 Fisher Street SW
Cullman, AL 35055
256.734.4640

Small Business of the Month Supporter

Burks Brothers pools & spas
Leadership Cullman County begins in September each year, with an opening retreat followed by eight monthly sessions. Each of the day-long monthly meetings will examine a different issue such as education, local government, state government, health care, economic development, human services, criminal justice, agriculture, and quality of life.

The distinguished program has over 300 graduates and is designed to identify, prepare and build upon leadership resources within Cullman County by bringing leaders together to discuss the present and future direction of our county and to prepare them for greater involvement through volunteer roles in the community. Congratulations to this year’s graduating class!

2015-16 Leadership Cullman County Class Graduates:
* Shane Barnette – Cullman County Schools
* Lane Butcher – Cullman Cabinet & Supply Company, Inc.
* Patrick Drake – McGriff Industries
* Rachel Eidson – Culpepper & Associates, LLC
* Amy Handley – City of Cullman
* Justin Lee – Cullman Electric Cooperative
* Jackie Moore – Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center
* Trent Moore – The Cullman Times
* Dawn Owens – The Link of Cullman County
* Nolan Patrick – Chick-fil-A of Cullman
* John Richter – St. John’s Evangelical Protestant Church
* Josh Singleton – American Proteins, Inc.
* Jacob Waldrop – Waldrop Chiropractic
* Kimberly Williams-Beard – KD Williams Enterprises

The Chamber is now seeking nominations for participants in our annual Leadership Cullman County class for the year of 2016-17. Class size will be limited to 20 participants. The tuition fee is $575, which covers all expenses associated with the program. To nominate someone (self-nominations are also encouraged), please fill out an application online at www.cullmanchamber.org or call 256-734-0454 for more information. The application deadline is July 31st.

Learn the Secrets of the Rich to Protect Your Assets From Taxes & the Nursing Home

Estate Planning for Regular People

Wednesday, June 22nd @ 9:00 am.

Call for other available dates

Cullman Chamber of Commerce • 301 2nd Ave SW Cullman, AL 35055

Call to Schedule Appointment:
(256) 734-0026
cblakewest@gmail.com
www.cblakewestlaw.com