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& VISITOR CENTER

Official Newsletter

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## Supporting our Roots: An Interview with Chef Randall Baldwin

**C**hef Randall Baldwin has an impressive culinary resume including Bottega, Chez Fonfon, Highlands Bar and Grill, and his current role- Executive Chef for Dyron's Low Country.

Born in Saraland, AL in Mobile County, Randall grew up helping his mom and grandmother cook in the family kitchen. After spending a few years in the US Marine Corps, Randall decided to follow his passion for cooking and pursued his formal training at the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, NY.

Upon graduation, Baldwin was offered a full-time position at Bottega from none other than Frank Stitt- a Cullman native. Today, his passion for locally sourced food is served up daily at Dyron's Low Country; a restaurant that focuses on serving the Birmingham community fresh, local food made with whole ingredients reminiscent of the authentic taste of the South Carolina low country.

When I met with Chef Baldwin regarding the upcoming Farm to Table Dinner in Cullman on August 20th, I had a chance to talk with him about the farm to table movement and his personal views on locally sourced food.

1) Who has influenced your cooking the most?

My Mother. She passed in 2004 while I was in culinary school in New



**LEAH BOLIN**

Chamber President

York. She was a fantastic cook. The thing I remember the most was waking up to the smell of a home-made breakfast every morning.

One funny thing was if my parents ever grounded me, I would spend my time in the kitchen. I would go to the sun room where all the cookbooks were, and I would just open a page and just go make it! Of course I would end up in more trouble because I would leave the kitchen a mess.

2) What is your interest in local food? What was the appeal of getting involved with this initiative?

Growing up in a small city like Saraland, visiting the farmer's market and picking peas, corn and tomatoes from our garden has always just been a part of who I am. I remember sitting on my front porch shelling peas. I didn't like it then, but it's a fond memory now.

3) Do you have a go-to farmer's market and what do you usually shop for there?

Yes, I would say it has to be Pepper Place in downtown Birmingham. That market is full of energy. There are so many people interacting: farmers, families, crafters, shoppers. The culture is a lot of fun to be around.



Reserve your tickets today!

2016 FARM to FORK DINNER

AUGUST 20 |  
Appetizers: 5:30-7PM  
Dinner: 7-8PM

Chef Randall Baldwin will provide a 4-course meal deeply rooted in southern flavor

Tickets: \$65 per person | Tables of 6 are available  
Camp Meadowbrook | 2344 County Road 747, Cullman

farmyall.com

4) Tell me about your "farm to table cuisine" effort at Dyron's Low Country? How do you think chefs can help promote local food, and the work farmers do?

Whatever the farmers bring in the door is what we cook. We change the menu every day. It is very seasonal. In the summer we cook summer vegetables, in the winter we cook a lot of root vegetables and collards. We do not freeze anything. Customers love the changing seasons and menu.

6) What are some of your signature dishes?

Gumbo for sure-it's my signature dish. I make the roux from all fresh

ingredients. Another highly requested dish is my fried chicken paired with my mom's mac and cheese recipe. It's the first recipe I learned to make.

8) Your favorite quick meal to prepare at home?

Mexican food! I love it!

9) Best cooking tips for a novice?

-Use a cast iron skillet to fry your food. Make sure your skillet is good and hot.

-Don't turn your food too quickly. When it moves-its ready to be turned. This is true for grilling or frying.

10) Kitchen tool you cannot live without (besides a knife).

Cast iron skillet-gotta have it!

**Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce**

PO Box 1104, Cullman, AL 35056-1104 | 256-734-0454 | F: 256-737-7443 | info@cullmanchamber.org  
www.cullmanchamber.org | www.visitcullman.org



## August Community Luncheon

Join us on August 26, 2016 for our August Community Luncheon, which will be held at the All Steak Restaurant in the Banquet Room from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Congressmen Robert Aderholt will be recognized as a recipient of the Spirit of Enterprise Award from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. "The Spirit of Enterprise Award honors those members of Congress who are committed to ensuring that American businesses can continue to operate and succeed in a free enterprise system." Congressmen Aderholt will also be giving an update from Washington D.C. as well speak about current business legislation related to business.



Aderholt

Tickets are \$15 for Chamber Members and \$20 for future members. Call 256-734-0454 or email [info@cullmanchamber.org](mailto:info@cullmanchamber.org)

**Presenting Sponsor**  
Shirley Quattlebaum — State Farm



**Monthly Premier Sponsor**  
Cullman Electric Cooperative



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providing energy with care

[cullmanchamber.org](http://cullmanchamber.org) to reserve your seat.

Thank you to our 2016 Presenting Sponsor Shirley Quattlebaum — State Farm and to our Monthly Premier Sponsor Cullman Electric Cooperative.

## Business After Hours

# MIX, SHAKE & STIR

Our September Business After Hours event is fast approaching. Mix, Shake & Stir, is the Cullman area's premier business networking event.

It is scheduled for September 13, 2016 at TP Country Club from 5:00-7:30 pm. Bring plenty of cards and be ready to have lots of creative fun at this event and mix it up!

Whether a spectator or a participant, there are different activities to enjoy. This event features a group dance instruction as well as, a mixology class with Shannon Steward, The All Steak Restaurant. The cost to attend is \$15 per Chamber member and includes classes and hors d'oeuvres. Future members are encouraged to attend as well.

The future member fee is \$20.



Reservations are required, so please call 256-734-0454 or email [info@cullmanchamber.org](mailto:info@cullmanchamber.org).

Thanks to Spectrum Business Enterprise Solutions for being this quarter's Business After Hours Presenting Sponsor! Hors d'oeuvres are made possible by Alabama Credit Union.

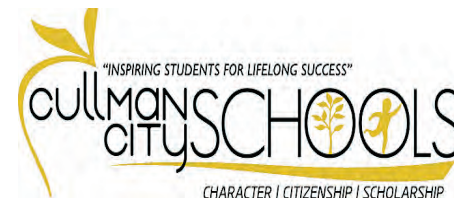
## Public Forum

# Cullman City School Board

The Governmental Affairs Committee of the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Center is partnering with *The Cullman Times* for a public forum featuring the candidates for Cullman City School Board of Education.

This will take place on August 18th in the CHS Auditorium. Starting at 5:00 PM where you will be able to meet the candidates. The forum will begin at 6:00 PM. The following individuals have qualified for election:

**Place No. 1:** Ms. Mary Hovater, Ms. Joey Orr; **Place No. 2:** Mr. Kevin Binkowski, Mr. Chris Branham, Mrs. Susan Martin Hauk; **Place**



**No. 3:** Mr. Lee Powell, Mr. Steven Sides; **Place No. 4:** Mr. Jason Neal; **Place No. 5:** Ms. Julie Tillinger, Ms. Suzanne Fuller Harbin.

The purpose of the forum is to provide an opportunity for the community to meet and gather information from candidates running for the City School Board and ultimately make an informed decision.

# 2nd Fridays Is Back

It's the shop late, eat local event you have all come to love. The Cullman Area 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. The Link of Cullman County will be selling tomato sandwiches, which features the produce of the



month!

We are expecting more classic and specialty cars; they will be on display along 1st Ave. NE. Live entertainment will be provided by Horizon, starting at 6:00PM.

We are adding a Pokémon Go feature for

the month of August; make sure you stop by the Cullman Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram tent, to show us that you are "catching 'em all" to be entered to win an iTunes gift card.

We will also have a cell phone charging station!



## YPCullman to Meet for 3rd Quarter Session in August

The Chamber's 3rd Quarter YPCullman event will take place on Tuesday, August 30, 2016 at TP Country Club from 5:00-800 p.m.

The guest speaker will be Barry McGriff of McGriff Industries. Light hors d'oeuvres and beverages will be available to attendees. Come out for a great night of fun, discussion and networking

as we get to know one another and discuss the future of the Cullman area. Tickets are \$15. For more information, please call the Chamber at 256-734-0454 or email [info@cullmanchamber.org](mailto:info@cullmanchamber.org).

Thank you to our Presenting Sponsor Zeb Little Law and to our Quarterly Sponsor Willoughby Roofing & Sheet Metal, Inc.

**Presenting Sponsor**  
Zeb Little Law



**Zeb Little Law LLC**

**Quarterly Sponsor**  
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The Chamber's  
**Morning BLEND**

Find out what's happening in the Cullman area  
**Aug 17th | 8AM-9AM**

Presented by:  
**KARMA'S COFFEE HOUSE**

Join us at Karma's Coffee House

Sponsored by:  
**Highland Technical Services, Inc.**

**4th Annual TRIGREEN EQUIPMENT FARM YALL FARM • TO • FORK FESTIVAL**

**AUGUST 27 8AM TO 3PM**  
**FREE ADMISSION**

Depot Park & Festhalle Market Platz area  
festhalle

Corner of Arnold St. & 1st Ave NE  
Cullman - Warehouse District

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**CULLMAN, ALABAMA**

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**ECKENROD FORD-LINCOLN**







# INDUSTRY TOUR AT GOAT ISLAND BREWING

On June 9, 2016 the Agriculture, Business and Industry (ABI) Committee of the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce hosted its 2nd quarter Industry tour at Goat Island Brewing, sponsored by HH Technologies. More than 70 people attended this tour.

Goat Island Brewing was founded on friendships that were rekindled in the last few years as well as a common passion for making good beer. Two of the founders, Mike Mullaney and Gery Teichmiller were avid home brewers and loved to design and perfect American and German beer recipes. When the two of them began to collaborate and brew together their beer recipes were taken to a new level.

When the two of them had an opportunity to help start the first brewery in Cullman since the 1880s, they jumped at the chance.

Mike and Gery along with John Dean and Brad Glenn initially formed the Blue Moose Brew Crew and brewed their beers and served them at the Blue Moose Café and Brewpub in 2013. The beers were such a huge success that the four friends decided to open their own craft brewery and in early 2015 Goat Island Brewing was established.

The mission of Goat Island Brewing is to provide great taste through state of the art scientific processes, and using the highest quality ingredients and optimal freshness. The founders believe "Life is too short

to drink Baaaaad Beer!"

Goat Island Brewing is a unique experience. Not only do they have craft beers, they also have multiple local restaurants that customers can order from and have their food delivered to the brewery.

Some weekends there are also food trucks on the premise providing more food options for customers.

There are also board games, a giant Jenga game and even corn hole games that customers can play during their visits. Live entertainment can also be found on some weekends. In addition to beverages you can purchase, t-shirts, hats, stickers, pint glasses, and growlers are also available to purchase.

The first thing customers will notice about

the Big Bridge IPA is the intense burst of hop flavor and aroma. Although there is no fruit added to this beer it is easy to recognize hints of citrus zest, mango and apricot. The next pleasant surprise is the absence of an overly bitter aftertaste. Customers who taste this beer, say it is the best IPA they have ever encountered.

It is no wonder Big Bridge IPA was winner of the Cullman Brewers Guild Pale Ale Contest. Big Bridge IPA is a limited edition.

Goat Island Brewing is located at 1646-A John H Cooper Drive, SE in Cullman. Tap room hours are Thursdays and Friday from 5pm to 10pm and Saturdays from 2pm to 10pm. Check out their facebook page for upcoming events.

Thank you Goat Island Brewing for a very informative and educational industry tour and congratulations on being a new addition to the Cullman community!

The 3rd Quarterly Industry Tour will be held at Topre on September 9th and is being sponsored by AGCO.

If your industry would

like to take part in one of these quarterly tours, or if your company would like to sponsor a tour, please contact Ben Smith, Director of Small Business & Workforce Solutions at the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce at 256-734-0454 or Lisa Dickinson, the ABI Committee's Tour Liaison at 256-734-5580 ext. 207.

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## Get the Scoop on July's Small Business of the Month



The Chamber's Retail Committee would like to congratulate Rumors Deli as July's Small Business of the Month, sponsored by Peek Auto Parts. Rumors Deli is owned and operated by Annette and Ralph Harris. For years, they've been developing some of the most mouth-watering sandwiches, soups, and salads in Cullman.

Newcomers always get a kick out of ordering from Rumors' menu, with specials such as the Tattletale, Mouth of the South, Liar Liar, Talk of the Town, and the Hearsay. In addition to extending Rumors' hours on August 12th for the next installment of 2nd Fridays, Annette and Ralph get excited when an opportunity arises to join in and do something special as part of the Cullman's local community.

In 2015, Rumors participated in this past year's Christmas Window Display Contest, and were selected as winners of the restaurant category.

Rumors Deli Inc.  
105 1st Avenue NE  
Suite 100  
Cullman, AL 35055  
(256) 737-0911

Each month, a sponsoring business helps celebrate and acknowledge

the Small Business of the Month winner.

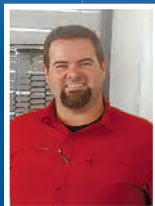
If you have a local business you would like to nominate for their outstanding service, please contact Ben Smith at [bsmith@cullmanchamber.org](mailto:bsmith@cullmanchamber.org).

Monthly winners will be entered into the nominations for the annual Small Business of the Year award, which is presented at the Chamber's Annual Meeting & Gala.

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## August's Small Business of the Month

**Winner**  
Tri-Green Cullman

**Supporter**  
Cullman Eye Specialist



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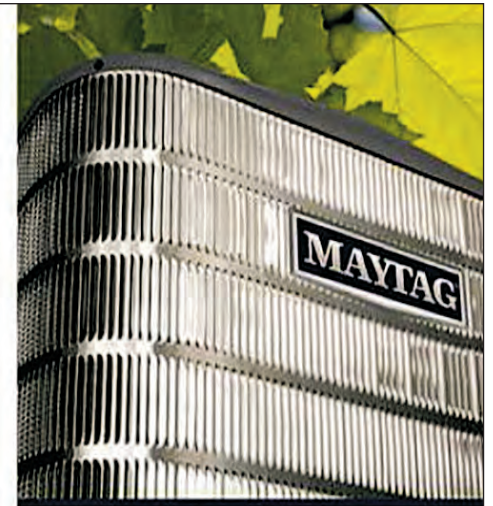
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# Total Resource Campaign Kicks Off



Quattlebaum



Bailey



Cartee



Drinkard



Hodges

The Chamber's Total Resource Campaign (TRC) for 2016-17 has a very fun theme this year – the Olympics – with a tagline of “Going for the Goal!”

The Total Resource Campaign is a membership and sponsorship drive. This provides opportunities for Chamber Members to market at cost. We offer a variety of pro-

grams and events for every area of business no matter what your budget! Sponsorship renewals will be from July 8-22, 2016. Volunteers will be reaching out to the community to give businesses and companies the opportunity to sponsor an event or program, or to join\* the Chamber.

The 2016-17 TRC “Olympics”

leadership consists of: Chair: Shirley Quattlebaum – State Farm, Vice Chair: Cheryl Bailey – Cullman Regional Medical Center, Vice Chair: Melissa Cartee – Cullman Electric Cooperative, Vice Chair: Roy Drinkard – Drinkard Development, and Vice Chair: Jimmy Hodges – Wallace State Community College.

If you would like to sponsor one of the Chamber's programs or events, please contact Magan Bartlett at 256-734-0454 or by email at [mbartlett@cullmanchamber.org](mailto:mbartlett@cullmanchamber.org) for a list of volunteers.

\*Please note you may join the Chamber throughout the year.

## Welcome to Cullman Signs



They are here and they look GREAT!!!!

The Community Improvement Committee of the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce came up with the idea of a better way of enhancing the gateways into the City of Cullman and that was to Install New Welcome Signs that while functional, are also beautiful. And trust me, I think they are.

I have had the pleasure of traveling to many places around this great country of ours and I have to say, “these signs really do stand out as some of the best”. If you haven't seen them, get out and drive around.

The 5 Sign Locations are:  
278 West across from Jet Pep (by the fences retention area)  
157 West between Marathon

Service Station and Taco Bell  
Old 69 (Cherokee) in front of Serta Mattress Factory  
Hwy 31 North between Apel Steel Corporation and the Ag Center

Hwy 31 South Just over the railroad track coming into town

Jesse Newsom  
Director of Tourism

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# 2016-17 1ST QUARTER COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT AWARDS

Congratulations to the 1st Quarter Community Improvement Award winners for the year of 2016-17, thanks to our quarterly sponsor BrickHaven Event Venue! These awards are given on a quarterly basis beginning in July of each year, with one overall annual

award presented at the Cullman Area Tourism Awards. The Community Improvement Committee hopes to inspire others to take action to preserve, protect and promote community improvement in Cullman.

Nominations are accepted year round

for the best examples of community improvement efforts made by

## Quarterly Sponsor

BrickHaven Event Venue

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business/company owners of properties in the Cullman area. Anyone

may nominate a commercial property/organization in the Cullman area. Businesses/Organizations are eligible for one award per category each year and must be a Chamber member in order to be nominated. There is no fee to nominate. You must submit

a nomination form for the award on a quarterly basis. A sign will be placed in the winner's location each quarter (July, October, January and April).

Nomination deadlines are June 15, September 15, December 15 and March 15.



## Family & Cosmetic Dentistry

Business/Organization with Best Landscaping - Small

Awarded for best design, maintenance, litter control and plant materials.



## Cullman City Primary School 'Outside Learning Area'

Business/Organization "Building a Sense of Community"

Awarded to a business that strives to improve the community through additions of a park, play area, park benches or playground, etc.



## Cullman County Courthouse

Business/Organization with Best Curb Appeal

Awarded for substantial improvements to the outside of the property with the most attractive presentation from the street.



## Family Secured Credit Union

Business/Organization with New Construction

Awarded for superlative work for those businesses who have undergone careful construction of a new structure completed within the past three years.



## 2016-17 1ST QUARTER COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT AWARDS



### Webb Wheel Aftermarket

Business/Organization with Best Landscaping - Large Awarded for best design, maintenance, litter control and plant materials



### FC Street Cafe

Business/Organization with Best Restoration Awarded for superlative work in the restoration, rehabilitation, reuse of property or sensitive design.

## Farm-to-Fork Dinner & Farm Y'all Festival – Y'all Come!

### THE DINNER:

This year, Executive Chef Randall Baldwin of Dyron's Low Country in Crestline of Birmingham will provide a 4-course meal deeply rooted in southern flavor, presented by Alabama Farm Credit.

Similar to past years' events, all meat and produce will be sourced from local farmers as Chef Baldwin artfully crafts a dining experience that pays homage to Cullman County as the mecca of southern agriculture and farming. Arriving guests will notice that décor for the evening will once again be provided by the Cullman Master Gardeners and themed an Alabama Low Country landscape.

The evening will begin

with a mocktail social hour and demonstration from 5:30 – 6:30pm and will feature four distinct handcrafted virgin cocktails accompanied by Fairview's FFA String Band. Guests will then begin moving indoors, and at 7:00pm will find their seats and enjoy their dinner.

Chef Baldwin will introduce his menu and describe the importance of sourcing local ingredients when preparing for a special occasion or in everyday cooking. Just as the main course of Beef Short Ribs and Cullman Sweet Potatoes are served, "Mean" Mary James will kick off the entertainment for the evening with soulful southern folk music from an era long since passed.

Tickets are still on sale, but going quickly. Visit [www.farmyall.com](http://www.farmyall.com) to reserve your seats today!

### LOCATION: CAMP MEADOWBROOK

Date & Time: Saturday, August 20th 5:30pm – 8:00pm

### THE FESTIVAL:

The Farm Y'all Festival is an annual celebration of the great agriculture tradition of Cullman County. Tri-Green Equipment is a proud Presenting Sponsor of this event. Farm Y'all features both Giant Pumpkin and Watermelon contests and over the past several years, multiple state records have been broken. Celebrity Chefs will also be on hand, preparing dishes featur-

ing locally grown and seasonal produce. This year, local chef's Ron Foust of Stonebridge Farms, John Wilson of Wallace State, and Matt Heim of The All Steak will partner with local farmers to create special dishes paired with Cullman Sweet Potatoes, Beef, and Tomatoes. Chef demonstrations will kick off at 9:30am in front of the United Way building across from Depot Park.

Bring the kids out for a fun day of free games, a Pettin' Zoo, Mechanical Bull rides and a multitude of agricultural education exhibits. Visitors will want to ensure they stop by Entertainment Tent to see the giant pumpkins and watermelons and take a seat to enjoy live folk music from

Fairview's FFA String Band. Local food trucks will also be on hand.

As an event finale, one huge pumpkin will be released from a giant crane in the parking lot near Depot Park. This is a fun event that both kids and adults enjoy so come on out to the Farm Y'all and show your support to

our local farmers. Date & Time: Saturday, August 27th 8:00am – 3:00pm

### LOCATION: DEPOT PARK

Corner of Arnold St. NE and 1st Ave. NE, Cullman AL, 35055.

For more information visit: <http://www.farmyall.com>

[www.facebook.com/farmyall](http://www.facebook.com/farmyall)



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