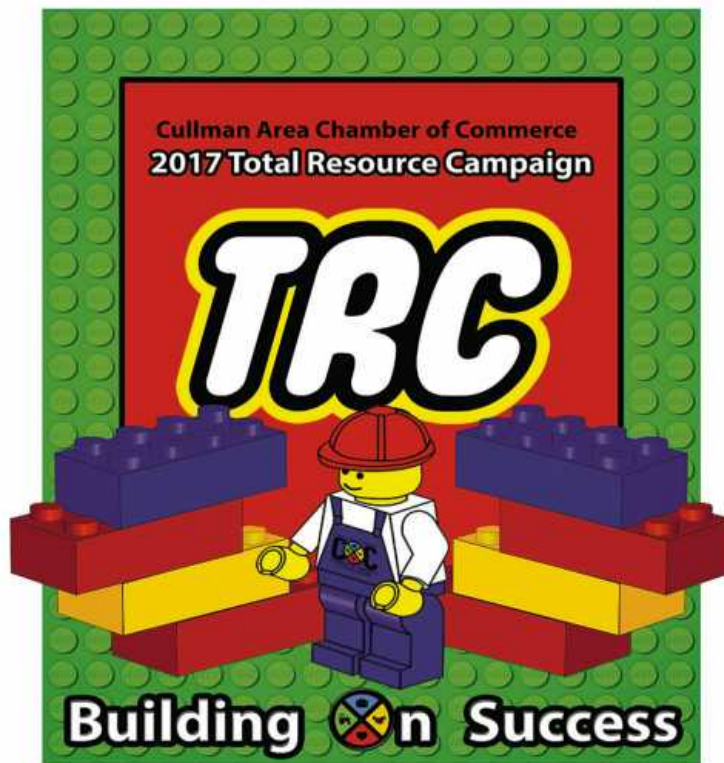




Total Resource Campaign Kicking Off

After the SUCCESS of last year's Total Resource Campaign (TRC), our volunteers are ready to tackle the upcoming TRC season! Sponsorship renewals will be from July 12-28, with the new season beginning on August 10. 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 programs and events for every area of business no matter your budget! This year's theme is "Building on Success," with a fun Lego twist. This year's leadership consists of Chair: Kay Shabel (MoMoSHE 103); and Vice-Chairs: Cheryl Bailey, Jimmy Hodges (Wallace State Community College), and Wendy Crider (Cullman County Industrial Develop-



ment Board). If you would like to sponsor a Chamber program or event, please contact Magan Bartlett at

256-734-0454 or by email at mbartlett@cullmanchamber.org for a list of volunteers.

Deadline approaching

We want your 2017-18 Leadership class nominations

The Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce is currently seeking nominations for participants in the 2017-18 Leadership Cullman County class, which will begin in September with a retreat. Class size will be limited to 20 participants. Monthly session topics include education, local government, state government, healthcare, economic development, human services, criminal justice, agriculture and quality of life. Tuition 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.

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

2nd Fridays ready for Round 2 after wildly popular summer debut

This year's 2nd Fridays, sponsored by Cullman Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram, got off to a rockin' start in June — but how about we make it even bigger and better in July?! Downtown Cullman will again be the place to be on July 14, serving as the site of TWO stages and the same great opportunities for eating local and shopping late you can't get any other time of year.

But that's not all. Far from it. This summer's second of four monthly events, proudly presented by the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center and Cullman Parks & Recreation, will also feature:

- * A band to be named on the Cullman Dairy Queen Grill & Chill Restaurant Stage

- * Johnathan East on the Shirley Quattlebaum State Farm Insurance Stage

- * TriGreen Equipment Farm Y'all inside a bustling Festhalle Farmers Market

- * More classic and antique cars than you can count at the Branham Accessories – Line-X Cruise-In

- * A vibrant Artist Alley, nestled between Clark Street and 1st Street NE, with pop-up shops, beer sampling and music

- * The Buffalo Wild Wings Kids Zone

- * A peach-themed food demonstration sponsored by American Proteins

- * Show lot with recreational displays

- * First South Farm Credit Watermelon Seed Spittin' Competition

- * And much, much more!

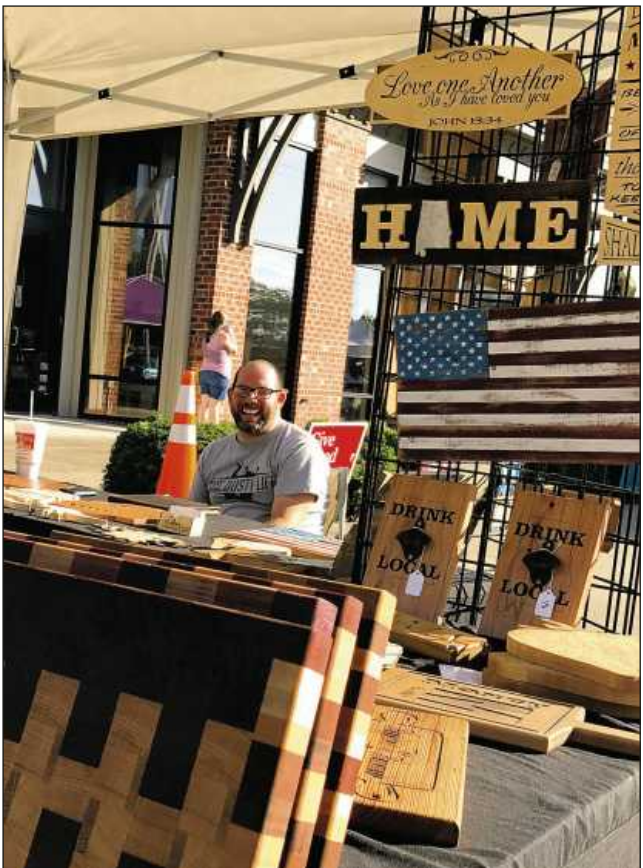
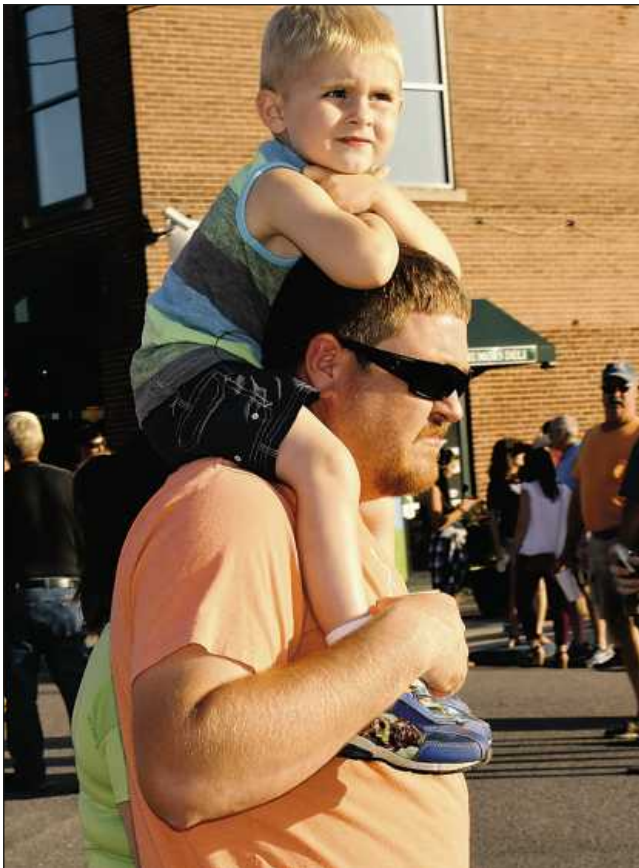
Admission to 2nd Fridays is FREE, but don't forget your pocketbook to support area eateries, merchants, vendors, artists and farmers! Mark your calendars now to join us August 11 and September 8 for another two months of 2nd Fridays fun.

The Show Lot, located on the corner of Highway 278 and 1st Avenue SE, will open up to RVs, ATVs and motorcycles throughout the summer. Other 2nd Fridays activities planned for August and September are horse-shoe tossin' and mechanical bull riding.

For updates, check out the event Facebook page: 2nd Fridays Cullman. For more information, visit www.cullmanchamber.org/Cullman-2ndFridays or contact the Chamber at 256-734-0454 or info@cullmanchamber.org.



2nd Fridays snapshots



Cullman area undergoing change—and that’s a good thing

[THE CULLMAN Area Chamber of Commerce is continuing to spark change locally by creating partnerships through Converging for Success, our five-year strategic plan. Stay on the lookout for updates as these partnerships flourish and the campaign yields more positive changes for our community. This editorial was originally published in *The Cullman Times* on June 12, 2017.]

The Cullman area is undergoing changes — good changes — as people from across the state and other areas turn their eyes toward the unique qualities of our community.

Cullman was in reasonably good condition following the Great Recession of just a few years, but when a series of destructive tornadoes plowed through the area, there was concern about how to rebuild and move forward. Many local officials, business leaders and citizens devoted to the sense of great community that exists here were determined that devastation would be converted into something positive and lasting.

In the six years since the tornadoes, Cullman has seen major expansions by existing industries. New retail businesses and restaurants have chosen our communities to create



Rock the South founder Shane Quick presents officials from the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center with a check for \$10,000 in support of the Chamber’s “Converging for Success” 5-year strategic plan during opening night of this year’s festival. Over the two-day event, Quick and Rock the South gave more than \$100,000 to organizations serving the Cullman area. For updates on Converging for Success, please visit www.cullmanchamber.org/converging-for-success.

new opportunities. Locally created events such as Bloomin’ Festival, the Strawberry Festival and Rock the South are growing each year. We now have good problems to solve in Cullman. The business and medical communities in Cullman are regional draws. Hanceville, the area’s second largest city, is taking innovative steps to attract and sustain more business and con-

venience for residents and the student population at Wallace State Community College. Good Hope is growing and moving forward with the addition of the interchange from Interstate 65. Seeing the many efforts unfolding to create opportunities for local residents and the desire to attract more visitors and families to Cullman County, the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce has

initiated a five-year plan to bring organization and assistance to these many efforts. In the final analysis, local leaders are working at many levels to establish foundations that will bring benefits today and tomorrow for the people who live in Cullman County. Many factors come into play when people choose to visit or move to a community. That is happening in Cullman County. Whether

it is religious retreats of St. Bernard Abbey or an international

music festival such as Rock the South, people are flocking to this area and coming back again.

As we move forward and support the efforts to ensure our community’s future, it is important that all of us welcome new ideas and efforts. There are a few people who don’t support the need to plan and implement changes, but new directions are not bad directions if the end brings benefit to the upcoming generation.

Changing the values and strong sense of community is not something that anyone wants. Those are building blocks that allow growth and sustainability.

There will be bumps along the road to the future, but we should be enthusiastic and committed to ensuring that opportunities exist today and for our heirs to this great community.

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2017 2nd Quarter Intern Insight – Zac Bell

Where are you attending school? What is your major and why?

I will be attending Auburn University this fall and start studying towards a degree in Aerospace Engineering. I chose this major because of my interests in flight and space, which spurred from many days out at my grandparents' farm near Cullman Regional Airport. My experiences at Space Camp that I went to with my East Elementary 6th grade class also played a large part.

What business skills have you acquired at the Chamber?

I have greatly improved my data interpretation and time-management skills. Communication is key, and this internship has taught me the valuable lesson of how important teamwork is and how it works in an office setting. I have learned how to work as part of the team and how to make adjustments as new employees enter the fold.

What have you learned about the Chamber and its position in the community?

The Chamber plays what I see to be a vital role in bringing businesses and business people together for the



2nd Quarter Sponsor



betterment of all of Cullman's diverse workforce. What I have seen is an incitement of companies to send representatives to participate and network in order to share ideas and make connections. The citizens of Cullman receive the direct benefit of these events as the businesses that attend are the job creators and economy growers of our area's future. All of this links directly back to the Chamber's work.

How will this internship affect your future plans?

Not only has the Chamber taught me a valuable lesson in the work environment, but it has proven something to me. Cullman is truly a great big, little community that's growing and prospering by the day. Through my internship at the Chamber, I have

seen the best of this community. There is no other place that provides such tremendous opportunity to "live, work and play." Through this, I have further reinforced my plans to live here in the future. No other community has such opportunities.

What can you take away from this internship and apply to your career of choice?

In my time with the Chamber, I have found a new way of being able to communicate in between co-workers. This valuable skill cannot be found in schools, as it takes a work environment to cultivate such a skill. Being able learn these skills is one aspect. Being able to apply these skills is even more important. Teamwork and communication are things I look forward to being able to use in my future work environment.

Chamber appoints Meeves as Executive Assistant to the President

The Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center is pleased to announce the appointment of Marcella "Marcie" Meeves as Executive Assistant to the President.

Originally from Birmingham, Alabama, Marcie has spent most of her life in Fort Worth, Texas. There, she gained 35+ years' experience in office management, serving as corporate executive assistant and executive assistant to the Vice



Meeves

Chancellor of Tarrant County College. She and her husband, Pat, recently moved back to Alabama to be closer to their son, Brian, and daughter-in-law, Casey (Shabel), who together are the proud parents of two little girls — or as Marcie calls them, her "two beautiful red-headed grand baby girls!" Marcie has a background in animal rescue and loves spend-

ing time with family, swimming, taking recreational walks, and cooking.

"I believe Marcie will bring additional energy to this team, providing efficiency and support to the work being done for our community through the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center," said Leah Bolin, Chamber President & CEO.

Please join us in welcoming Marcie to the Chamber team and to our community!

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Retail Development on deck for July Morning Blend

Come join the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce the morning of Wednesday, July 19 for delicious coffee and great discussion at our Morning Blend, held every third Wednesday of each month from 8 to 9 a.m. at Rumors Deli in the Warehouse District. The Chamber staff welcomes members and visitors to attend this free event. Drinkard Development's Jason Grimmett will lead the discussion for July's topic: Retail Development. Coffee will be provided by Presenting Sponsor Karma's Coffee House. July's sponsor is Servpro of Cullman/Blount Counties. For more information, contact the Chamber at 256-734-0454 or info@cullmanchamber.org.



The Chamber's
Morning BLEND

Find out what's happening in the Cullman area

Chamber staff welcomes members and visitors to the back room at Rumors Deli every month to discuss various topics.

Topic: Retail Development

Rumors Deli, 105 1st Ave NE, Cullman, AL

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July Small Business of the Month

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Karma's Coffee House named June Small Business of the Month

The Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce would like to congratulate Karma's Coffee House as June's Small Business of the Month, sponsored by Burks Brothers Pools & Spas.

Opening their doors in 2015, Karma's owner Katie Fine and her team have quickly made an impact on the downtown landscape. Located in the Warehouse District, their coffee shop strives to welcome and host any guests that pass through their doors. Katie states, "We encourage our employees to be their best self. With a slogan like, 'Where Good People Come for Good Coffee,' it's necessary we give that type of service to everyone!" Without a doubt, Karma's lives up to their name, looking to continue the positive cycle of giving by treating each customer with intentionality and respect. At Karma's, patrons can post up in a cozy couch or chair to read a book, or opt for more creative experiences like jumping into a competitive game of Chess or playing one of their in-house guitars. Mothers are also welcomed to relax while



Karma's Coffee House owner Katie Fine and her husband, Jacob, receive the June Small Business of the Month Award from Jason Spann, Leah Bolin, Ben Smith and other representatives from the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce.

KARMA'S
COFFEE HOUSE
WHERE GOOD PEOPLE COME FOR GOOD COFFEE

Karma's Coffee House
103 1st Ave NE
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Cullman, AL 35055
(256) 841-5936

Supporter
Burks Brothers
Pools & Spas

their kids play with coloring books or blocks. Finally, Katie and her team always work to create unique beverages fit for different customer tastes, such as low-carb

chillers or the Bottomless Mug so diligent workers aren't forced to empty their wallets. Karma's also remains active in the community and Chamber. Last year alone, they hosted, then continued to sponsor the Chamber's monthly

Morning Blend events, hosted the Chamber's Young Professional's St. Patty's Day Celebration, and attended the Chamber's Annual Meeting & Gala. They also attended this year's Cullman Area Tourism & Community Improvement Awards, where Katie received the Superior Service Award. In addition to being actively engaged participants in Chamber functions, Karma's promotes community through a variety of endeavors, such as hosting weddings, showers, graduations, Christmas parties, study groups, small groups and

frequently opening their stage to support fundraisers and mission trip benefit concerts. Additionally, they keep an ongoing charity/donation board for organizations or indi-

viduals raising money for their non-profit or mission trips. They also have "Women of Joy" products from The Link of Cullman County available for purchase. Just last month, Karma's was voted Best Coffee House in Alabama Magazine's annual Best of Bama series.

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

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Shunnarah to talk branding, marketing at August Community Luncheon

You know the name. You know the face. You've seen the billboards.

Now, learn about branding and how to market your business from the man himself.

The Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce is excited to announce Alexander Shunnarah as guest speaker for August's Community Luncheon. Shunnarah, the founder and president of Alexander Shunnarah Personal Injury Attorneys, will take the podium in the banquet room at the All Steak Restaurant on August 18. Tickets for the Luncheon, which starts at 11:30 a.m., are \$15 for Chamber Members and \$20 for future members. Call 256-734-0454 to reserve your seat.



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August Sponsor
Cullman Electric Cooperative

EPIC Putts & Pints rescheduled for July 20

Emerging Professionals Impacting Cullman (EPIC) is taking a mulligan on its Putts & Pints social, rescheduling the event for Thursday, July 20 after storms washed out the original June date. Join us after work at Cross Creek Golf Course for this quarterly EPIC event, which will take place in the clubhouse and spill over to the chipping/putting green for a number of fun activities. Freddie Day Catering will be grilling onsite, cooking up delicious backyard burgers, dogs and sides.

EPIC members will be admitted at no



charge. Cost for future members is \$15. For more info or to register, contact the Chamber at 256-734-0454 or info@cullmanchamber.org.

Presented by
Drinkard Development

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SAVE THESE DATES!

- 5th Annual Dirt Therapy Day @ Stony Lonesome OHV Park – July 8, 2017
- Smith Lake WakeBattle presented by Russell Marine – July 15, 2017
- Christmas in July @ Cullman Wellness & Aquatic Center – July 21, 2017
- Trident Marina Summer Concert Series – July 29, 2017
- McKenzie Archery Shooters Association (ASA) Classic @ St. Bernard – Aug. 3-6, 2017
- EvaBank Midnight Run 5K @ Cullman Civic Center – Aug. 4, 2017
- Sportsman Lake Rock and Glow 5K – Aug. 4, 2017

