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Official Newsletter

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Honoring those who protect and serve

The law enforcement profession has suffered some tough criticism in the recent months and are receiving a lot of negative press from media sources. It seems as if the country has become more divided over many different issues every day and peoples' opinion of law



Gerstman

Every time one of our peace officers approach a situation many things must run thru his or her mind as to what they are getting involved in.

enforcement is no different. It has also become a subject for both political parties to use during this year's coming election. But when we think of police officers whether we like it or not it triggers an emotional



THE CULLMAN TIMES

Local law enforcement officials, from right, Cullman County Sheriff Matt Gentry, Hanceville Police Chief Bob Long and Cullman Police Chief Kenny Culpepper field questions as part of a community Q&A session during the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce's May community luncheon.

response inside every one of us based on our individual experiences.

Every time one of our peace officers approach a situation many things

must run thru his or her mind as to what they are getting involved in. This

is a profession where these men and woman are trained for many different situations. However, it's almost impossible to train for every single thing that could happen during these peace officer's shifts. Someone has to do the undesirable job of ensuring that law and order is maintained.

Growing up in Cullman county has been a positive influence on my opinion of the police force. As with any profession there will always be a bad egg but that should be the exception rather than the rule. As for myself and all of the members of the governmental affairs committee in Cullman county we love, cherish and support our law enforcement and truly appreciate what they do for our little community.

JASON GERSTMAN

Governmental Affairs
Committee/ Valley Heating
& Air

Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce

PO Box 1104, Cullman, AL 35056 | 104 | 256-734-0454 | F: 256-737-7443 | info@cullmanchamber.org
www.cullmanchamber.org | www.visitcullman.org

September Morning Blend

Come join us in the morning on Wednesday, August 17th for delicious coffee and great discussion at our Morning Blend, held every third Wednesday of each month from 8:00-9:00 a.m. at Karma's Coffee House in the Warehouse District. The Chamber staff welcomes members and visitors every month to attend this free event and discuss the hottest topics



in business and share tips, ideas and viewpoints. Thank you to our Presenting Sponsor

Karma's Coffee House and to our Monthly Sponsor, Adams Dentistry.

Career fair October 6

On October 6, 2016, all city and county 8th graders will experience a day full of insight into several different careers of interest – Spon-



sored by Wallace State Community College. Each year the Chamber's Education committee works hard to customize this fair by creating the most "hand-on" and engaging experience for these young students. At the fair, the students

If you are interested in participating as a vendor, please contact Ben Smith at bsmith@cullmanchamber.org

have an opportunity to explore and expand their career options and understanding by interacting with individuals who work in each of the Career Clusters. These children are the future "workforce" of

the Cullman area, and we are proud to introduce them to potential future careers and fields of interest. If you are interested in participating as a vendor, please contact Ben Smith at bsmith@cullmanchamber.org.



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PAINT THE TOWN

Win Money For Your School

"Paint the Town" is a wonderful opportunity for students to show off their talents and businesses to support local education – sponsored by Webb Wheel. All classrooms in any grade-level (K-12), public or private, are encouraged to participate in a contest to draw or paint 3' x 6' vertical posters with a "fall festival" theme.

These posters will be displayed throughout

the Warehouse District and judged for their creativity. A winner and runner-up will be selected from the following categories: K-2nd, 3-5th, 6-8th, and 9-12th grades. The winner for each category will receive \$375 toward their classroom. Webb Wheel is our proud sponsor for this event.

Additional details: Entry Forms may be picked up at any time from the Cullman Area

Chamber of Commerce and are due, along with your painted poster, before or on October 11th. Posters will be displayed at the Chamber and throughout downtown from October 17th – 31st, 2016. Posters will be judged on October 12th and the winners will be announced on October 14th. Call 256-734-0454 or email info@cullmanchamber.org for more information.



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For information, contact Dee Dee Cleghorn, Director 256-737-1088

Mapping out tourism

Whew!!! Time is flying by. It seems like yesterday I was starting my new position at the Chamber.

So if I haven't met you yet, please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Jesse Newsom and I am excited to be the Tourism Director for the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center.



JESSE NEWSOM

Director of Tourism

I wanted to take time in this newsletter to inform you about what I have been up to and what is upcoming in the next couple of months.

As Tourism Director, I've had a few goals that I wanted to accomplish within my first 90 days:

Meet my Tourism Industry Professionals in the area. (i.e., hoteliers, restaurateurs, attractions, tour groups, etc.)

Get lost in the community: Drive around the County and see Cullman from a fresh perspective

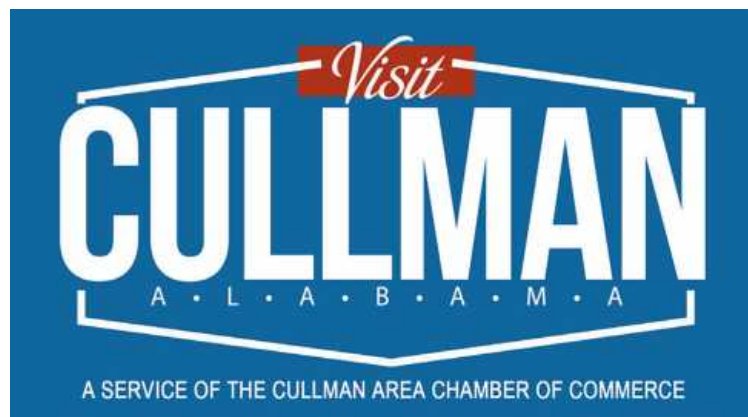
Research Groups that fit the model of Cullman

Gather the Tourism Board and determine the Plan of Action

Become the biggest cheerleader for the Cullman Area

So far, I think I have accomplished these.

Our next step is to get people here. As Tourism Director, I will be traveling to different tradeshow, con-



ferences, conventions, and tourism shows informing rights holders, tourist, tour operators about Cullman and what we can offer.

'The Travel Season' as we

call it, kicks off this month with 'S.P.O.R.T.S. The Relationship Conference'.

The goal is to attend all different markets in the Tourism industry and to

reach the most number of people. With that said, we plan on attending:

3 Sports Tourism Conferences

1 Ag-Tourism Conference

3 Group Tour Showcases

1 Travel Writer Conference

1 Outdoor Tourism Conference

4+ Travel Shows in the Southeast

I feel getting the Visit Cullman name out to these groups will help in creating the energy we want for our area. Not a lot of people outside of this great state know where Cullman is, and that

has to change. We are in a great position being right off I-65 (a major artery for travel in the USA). We are centrally located between Huntsville and Birmingham, so the ease of access to our resources are what tourists want.

So with that being said, I want to thank you all for welcoming me and my family. And if you have questions, comments, or concerns, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me.

JESSE NEWSOM, Director of Tourism Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce.

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Cullman City Parks & Recreation
CULLMAN, AL. FESTHALL MARKETPLAZ FROM 5PM TO 10PM

Last 2nd Fridays of 2016

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 to Festhalle Market. On September 9th we will be enjoying the music from Sweet Tea Trio, sponsored by R.E. Garrison Trucking. Sweet Tea Trio was nominated for Alabama's 2016 Country Music

Female Artist of the Year; music will start at 7:00 PM Make sure you bring your chairs and your friends! Local stores & the Farmers' Market will be open late. Each month our Classic/Specialty Car Cruise-In has grown; you don't want to miss this! Thanks to Cullman Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram for being our Presenting Sponsor for 2nd Fridays!



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September Community Luncheon

Join us on September 23, 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. Dale Greer, Cullman Economic Development Agency, will be speaking on behalf of the Alabama Workforce Council as he serves as the Marketing Committee Chair. He will be speaking on the plans for partnering with those involved in industry, education & government to ensure that the training and jobs match. Tickets are \$15 for Chamber Members and \$20 for future members. Call 256-734-0454 or email info@cullmanchamber.org to reserve your seat. Thank you to our 2016 Presenting Sponsor Shirley Quattlebaum – State Farm and to our Monthly Premier Sponsor Cullman Regional.

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August Small Business of the Month

TriGreen Equipment

The Chamber's Retail Committee would like to congratulate TriGreen Equipment as August's Small Business of the Month, sponsored by Cullman Eye Specialists.

As an organization deeply rooted in agricultural production, TriGreen looks to share their business products and services with the community by supporting local farming initiatives, education, and programs. Bonnie Baty, Director of Marketing at TriGreen claims their biggest incentive for giving back comes from their "Love of the Land – that is the basis of what we believe."

To nominate a local business for outstanding service, contact Ben Smith at bsmith@cullmanchamber.org

This love of where we all come from, coupled with the importance of meeting the needs of the customer, is the true focal point for TriGreen. Bonnie went on to state that "Sharing this passion, especially with future generations, is our way to give back. We teach tractor safety, have kids events like the

petal tractor pulls, and sponsor many school and sports programs.

In addition to visiting barn sales, veterinarians, parks, and farms, TriGreen was once again this year's Farm Y'all Festival Presenting Sponsor. This annual festival looks to educate the community in agriculture, while promoting and celebrating our Cullman

farmers. On behalf of the Chamber's ABI Committee, we extremely thankful for TriGreen's support!

TriGreen Equipment, LLC

5155 AL Highway 157
Cullman, AL 35058
(256) 739-5601

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 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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BUSINESS AFTER HOURS MIX, SHAKE & STIR

Our September Business After Hours event is fast approaching. It is scheduled for Tuesday, 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 group classes centered on mixology and group dances. The mixology class will be led by Shannon Stewart of the All Steak Restaurant. If you've ever wanted to learn the newest group dance – we've got you covered! Jahani, an area dance instructor will be teaching a number of group dances. 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.com.

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



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TP Country Club

Chamber Members \$15 | Future Members \$20

Pre-register: 256-734-0454

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An honor to moderate

I was very honored to be chosen as a moderator for the recent Cullman City Schools Board Candidate Forum at Cullman High School. Every four years this community faces the important challenge of selecting competent school board members to represent all students as well as our talented teachers and committed administrators.

As a member of the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center's Governmental Affairs Committee, I took my responsibilities as forum moderator both seriously and inquisitively. To me, the question formulation portion of the pre-planning phase of this forum was perhaps my most important role in the entire process.

Our goal in the pre-planning phase was to come up with questions from across a full spectrum with some being considered 'easy' and others 'hard'.

In any case, Governmental Affairs Committee ended up with a lengthy roster of pertinent, meaningful and explorative questions that we believed would challenge the candidates on various levels. It was my sense those questions would engender the most accurate and descriptive answers for the benefit of the voting public.

I believe we accomplished that mission.

As for the act of moderating the forum itself, that effort was comparatively easy. I found myself drifting off into 'voter mind' as I listened to the candidate's response while still attempting to remain focused on my duties as moderator. I have to admit, it was challenging at times.

It is my belief that by the forum's end, those in attendance in the auditorium got exactly what they expected: thoughtful, deep answers to challenging question designed to reveal the personality, intelligence and depth of skill level possessed by each candidate. I am certain everyone in audience left the auditorium well equipped to make solid, informed voting decisions in their polling places on election day.

JAMIE SPEAKMAN

CULLMAN CHAMBER Governmental Affairs Committee

3RD QUARTER INDUSTRY TOUR TOPRE

On Friday, September 9th, 2016 the Agriculture, Business, and Industry Committee of the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce will host its 3rd quarter Industry Tour at Topre American Corporation starting at 10:00 am – sponsored by AGCO | GSI.

This event is open to the public but can only take a limited number of participants.

Industry Tours are a wonderful way to become acquainted with companies that contribute to the economic vitality of our community.

Register today at www.cullman-chamber.org or call 256-734-0454.



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September Small Business of the Month

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