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The 2019/20 Youth Leadership Program Holds Their (Masked) Graduation

The Chamber's Youth Leadership program has been one of the best opportunities for high schoolers to gain a wide array of skills in professional development and discover the impact that healthy volunteerism can have on local communities. The kids in this year's program days throughout the semester with packed schedules that allowed them a well-rounded view into local business and commerce, as well as the tourism industry. They got a peek into Cullman's cultural heritage and its continued impact, and even a time to observe local government officials and what they do on a day-to-day basis. Along with gaining all of this insight and how it effects citizens in the community, they also learned about many career paths and options in higher education, as well as skills in professional etiquette and interview situations. Though activities mid-way through the spring semester were not able to be conducted, that didn't stop the Chamber from holding an ending graduation of sorts! The Youth Leadership graduation is always the event to cap off a wonderful year of learning and professional development and, though it wasn't the usual big celebration with family, the students were still able to visit the Chamber and receive their official certificate of completion, as well as having a photo made with their program leaders. Another noticeable difference was that masks were of course required, but that certainly makes for some memorable photos!





COC Morning Blend ends hiatus

After taking a break for several months, we were thrilled to resume our monthly Morning Blend meetings this quarter! On September 23rd, we held the first Morning Blend since February where we were able to meet back together once again at Rumor's Deli. For the welcome back meeting, the main topic of discussion was Oktoberfest 2020. Zach Wood, executive director of Cullman Parks and Recreation, joined us to discuss the new schedule for the festival. While the decision was made to go ahead with hosting the event this year, in light of

the ongoing pandemic, there were of course some modifications that were to be made, mainly in the shorter duration length of just two days rather than a full week. However, despite the altered schedule put in place in order to implement proper social distancing, it turned out that that many of the Oktoberfest events that Cullmanites know and love were still planned for event weekend! The cornhole tournament, pumpkin patch, and farmer's market are just a few examples of returning events. One of the biggest topics to cover was the logistical changes that would have

to occur to create a safe environment for attendees. Zach Wood explained that some events, such as kids crafts and the car show, would be moved to the parking area behind the Cullman Museum. Due to ongoing construction in the Warehouse District area, other events that are normally held at the Festhalle were moved to Depot Park. We'd like to thank Karma's Coffee House for once again sponsoring this month's Morning Blend and providing some amazing coffee! We look forward to seeing everyone for the next meeting in November!



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Iron ReHealth program now available for Chamber members

This quarter, we were excited to roll out a brand new service to Chamber members. We have recently entered a contract with Viva Health in order to join the Alabama Chambers Benefit Program, which exists to provide affordable health care packages that are designed specifically with small and mid-size businesses in mind. The program, administered locally by Iron ReHealth, will offer many benefits such as lower health costs, easy access to excellent customer service, access to the prescription-saving IronRx program and 24/7 access to Teladoc with a \$0 copay. This program is available

to any businesses who are Chamber members with at least two employees, and who work full-time (30+ hours). We successfully held a virtual webinar with Iron ReHealth's local representative Marty Vice on October 1st, who was able to share more information with members about the accumulative benefits of this health program. This webinar can be conveniently found on the Chamber's Facebook page. Improve your workplace and add to your employees' career benefits by taking advantage of this amazing program today!

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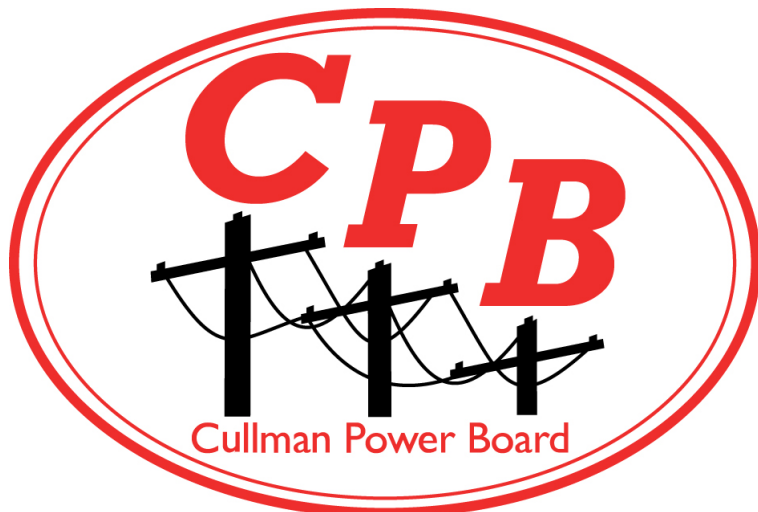
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Though these unprecedented times have caused a feeling of general uncertainty, it hasn't stopped these new businesses from opening up their doors!



SUNFLOWR BAKERY & EATERY held their grand re-opening July 13th and experienced an incredible display of support from the community. Though they had to close for a little over a year, we feel quite fortunate that they are able to open their doors once again! Remember to stop by for one of their delicious chicken salad sandwiches or place an order for some of their amazing baked goods. Their new location is 326 County Road 222, Cullman, AL 35055.



The ribbon-cutting for **CHRIS THOMPSON INSURANCE AGENCY's** new location was held on August 3rd. Chris and his awesome team celebrated with refreshments and drawings for some cool prizes for their customers, including brand new AirPods! Their beautiful new office is located at 1850 Cherokee Ave SW, Cullman AL, 35055.



DUCHESS BAKERY celebrated their grand re-opening on August the 7th, under new management. Duchess has a history with this city that is more than 80 years strong. Ever since they first opened in 1939, they have been Cullman's go-to in all things "donut". Swing by and grab an order of classic glazed for your office or next family gathering. They are still located at 222 1st Ave SE in downtown Cullman.



On September 5th, **Smith Lake RV & Resort** celebrated their Phase 3 Expansion grand opening. We anticipate this new expansion to have a positive impact on both the recreational and economic aspects of the community and county. The ribbon cutting festivities included a performance by Tristan McIntosh of American Idol fame, a shrimp boil provided by Arrowhead Restaurant and popsicles from Frios.



The ribbon-cutting for the new **TACO BELL** location in South Cullman was held on September 22nd. This new location will provide much easier logistical access for customers, accompanied by beautiful new dining room and outdoor seating areas. You can find them at their new address of 1746 2nd Ave. SW in Cullman. A huge thank you to Eva Bank for sponsoring all of our ribbon-cuttings for the year!