

# 2018 Business of the Year Nominations

## Bay St. Louis



This Main Street boutique's name means Beautiful Jewel and customers consider it a true find not just for its merchandise but for its excellent customer service. Owner Melissa Hamilton grew her business in Old Town and later expanded to the Main Street location, where she sells clothing, jewelry and accessories. She actively supports and donates to numerous charities while remaining attentive and responsive to her many customers.



Bodega Bay St. Louis is fairly new but it has quickly become a part of Old Town's business community. Owner Kevin Jordan has created several enterprises in one convenient location: Bodega Adventures, Bodega Spirits and Liquor, Parrot Head Bar and Grill and Loft Yoga. The result is something that attracts residents and visitors who come to enjoy the easily living lifestyle of the Bay. Jordan's ambitious Bodega collection of businesses adds another layer to his investments in Bay St. Louis.



Dan B. Murphy's Restaurant & Bar was established in 1981 and remains a local favorite for food, drink and live entertainment. Loyal pre-Katrina customers returned as quickly as they could when the restaurant and bar opened in its new Beach Boulevard location which now serves breakfast, lunch and dinner. The newest version of the business has three levels, giving customers outstanding beach and harbor views along with a menu that includes the Murphy family's signature roast beef po'boys.



Innovative, aggressive marketing deployed by HL Raymond Properties has helped make Hancock County one of the fastest growing areas in Mississippi. You can't help but see the For Sale signs on just about every street, and those sales result in increased property values. Broker Holly Lemoine Raymond has given the community national exposure with her appearances on HGTV's Beach Front Bargain Hunt and Great American Country's You Live In What? programs; and, she is quick to support community causes like Habitat for Humanity and the Animal Shelter.



With 600 Hancock County residents as employees and an established track record for community service and support, Hollywood Casino - Gulf Coast is a major player in the local business community. Employees are actively involved in virtually all top community organizations and events, raising money and volunteering countless hours working with the Food Pantry and CASA. They are also a major donor to causes such as Relay for Life, Make-A-Wish and Heart Walk. Cast members also are strong supporters of Habitat for Humanity, Toys for Tots and the United Way.



Family-owned and operated, Mayley's Pest Control has been working to keep Hancock County homes pest and termite free since 1996. A week after Hurricane Katrina, Mayley's was back in full force to help residents get back in their homes. Capturing and safely relocating wildlife from homes is part of the personal service the company provides. Dave Mayley and his staff are committed to the community through sponsorships of Babe Ruth Baseball, Dixie Softball, Relay for Life, Rotary Club of Bay St. Louis and the Hancock Chamber.



MidTown Pharmacy & Gifts has quickly earned a reputation for going above and beyond to serve its customers with such extras as curbside service and home delivery. It's not uncommon to hear customers describe the Midtown employees as family. Owned by Laurie Baxter Turfitt and her son Tommy, the two have built a first-class operation with an eye toward service. The gift store, which features registries for brides and graduates, offers made in Mississippi products, works by local artists and collections from Mannino Pottery and Beatrice Ball.

# Diamondhead



**ALFONSO  
REALTY, INC.**

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Coldwell Banker Alfonso Realty is known as the largest real estate company on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The local Diamondhead office has an experienced team of realtors committed to helping build a remarkable track record of delivering results. Coast-wide the company has won numerous awards. The local team is heavily involved in various charitable organizations including CASA, Relay for Life, the Lions Club and Rotary. The office not only supports these organizations financially but its employees volunteer their time throughout the year to help with events and projects.



**Gulf Coast Transportation LLC**  
We Go Anywhere!

Gulf Coast Transportation is a family-owned-and-operated transportation company in Diamondhead. The company provides pre-arranged transportation to airports, cruises and golf courses as well as door-to-door service for special events. Since opening in 2001, the business has grown steadily by providing safe, reliable transportation. Local customers include Stennis Space Center, Beau Rivage, St. Stanislaus and the Mississippi Gulf Coast Convention and Visitors Bureau. Owner John Muniz believes the company is large enough to serve and small enough to provide friendly, personalized service.



Now known as Hancock Whitney Bank, this iconic banking institution got its start in Hancock County. Its Diamondhead branch, one of more than 200 in Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Louisiana and Texas, continues the tradition of providing quality customer service, supporting the community and encouraging economic development. Many new businesses are built and grow with the support provided by local Hancock Whitney Bank employees. Hancock Whitney Bank also invests in the community by working with local charities, organizations and governmental institutions.



Friendly service, great food and high energy entertainment keep customers coming back to The Red Zone Bar & Grill. Also known for popular themed nights with trivia, karaoke and more, owners Patricia Sessums and Mike Smith's restaurant has some 30 employees who provide top notch service to the crowds. The Red Zone Bar & Grill continues to support local youth through sponsorships and donations. The restaurant owners are committed to fostering growth and development in the community.

# Waveland



Since Kristine Lyons opened her unique camper rental and store, she has been striving for perfection to meet or exceed customer expectations. She and her team work hard to give their best to each customer, from camper rental and onsite setup and take down to the sale of supplies at the new store. She is providing the community and the Gulf Coast a one-of-a-kind service along with superior customer service.



Rum Kitchen demonstrates the essence of a good, strong business: utilizing solid ethics in its working relationships with its employees, vendor and guests; engaging fellow businesses; and always reaching outside the box to promote the City of Waveland and Hancock County. Rum Kitchen has been instrumental in developing and executing a fundraiser for the Ground Zero Museum—HemFest---and has been vital in generating interest in Waveland and bringing in more traffic to the city.



Customers of this store that co-exists with a wine and spirits store next door say its success comes from exceptional service, the positive attitude of all the employees and a willingness to help the community through donations and volunteering at events. Owners, Tiffany and James Butcher, are actively involved in the community. With a growing family and a love for the city, this young couple believe in giving back, donating and volunteering for events such as support for the Animal Shelter.

Studio Waveland  
&  
Gallery

Located in the Waveland Business Center on Coleman Avenue, Studio Waveland & Gallery is a showcase and learning center begun by New Orleans glass artist Mitchell Gaudet and sculptor Erica Larkin Gaudet. Together, they are bringing new life to this nostalgic downtown district. In just a short time, Studio Waveland has created an art community that is inspiring people to visit and even move to the community. They are now holding free workshops and courses and involving the community creatively in their business.

# Kiln/Hancock County



Friends of the Animal Shelter was founded in 2000 by a small group of citizens seeking to end euthanasia as a means of controlling pet overpopulation in Hancock County. Their mission is to mobilize residents to support the Shelter, facilitate the spay/neuter of dogs and cats and

improve the general health and welfare of animals in the county. Volunteers work tirelessly to help the abandoned, neglected and lost animals. Last year the transport program saved 498 dogs and cats.



Jourdan River Steamer is back in business after closing in 2012 due to hurricane damage. Fans of the seafood restaurant kept an eye on construction progress and followed social media reports in anticipation of the reopening early this year. Since then, they have poured in for fresh seafood specialties, steaks and the scenic waterfront views.

Customers consistently praise the food and service as outstanding, which shows how much owners Hank and Lori Plauche emphasize good service.

**PHILIP'S**  
*Pest Control, LLC*

Philip's Pest Control was founded in 1985. Today, with owner Philip Moran serving as a Mississippi State Senator, his son Alan operates the business which has grown to 10 employees serving customers throughout

the Mississippi Coast. This company, celebrating 35 years in business, is known for its dependable service and its support of the business community as well as its contributions to many organizations, including the Hancock County Library System, Pearl River Community College, the Hancock Chamber, the Kiln Chamber, A Division of the Hancock Chamber and Annunciation Catholic Church.