



BESSEMER AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE **COMMUNIQUE**

OUR 108TH YEAR

WE'RE ON THE MOVE

MAY 2015



CONTENTS:

SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS.....	2
NEW MEMBERS / SPONSORS.....	3
HAPPENINGS IN BESSEMER.....	4
CALENDAR OF EVENTS.....	5
CHAMBER NEWS.....	6
DINING IN BESSEMER.....	7
EVENT HIGHLIGHTS.....	8



The Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce 93rd Annual Meeting was a huge success. See article on page 6.

1423 Fourth Avenue North
P.O. Box 1305
Bessemer, Alabama 35021



Telephone: (205) 424-8368
Fax: (205) 424-5207
Website: Holt-Insurance.com

Ken Holt Insurance Agency, Inc. was founded in 1979 by the late Ken Holt. The location of the agency at the time was 321 18th Street North. A year later the office moved to 615 19th Street North and in 1990 the agency moved to its current location of 1423 Fourth Avenue North. Joni Holt joined the agency in 1983. After the death of Ken Holt, Joni purchased the agency in 1994; the name of the agency was changed to Holt Insurance Agency, Inc. in 2004. The agency is a member of Independent Insurance Agents and Brokers of America who sponsors the Trusted Choice brand to consumers. Trusted Choice agencies are insurance firms whose access to multiple companies and commitment to quality service enable them to offer clients competitive pricing, a broad choice of products, and unparalleled advocacy. Trusted Choice agencies are dedicated to you and are committed to treating you as a person, not a policy. Holt Insurance has been actively supporting the Bessemer Community for 36 years.



*Joni Holt,
CIC, CPCU
Owner/Agent-All
Lines*



*Steve Woodward
Agent- All Lines*



*Erin Cooney
Agent-
Commercial and
Personal Lines*



*Jacque Phillips,
CISR
Agent- Personal
Lines*



*Leigh Foster,
CIC, CISR
Agent- Bonds*



*Holli Parker,
CISR
Customer Service
Representative*

PERSONAL INSURANCE

Auto, Home, Renters, Life Insurance

COMMERCIAL INSURANCE

General Liability, Auto, Property, Workers Compensation

BONDS, ANNUITIES, LONG TERM CARE, DISABILITY



The Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce would like to thank Holt Insurance Agency Inc. for their investment as a 2015 Gold Sponsor.

2015 Investors

GOLD SPONSORS



SILVER SPONSORS



SMALL BUSINESS PARTNERS

Comfort Care
Engineering Environmental Forestry Service
Legacy YMCA
Paden & Paden, PC
PNC Bank
Regional Paramedical Services
State Farm Insurance Agent, Julie Bell
Trustmark National Bank

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Alabama Stem Education
Juanita Graham
(205) 910-7274
www.alabamastemeducation.org

BNI Alabama
Bill Keene
(205) 461-4676
www.bnialabama.com

Hali's Haven Home Health
Natiki Rice
(205) 426-4645
www.halishavenhomehealth.com

PNC Bank
Kevin Lewis
(205) 481-2520
www.pnc.com

Sublett Portable Buildings LLC
Brandon Sublett
(205) 428-6147
www.sublettbuildings.com

Top Choice Supply
John C. Wright Jr.
(205) 436-2688
www.topchoicesupply.com

United Prosthetics & Orthotics
Reggie Mays
(205) 588-8125
www.unitedpando.com

BOARD MEMBERS



Chairman
Eric Messer
Shoals
Ambulance



Past Chairman
Charles King
Regional
Paramedical
Services



Chairman Elect
Joni Holt
Holt
Insurance
Agency



Treasurer
Nathan
Clark
Medical
West



Finance Committee
Terry
Dawson
Regions
Bank

Julie Bell
State Farm Insurance

Connie Fuell
Dex Imaging

John Sides
Alabama Power
Company

Richard Bishop
ITT Technical Institute

Lee Henderson
Alabama Gas Company

Kim Starling
Brookwood Medical
Center

Lynn Brown
Alabama Splash
Adventure

Joni Holt
Holt Insurance Agency

Hank Tyler
Town & Country Ford

Nathan Clark
Medical West

Charles King
Regional Paramedical
Services

Anthony Underwood
Anthony Underwood
Automotive

David Darby
Trustmark National
Bank

Judy Mathis
Moore Coal Company

Devron Veasley
Bessemer Business
Center

Terry Dawson
Regions Bank

Dr. Fred Primm
Bessemer Board of
Education

Trina Vines
Oak Trace

Roderick Evans
Paden & Paden, PC

Mike Roper
Bessemer Police
Department

NEED TO ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS?

PLACE AN AD IN THE CHAMBER COMMUNIQUE:

Full Page \$75 per occurrence
Small Ad \$50 per month or 6 months for \$240

Call 205-425-3253 for more details



The 2015 Chamber magazine is ready!

This magazine is a great marketing tool and promotion piece for the City of Bessemer. There are numerous new developments and businesses coming to Bessemer. Find out what's happening in Bessemer. Stop by the Bessemer Chamber and get copies to distribute at your business.

WELCOME TO THE BESSEMER AREA

RIBBON CUTTINGS



Harmony MediSpa & Wellness Center
401 19th Street N., Bessemer
Dr. Nova Law



Top Choice Supply
815 8th Street N., Bessemer
John Wright



Brown Beauty & Barber School
1724 1st Avenue N., Bessemer
Lisa Brown



Davis Asbury Apartments



Bessemer Police Department's New South Precinct
Promenade Tannehill

**Let us plan your
ground breaking
and/or ribbon cutting
ceremony**



Call us at 425-3253

HAPPENING IN BESSEMER



Mayor Gulley welcomed a delegation from the People's Republic of China to our city this morning, March 12, and presented them with a marble Key to the City. The delegation was in our city as part of the J.B. Processing project slated for Third Avenue North and 21st Street in downtown.



Councilor Chester Porter welcomed District #2 Citizens and over 25 companies and organizations to his annual Community 360 meeting on Thursday, March 19, 2015 at the New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church.



Citizens, Business and Community leaders are excited to see construction for a fully equipped exercise/fitness rooms, a separate wellness center including a food prep area complete with a warming kitchen (suitable for hosting parties and community events). The recreation Center is set for completion in spring 2016.

MAY

7 City of Bessemer's National Day of Prayer Program

Perfecting Reconciliation Church International @ 1723 Third Ave. North, Bessemer

12:00 PM

Speaker: Barry Cospers, Bessemer Baptist Association

Join us as we pray for our community, churches, schools, first responders and for peace in our city, county, state and nation. A light lunch will follow the service.

10 Mother's Day Celebration

Discovery Alabama Events Center
4500 Katie's Way, Bessemer

12:00 – 4:00 PM

*Treat the mother in your life to a dinner buffet, live music, roses, photo and hourly giveaways
Contact 205-425-4529 for ticket information.*

19 Business After Hours
Bessemer Chamber – Behind building

5:00 – 7:00 PM

Join us for our Old Fashioned Seafood Boil as we welcome and network with new chamber members. Enjoy great food and door prizes before you go.

20 Coffee With a Cop
Sneaky Pete's
1901 2nd Ave. N., Bessemer
Network with Bessemer's police officers and other chamber members. This is an opportunity to address any concerns affecting your business.

7:30 AM



MAY

30 6th Annual Bob Sykes BBQ & Blues Festival

Debardeleben Park, Bessemer

12:00 – 8:00 PM

Relaxing and fun atmosphere for the family. Come hear talented award winning local and national blues musicians. Large kids corner with free activities and games. Contact 205-426-1400 for ticket information.

JUNE

17 Coffee With a Cop

State Farm Insurance
1821 13th Avenue N, Bessemer

Network with Bessemer's police officers and other chamber members. This is an opportunity to address any concerns affecting your business.

7:30 AM

18 A Taste of Bessemer
Bessemer Civic Center

4:00 – 8:00 PM

A taste of Bessemer is a food tasting and social event hosted by the Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce. Guests will have an opportunity to enjoy samples of food, purchase items from arts and craft booths, network, and listen to a live band and visit sponsor tables for information and giveaways. This event will be limited to the first 300 guests.



CHAMBER NEWS

93rd Annual Meeting



The Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce 93rd Annual Meeting was a huge success. The original date set for the annual meeting of March 5th was postponed due to inclement weather. The rescheduled date was March 26th. We couldn't have asked for a better day. 2014 Chairman of the Board Charles King welcomed the crowd as they enjoyed some delicious food catered by Jazzy Lady catering. Charles King, Chairman recognized the 2014 board of directors and ambassadors and thanked them for their support. He also reviewed all the successful events in 2014. The highlight of the evening was the announcement of the 2015 Charles A. Long Recipient by former recipient Joni Holt. The 2015 CAL Recipient was Keith Pennington, CEO Medical West. Keith is a very worthy recipient who has supported the hospital and the Bessemer community. Other highlights of the evening were the passing of the gavel, from King to Messer. Eric Messer will lead the chamber for 2015. Eric promised a record setting year with lots of fun events. Shirley Horn was awarded the 2015 Ambassador of the Year Award. Mayor Gulley thanked everyone for their attendance and support of the Bessemer Chamber and encouraged businesses to get involved in their city.

DRIVING FOR MEMBERS

Recruiting 55 Members in 15 days...



The Chamber kicked off a Membership Drive on May 1st. We are encouraging our members to get involved by asking your customers and acquaintances to join the chamber. Every business should be a member of the chamber. The chamber gives you exposure, contacts and leads. More exposure means more business and a return on your investment. Whether you're running a small business or a large corporation, you measure every penny you spend against this standard.

The Membership Drive deadline is May 15th. There will be a Business After Hours on May 19th to welcome new chamber members and thank our volunteers.

National Day of Prayer

On Thursday, May 7, 2015 at noon, I ask you to join us in the City of Bessemer, Annual National Day of Prayer program at Perfecting Reconciliation Church International (1723 Third Avenue North, Bessemer).

We'll join together to pray for our community, churches, schools, first responders and peace in our city, county, state and nation.

Corporate prayer is important because it creates unity and is a key aspect of believers' encouraging one another. It also keeps us humble in our prayers in aligning with God's will rather than our own selfish desires. Praying together manifests the glory of Jesus in ways that we can't experience in our one-on-one time with God. When this glory manifests in power, it brings divine intervention and breakthrough in the lives of everyone participating.

CHAMBER AMBASSADORS

Ambassadors are the key resource in extending hospitality in the Bessemer area and are experienced in business, community, and promotional arenas.

An Ambassador must serve as an active public relations arm of the Chamber and be prepared to meet visitors, local businesses, and various forms of the media.

We encourage you join the ambassador program. The ambassadors meet on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 8:30am at the Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce.



Coordinator

Lula Walter, City of Bessemer

Co-ordinators

Lori Chisem, Lawson State Community College
Andie Sloan, Vitas Innovative Hospice

Secretary

Nelda Pate, Retired

Sarah Beasley, Joe Beasley Memorial Foundation, Inc
Sarah Belcher, Retired
Erin Cooney, Holt Insurance Agency

Regina Doriety, Lawson State Community College

Shirley Horn, Retired

Latesia Jefferson, Oak Trace Care and Rehab
Nikki Jordan, Bessemer Airport

Doris Lewis, City of Bessemer

Claire Mitchell, Visalus - Body by Vi

Daryl Owens, Bessemer City Schools

Minnie Roper, Retired

Triston Wright Burrows, Moore Coal Co.



DINE
WITH A CHAMBER MEMBER...

VISIT BOB SYKES BARBECUE FOR LUNCH, DINING AND YOUR CATERING NEEDS

Bob Sykes Barbecue is a family owned local tradition since 1957. Three generations of the Sykes family has proudly served the same recipe from the beginning. Today, Van Sykes the son of Bob and Maxine Sykes started taking food orders when he was 4 and was working the pits by the time he was 12, now runs the family business with the help of his nephew, Jason Jewell.

Bob Sykes has received numerous awards and recognition over the years. In 2014, Bob Sykes was voted as the number one BBQ sauce in Alabama by the Alabama Tourism Department BBQ bracket competition. The restaurant received national news coverage from the Boston Globe for its lemon ice box pie. The Alabama Tourism Department chose the barbecue pork sandwich as one of the "100 Dishes to Eat in Alabama Before You Die". The Travel Channel said, "Bob Sykes is not a chain, it's just a good old fashioned joint with a pig sign and a happy man running it".

Sykes believes in revitalizing communities and bringing people together. Van is doing his part by hosting the 6th Annual Bob Sykes BBQ and Blues Festival May 30, 2015 in historic Bessemer, Alabama. The festival draws thousands of people with the local and national blues musicians performing and the taste of Bob Sykes Barbecue. For more information go to www.bobsykesblues.com.

Bob Sykes Bar B Q
Monday – Thursday 10:30 am – 9 pm
Friday – Saturday 10:30 am – 10 pm
Sundays – Closed
1724 Ninth Avenue N., Bessemer, AL 35020
205-426-1400 www.bobsykes.com
Find on Facebook, Instagram & YouTube



BUSINESS AFTER HOURS



**Wear Your Casual Attire
and Join Us for an Old
Fashioned Seafood Boil**

SPONSORED BY:



Tuesday, May 19th, 2015

5:00 – 7:00 PM

Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce
321 18th Street North, Bessemer

- This is an outdoor event -

Join Us in Welcoming Our New Members

RSVP REQUIRED BY THURSDAY,

MAY 14th @ 205-425-3253

**Bessemer Area
Chamber of Commerce**
321 18th St. N., Bessemer, AL 35020
(205) 425-3253
mmilan1@bellsouth.net
www.bessemerchamber.com
LaTasha Cook, President

Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce 1st Annual Taste of Bessemer June 18, 2015 Bessemer Civic Center

[REGISTRATION FORM](#)

Vendor Booth Name

Company Name _____

Contact Name _____

Mailing Address _____

PH # _____ F # _____

Email _____

Please Indicate Your Choice Below

____ EVENT SPONSOR [\$250, includes 4 tickets]

____ FOOD VENDOR [\$25 Member / \$75 Non Member]

____ ARTS / CRAFTS VENDOR [\$50 Member / \$100 Non Member]

____ TICKETS [Individual = \$20, Table of 8 = \$160]

Total # of Tickets Needed _____

Total Amount Paid = _____

INDICATE PAYMENT:

Check ___ Cash ___ Visa ___ MC ___

Card # _____

Name/Business on Card Exp. Date: _____

- This Event is Limited to 300 Tickets -

**PLEASE CALL US FOR MORE INFORMATION
205-425-3253**

Please remit to: **DEADLINE - JUNE 12th**
Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce
321 18th Street North
Bessemer, AL 35020

