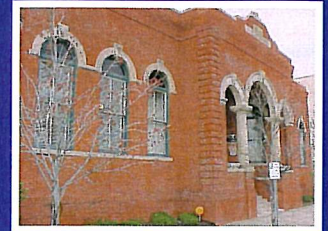


Communique

Communication: The Key to Successful Business



AUGUST 2010

Bessemer

Area Chamber of Commerce

UPCOMING EVENTS

AUGUST

08/03 **Ambassador Mtg.**
@ 8:15 am at
Chamber

08/17 **Board of
Director's Mtg.**
Noon @ Downtown
Entrepreneurial Center
[Exec. Committee
meets at 11:30 am]

08/21 **Prayer Force
United Walk in
Bessemer @ The
Foundry at 10am**

AUG. **Farmers Market**
Every Saturday 7am-
Noon @ Watermark
Place (Rain or Shine)

SEPTEMBER

09/06 **Chamber Closed**
Labor Day Holiday

09/13 **City Wide Prayer
Breakfast Chamber**
@ 7:30 am

09/14 **Ambassador Mtg.**
@ 8:15 am at
Chamber

09/21 **Board of
Director's Mtg.**
Noon @ Downtown
Entrepreneurial Center
[Exec. Committee
meets at 11:30 am]

SAVE THE DATE!

OCTOBER

10/07 **Bessemer
Chamber's Golf
"FORE" Progress
Tournament @
Bent Brook Golf
Course at Noon
(Registration Attached)**

Golf FORE Progress Will be the 19th Annual Tournament

Chamber Board members Lynn Joyce (First Financial Bank) and Steve Self (Buffalo Rock) are working hard to make the 19th Annual Golf FORE Progress Golf Tournament a big success. The Tournament will be October 7th at Bent Brook Golf Course with a box lunch from Buffalo Rock's Catering Creations and an after tournament meal by Bob Sykes BBQ. It will be a day of fun, challenge, and prizes. The tee time is noon and lunches will be ready at 11:00 AM. Register for the tournament using the form on our website (www.bessemerchamber.com) or Facebook page or call (205) 425-3253 or email mmilan1@bellsouth.net to get one sent to you. Board Chairman David Darby and the entire board look forward to seeing you at the tournament. Also, your Chamber Ambassadors will be there to register participants, man the Hole-In-One greens and make your day even more enjoyable.

This year each golfer will have two chances at a car from Premiere Chevrolet or Town & Country Ford. Register your team, put your Company name on a hole as a sponsor and then enjoy one of the best golf tournaments in Alabama.

Ambassadors greeted golfers at last year's tournament. *Photos continued on page 5.*



Chamber Highlighted on FOX 6

Jeh Jeh Pruitt and the crew from FOX 6 came to Bessemer on July 20th to highlight downtown. Beginning at the Hall of History at 6:00 AM, Jeh Jeh interviewed Hall President Bobby Cooper with Chamber and Hall of History Board members with him. Highlights of the Hall and its contents were featured. Later at 8:00 AM, Chamber Chairman David Darby met Jeh Jeh at the Bessemer Library and featured our downtown businesses. With Ambassadors and board members meeting with him David did an outstanding job of mentioning the growth and improvements in our downtown area. Just a few David mentioned were the Simmons Sporting Goods expansion, the addition to the library, the new County Court House, the under construction DHR building, established businesses like the Bright Star, Mr. Hot Dog, United Textiles, and many others. Jeh Jeh was impressed with the Hall and the growth downtown and it was a tremendous promotion for our City.

Political Forums to be Held at Bessemer High School

The Chamber will be sponsoring three sessions of political forums to provide a chance for the candidates for the Bessemer City Council, Board of Education and Mayor's office to let the citizens get to know them better. Being held at Bessemer City High School on **August 12th** (Districts 1, 2, & 3), **August 16th** (Districts 4, 5, 6, & 7) and **August 17th** (Mayoral Candidates) the forums will allow questions to be submitted by the citizens of Bessemer and allow the candidates to respond. Join us at these events beginning at 6:00 PM each evening with questions being accepted until 5:45 PM each night. The Chamber's Governmental Affairs Committee Chaired by Don Holmes (Holmes Oil) has done an outstanding job of preparing for this chance to meet the candidates. Others on the committee are Pam Segars-Morris (Sebro Realty), Billy Parsons (CPA) and Devron Veasley (Bessemer Business Center). If you have questions please contact the Chamber at (205) 425-3253 or email us at mmilan1@bellsouth.net.

Magic City Grille III Ribbon Cutting at WaterMark Place

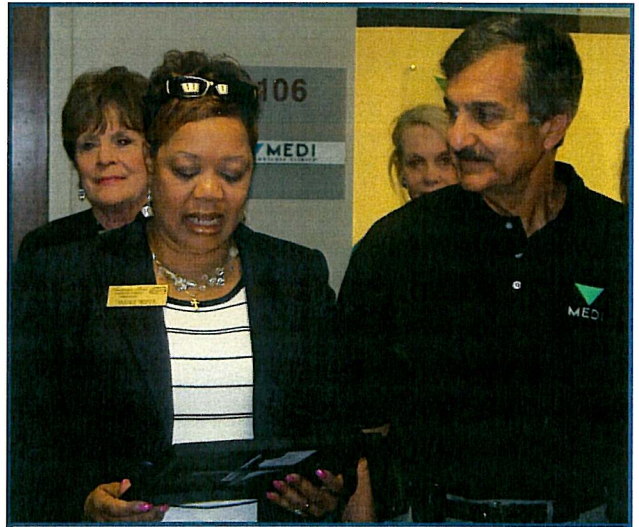
Anthony Underwood and the WaterMark Place staff along with Chamber board members and Ambassadors welcomed Magic City Grille III as they officially opened in the food court at the outlet center. Chamber Chairman David Darby and Mayor Ed May helped Payne White cut the ribbon. Anthony has been working to restock the center with quality tenants, to refocus the center to better serve the community and to provide shoppers a chance to save. Please go by the Magic City Grille III for lunch, you will not be disappointed as the food is outstanding and tastes like what my Mom and Grandmothers used to cook. It is outstanding Southern home cooking.



Medi Weight Loss Clinic Opens



Doctors Reid Christopher and Rick Stephens welcomed a great crowd of well wishers to Medi Weight Loss Clinic on July 22nd as they cut the ribbon to officially recognize their opening. Mayor's Assistant Camillo Fuller helped the doctors with the ribbon cutting. Chamber Ambassadors, Board members and patients of the clinic also joined in the festivities. Great food and fellowship followed as the crowd was able to tour the facility and learn the process of weight loss performed there. Located at 1088 Ninth Avenue SW Ste 106, Bessemer, AL 35022, it is convenient to all and close to Medical West.



Ambassador Coordinator Minnie Roper presents ribbon cutting certificate to Medi Weight Loss Clinic.

*"Stretch just as far as you can, then stretch a little more."
My Father*

Ambassador Co-Coordinator Sarah Belcher presents ribbon cutting certificate to Magic City Grille III.



Jefferson County BOE Career Tech Inservice

The Bessemer area was well represented at the July 29th inservice gathering of Jefferson County Career Tech teachers at the new Gardendale High School. Chamber President Ronnie Acker and past Chamber board member Nelda Weaver (Weaver Land), both long time members of the Career Tech Advisory Board, spoke to the group and thanked them for preparing our future employees and educating our youth. JefCo Superintendent Dr. Phil Hammonds and JefCo Board of Education President Jennifer Parsons addressed the group as well and the JefCo Career Tech staff provided some excellent information, instruction, and teaching aids for this outstanding group of teachers. Please thank a teacher every time you meet one for the impact they have on our community and children.

Chamber News *(continued)*

Chamber Travel with Earth Journeys

The Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce is working with its newest member, Earth Journeys Travel, to provide Chamber sponsored vacation tours to places in the world to accomplish several things. First, it will give our membership a way to tour other cultures and to meet with Chamber members from the countries we visit. Second, it will provide our members an affordable vacation while enjoying a cultural experience. Finally, it will offer a venue for our members to make friendships with other Chamber members and with citizens in foreign countries. We have been invited to Scotland in 2011 for the honoring of Bessemer's namesake Sir Henry Bessemer, we have new businesses in our area from South Korea, and our businesses have customers in Australia, Central and South America, Europe and Asia. Please let us know your interest in participating in these planned excursions as we work with Earth Journeys in this effort.

Community News

Roosevelt Park Make Over

Long time Bessemer landmark, Roosevelt Park, located on Hwy 150 (14th Street) and home to Davis Middle School (principal Albert Soles) received some upgrades. Work out equipment, play ground equipment, a new longer walking trail, and some landscaping were added to make the park even more usable by the citizens of Bessemer. It improves the parks aesthetics and the availability of health improving activities. On July 1st Mayor Ed May and Chamber Vice President Latasha Cook along with members of the City Council were on hand to officially open the new part of the park.


Haley Montgomery Leads Boy Scout Popcorn Campaign

Medical West's Director of Marketing, Haley Montgomery, is serving as Chairperson of the Boy Scouts Cherokee District Popcorn Campaign for 2010. Haley met with representatives of the various units of the District Boy Scouts on July 27th to begin the training for the upcoming campaign. Joining Haley at the meeting were District Chairman Ronnie Acker, District Commissioner Teresa Castle and District Scout Executive Anthony Edwards. The Magic of Popcorn will provide our community with two ways to help

Continued →


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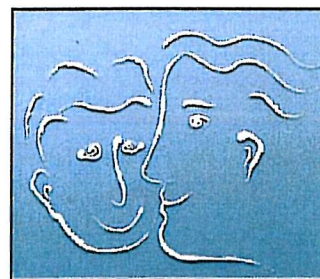


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Area President and
Commercial Lender

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PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY

Olga Sanchez-Hernandez, D.M.D., M.S., M.S.

205-477-8004

the Scouts. First, all popcorn you buy provides funding for the world's most productive youth organization and second, they make available for you to buy popcorn to be sent to our men and women in the military in Iraq and Afghanistan. As these young men come to you to help please remember they are our leaders of tomorrow.

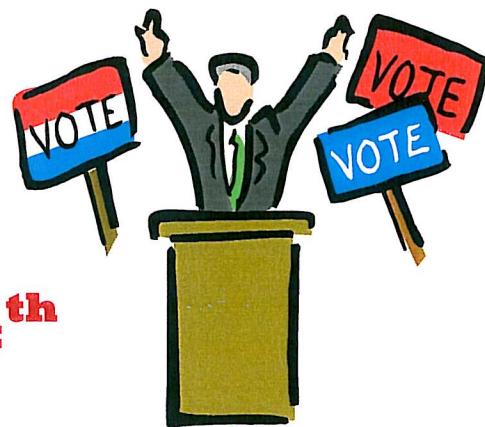
As we prepare for the City elections on August 24th there are several things we all should remember as we support, vote and work with our elected officials. Lets review them item by item.

1. Individually you should be active in support of candidates for office. However, your Chamber is and will be completely impartial in the individual offices to be filled. This is as it should be. The Chamber will work with whoever is elected and thus we must not be partial. But, you as a businessperson or citizen need to be involved both with your time and money. Participate in the election process and work to elect your candidates.
2. An elected official should be trustworthy and honest. If you can't trust the person, don't vote for them. If they have not earned your trust by their actions while in office or in business, don't vote for them. An elected official earns trust by being honest and truthful. Out right lies, untruths, less than honest candor, memory lapses, convenient forgetting, all are tools in the dishonest elected officials toolbox. Don't vote for them.
3. Elected officials have to be "SERVANTS OF THE PEOPLE." We cannot emphasize that enough. The people, citizens, are not here to bow down to, serve, or provide for the elected official. Some in office think they are kings or queens, just look at the most recent officials receiving jail time because they saw themselves above the law. Their job is to serve the people. If they do not do that, don't vote for them.
4. Just because a person holds an office does not mean we have to respect them. We must elect those who have been (or will be) accountable for their actions and have displayed respect for the City, our citizens, our business-owners and fellow elected officials. Yes, we respect the office but the elected official has to earn our respect. Lies, deceit, less than transparent governance, shady actions, snobby persona do not earn our respect, just the opposite it earns our contempt. Don't vote for them.
5. Character counts! The way elected officials interact with each other, with the citizens, with their businesses, with their communities all show their character. They can tell you all day long how honest they are, how religious they are, how loyal they are and how much leadership they have, BUT, their actions speak louder than their words. Childish actions such as yelling, being belligerent, stomping out of meetings, intimidating others, boorish attitude, and high and mighty airs are signs of the character that is not needed in office. Don't vote for them.
6. When an elected official praises themselves, boasts of their titles, tells you they are religious it is a warning to look deep into their hearts. A religious person can be known by their actions, praise of an elected official can be known by the good for their citizens and communities that they have accomplished, and a titled person is humble about the titles they hold if they have worked hard enough to earn the title. If you see deep into their heart and it is not pure, don't vote for them.

It is time to make a difference, to do what is best for our area. If you continue to do the same thing and expect different results it is a sign of insanity. Your vote for someone who has not produced, who is not transparent, or who is dishonest will get you the same results. Make a difference, elect the honest in heart, elect servants of the people, elect someone you can be proud of because it's your business.

Make A Difference...

VOTE on August 24th



CCAA Conference

Chamber President Ronnie Acker is serving this year as Vice President of the Chamber of Commerce Association of Alabama and is Chairman of the Summer Conference to be held in Gulf Shores on August 18-20th. Featuring the Mayors from both Gulf Shores and Orange Beach the conference is held annually and this year it will show support for our business partners in the gulf region. CCAA President Kirk Mancer, Cullman Chamber of Commerce, will preside and welcome over 50 Chambers that will be represented. This meeting will also provide a chance for Chamber execs to exchange ideas, learn of programs, and improve their knowledge of the Chamber business. A report next month will highlight the outcomes of the meeting.

Community News *(continued)*



Citizens participate in the Prayer Force United Walk on August 17th through the 400 block of Bessemer's Burstall area.

NEW MEMBER

McCalla Memorial Funeral Home LLC
 Mike Sartin
 1502 County Park Road
 Scottsboro, AL 35769
 Email: mccallamemorial@gmail.com
Business Category: Funeral Home

Photos *(continued from page 1)*





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Wallace B. Purdy, MD
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2010 AMBASSADORS

Coordinator

Minnie Roper, Retired

Co Coordinator

Sarah Belcher, Bessemer City Council

Secretary

Nelda Pate, Retired

Kay Baggett, Retired

Sarah Beasley, Joe Beasley Memorial Foundation, Inc.

LeeAnn Best, Lawson State - Bessemer

Regina Doriety, Lawson State - Bessemer

Connie Fuell, Konica Minolta

Kenneth Gully, Lawson State - Birmingham

Lisa Hester

Louise Hickey, Legacy YMCA

Syble Lamons, Retired

Doris Lewis, City of Bessemer

Ernestine McNair, Liberty National

Claire Mitchell, Bessemer Beauty Institute

Tyndl Land-Roberts, Individual

Diane Sparks, Legacy YMCA

Katherine Taylor, Favor Realty

Tammy Tucker, Golden Living Center

Meadowood

Ericka Watson, Individual

2010 Board of Directors

Chairman

David Darby, BankTrust

Past Chairman

Dr. Deborah Horn, Miles College

Chairman Elect

Keith Pennington, Medical West

Treasurer / Finance Chairman

Lynn Joyce, First Financial Bank

Dr. Cynthia Anthony, Lawson State

Julie Bell, State Farm Insurance

Dr. Jeremy Burns, Eagle Vision

Jim Byram, Development Solutions

Doug Caddell, Canaan Baptist Church

Derek Camp, Team Fever / Bama Fever

Gene Cochran, Liberty National Life Ins.

Randy Donaldson, Alabama Gas Co.

Don Holmes, Holmes Oil

Tom Nicholson, US Pipe & Foundry Co.

Billy Parsons, CPA

Erik Raymond, Rural Metro Ambulance

Allen Rice, ITT Technical Institute

Pam Segars-Morris, Sebros Realty

Steve Self, Buffalo Rock Company

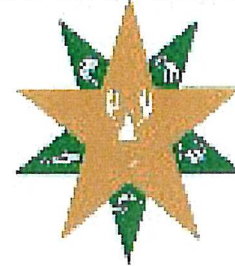
Van Sykes, Bob Sykes BBQ

Devron Veasley, Bessemer Business Incubation System

Eddie Vines, District Judge



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true to it's traditions through generations."
The Birmingham News - December 2007*