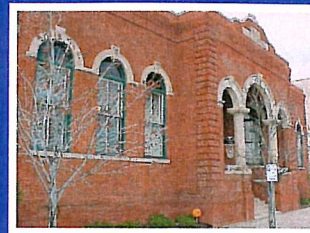


# Communique

Communication: The Key to Successful Business



JUNE 2010

## Bessemer

Area Chamber of Commerce

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- 06/05** Farmers Market  
Every Saturday  
7am-Noon @  
Watermark Place  
(Rain or Shine)  
**Grand Opening  
Ceremony @ 10am**
- 06/07** City Wide Prayer  
Breakfast Chamber  
@ 7:30 am
- 06/08** Ambassador  
Meeting @ 8:15 am  
at Chamber
- 06/10** Business After  
Hours at Bob Sykes  
Barbecue @  
Tannehill State park  
5:30-7:30 pm
- 06/12** Health Expo  
@ Watermark Place  
10am-4pm
- 06/15** Board of  
Director's Mtg.  
Noon @ Chamber  
[Exec. Committee  
meets at 11:30 am]
- 06/20** Father's Day
- 06/24** Coffee & Contacts  
@ Sarrell Dental at  
7:30 am
- 07/05** Chamber Closed  
4<sup>th</sup> of July Holiday
- 07/12** City Wide Prayer  
Breakfast Chamber  
@ 7:30 am

Just get a little bit  
better every day.

*Coach  
Paul Bear Bryant*

### Hueytown Celebrates 50 Years as a City

On May 6, 1960 Hueytown became an incorporated City. Mayor Delor Baumann and Hueytown Chamber Executive Secretary Becky Williams went all out to celebrate this tremendous achievement. After a banquet on April 27<sup>th</sup>, they followed up with a reception on May 6<sup>th</sup> at City Hall for all citizens and well-wishers to come by and have cake as they viewed some old pictures of the incorporation and historic events through the years. Pictures of all the past mayors were shown and the council chamber was full of the many people who have made Hueytown what it is today. The Bessemer Chamber congratulates one of the bright spots in western Jefferson County and thanks Mayor Baumann and Becky for the great relationship the Chamber has with Hueytown.

### Bessemer's National Day of Prayer Features Jeremiah Castille

Former University of Alabama and NFL defensive back Jeremiah Castille was the keynote speaker at the annual Bessemer National Day of Prayer services held at First Presbyterian Church in downtown Bessemer. He quoted Coach Paul "Bear" Bryant saying, "Just get a little better each day." He followed saying, "He did not ask for giant strides just steady improvement." Held on May 6<sup>th</sup> the event included prayers by various local ministers and civic leaders praying for specific segments of our community: Revival and Cleansing-Rev. Milton Bishop, City/State/Nation-Rev. Randy Kesler, First Responders-Rev. Bruce McCartney, Marriage and Family-Rev. Bill Heintz, Churches-Rev. Doug Caddell, Media-Dr. Merdith Byram, and Schools-Phyllis Campbell. Music was provided by The Foundry Worship Band and Dr. Kim Pilkinton welcomed and conducted the service. Hosted by the City of Bessemer Prayer Breakfast, local Churches and the Chamber the event brings together all religions to specifically pray for our community. This year's theme was "Prayer for such a time as this."



Chamber Chairman David Darby presents resolution of congratulations to Mayor Delor Baumann



Making an impact on the community at the National Day of Prayer Service are, l-r; Chamber President Ronnie Acker, Rev. Bill Heintz, Jeremiah Castille, Rev. Kim Pilkinton, and Chamber Chairman David Darby.



## Lawson State Receives Wachovia Bank Property

Lawson State President Dr. Perry Ward hosted a ceremony on May 12<sup>th</sup> at the 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue Wachovia Bank building receiving the facility as a donation from Wachovia to Lawson State. The facility will be used to provide work force development and community finance workshops and training for students at Lawson as well as citizens of the City of Bessemer. The Lawson State Community College Foundation was the official recipient of the property and with some renovation the building will be ready to occupy. Dr. Ward made sure that the families of the two ladies who lost their lives in a robbery at the building understood that their memory would be a part of the building as long as Lawson State had it. Addressing the crowd besides Dr. Ward were: Dr. Freida Hill, Chancellor of the Alabama Community College System; Mike Donnelly, President Wachovia Regional; Richard Busby, Senior Community Development Officer of Wachovia SE Region; Mayor Ed May; and Dr. Ethel Hall, Alabama State Board of Education. *(See page 5 for more photos)*



Chamber Ambassadors join local officials at Lawson State donation ceremony, l-r: Sarah Smith, Police Chief Nathaniel Rutledge, Dr. Ethel Hall, Syble Lamons, Lisa Hester, Tyndl Roberts, Senator Priscilla Dunn

## New Covenant Day Care Opens in Watermark Place

Chairman David Darby, Assistant to the Mayor Camillo Fuller, City Council member Sarah Belcher helped CEO Allen Hopkins with the official opening of the New Covenant Day Care Center located in Water Mark Place. Anthony Underwood, owner of Water Mark Place, was excited to begin the process of revamping the center into a business and entertainment area with a variety of new tenants being recruited. New Covenant was located in downtown but moved to Water Mark to better serve its children and to provide a safe and beautiful environment.



Chairman David Darby and Council member Sarah Belcher assist Allen Hopkins, CEO, and Camillo Fuller in cutting the ribbon at New Covenant. The children left classes to join in the festivities.

# BankSmart™

COMMITTED TO BESSEMER.  
COMMITTED TO YOU.

David C. Darby  
Area President and  
Commercial Lender

205-665-3361

 **BankTrust.**

banktrustonline.com

Member FDIC



Chairman David Darby and Chamber Ambassadors welcomed Mr. Hopkins of New Covenant Day Care at ribbon cutting. Pictured l-r: Sarah Beasley, David, Syble Lamons, Allen Hopkins, Sarah Belcher, and Lisa Hester.



### 2009-2010 Out of School Youth Skills Training Services Program

IPEC, *Influencing to Provoke Empowerment for Change*, is a multi-faceted faith based non-profit organization that began out of the desire to improve the lives of families and youth in the City of Bessemer. Committed to helping participants meet and exceed their goals and dreams by providing comprehensive training and follow up. Their goal is to significantly reduce economic, social and educational deficiencies through program development.

IPEC, LLC is the first and only Youth Service Provider for Jefferson County's Workforce Investment Board located in the City of Bessemer. They are currently facilitating the 2009-2010 Out of School Youth Skills Training Services Program. The first Medical Certification class in EKG/Cardiac Heart Monitoring ended a few weeks ago with great success. Their second Medical Certification in Phlebotomy has just begun with a class enrollment of 27 individuals.

Due to the success of these programs and a proven track record, IPEC has been awarded a grant to provide and implement the 2009-2010 Out of School Youth Skills Training Services Program through Jefferson County for 100 youth, which provides summer work experience opportunities for youth between the ages of 16 to 21 years old. The mission is to offer an eight-week diverse, high quality program that promotes leadership and youth development through enrichment, educational activities and unique work experiences.

In order to successfully implement this program, the support of local businesses is needed. This support is for summer employment opportunities for graduating students. There are approximately thirty (30) Certified Phlebotomy Technicians and five (5) Certified Cardiac Monitor Technicians. Additionally, there are other students who have the ability to effectively handle light administrative responsibilities. Please note that the grant pays the salary and assumes responsibility for any insurance liabilities. All participants will have an assigned Case Manager that will be responsible for ensuring students are conducting their assigned responsibilities and will periodically meet with the local business for status updates. The tentative start day is June 7<sup>th</sup> which will be a week of intensive Work Force Readiness Training. On June 14<sup>th</sup> our students will be report to their designated worksite with July 23<sup>rd</sup> as their last working date.

Successful implementation of the IPEC programs will fill a void in the community by providing educational and work experience opportunities to our youth. A program of this magnitude can have a significant impact on the lives of our community. The youth, our future, will be exposed to greater opportunities. Please contact Natalie Hill at 428-7526 or email [nataliehill@bellsouth.net](mailto:nataliehill@bellsouth.net).

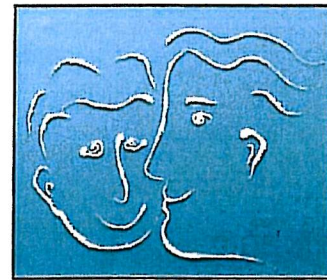
View the  
Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce  
CALENDAR  
@ [www.bessemerchamber.com](http://www.bessemerchamber.com) OR Facebook

Trust is earned just like respect. It is not just there because of your title, position, or office. Trust is earned by telling the truth, admitting mistakes, correcting the mistakes, working hard, remembering what you said and admitting it, and as my Dad taught me, "Being a man about what you do." Respect follows trust, it is earned after you build trust by others in you and for you in others. Trust and respect are not yours just because you own a business, manage a business, or have been elected to an office. You have to work for it.

Some would have you believe that just because they were elected to a political office that the citizens and businesses should trust and respect them. But as citizens and business men and women we understand that someone who looks you in the eye and lies, forgets what they promised you to get elected, conveniently forgets what they told you in private, or falls short of the moral code we all demand are not deserving of our trust or respect.

During this election year, pay attention to what the candidates promise, know who is supplying their funding, know who the candidates donate money to and why, most of all demand a fair election and vote. Politicians must remember they are civil servants not royalty. They are working for the citizens and businesses in our communities, we are not working for them. They must remember also that they are held to a higher standard on moral and ethical issues, i.e. just because it is legal does not make it right.

This is an important year as we work to recover from a devastating recession, we must elect those candidates who exemplify our values, who live and walk their values and don't boast of being pastors or religious people. You can always tell what kind of person you are dealing with by how they live, how they live in private as well as public. They tell you the truth, treat you with respect and earn your trust thus earning your respect.



**MCCALLA ORTHODONTICS  
&  
PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY**

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

**205-477-8004**



## Chamber Presents Teacher of the Year Awards

May is a busy month for the Chamber staff and volunteers. Working with the Bessemer Board of Education, the Chamber's board and the local schools, the Chamber presented the 2009-10 Teacher of the Year Awards at each school's awards day program. This annual award and recognition by the Chamber is one way the Chamber salutes and spotlights the tremendous job our local teachers do each year. This year the worthy recipients were: Bessemer City High School-Barbara Morrow, Hard Elementary School-Antwanikkie Lewis, Davis Middle School-Angela Cox, New Horizon Alternative-Monique Bibbs, Westhills Elementary School-Derrick Aikerson, Jonesboro Elementary School-Ida Cunningham, Greenwood Elementary School-Lakeyshia Cox, and Abrams Elementary School and System Teacher of the Year-Adriene Evans.

Along with a certificate of recognition signed by the Chairman of the Board each teacher was given a small gift from the Chamber. The Chamber is proud to be able to participate with each school and to honor in this small way the very deserving and hard working teachers in the Bessemer system.

## Lashundria Brown Receives Chamber Community Service Scholarship

Bessemer City High School qualified a special student to receive the 2010 Ora Foster Community Service Scholarship given each year to eligible students at our three local high schools. Ms. Lashundria Brown received the scholarship for her academic as well as her community service achievements. The money can be used at whatever college or other educational site she enters after high school graduation. She is a special young lady and the Chamber is proud to be able to help her further her educational dreams.

## Chamber and Western Star Host Political Forum

Hoping to encourage citizens to vote for the candidates that are best for Bessemer the Chamber held a political forum on May 24<sup>th</sup> at Davis Middle School with the opportunity to meet and hear those men and women who want to serve. Fourteen County and State candidates responded and took their time to address a couple of questions on education and economic development. They were also given time to introduce themselves and to mingle with the attendees to personally meet them and answer their questions. Those participating were: District 19 Senate-Senator Priscilla Dunn (the incumbent) and Nathan J. Reed, District 56 House-Lawrence McAdory (the incumbent), Claire Mitchell, Melanie Bouyer, and David Vance, District 15 House-Pat Moore (the incumbent), U.S. House District 7-Earl Hilliard, Jr., Jefferson County Commission District 3-David Phillips, Jefferson County Sheriff-W.E. Hill, Circuit Judge Place 10-Eugene Verin (the incumbent), Circuit Judge Place 12-Dan King (the incumbent) and Annetta Verin, Circuit Judge Place 20-Julie Palmer.

Many thanks to the Chamber's Governmental Affairs committee for organizing this forum especially to Board members: Pam Segars-Morris, Billy Parsons, and Devron Veasley. Pam was our time keeper as well and Devron prefaced the questions so that the candidates would understand what was being asked. Also, our Chairman David Darby welcomed the candidates and the citizens. Special thanks to Principal Albert Soles of Davis Middle School and his staff for making the facility available for this event, they did an outstanding job.



Some of the candidates speaking at the Chamber's Political Forum included: Senator Priscilla Dunn, Judge Dan King, Judge Eugene Verin, Rep. Lawrence McAdory, Nathan Reed, David Phillips, W.E. Hill, Claire Mitchell, Melanie Bouyer, and not pictured Rep. Earl Hilliard Jr., David Vance, and Julie Palmer.

## Jonesboro Elementary CIAS Organization Recognizes Community Service

Jonesboro Elementary School honored their student's community service with a recognition program on May 6<sup>th</sup>. The students at Jonesboro Elementary School provided 5,029 hours of community service during the 2009-10 school year. Under the Community Interest and Service Organization (CIAS) the students performed their service with teacher and parent supervision. Their theme is, "You can make a difference in the world-no matter what your age!" Ms. Becky Murray, guidance counselor, and Principal Darryl Aikerson have done an outstanding job instilling pride in their students as they perform service for their community. Presenters at the program were: Principal Darryl Aikerson, Superintendent Michael Foster, Board of Education Member Hattie Aikerson, City Council President Earl Cochran, Chamber President Ronnie Acker, Mayor Ed May, and State Senator Priscilla Dunn.



## Bessemer Academy Hosts “Believe and Achieve” Program

Local civic and business leaders were invited to a luncheon at Bessemer Academy on May 5<sup>th</sup> to learn more about the school’s “Believe and Achieve” Vision. The Chamber’s President Ronnie Acker was asked to tell what Bessemer Academy means to the Bessemer area. Ronnie said, “Bessemer Academy is a jewel in our area and provides a option to our local schools. It has brought much positive achievements to our area and is a school the business community can be proud of mentioning in its economic development efforts.” Established in the early 1970s, Bessemer Academy is committed to student excellence and is fully accredited by the Alabama Independent School Association and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Part of the school’s Mission Statement states: Our goal at Bessemer Academy is to provide academic excellence, social growth, and moral development of our students. Julie Kelly, the school’s headmaster, welcomed the group and emphasized the need for business involvement to help the school achieve its goals of growth and excellence, not only in the student body but also in the facilities and staff serving them. A lunch was prepared by the staff and served by students.

## Chamber News

### Baked Ziti Lunch Helps Fund Scholarships

The Chamber Ambassadors hosted another Ziti luncheon to raise money to support the Chamber’s Ora Foster Community Service Scholarship made available each year to a graduating senior at McAdory, Bessemer City and Bessemer Academy High Schools. The food was outstanding as usual and the ladies worked hard to make all deliveries and pickups on time. Serving both meat and vegetable Ziti the meal also included green beans, drink, bread and cookies. Thanks to all including the Chamber staff for working to keep these scholarships possible.

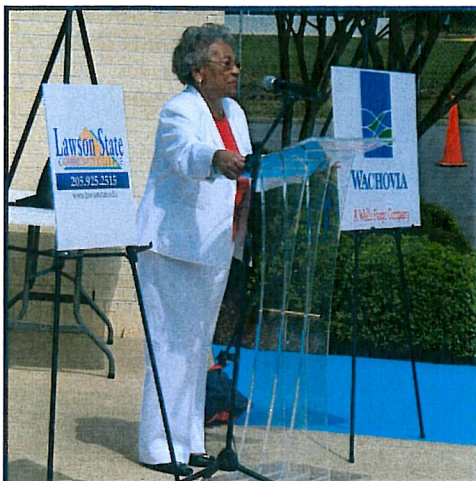
### Bessemer Incubator Hosts Coffee and Contacts

Board member and Director of the Bessemer Incubator and Business Center, Devron Veasley, and Joyce Quinn, administrative assistant, hosted the May 6<sup>th</sup> Chamber Coffee and Contacts at the center in downtown Bessemer. Numerous chamber members, volunteers, and political candidates attended and the food was outstanding. Devron and Joyce are to be congratulated on an outstanding event and being such gracious hosts. Chairman David Darby along with numerous Ambassadors and Board members welcomed everyone as a larger than anticipated crowd gathered to meet and greet. This was an exceptional event and if you missed it you need to plan to attend the next one.



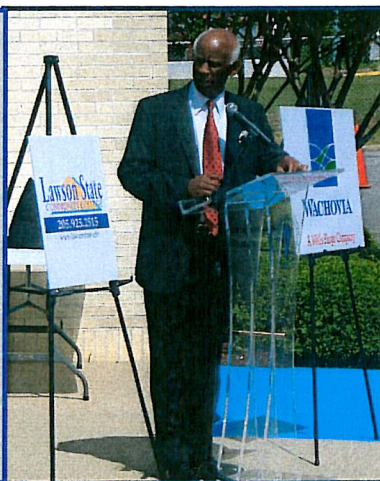
→ Chamber members gathered at Coffee and Contacts; l-r, President Ronnie Acker, Ambassador s Lisa Hester and Sarah Belcher, and Chairman David Darby.

← Ambassador Coordinator Syble Lamons and Sarah Beasley enjoy the food at Bessemer Incubator.



← Dr. Ethel Hall  
Alabama State  
Board of  
Education

→ Dr. Perry Ward  
Lawson State  
Community  
College President



VIEW OUR  
**CALENDAR**  
ANYTIME

online at

[www.bessemerchamber.com](http://www.bessemerchamber.com)

or on  
Facebook





**Reid S. Christopher, MD**  
**Wallace B. Purdy, MD**

*Board Certified, Internal Medicine*

**GROUND LEVEL PARKING • ON-SITE LAB & BONE DENSITY SCREENING**

Bessemer Medical Building  
1088 9th Avenue SW · Bessemer · 35022 · 426.0546

**2010 AMBASSADORS**

**Coordinator**

Syble Lamons, Retired

**Co-Coordinator**

Minnie Roper, Retired

**Secretary**

Nelda Pate, Retired

Kay Baggett, Retired

Sarah Beasley, Joe Beasley Memorial Foundation, Inc.

Sarah Belcher, Bessemer City Council

LeeAnn Best, Lawson State - Bessemer

Leigh Dewitt, Utility Auditing

Regina Doriety, Lawson State - Bessemer

Connie Fuell, Konica Minolta

Kenneth Gulley, Lawson State - Birmingham

Lisa Hester

Louise Hickey, Legacy YMCA

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

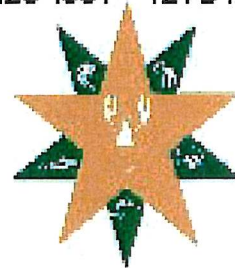
Van Sykes, Bob Sykes BBQ

Devron Veasley, Bessemer Business Incubation System

Eddie Vines, District Judge



*Specializing  
in Banquets  
of all types.*



**2007  
Centennial  
Retailer  
of the Year!**

★★★★★ FIVE STAR RATING ★★★★★

*"The food is excellent and it really flows and  
The restaurant has an amazing history and reminds of  
me to it's traditions through generations."  
The Birmingham News - December 2007*