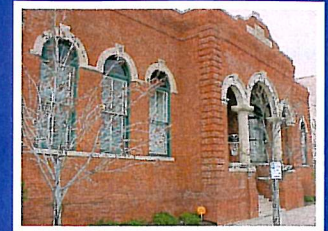


Communique

Communication: The Key to Successful Business



JULY 2010

Bessemer

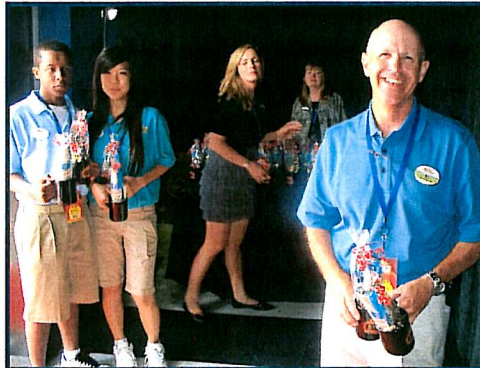
Area Chamber of Commerce

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 07/12 City Wide Prayer Breakfast** Chamber @ 7:30 am
- 07/12 Ribbon Cutting & Grand Opening** Magic City Grille III at Watermark - Noon
- 07/15 Ambassador Mtg.** @ 8:15 am at Chamber
- 07/17 Prayer Force United – Walk in Bessemer** at 10am {In the 400 block – Bessemer's Burstall Area}
- 07/20 Board of Director's Mtg.** Noon @ Downtown Entrepreneurial Center [Exec. Committee meets at 11:30 am]
- 07/22 Ribbon Cutting & Grand Opening** MediWeight Loss Clinic at 5pm {1088 Ninth Ave., SW Ste 106, Bessemer}
- JULY Farmers Market** Every Saturday 7am-Noon @ Watermark Place (Rain or Shine)

Alabama Adventure Previews Beat Street

Bob Morgan and the staff at Alabama Adventure welcomed a group of VIP guests on June 4th to experience a preview of the newest addition to the Park, Beat Street. Five very talented young people presented a program that would be the envy of any park in the nation and rivals the shows in Nashville. Several of them were from the area and that made it even more enjoyable. The show will allow a cool place to come in, sit down, see the entertainment and cool off on those great days at Alabama Adventure. The park has been busy, and most of the time it has been very busy. Big crowds and a first class operation. Thanks to Bob and his staff for making the day special and bringing this first class entertainment to our area.



Left: Alabama Adventure's staff greets guests after the VIP Beat Street performance.

Right: Camilo Fuller and Ronnie Acker join the cast onstage to perform the YMCA song.



Bob Sykes Tannehill Hosts Business After Hours

On June 10th Shelly Reister and the staff at Bob Sykes Tannehill were perfect hosts for the June Business After Hours for the Chamber. Shelly had outstanding food as usual and the music was tremendous. Over 50 Chamber members came to Tannehill State Park and enjoyed the hospitality and beautiful scenery at the park. Prior to the BAH your President had to order a BBQ rib plate which is so good it makes you hungry to think about it. The Chamber's Ambassadors were honored for their 2009 service with gift baskets and 2009 Chamber Ambassador Coordinator Diane Sparks received a special recognition. Jefferson County Commissioner Bobby Humphries and Bessemer City Council member Sarah Belcher were there as were many members of the Chamber board. It was a great evening and when you can, visit the park and enjoy some of the best BBQ around.

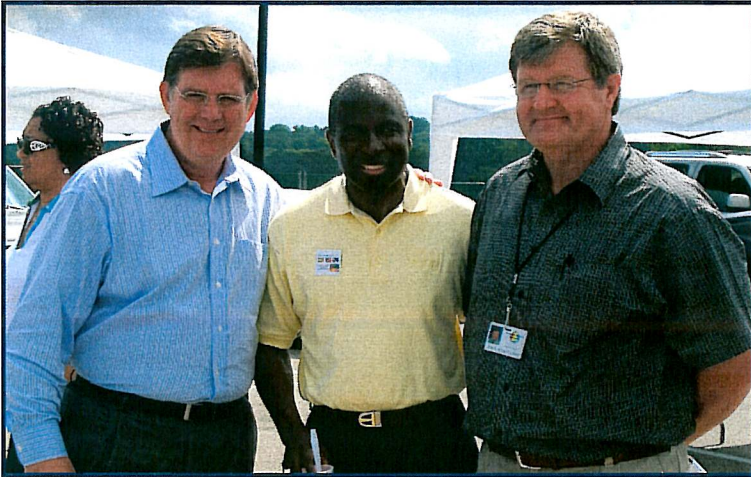


Windows 7 Forums

Devron Veasley and the Bessemer Business Incubator hosted several 40 minute forums on June 3rd and June 16th introducing the advantages of Windows 7 to our Chamber membership. We are hoping to have more forums for you if there is a demand. Let us know. The forums covered the newest program improvements, user friendly items, and an array of outstanding and up to date changes in the Windows products.

WaterMark Place Opens Farmer's Market

Fresh produce, cold beverages, cooking demos, and many other interesting and valuable vendor locations dotted the parking lot at WaterMark Place on June 5th as Anthony Underwood and his employees welcomed a good crowd to the grand opening of the Farmer's Market. Ron Sparks, candidate for Governor, visited and met many of the visitors. Ron Cook, professional chef, demonstrated some quick and delicious items in a very popular cooking display. It was a great day at WaterMark Place and an outstanding way to introduce the new Farmer's Market.



Anthony Underwood thanked Ron Sparks for showing his support for area farmers.



Chef Ron Cook has a demonstration at Farmer's Market

NEW MEMBERS

Creative Approach Technologies

Dana Darby, Lee Harrington
1628 Holbrook Avenue
Bessemer, AL 35020
PH 205.478.7301

Email: ddarby@bham.rr.com
www.creative-approach.com

Business Category: Computer Consulting

Hospice Services of Alabama

Heath Hill, Jon & Lisa Orr
2367 Lakeside Drive, Ste B-1
Birmingham, AL 35244

PH 205.682.9996, F 205.682.9994

Email: bheath007@yahoo.com, marketing@hsfoal.com
www.hsfoal.com

Business Category: Hospice

McAlisters Deli

Jerry Jones

4977 Promenade Parkway, Ste 121
Bessemer, AL 35022
PH 205.426.0387

Email: Bessemer@mcalistersisteli.com

Business Category: Deli

Russell & Alford, Inc.

Julian Alford
PO Box 110191

Birmingham, AL 35211
PH 205.785.5103, F 205.785.5109

Email: russellandalford@aol.com

Business Category: Contractors

Whiting Services, Inc.

Chris Hudson, Joseph Liverett
4001 Farr Road

Bessemer, AL 35022
PH 800.990.5008, F 205.428.5433

Email: chudson@whiting-serv.com
www.whiting-serv.com

Business Category: Service

Business News (continued)

Letter From Bessemer High School Graduate Living in Gulf Shores

MY FRIENDS,

THE MEDIA "SHOCK VALUE" PHOTOS AND NEWS CLIPS ARE KILLING OUR ECONOMY ON PLEASURE ISLAND---GULF SHORES AND ORANGE BEACH. YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED AND APPRECIATED. YOUR TOURIST DOLLARS WILL HELP US RECOVER FASTER AND MORE COMPLETELY.

THE STORY BELOW RATES SOME MERIT, BUT I FEEL THE COMPANY PROBABLY USED THE DISPERSANT MOST READILY AVAILABLE IN LARGE QUANTITIES. THE WORST THING THAT CAN HAPPEN RIGHT NOW IS TO VILIFY BP, BOYCOTT THEM, AND DRIVE THEM OUT OF BUSINESS. IT WAS AN ACCIDENT. PROBABLY PREVENTABLE, BUT AN ACCIDENT NEVER THE LESS. WE WILL LIVE AND LEARN FROM OUR MISTAKES.

THE BEST THING YOU CAN DO IS NOT CANCEL YOUR VACATION PLANS ON THE GULF. COME DOWN, RENT ROOMS, GO OUT TO EAT IN OUR RESTAURANTS, THE SEAFOOD IS TERRIFIC, PLAY GOLF, TAKE IN THE AMUSEMENT PARKS, FISH THE FRESH WATER LAKES, USE THE POOLS, GET A TAN, AND ENJOY THE VIEW.

BEACHES DO HAVE SOME OIL, BUT IT IS EASILY CLEANED UP AND IS AN EVERYDAY PROCESS. WHAT OIL WASHES ASHORE, IS QUICKLY PICKED UP AND CONTAINED. I HAVEN'T NOTICED ANY SMELL AT THIS TIME, AND SUE AND I DROVE ALL OVER THE ISLAND IN THE CONVERTABLE LAST WEEKEND. NOLAN'S IS DOING JUST FINE--THE FOOD WAS GREAT AND THE BAND PLAYED ON UNTIL THE WEE HOURS. THE PINK PONY IS OPEN AND THE HANGOUT IS WAITING ON YOUR VISIT. PLEASE???? COME ON DOWN. THAT IS HOW YOU CAN HELP US AND OUR MERCHANTS SURVIVE THIS CLEANUP PROCESS. I'LL LEAVE THE LIGHT ON FOR YOU.

PHIL GRAF

(long time Bessemer resident and owner of property in our area, his father owned Graf Studios)

"Son, you are as good as the best and better than the rest"

My Father

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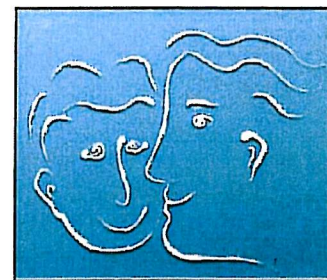
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Do we value the freedom we have? Sometimes we are afraid or reluctant to speak out in our communities. Sometimes we hesitate to take action against elected or appointed officials who usurp their authority or abuse their oath of office. Sometimes we complain about the condition of our community, county, state, or country but do not act to make changes. Sometimes we neglect our responsibility as citizens of this great country. But we had great examples of those who sacrificed to declare with not only their signatures but with their lives and fortunes that this United States of America was a country worth dying for and even more important worth living for. What happened to the signers of the Declaration of Independence? From an unknown author we read:

Five signers were captured by the British and brutally tortured as traitors. Nine fought in the War for Independence and died from wounds or from hardships they suffered. Two lost their sons in the Continental Army. Another two had sons captured. At least a dozen of the fifty-six had their homes pillaged and burned.

What kind of men were they? Twenty-five were lawyers or jurists. Eleven were merchants. Nine were farmers or large plantation owners. One was a teacher, one a musician, and one a printer. These were men of means and education, yet they signed the Declaration of Independence, knowing full well that the penalty could be death if they were captured.

In the face of the advancing British Army, the Continental Congress fled from Philadelphia to Baltimore on December 12, 1776. It was an especially anxious time for John Hancock, the President, as his wife had just given birth to a baby girl. Due to the complications stemming from the trip to Baltimore, the child lived only a few months.

William Ellery's signing at the risk of his fortune proved only too realistic. In December 1776, during three days of British occupation of Newport, Rhode Island, Ellery's house was burned, and all his property destroyed.

Richard Stockton, a New Jersey State Supreme Court Justice, had rushed back to his estate near Princeton after signing the Declaration of Independence to find that his wife and children were living like refugees with friends. They had been betrayed by a Tory sympathizer who also revealed Stockton's own whereabouts. British troops pulled him from his bed one night, beat him and threw him in jail where he almost starved to death. When he was finally released, he went home to find his estate had been looted, his possessions burned, and his horses stolen. Judge Stockton had been so badly treated in prison that his health was ruined and he died before the war's end. His surviving family had to live the remainder of their lives off charity.

Carter Braxton was a wealthy planter and trader. One by one his ships were captured by the British navy. He loaned a large sum of money to the American cause; it was never paid back. He was forced to sell his plantations and mortgage his other properties to pay his debts.

Thomas McKean was so hounded by the British that he had to move his family almost constantly. He served in the Continental Congress without pay, and kept his family in hiding. Vandals or soldiers or both looted the properties of Clymer, Hall, Harrison, Hopkinson and Livingston. Seventeen lost everything they owned.

Thomas Heyward, Jr., Edward Rutledge and Arthur Middleton, all of South Carolina, were captured by the British during the Charleston Campaign in 1780. They were kept in dungeons at the St. Augustine Prison until exchanged a year later.

At the Battle of Yorktown, Thomas Nelson, Jr. noted that the British General Cornwallis had taken over the family home for his headquarters. Nelson urged General George Washington to open fire on his own home. This was done, and the home was destroyed. Nelson later died bankrupt.

Francis Lewis also had his home and properties destroyed. The enemy jailed his wife for two months, and that and other hardships from the war so affected her health that she died only two years later.

"Honest John" Hart, a New Jersey farmer, was driven from his wife's bedside when she was near death. Their thirteen children fled for their lives. Hart's fields and his grist mill were laid waste. For over a year he eluded capture by hiding in nearby forests. He never knew where his bed would be the next night and often slept in caves.

When he finally returned home, he found that his wife had died, his children disappeared, and his farm and stock were completely destroyed. Hart himself died in 1779 without ever seeing any of his family again.

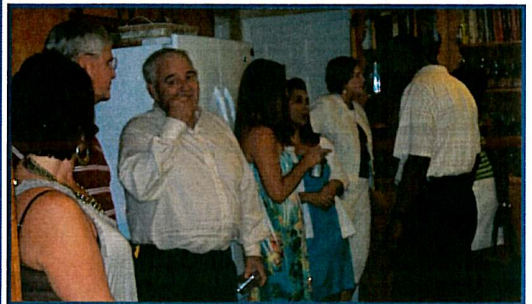
Such were the stories and sacrifices typical of those who risked everything to sign the Declaration of Independence. These men were not wild-eyed, rabble-rousing ruffians. They were soft-spoken men of means and education. They had security, but they valued liberty more. Standing tall, straight, and unwavering, they pledged:

"For the support of this declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of the Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other, our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor."

Are there any among us who would do likewise?

The Darby's Open Home

On June 25th, David and Susan Darby opened their Hueytown home to the Chamber's Board and Ambassadors as a way of thanking these special volunteers for their great service to our business community. Susan and David's Mom provided the delicious food and the crowd really enjoyed their beautiful home. Located just off 15th Street the home shows the care that both David and Susan have put into it with the grounds reminding you of a beautiful garden spot. The Chamber wants to thank our 2010 Chairman and his wife for this thoughtful event.



Ministers Meeting

Julie Bell is a State Farm Agent in Bessemer, AL and a Bessemer Chamber of Commerce Board of Director. She has had over 26 years experience with State Farm Insurance Company. The purpose of her presenting at the June 10, 2010 Ministers meeting was to provide to those attending information regarding how State Farm can partner with churches to help their members and local communities and to ask for their ideas on ways State Farm could help make neighborhoods safer.

One suggestion was to talk to church youth about driving safely and what things they can do to prepare themselves to be safe drivers. A suggestion was made to have State Farm provide money for the purchase of Neighborhood Watch signs. State Farm wants to raise their brand awareness in the community, but most importantly wants to provide valuable insurance and financial services information as knowledge makes a stronger community. Julie suggested several forums that State Farm and the churches could partner to accomplish these goals: youth camps, women's groups, adult classes, Make It Possible workshops, seminars, church picnics, Vacation Bible school, and other church events. Depending on what is needed, information can be provided at these forums along with food and takeaway items. November 1, 2010 is the targeted date to complete any approved activities for this year. If someone is interested in having the above included in planned church activities or want to brainstorm best ways to partner, please call Julie Bell at 205 424-3400 by July 31. Julie will be following up with each minister that was unable to attend and those that attended to further discuss. We hope each will take advantage of this opportunity and help us connect with you to support our local community.

Chamber News

Sarrell Dental Opens for Coffee & Contacts

A large crowd got up early on June 24th to meet at the Sarrell Dental Center next door to the Dunbar-Abrams Alumni building for a Coffee and Contacts gathering. Sarrell employees Kristy Jackson, Molly Hilyer, and Richard Norwood made the visit special for all. Networking was prevalent and a tour of the facilities was interesting. Sarrell is a non-profit dental and vision center with locations state-wide providing affordable care for Alabama's children. It was a great event and the 30 plus attending had a profitable experience. Thanks to Sarrell and its team for hosting the Chamber.



Sarrell's Richard Norwood and Kristy Jackson discuss their location with Chamber President Ronnie Acker.



Ambassadors Lisa Hester, Sarah Beasley, Minnie Roper, Ernestine McNair and Claire Mitchell



Chamber Members Nikki Jordan (Watermark), Claire Mitchell (Bessemer Beauty Institute), Jackie Pettit (Highland Digital Media) and Leigh Dewitt (Utility Auditing) network with fellow chamber members

Community News

DHR Ground Breaking

Mayor Ed May, the City Council, and the Chamber welcomed DHR representatives to Bessemer as they broke ground on June 4th for their new building. Located between 1st and 2nd Avenue on 20th Street just behind Simmons Sporting Goods the new facility will house the DHR offices and provide an modern venue to serve the citizens in the Bessemer Cut Off.



Area Cub Scouts Hold Day Camp

District Boy Scout Executive Anthony Edwards and Cub Scout Day Camp Director Cyndi Lafond welcomed over 75 young men ages 8-11 to the week long Cub Scout Day Camp at Tannehill State Park. District Committee Chairman Ronnie Acker visited the first day to support the boys and their volunteer leaders. The boys enjoyed archery, BB guns, sling shots, peddle car races, crafts, water activities, and much more. Spending the week at the camp builds the boys skills and interest in Scouting. Scouting is the premiere young men's association in the world and has been the catalyst for developing leaders in business, military and government for 100 years.



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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 Gulley, 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

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