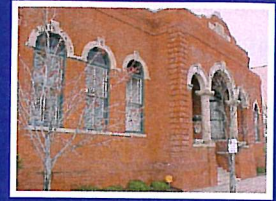


Communique

Communication: The Key to Successful Business



June 2009

Bessemer

Area Chamber of Commerce

Upcoming Events

- 6/09 **CupConnect @** the Foundry's Women Center {RSVP required}
- 6/14 **Flag Day**
- 6/16 Bd. of Dir.'s Exec. Comm. Mtg. 11:30 am @ Chamber
- 6/16 **Board of Directors Mtg.** Noon @ Chamber
- 6/18 **Groundbreaking** at Tannehill Preserve @ 11:30 am
- 6/21 **Father's Day**
- 7/03 **Independence Day Celebration** Chamber Closed
- 7/16 Value Place Bessemer **Ribbon Cutting** 11:30 am
- 7/22 **Bessemer Business Awards** at Lawson State (Bessemer) Noon Reservations **REQUIRED TENTATIVE DATE** (call us to confirm date and your attendance) **Speaker: TBD**
- 8/04 **Bessemer Night** at the Barons

Chamber's LaTasha Cook Tapped as Alabama BPW President

May 2nd at the Birmingham Marriott Hotel was a momentous day for the Bessemer Area. LaTasha Cook, Chamber Vice President, was installed as the 2009-10 Alabama Business and Professional Women's President. Dr. Anna Vacca was the installing officer with Teresa Estep the outgoing BPW President. Latasha has served on the State board and as President of the Bessemer BPW organization. She is married to Ron Cook and has two beautiful daughters, Bria and Brandi. Many members from the Bessemer club were present and many well-wishers including Ora Foster, a host of Chamber Ambassadors and Chamber President Ronnie Acker.



Alabama Business & Professional Women's 2009-2010 President
LaTasha Cook

Ora Foster Community Service Scholarships Awarded to Area Seniors

The 2009 Ora Foster Community Service Scholarships were awarded to three deserving seniors at McAdory, Jess Lanier and Bessemer Academy. The scholarships recognize not only the academic success of area students but their expanded education in serving their communities. Its purpose is to promote the involvement of young men and women in serving others, making their self worth grow, and setting an example in the lives of their peers. The Chamber congratulates our 2009 recipients and wishes them well. Pictures are in the Chamber News section. They are:

Jess Lanier
McAdory
Bessemer Academy

Carderius Fowler
Anna George
Amanda Parker

Chamber Honors Teachers of the Year

The Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce again honored the Teachers of the Year in the Bessemer School System and added recognition for the McAdory High School Teacher of the Year. Those selected for the 2008-09 year were:

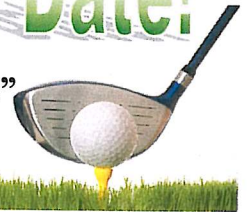
Jonesboro Elem.
Jess Lanier H. S.
Hard Elem. School
Abrams Elem.
Greenwood Elem.
Westhills Elem.
Davis Middle School

Peggy Brown-Gardner
Shuntae Bargineer-Richardson
Beverly Underwood
Johanna Massey
Kenneth Williams
Kimberly Bramlett
Candace Grace

In addition the Chamber recognized Steven McDaniel as the Teacher of the Year at McAdory High School. The Chamber congratulates these worthy recipients on a job well done.

Save the Date!

18th Annual Golf "FORE" Progress Tournament
October 8th @ Noon



REMINDER:

WE ARE SEEKING NOMINATIONS
for the 20th Annual Bessemer Business Awards

see enclosed flyer

It's Your Business

by Ronnie Acker

Father, a word that makes my heart feel both warm and proud. I feel the humble pride in the fact that I am a Father and warm with the thought of my own Father and forefathers. It takes more than being the sire of children to make you a true father, it takes hard work, tears, laughter, discipline and love. The greatest gift a man can give his children is to love their mother. This takes dedication, forgiveness, and selflessness.

My Father taught me by example. I knew when he disciplined me that he still loved me. I knew when he hugged and kissed my mother that he loved me. I knew when he worked long hours both to earn money and to serve in our Church or the community that he loved me. I knew when I heard his voice above the crowd noise at sporting events encouraging me that he loved me. I knew when he required me to work for what I wanted that he loved me. And I knew when we talked about my problems that he loved me.

I only wish I could be the example that he was as a Father. But it takes work and long years to earn respect and to show how much I love my children. I want them to have discipline and still know that I love them. I want them to see me hugging and kissing their mother. I want them to see me earn an honest living and to support my family. I want them to see me serving in the Church and in our community. I want to be at their sports, school or other events and I want them to hear my voice of encouragement. I want them to know how to work and work hard for their employer and family. I want them to see me listen when they talk to me about their problems.

Father's Day is always special because of my children and my Dad. I will have my children gathered around me, I will hug them, and show them all the love I can. I will also go to my Dad's graveside and mentally report on my progress as a Father. I will hear in my mind his encouragement and his advice. Then I will look at his head stone and the words he lived by: *Go and Do*. I will leave that sacred family place and strive to be a better Father and husband.

I have been blessed to have an outstanding wife, precious children and a Father that loves me. If the world had more great Fathers and Mothers it would be a better place. May all of us strive to be the best Father/Mother, Child, and Spouse that we can be and make the Bessemer Area better because of us.

In This Issue...

It's Your Business / New Member	page 2
Business News	page 3, 4
Chamber News	page 4
Community News	page 5

WELCOME - New Member

Value Place Bessemer
Al Lamoureux, Tracie Wiebe
5535 Academy Dr., Bessemer, AL 35022
Ph 428-4140
BTM35022@valueplace.com
www.valueplace.com

BankSmart™

COMMITTED TO BESSEMER.
COMMITTED TO YOU.



David C. Darby
Area President and
Commercial Lender

205-665-3361



banktrustonline.com

Member FDIC



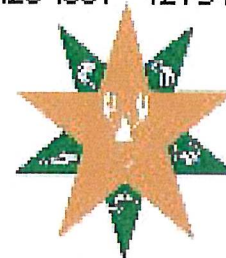
**Call the Chamber @ 425-3253 Today
to Reserve Advertising Space
in this publication for \$40 per month in 2009.**

~ Ask for Ronnie or Mary ~

Actual ad size equals 4 in. x 4 in.

The Bright Star
304 19th Street Bessemer, AL
426-1861 424-9444

*Specializing
in the repair
of all types.*



2007
Centennial
Retailer
of the Year!

★★★★★ FIVE STAR RATING ★★★★★

*"The food is excellent and it right forward.
The restaurant has an amazing history and remains
true to it's traditions through generations."
The Birmingham News - December 2007*

First Financial Bank Gets Another Earned Recognition

B.K. Skipper Goodwin III, First Financial Bank's President and CEO, was listed in the May 22nd issue of the Birmingham Business Journal as one of the Heavy Hitters in Community Banking and Credit Unions. Skipper is well respected among his peers and has brought much positive recognition for the Bessemer area. Bessemer's only home based bank, First Financial has almost \$250 million in assets. The bank has nine branches in Alabama including McCalla, Hueytown, North Bibb County, and Pelham. The Chamber is proud to have members who exhibit both business professionalism and community service such as First Financial Bank.

Aquabama Pool Spa & Patio Opens

On May 1st and 2nd Ericka and Josh Chandler threw open their doors at Aquabama Pool Spa & Patio, cooked hotdogs, laughed and welcomed customers and Chamber members to a ribbon cutting and grand opening. Bessemer Mayor Ed May was on hand to officially cut the ribbon for the newest addition to the Colonial Promenade Tannehill. Located at 4847 Promenade Parkway between the future J.C. Penny store and the Army/Navy/Marine Recruiting stations, the facility offers all you can ask for in outdoor furniture, spas, pool supplies, and much more. You can get your water tested free. The Chandlers also provide in-ground pool construction, above ground pools, pool remodeling, and all of your pool/spa chemicals. They even have outdoor kitchens, grills, patio pavers, irrigation systems, and pressure washing. It is an amazing experience to see the array of items they provide. Remember Aquabama is open for business and you can reach them at 424-4450, fax 424-4449 or email aquabama@hotmail.com.



Aquabama owners Ericka and Josh Chandler are assisted by Bessemer Mayor Ed May and City Council ProTem Jesse Matthews in ribbon cutting.

OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE FOR IMMEDIATE MOVE-IN

BESSEMER MEDICAL BUILDING
1088 9TH AVENUE SW
BESSEMER, AL 35022



- GROUND LEVEL PARKING & ENTRY
- LARGE WAITING ROOM
- EXTREMELY COMPETITIVELY PRICED
- CHOICE OF SPACES: 2000 SQ FT/1500 SQ FT

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL
TAMMY GUNNIN AT 426.4446

"If anything goes bad, I did it. If anything goes semi-good, we did it. If anything goes really good, then you did it."

That's all it takes to get people to win football games for you."

Coach Paul "Bear" Bryant

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR THE BEST LEASE RATE FOR QUALITY OFFICE SPACE IN JEFFERSON COUNTY?

The Bright Star Realty Building is your best value.

Currently two spaces are available:

1. 850 sq. ft office ground level - Address: 1824 3rd Ave. N.
2. 1,833 sq feet - Address: 1826 3rd Ave. N. Suite 307

Offices feature free parking, plentiful storage space and are within walking distance of courthouse.

Lease Rate negotiable.

Please contact Brent Griffith at 936-0252.

Premiere Chevrolet Introduces the New Camaro

It's back! The Chevrolet Camaro is back and in a big way. Premiere Chevrolet held a special introduction of the new Camaro on May 12th and it was a big success. Crowds of folks gathered to see the unveiling by Premiere Owner Ken Gallo and General Sales Manager Doug Green was all smiles. With limited numbers available right now due to the demand Premiere is taking orders and working the fill them. The Camaro brings back many outstanding memories to those of us who remember their first introduction. There was food and prizes for all and the festive atmosphere delighted the crowd. Congratulations to Premiere Chevrolet on an outstanding event and for the memories it brought back to all.

Chamber News

Chamber Working on Great Advertising Program for Local Businesses

Partnering with Highlands Digital Media your Chamber is promoting a unique way to reach your customers and to expand your customer base. In this economic downturn getting your business name in front of as many people as possible is essential. If you have a waiting room or areas where a television monitor runs and is viewed by the public you have an opportunity to promote your business and make available space for others to advertise with you, making the cost both affordable and efficient. Highlands Jackie Pettit will be promoting the concept in the Bessemer area and we urge you to call him. Jackie can be reached at 824-9793 or on his cell, 492-3458. If you would like a demonstration of the new advertising concept stop by the Chamber, Highlands has installed a TV for all of our members to see what a great idea they have.

Bessemer Business Awards Nominations

If your business or another business is doing an outstanding job this is your chance to nominate them for the 2009 Bessemer Business Awards that will be held in July. The date is tentative depending on our targeted featured speaker but it promises to be an outstanding event. Please contact the Chamber at 425-3253 or email mmilan1@bellsouth.net to nominate a worthy Bessemer area business.

Mark Your Calendar for Bessemer Night at The Barons

August 4th will be a special night at Hoover Stadium as the Barons host Mobile and recognize the City of Bessemer. This year Julie Bell and State Farm Insurance will sponsor that evening. The Chamber looks forward to spending the evening with as many members of the Chamber as possible with their employees, families and friends. It will be a tremendous evening and Bill Adema, Director of Sales for the Barons, and his staff always do an outstanding job making the games both enjoyable and relaxing. Make plans now to join us, we will have more information on sponsorships, tickets and planned events for that evening as we get closer to the night. When you have time go see a Barons game and enjoy baseball as it should be. For information call the Barons at 988-3200 or go to their web site at www.barons.com.

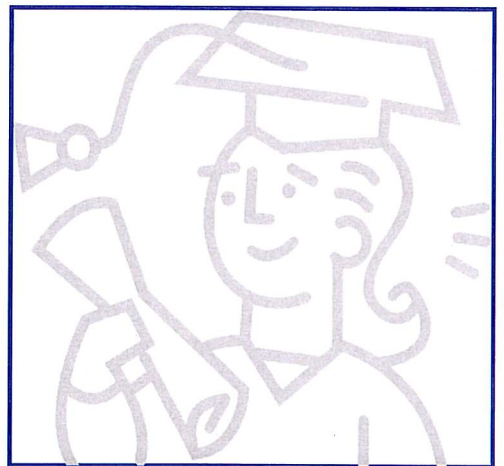
Ora H. Foster Community Service Scholarship Award Winners



Jess Lanier Senior Carderius Fowler with Chamber Chairperson Dr. Deborah Horn



Bessemer Academy Senior Amanda Parker with Chamber President Ronnie Acker



{PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE}
McAdory Senior Anna George with Chamber President Ronnie Acker

18th Annual Golf FORE Progress

October 8th has been set as the 18th Annual Golf FORE Progress tournament date with a tee time of noon. The goal this year is to have as close to 200 golfers as possible. Make your plans now to participate and enter yourself and/or a team and enjoy one of the best tournaments of the year. For more information contact the Chamber at 425-3253 or email mmilan1@bellsouth.net.

National Day of Prayer at First Presbyterian

Wallace Barker, an Elder at First Presbyterian Church, welcomed the congregation to the Annual National Day of Prayer service held at the church on May 7th. Charles Diggins provided some inspirational music along with the Young at Heart Choir from Canaan Baptist Church. Featured speaker was Mark Prater, Chief Meteorologist at Channel 42. Mark did an outstanding job relating his personal experiences and faith promoting life. Mark's address was followed by prayers from several local pastors: Rev. Camilo Fuller, Dr. Kim Pilkington, Rev. Emmanuel Smith, Rev. Doug Caddell, Rev. Victor Harkins, Phyllis Campbell, Rev. Charles Teague and Sam Davidson. The Chamber wants to thank Dr. Pilkington and the Bessemer Prayer Breakfast group for a worthwhile program and a great event focusing on our city.

Alabama Truckers Converge on Bessemer Again

The Civic Center was crawling with big rigs! The Alabama Trucking Association held its annual trucking competition in Bessemer on May 15-17th in the Civic Center parking lot. Tents were set, grills were set up, the Highway Patrol judges were busy and the crowd enjoyed one of the most anticipated events in our area. Every year the truckers come to Bessemer and every year the community opens it's arms to welcome them. With all the revenue brought in on that weekend the City smiles and works to make the attendees feel welcome. It is a great event and if you have never watched the big rigs compete just stop by next year and be amazed at how talented and professional the drivers who compete are in moving the trucks and trailers through the course. The Chamber is always happy to help coordinate the event and to work with such outstanding people that serve on the Trucker's board especially Gene Vondereau.

Chamber President Ronnie Acker is taken to "Jail" at the Bessemer Civic Center.



MDA Jails Local Citizens

On May 20th the Muscular Dystrophy Association of Alabama held its annual fund drive by "arresting" local citizens and having them arrange "bail" to support this most worthy cause. Approximately \$68,000 was raised and the Chamber congratulates all those who participated and helped the organization reach its goal. If you would like to donate to the Muscular Dystrophy Association send your contributions to MDA at 700 Century Park South #129, Birmingham, AL 35226.

Holy Family Cristo Rey High School Hosts Luncheon

In an effort to recruit local businesses to sponsor Corporate Internships to help students raise money to pay for a quality education, the Holy Family High School staff hosted a luncheon on May 13th at the Bessemer Public Library. Father Alex Steinmiller, President of the school, and Elbert Morrow, Principal, presented the program and how businesses can get involved. For more information contact Jan Fuller at Holy Family.



2009 Board of Directors

Chairman

Dr. Deborah Horn, DH Consulting

Past Chairman

Jon Staggs, Alabama Power

Chairman Elect

David Darby, BankTrust

Treasurer / Finance Chairman

Keith Pennington, Medical West

Dr. Cynthia Anthony, Lawson State

Kobe Bone, Premiere Cinema

Dr. Jeremy Burns, Eagle Vision

Jim Byram, Development Solutions

Doug Caddell, Canaan Baptist Church

Randy Donaldson, Alabama Gas Co.

CeCe Doss, Wilson Pallet & Packaging

Don Holmes, Holmes Oil

Howard Johnson Jr., Johnson Funeral Home

Lynn Joyce, First Financial Bank

Sunny Lippert, Attorney

Tom Nicholson, US Pipe & Foundry Co.

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

Nelda Weaver, Weaver Land & Realty, Inc.

The 20th Annual
Bessemer Business Awards

Sponsored by
The Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce
&
The Bessemer Rotary Club

The Bessemer Business Awards are presented each year to Bessemer area businesses that have achieved success in their respective industry and size category. Submitted information is strictly confidential and maintained by the independent judging committee of the Chamber. You are encouraged to nominate any business that is located in the city limits of Bessemer, or any business located outside the city limits of Bessemer that is an active member of the Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce. Recipients from the past five years are ineligible (see reverse for recent recipients). Nominees must have been in operation for at least three years. **Nominations are due by Friday, July 10, 2009 before 5pm.** Finalists and recipients will be recognized at the **Bessemer Business Awards Luncheon on July 22nd (Tentative Date) at 12 noon @ Lawson State Community College.** For additional information call 425-3253.

NOMINATION FORM

Five Award Categories

Please check the appropriate category.

___ **Category I** - Companies with 1 to 15 employees

___ **Category II** - Companies with 16 to 75 employees

___ **Category III** - Companies with more than 75 employees

___ **Category IV** - Non-profit Organizations

___ **Category V** - Safety Award

Nominees will be asked to complete a brief information questionnaire. Judges will select considering the following areas: community / civic / charitable involvement, growth in employment, company stability, capital investment, general profitability, industry recognition. Nominees should attach recognition, press announcement, achievements and other supplemental materials to support the overall success of the business. Safety programs and such accomplishments should be considered by all nominees in pursuit of the Safety Award.

Company Nominated: _____ Type of Business: _____

Company Address: _____

of Employees: _____ Phone Number: _____ Fax Number: _____

E-mail address: _____ Web address: _____

Reason for Nomination (*use additional pages if necessary*): _____

Return Nominations To:
The Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce
321 18th Street North * Bessemer, AL * 35020
Phone (205) 425-3253 * Fax (205) 425-4979

CATEGORY I

1990 – WSMQ
1991 – OK Tire and Battery
1992 – B & C Rental
1993 – Coxco
1994 – Bessemer Fasteners and Supply
1995 – Bessemer Furniture Gallery
1996 – United Textiles
1997 – Anthony Underwood Automotives
1998 – Compliance Specialists
1999 – Engineering, Environmental & Forestry Srvc.
2000 – Weaver Land Company
2001 – Advanced Cardiac Solutions
2002 – Farr Hardware & Food Shop
2003 – The Western Star
2004 – Brian's Carpet & Tile *
2005 – Holt Insurance *
2006 – Development Solutions, LLC *
2007 – Loyle Seymour Jewelry *
2008 – Tippi's Bakery & Deli *

CATEGORY III

1990 – Long Lewis Ford
1991 – Food Giant
1992 – Harbison Walker
1993 – Southern Ductile Casting Co.
1994 – Big B, Inc.
1995 – Trinity Industries
1996 – UNR - ROHN
1997 – Wal-mart Super Store
1998 – Jemison Steel
1999 – Masonry Arts
2000 – Buffalo Rock
2001 – Southern Ductile Casting Co
2002 – Town & Country Ford
2003 – First Financial Bank
2004 – Long-Lewis Ford *
2005 – Noland Health Services *
2006 – Alabama Adventure *
2007 – Golden Living Center Meadowood *
2008 – Premiere Chevrolet, Inc. *

* Companies that are not eligible in 2009

CATEGORY II

1990 – The Bright Star
1991 – Bob Sykes Barbecue
1992 – First Federal Savings Bank
1993 – Holmes Oil Company
1994 – Dixie Nissan
1995 – Carr Cabinet Doors
1996 – Suburban Gas Company
1997 – National Belt Service
1998 – Moore Coal Company
1999 – Air Carriers
2000 – Foseco-Morval USA
2001 – Vulcan Materials Co.
2002 – White Industries
2004 – Baumann Coatings, Inc. *
2005 – Fourth Avenue Supermarket *
2006 – ADCO Boiler Company *
2007 – The Hampton Inn *
2008 – Builders Millwork LLC *

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

1999 – Bessemer State Tech College
2000 – Bessemer Area YMCA
2001 – Salvation Army
2002 – Bessemer Historical Homeowners Association
2003 – Flint Hill Baptist Church
2004 – Bessemer Development Board *
2005 – Dunbar-Abrams Foundation, Inc. *
2006 – The Foundry Rescue Mission and Recovery Center *
2007 – Legacy YMCA *
2008 – Lawson State Community College *

SAFETY AWARD

1992 – Alabama Power Company
1993 – Harbison Walker Refractories
1995 – U. S. Pipe
1996 – Vulcan Painters
1997 – Certex
1998 – Bessemer Utilities
2000 – S & G Waldrop Electric
2001 – Southern Ductile Casting Co.
2002 – ROHN, Inc.
2003 – Buffalo Rock Company
2005 – Cintas Corporation *
2006 – Coston General Contractors *
2007 – Shirley & Sons, Inc. *
2008 – Alabama Power Company *