



Colonial Promenade Tannehill Opens!!!



Colonial Properties
officially opened
Colonial Promenade
Tannehill on July
25th.



Premiere 14
Theater is first of
its kind in the
nation.



Bill Leitner of
Colonial
Properties
receives certificate
welcoming them
to the area from
Ronnie Acker.



Publix cuts
ribbon on
July 20th.



Target opens at
Colonial
Promenade
with Council
President
Jesse Matthews
and Chamber
President
Ronnie Acker
enjoying the
festivities.

It started in mid July as the shops, restaurants, big retailers and theater began to open in one of the largest additions to the west Jefferson County region and the City of Bessemer in many years. It is fantastic! Publix, Target, J.C. Penney, Ross, Premiere Theaters, and more will be serving the western Jefferson County region. It is a great big outstanding addition to our business community along Promenade Parkway between Eastern Valley Road and Pocahontas Road.

The manager of Premiere Theaters told the Chamber and news media that this is the first in the nation to have digital video and audio on all 14 screens. The staff at Target has worked tirelessly to make this store a gem in the region. Publix assures its customers that their experience at their store will be satisfying and enjoyable. Great things are happening with the Colonial Properties family looking to add more to the region. A total listing of the stores and restaurants will be put in a follow up article as soon as they are all announced.

(Article and pictures continued on page 5)

"What this country needs is dirtier fingernails and cleaner minds."
Will Rogers

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From the President

As I have mentioned before on my father's headstone is inscribed the words "Go and Do". Each time I spend time there those words remind me by example of how working hard not only for myself but also for the benefit of others can enrich my life. My father was a real man, a military hero, but more than that he was a great father, hard working and very demanding. His example is one of selflessness, of helping others and so was his business. Sometimes he helped others at a cost to him financially both personal and in his business. But help he did. Why?

As a business it is always a big plus and competitive edge to have those you do business with have a favorable opinion of your company. The competition is working for the same favorable opinion. I spent many years working for Alabama Power Company and they made a point of being a community supporter from the president of the company to the local office. It paid big dividends both financially and in customer satisfaction. But there is more.

Being involved in the community, helping others, keeping your home and business neat and clean (being a good neighbor) and most of all having pride in yourself work together to earn your customer/neighbor's respect. Practice what you preach is a great keyword to remember as it is what you do that shouts much louder than your words. A recommendation for all citizens and businesses in the western Jefferson County region: clean up your home/business, cut the grass, paint, mend fences, get rid of old cars, trash and litter in front of your establishment, take down those illegal ads/posters on the utility poles, and be proactive in making your neighborhood the best it can be.

This brings up the last part of personal pride. The way you look. Be clean, dress business like, groom yourself, take a look in the mirror and ask: "Would I do business with you?" Then look at your employees and assess them the same way. Are they presentable to your customers? Talking to a school group one time I told them that they needed to conform to the dress code of their employer. One young man who was supposedly very "intelligent" stated: "They will have to take me like I am!" Wrong!! Same with your customers, they do not have to do business with you or your employees. They have a choice and it is your business to make that choice you.

So remember "Go and Do" not only in business but at home, in your personal life and in your community. Make those that are looking to do business want to do business with you. Analyze yourself and your employees and make sure you would do business with you. It is important to have the edge because it's your business.



President

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KONICA MINOLTA



The Western Star

Chamber is Hosting City-wide Prayer Breakfast

In an effort to increase the attendance at the monthly City-wide Prayer Breakfast the event has been moved to the Chamber building. No matter your religious affiliation this meeting provides each businessperson in the city the opportunity to join others of various denominations in discussing matters important to the City and to pray for success in the entire region. The Chamber opened its doors in an effort to provide a non-denominational venue that could attract all religions and all concerned business people to move our city forward. Please make an effort to join us in August 4th at 7:30 A.M.

Golf FORE Progress

October 23rd

SAVE THE DATE



Town & Country Ford Introduces the FLEX at Chamber BAH

On August 5th Town & Country Ford will host a business after hours from 5-7:00 pm to introduce the new 2009 Ford Flex. There will be door prizes of five \$100 gas cards, refreshments, prizes and entertainment. Plus you will get to see all of the new Fords on the lot. Remember to drop by on your way home and visit with Steve Watts, Bill Sain and all the staff at T&C. It promises to be a grand evening.

TOWN & COUNTRY



"A New Attitude"

Hueytown Chamber BAH

Hueytown Chamber Executive Director Becky Williams and Mayor Delor Baumann were all smiles as the Chamber held a business after hours event at Iron Works Gymnasium on Allison-Bonnett Drive in Hueytown. Owner Terry Brazille and his pink shirted staff were outstanding hosts and the crowd grew large and friendly. With the back drop of serious men and women working to get into or stay in shape the business community in Hueytown gathered to meet and greet in an excellent networking opportunity.

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LEGACY YMCA

Energy Efficiency for New & Emerging Businesses

The Waste Reduction & Technology Transfer (WRATT) Foundation is working with state businesses to reduce energy costs in the work place. Some no cost or low cost steps can help a new or emerging business save precious dollars for use else where in the business. The Foundation works as a 501 c3 non-profit organization funded by federal grants. The staff at the foundation can meet with businesses one on one or in a group such as at the Chamber to address the following areas where savings can be made: building envelope, lighting, water, HVAC, waste, and machinery/office equipment. For more information on this program and a way to save energy costs contact the Chamber at 425-3253 or mmilan1@bellsouth.net. You can also contact the foundation directly by calling Don Hull at 205-240-7670 or email DLHULL2@bellsouth.net.

Akins Auto Sales Ribbon Cutting

Harold and Keith Akins welcomed the Chamber Ambassadors, members, and well wishers including former University of Alabama running back Bobby Humphries to the grand opening and ribbon cutting of their new location on 9th Avenue in Bessemer. A long time stand by for previously owned car purchases, Akins Auto Sales relocated in Bessemer to better serve their customer base. Their friendly staff and knowledgeable technicians make buying a previously owned vehicle easy. They build trust with their customers and find the best value for what the customer is looking for. Keith Akins will be taking the lead in management as his father Harold slowly retires. He is like most of those that have built a business, retirement is great but his interest in the business will never end. Drop by and wish them well as another Bessemer business continues its great tradition.



Harold and Keith Akins help Mayor Ed May cut ribbon.

ITT Tech Adopts Greenwood Elementary (JefCo)

ITT Tech's Allen Rice proudly met with Principal Dr. Dawn Kelly and PTO President Tyndl Roberts to officially adopt Jefferson County's Greenwood Elementary School. It was a win-win day for the business and the school. Some of what the school needed ITT Tech can have students help with as part of their courses. Some other projects were out of the realm of what ITT could accomplish and hopefully the PTO and JefCo can cover those items. We need your business to adopt a school. Those needing adopters are: Abrams Elementary, Davis Middle, Jonesboro Elementary, Greenwood (City) Elementary, Greenwood (County) Elementary, West Hills Elementary, Hard Elementary, Jess Lanier High School, McAdory High School, McAdory Middle, McAdory Elementary and Bessemer Academy. Like ITT Tech some of the schools already have one adopter but it is better for each school to have 3-4 businesses working with them.

ITT

ITT Technical Institute

bp



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Colonial Promenade Tannehill Opens!!! *(con't from pg. 1)*

Target anchors the center and has this statement on its web site: "From national partnerships to local initiatives to our own programs, Target is committed to making our communities better places to live." Publix follows on its web site with: "Publix and our associates excel in community involvement, volunteerism and a commitment to our market areas and beyond." And finally, Premiere Theaters focuses on its customers with: "We believe that in order to make your movie-going experience the BEST it can possibly be, we must listen and adapt quickly to our guests' recommendations." So customers are important and customer service will be part of our new business partners' community involvement.

With the official opening of the Promenade on Friday, July 25th, there were several openings during that week. Maurices opened on Friday with a ribbon cutting and grand opening. Kay Jewelers and the Educators & Community Credit Union followed within an hour. Publix was officially opened on July 23rd at 7:00 am with a line of customers waiting to spend money. Target opened on the 22nd with several dignitaries and elected officials there for their preview and ribbon cutting. Mayor May was at each opening as was Council President Jesse Matthews. Council members attending were Sarah Belcher, Louise Alexander, Earl Cochran and Jimmy Stephens. Board members Joni Holt and Rev. Doug Caddell also attended as did your Chamber ambassadors who did their normal yeoman's job to support our business community.



Maurice's opens with ribbon cutting.



Educators & Community Credit Union opens to provide credit union services to those in the education field.



Mayor May helps Kay Jewelers with grand opening.



Enjoying Target's grand opening are Bessemer Fire Department's Gary Carter, Councilperson Sarah Belcher and Council President Jesse Matthews.



Chamber Ambassadors help at Publix Grand Opening, pictured l-r: Claire Mitchell, Sarah Smith, Minnie Roper and Sarah Belcher.



Bill Leitner and his children help Mayor May cut ribbon at Colonial Promenade Tannehill.



Chamber Ambassador and City Council member Sarah Belcher checks out Publix produce during opening.

Fourth of July Fire Works

Mayor Ed May, Council members Sarah Belcher, Jesse Matthews, Albert Soles and Earl Cochran and hundreds of citizens met in Roosevelt Park to commemorate our nation's independence with fire works and celebration. The Chamber led by VP Latasha Cook supported the City's effort to make the 4th a special day for the entire City. Bursts of color lit up the sky at approximately 8:45 pm with booms, thunder and explosions that both thrilled and entertained the large crowd. There were no speeches but just good old southern fun with cool drinks and treats for the kids and water melon for all. Combined with the Greenwood community's annual parade and the fire works at Alabama Adventure Bessemer was the place to be on July 4th. The Chamber wants to thank the hard working city employees and the Council for this grand event.



Pictured l-r enjoying the City of Bessemer July 4th fireworks: front, Earl Cochran, Jesse Matthews, Sarah Belcher, Mayor Ed May, Pat May; standing, Albert Soles, Ronnie Acker; Vera Eades, Chief and Mrs. Nathaniel Rutledge.

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Bessemer High School Grand Reunion

Hundreds met in the street in front of the Bessemer Hall of History to remember and to renew friendships of those wonderful years at Bessemer High School. The old and the even older met to hug, smile, cry and dance the evening away to music provided by the son of Bessemer graduate Ben Saxon, who passed away in the last few months. Held on the July 4th weekend the gala started with the street dance and went on for three days. A grand reunion without a grand bunch of graduates is not possible. Many of the graduates have contributed to our area and state as they followed their careers. It is an honor to say that you are a part of a storied history that was Bessemer High School.

Jess Lanier Football First Annual BBQ Cook-off

On August 16th at Snitz Snider Stadium the boosters for the Jess Lanier HS football team will sponsor a cook-off for all those that think they have the best home cooked BBQ. Gates will open at 8:00 am for all grillers and admission is free to those 5 and under. A donation of \$4.00 will be accepted for those 6-14 and \$8.00 for those over 14. All food will be given away free. There will also be hot dogs given away from 11-4:00 pm. Come out and support the team and enjoy some great cooking. For more information contact Moreland Smith at 283-8854 or call the stadium at 428-1703.



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Spotlight on Business: First Presbyterian Church

NOTE TO MEMBERS: This monthly article presents the thoughts and suggestions of members of the Chamber about business related topics. For the next few months we will be highlighting some of our area's churches that contribute so much to the area and to our business community.



First Presbyterian Church of Bessemer was founded April 9, 1888. It began almost as early as the city itself and has been privileged to serve Christ here for 120 years. The Church seeks to serve the Lord with one mind and with simplicity of heart. A downtown congregation, the building is located across the street from the Bessemer Courthouse two blocks from the Bright Star restaurant.

In the name of Jesus Christ, they invite and welcome everyone to worship and service with them. Believing that the responsibility to teach the Christian way of life based on the Bible their Sunday school meets at 9:45 a.m. followed by a worship service at 11:00 a.m. There are also Wednesday evening services at 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. Bible Study classes are offered in the chapel.

The congregation is warm and caring, committed to sharing the gospel with those around them. In serving others they believe they are serving Christ. They believe in reverent, meaningful worship praising Christ in word and song. You will enjoy being led in worship by a Chancel Choir as well as the periodic performance of a Handbell Choir during Advent and the Lenten/Easter seasons.

First Presbyterian Church is staffed by Rev. Randolph Kesler (Pastor), Betsy Latham (Music Director), Dr. Perry Phillips (Organist), John Holt (Hand bell Choir Director), Brenda Atkins (Secretary), and Debra Hicks (Nursery Ministries).



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Calendar of Events August 2008

August 4	City Wide Prayer Breakfast	7:30 A.M.	Chamber
August 5	Ambassadors Meeting	8:15 A.M.	Chamber
August 5	BAH Town & Country Ford	5-7:00 P.M.	T&C Ford
August 16	Jess Lanier BBQ	11-4:00 P.M.	Stadium
August 19	Executive Committee Meeting	11:30 A.M.	Chamber
August 19	Board of Director's Meeting	Noon	Chamber
Oct 23	Golf FORE Progress Tournament	Noon	Bent Brook

Welcome New Members for July

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