

BESSEMER AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

BESSEMER MAGAZINE 2013



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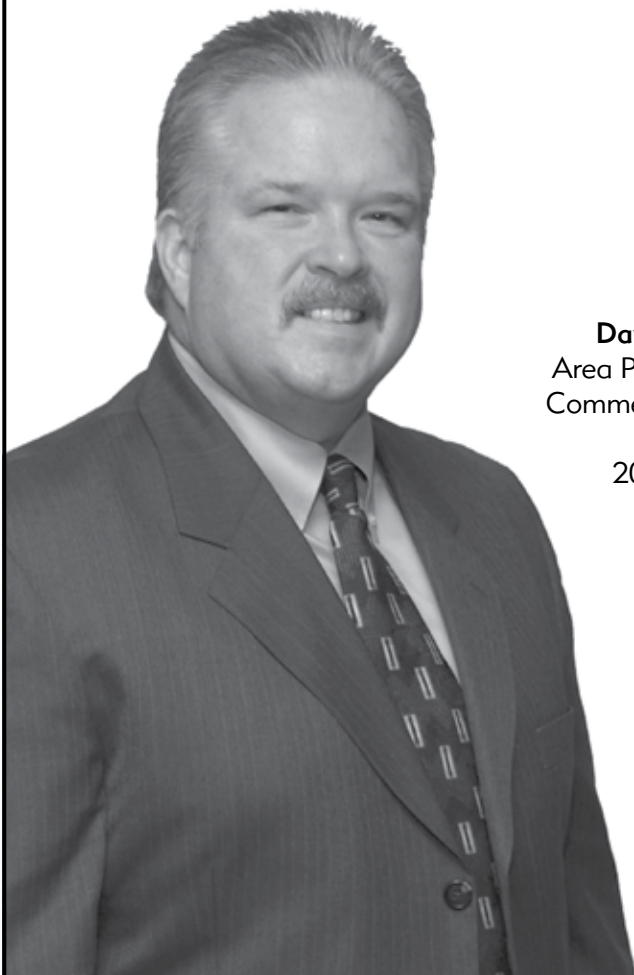
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David C. Darby

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David C. Darby
Area President and
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Chamber Ambassadors: Kay Baggett, Debbie Stewart, Nelda Pate, Sarah Beasley, Minnie Roper and Lula Walter are joined by Bria and Brandy Cook as they work the Chamber booth at the 2012 Bob Sykes BBQ & Blues Festival in downtown Bessemer at Debardeleben Park. This year's festival, scheduled for Saturday, June 1st, 2013 is sure to be a huge success!

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Dear Friends, Visitors and Guests

We welcome you to our City and hope your visit with us will be both pleasant and rewarding. Our Mayor, Kenneth Gulley, and the Bessemer City Council are leading us out of some difficult times. Bessemer is growing! Thanks in part to the dynamic business leadership in our area but especially because of our dream location. Located with interstate highways on three sides of our City with abundant infrastructure which includes two electric utilities and two water suppliers with ample supplies of both plus unlimited amounts of natural gas. High tech or industrial, whatever the need for your development we have it in Bessemer. Please join our nearly 29,000 citizens and our growing business community as we move to being the best business friendly community in the South.

Our dreams are coming true as economic development and recreation continue to grow in the City of Bessemer. We welcomed several new corporations to the area in 2012 including Dayjon, Griffin Wheel and Norfolk Southern bringing in over 700 jobs. There is a lot to look forward to this coming year with new business announcements, their ground breaking ceremonies and ribbon cuttings. Tannehill State Park, Splash Adventure, three local golf courses, and great nearby hunting and fishing provide a recreational dream. Growth is continuing in our region and we invite you to join us in making Bessemer a dream come true.



Sincerely,
William E. Parsons, Jr., Chairman
Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce





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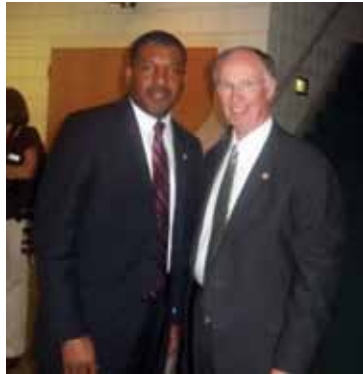
Greetings From the Mayor:

On behalf of the City Council and myself, I am pleased and proud to welcome you to the City of Bessemer! Indeed, we all have much to be proud of in Bessemer. We are a thriving city, focused on creating a bright future, full of opportunities. We are dedicated to the success and growth of our diverse population, who maintain a strong faith, and a business community that makes Bessemer such a desirable place to live, work, and play. For over 125 years, Bessemer has kept its amazing sense of history while encouraging progress.

Before being elected Mayor, I served on several City boards and commissions, and became the first African-American Chairman of the Board for the Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce. I am proud to call Bessemer my home. I am sure you will appreciate all our city has to offer as much as I do. I would ask you to look through this magazine and whether you

are a visitor or resident I assure you that you will gain an insight and appreciation for Bessemer.

Sincerely,
 Kenneth E. Gulley
 Mayor
 City of Bessemer



Mayor Gulley and Governor Bentley



Bessemer City Council Members [from left to right]: Chester Porter, Sarah Belcher (President Pro-Tem), Jesse Matthews, Donna Thigpen, Ron Marshall (Council President), Cleophus King and David Vance (not pictured).

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The Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce

A dream of excellence



An excerpt from the April 12th, 1937 Bessemer Tribune-Advertiser proclaimed: "The predecessor to our present Chamber of Commerce was the Bessemer Board of Trade. Organized in 1888, its function was to promote co-operation among the local merchants, and between local interests and the outside industrial and commercial world which was growing increasingly aware of Bessemer's potentialities."

Today the Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce is an active and vibrant group of over 400 local businesses represented by outstanding volunteers and Civic leaders. Bessemer is a City of over 28,000 citizens with a surrounding area of nearly 100,000, between Birmingham and Tuscaloosa, who make up the Chamber's area of influence. The Mission of the Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce is to promote the economic well-being of regional businesses and represent the business community in economic, political, civic, educational and cultural development of the region.

The Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce continues to aggressively work for the betterment of the southwestern Jefferson county region. In our 91st year, the chamber follows an annual Plan of Action that addresses business issues, workforce concerns, community needs, tourism development and other

programs that positively affect our region. Our organization regularly receives requests from businesses and individuals outside our area looking for information on local businesses that offer a product or service.

The Chamber encourages its members to shop Bessemer first and to promote the area whenever possible. It encourages partnership between local businesses and professionals dedicated to advancing economic growth throughout the region. Energizing the business community is a goal of the Chamber to achieve continual business growth, improve education and reach legislative agreement. In addition, the Chamber of Commerce offers its members a large array of services, resources, and networking opportunities, enhancing the local business community and the economy.

The Chamber believes firmly in the final passage from the 1937 Tribune-Advertiser article: "Do you want a finer community? One of the surest ways to bring about improved conditions is to seriously think and talk about them. Think Bessemer, talk Bessemer, boost Bessemer, and in so doing you render a definite service to your community. Cities, states and nations are no bigger, their ideals no higher than the citizens of which they are made up; Cities are what men make them."

2013 Board of Directors

Chairman..... Billy Parsons, CPA
Past Chairman..... Lynn Joyce, First Financial Bank
Chairman Elect..... Charles King,
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Treasurer/Finance Chairman Eric Messer,
 Rural Metro Ambulance

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 Judy Mathis, Moore Coal Company
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 Kyle Sain, Town & Country Ford
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 Kim Starling, Brookwood Medical Center
 Chuck Taylor, Splash Adventure
 Anthony Underwood, Anthony Underwood
 Automotive

2013 Ambassadors

Coordinator Claire Mitchell,
 LaShun's Beauty Salon
Co Coordinator Nikki Jordan, Sarrell Dental
Secretary Nelda Pate, Retired

Michael Ashmore, Stellar Staffing
 Kay Baggett, Retired
 Sarah Belcher, Bessemer City Council
 Sarah Beasley, Joe Beasley Memorial Foundation
 Beverly Edwards, Rural Metro Ambulance
 Connie Fuell
 Louise Hickey
 Shirley Horn, Retired
 Doris Lewis, City of Bessemer
 Minnie Roper, Retired
 Debbie Stewart, Degital Print Solutions
 Lula Walter, City of Bessemer
 Ericka Watson, Individual
 Trisston Wright Burrows, Moore Coal Company



Chamber Ambassadors

The Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors is a group of dedicated local volunteer leaders who serve as an vital public relations arm of the Chamber, representing the Chamber at public events and as the backbone of the Membership enhancement and retention programs.

About the Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce

For 90 years, the Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce has worked to advance the economic, civic, educational, and cultural development of the area and improve the quality of life for the entire community. The Chamber is a working partnership between local businesses and professionals dedicated to promoting growth in the economy of the Bessemer Area. It is the catalyst for energizing and vitalizing the stakeholders in the Bessemer Area to achieve continual business growth, reach legislative goals, improve educational opportunities and promote the Bessemer Area's many positive assets.

Since 1922 the Chamber has advocated for and works with the local business community to ensure the area's success. With over 400 members, the Chamber offers its membership an array of services, resources, and networking opportunities while enhancing the local business community and the area's economic climate.

Member Benefits

- Monthly newsletter *The Communique'*
- Use of the board room for meetings
- Annual magazine (including membership directory)
- Receptions and Grand Openings
- Direct referrals
- Website/internet link
- Color copies 50-cents each
- FREE black and white copies (member provides paper, max 500/mo.)
- FREE Notary Public services
- Membership listing in Chamber publications
- Participation in Ambassador Program
- Business and community resources
- Invitations to special events, monthly calendar events, programs, and activities
- Discounted fees and registration
- Staff and committee assistance with business needs
- Source of accurate and current information on the economy
- Deductible business expense
- Newcomer information, inquiry response
- Regional marketing and promotion
- Tourism support through visitor information centers

A Dreamer's Stroll Through Time

Nestled in the lower foothills of the Appalachian range lies Jones Valley. Distributed throughout this area was black gold – no, not the liquid kind, but rich seams of coal. The ingredients for an industrial iron and steel making center, which would rival any in the United States, were in close proximity - iron ore, coal, and limestone. Rail lines crossed the area thereby providing easy movement of raw materials, people, and finished products. A city called Birmingham was emerging and blast furnaces were dotting the landscape.

Armed with a vision, a blueprint of a well laid out city to be called Brooklyn, and investors with at least \$100,000 each, Henry Fairchild DeBardeleben (son-in-law of Alabama's first millionaire Daniel Pratt) embarked on his mission. On April 12, 1887 the first lots were sold, totaling more than \$400,000 by the close of the day—the City of Bessemer was born! Henry had changed the name to something more appropriate for iron making (Sir Henry Bessemer in England had invented the Bessemer converter which changed the iron/steel making process). By the end of the first year, Bessemer's population had grown so rapidly, the town was dubbed "The Marvel City".

The town quickly established a functioning government, its own school system, water works, electric company, and a health director (which was very important). Construction of roads, houses, churches, and businesses to meet the needs of the workers and the new residents was started in earnest. The young town of Bessemer also bragged of The Hotel Montezuma; dismantled and shipped by rail to Bessemer, this building was actually the Mexican Exhibit at the 1884-1885 New Orleans Exposition. DeBardeleben even had the forethought to care for future generations by establishing a park in the downtown area. Today, an original Viquesney Dough Boy Statue which honors those who paid the ultimate price in World War I is the focal point of DeBardeleben Park.

A local newspaper of 1900 predicted that by the year 2000, the city of Bessemer would stretch 100 miles. By the 1920s Bessemer ranked the fourth largest city in Alabama and persisted in fulfilling that earlier newspaper prediction.

Life continued in Bessemer. A search through old Bessemer newspapers reiterates the fact that history repeats itself with each generation. Newspapers reported good news, bad news, and a lot of advertisement; today television and other electronic devices provide the same type of information. Births, deaths, and weddings occurred; the flu bug seemed to transcend the years; accidents happened; elections were held; government officials were at odds; businesses came and went.

Over the years, however, poor leadership at local, state, and national levels brought recessions, depressions, and other economic woes to Bessemer. Fires destroyed many early landmarks, while heavy reliance on a few industries brought economic downturns as more jobs were outsourced and demands for some products dwindled or disappeared.

By the 1980s, Bessemer had reached 33% unemployment. Diversification of industry became the buzz word for survival. And diversify she did! New industry was recruited and small businesses were encouraged to grow. Jobs returned and the city once again began recovery from yet another recession.

And now, 125 years later, the City of Bessemer still stands through many trials and tribulations! Most of the smoke is gone because the industries have changed. Passenger trains no longer stop in Bessemer, many of the mines have been "worked out", and there are no longer livery stables or bicycle repair shops downtown to serve the citizens. But Bessemer still thrives! Why?

The true wealth of Bessemer lies in her people—those who came to create better lives for themselves and their families, those who stayed, and those who used their talents to continue a vision of the founders of the Marvel City. Today, entrepreneurship still flourishes and dreams for the city continue. The people of this city realize that the city is always changing, reforming, revitalizing, adapting—to meet the needs of a global economy. The people have survived 125 years of change and so has the city!

A quote from *The Bessemer Workman* on June 13, 1900 provides timeless advice to the people of Bessemer for any generation: **Show to the world that the Marvel City is alive and in the march of progress, that she knows no backward step, and here can be found a generous people, proud of their city, their progress, and anxious to let the world know of her success and the enterprise of her people.**

Merdith M. Byram, Ph.D., Chair, 1987 Bessemer Centennial Celebration



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A Citizen's Dream of Bessemer

Living in the Bessemer Cutoff area most of my life and knowing about the business leadership we have makes me the ultimate dreamer about what is the City of Bessemer and western Jefferson County. Yes, there are perception problems to overcome. However, when you look at the business and civic leadership in our region it is uplifting, gratifying, positive and exciting.

There are so many positives about Bessemer and western Jefferson County to brag about it is easy to see why I am an optimist with wonderful dreams about the area in the future. Lets look at some of these.

LEADERSHIP: We have great business leaders such as Jerry Cherner (Jefferson Realty), Tom McDougal (Medical West), B.K. "Skipper" Goodwin (First Financial), John & Faye Anderson (Manufacturing Packaging), Hank Tyler (Henry H. Tyler Enterprises), Don Holmes (Holmes Oil), Joe Adams (ADCO), Vaughn Burrell (Long Lewis) and many, many more. Small to large businesses, retail to manufacturing, we have leadership at all levels. Always working for Bessemer are local business owners: Joni Holt (Holt Insurance), Anthony Underwood (Anthony Underwood Automotive), Billy Parsons (CPA), the late Larry Russell (CPA), Stacey Craig (Bright Star) and Van Sykes (Bob Sykes BBQ). These are leaders by example.



In civic affairs the leadership continues with elected officials at all levels of government knowing that

economic development is primary to making the area a true dream. The Mayor of Bessemer, Kenneth Gulley, is a past Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce. Sarah Belcher, a City Council member, is a Chamber Ambassador. The other members of the Council, Ron Marshall, David Vance, Donna Thigpen, Cleo King, Chester Porter, and Jesse Mathews all work for or own businesses in the area. These civic servants are area assets for our business community. Put the local leaders



together with County Commissioner Jimmie Stephens, State Senator Priscilla Dunn, plus State Representatives Alan Farley and Lawrence McAdory, you have a team focused on growing the businesses in Bessemer and western Jefferson County.

INFRASTRUCTURE: Located at the intersection of major interstate highways, crisscrossed by rail lines, access to a vital waterway and having its own local airport, Bessemer is located in a dream area. Add to this the most modern communications systems available (ATT), abundant electrical supply (TVA and Alabama Power), a dual water system (Bessemer Water and Birmingham Water), and all the natural gas you could ask for from Alagasco. The "corridor" from Bessemer to Tuscaloosa along I-20/S9 ranks as one of the nation's top industrial development corridors in the nation. Most communities can only dream of what is available in western Jefferson County.



WORK FORCE: Lawson State Community College, ITT Technical Institute, and the high school career tech programs provide outstanding training for local citizens seeking employment at all of our businesses. The standards set by Dollar General, US Pipe, Mercedes, Plastipak, POSCO, and others are the measurement of the training that our local institutions provide. From automotive to high technology it is covered by these fine training organizations.

Also, post-secondary and advanced degrees can be earned at UAB, University of Alabama, Samford, University of Montevallo, Birmingham-Southern College, Stillman, and Miles College. All of these are located within commuting distance of the Bessemer area.

AVAILABLE LAND: Numerous industrial parks and vacant land are located in the region. Bessemer has a network of business/industrial parks that provide land and some vacant space for a new business to locate. Jefferson County has its only two industrial parks located just outside the Bessemer City limits. JefMet McCalla is home to distribution centers such as Office Max and Home Depot, feeder plants to the growing automotive industry in Alabama like Gestamp, and other manufacturers such as Plastipak. Jefmet McCalla is located on the railroad across the tracks from the Norfolk Southern Intermodal facility. JefMet Lakeshore is a high tech park with several data centers and abundant infrastructure to meet the needs of data center tenants such as Southern Company and Blue Cross/Blue Shield. Most of the land in the area is building ready with very minimal site preparation.



Cub Scout Day Camp

RESIDENTIAL AVAILABILITY: Housing is a dream with numerous middle to upper scale subdivisions dotting the Hoover, McCalla, Hueytown, Pleasant Grove and Bessemer area. Include the eastern Tuscaloosa and northern Bibb County areas and there are both existing homes and vacant land to build your dream home.



Rookie All Stars

If you are seeking acreage you have found exactly what you have been thinking of with gently rolling hills to flat pasture land. Excellent estate and large-lot sites are numerous. Outstanding schools are available in the area including the Jefferson County, Tuscaloosa County, Bessemer City, Bibb County and Hoover school systems. Several private schools are also available such as Bessemer Academy and Saint Aloysius.

RECREATION: Splash Adventure, Tannehill State Park, Oak Mountain State Park, and walking/biking trails all provide outstanding resources for the outdoors man. The Legacy YMCA is a focal point for not only the children in the area but for those adults working to stay fit. The Warrior River and numerous lakes provide boating and fishing activities. Hunting on land nearby is a hunters dream. Deer,

Continued on page 26

EXPERIENCE WHAT GENERATIONS OF GUESTS HAVE ENJOYED FOR OVER 105 YEARS
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Jimmy and Nicky Koikos recognized at Restaurateurs of the Year in 2011 by the Alabama Restaurant Association

Bright Star Broiled Seafood Platter recognized by Alabama Tourism Board as one of the Top 100 Dishes to Eat in Alabama



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"The owners and staff make you feel like they are glad to see you when you visit and make every effort to make your dining experience pleasurable."

— Mark Phillips - November 2012

A Tourist's Dream Come True

When a young industrialist named Henry Fairchild DeBardeleben first hatched a plan to buy four thousand acres of land southwest of Birmingham in order to take advantage of the area's rich natural resources, he couldn't have imagined the lively, thriving community that would still stand more than a century later. Originally called Brooklyn, the city was eventually named in honor of Sir Henry Bessemer, inventor of a steel manufacturing technique that bears his name. First incorporated in 1889, the town experienced rapid growth as a center of manufacturing and rapidly became one of the largest in Alabama and earning its nickname, "The Marvel City."

Visitors to today's Bessemer can still touch that rich history in the **Bessemer Hall of History**. Housed in an original passenger rail terminal built by the Alabama Great Southern Railroad company in 1916, the Hall of History provides a wealth of knowledge about the city's past. Lovers of history will enjoy browsing through the extensive collection of Civil War memorabilia, American Indian artifacts and a variety of nineteenth century photographs and furnishings that tell the story of this charming place. The museum is listed in the National Registry of Historic Places and provides monthly exhibits.

The Hall of History has plenty of company on the National Registry in Bessemer. The town boasts three original Pioneer homes built in the early 1800s. Part of the Pioneer Homestead Restoration Project, The McAdory, Sadler and Owen pioneer homes have been preserved by the West Jefferson County Historical Society and provide a fascinating look into life in nineteenth century Alabama.

Anyone taking this exciting trip through Bessemer's past is bound to work up an appetite. Luckily, **The Bright Star** is ready to satisfy all your cravings. Billed as Alabama's oldest restaurant, The Bright Star opened in 1907 as a simple café with a horseshoe shaped bar, but quickly outgrew its original setting and in 1914 relocated to its present day location where today brothers Jim and Nick Koikos preside over the daily operation. Recognized in 2010 by the prestigious James Beard Foundation as one of America's Classic restaurants, their combination of fresh seafood transported daily from the Gulf coast and Greek-meets-the-American-south cuisine have made the Bright Star an irresistible attraction for discriminating diners from all over the southeast.

While the grown-ups will certainly enjoy the history of Bessemer, folks of all ages are sure to get a rush from **Splash Adventure Water Park**. The ultimate family fun destination, this 20-acre wonderland provides more excitement than can be fit into one day. A spine-tingling offering of water slides and flumes, a 27,000 square foot wave pool, a quarter-mile long Lazy River, and a children's activity pool are among the many favorites. The summer of 2012 included a major expansion that brought three amazing new attractions to the park. In June, the **Zip Line** opened to rave

reviews. This heart-pounding sensation straps passengers into a harness atop a three story tower before sending them plummeting back to earth with the entire park laid out beneath

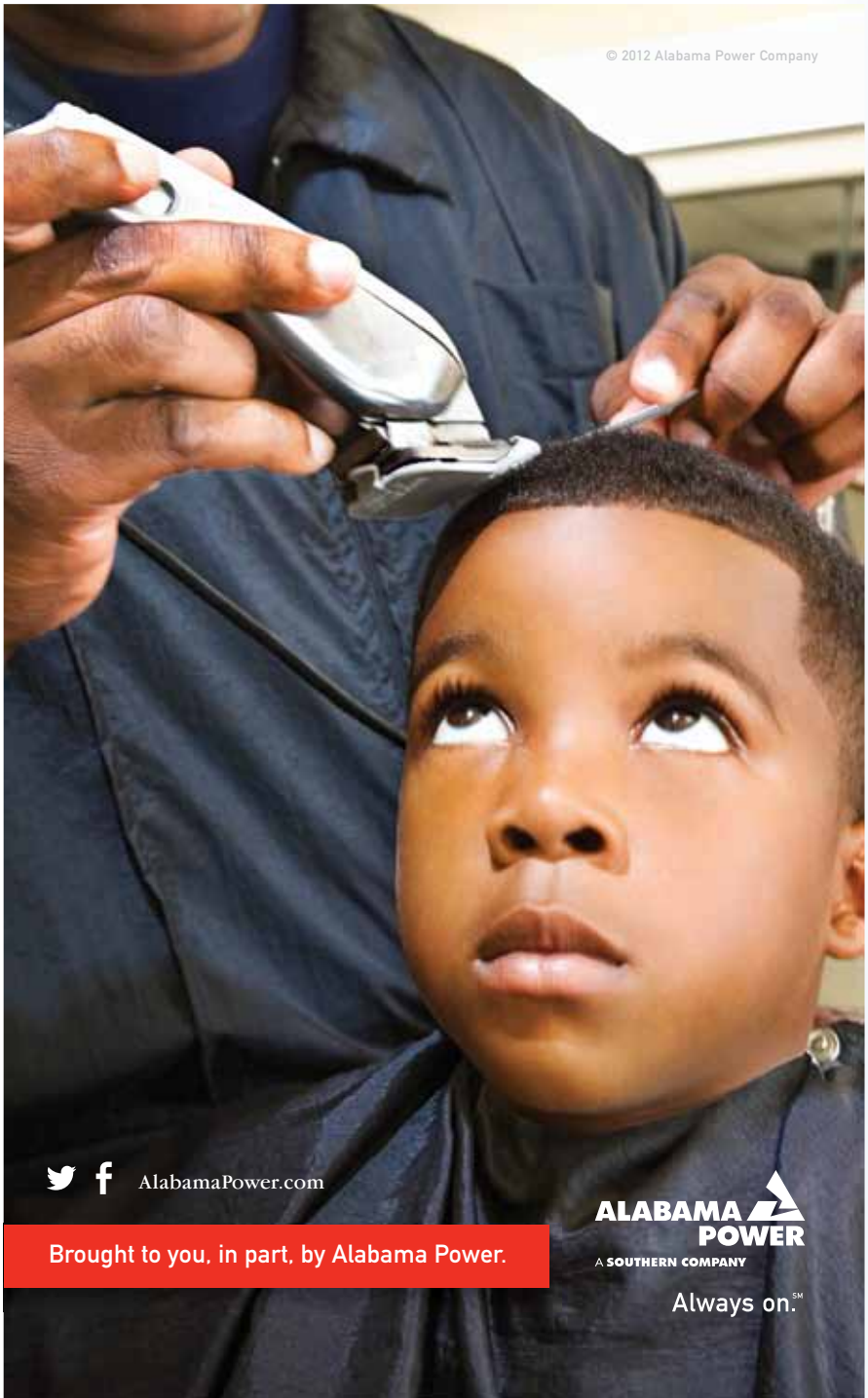
them. Next came the **Mist-ical Maze**. With 4,600 square feet of twists and turns punctuated by unexpected showers, spouts and downpours lurking around every corner, this one-of-a-kind experience is the best time you'll ever have getting lost. But Splash





Adventure wasn't through wowing thrill seekers just yet; in July 2012 they unveiled the world's first 360° interactive water-based obstacle course. **The Wipeout Adventure Course** is a multi-level attraction that sends guests through a series of ropes, towers and bridges where they control a variety of geysers and sprays, overhead deluges, and hand- and foot-activated water elements, allowing them to take the fun in any direction they choose. Mounted water cannons and overhead soaker buckets provide an unending arsenal of aqua-ammo to unleash upon each other. A specially designed harness system that keeps participants safely upright allows the Wipeout Adventure Course to remove the traditional rails and barriers of an obstacle course while giving adventurers total control over the experience. The result is an endless assortment of challenges and opportunities that provide a unique thrill each and every time. Splash Adventure offers a wide variety of guest services including food and beverage outlets, restaurants, lockers, rental cabanas, games, over 700 guest lounge chairs and parking for more than 2,000 cars. A private area for corporate and group events such as church outings and birthday parties is also available.

After this whirlwind trip through Bessemer's past and present, many will be ready to just crawl into bed and call it a day. But for those adventurous souls willing to burn the midnight oil, Bessemer holds one more hidden gem that can't be missed. Saturday nights, the backyard of local resident, Henry "Gip" Gipson, is transformed into a genuine southern juke joint. Frequented by legendary blues players like T-Model Ford and Kenny Brown, as well as new up-and-comers just beginning to hone their craft, this simple tin roofed shed becomes one of the south's most colorful blues clubs. Locals and out-of-towners alike flock to **Gip's Place**, bringing their own coolers of beer to hear the real deal in a place that is 100% Bessemer.

A trip to Bessemer holds something in store for guests of every age. From the city's bustling past to its exciting future, this is a truly unique place where the old and new south collide. It's all waiting for them in Alabama's Marvel City.



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Spotlight On Healthcare Dream: Medical West

A staple in the community for nearly 50 years, Medical West continues to provide high quality health care to the residents of Bessemer and West Jefferson County. The hospital has seen many changes since it first opened as Bessemer Memorial in 1964. In 1973, Medical West became part of the Carraway system and was renamed Bessemer Carraway. In 2002, the hospital became UAB Medical West when it joined the UAB Health System. Most recently, the hospital became a healthcare authority (2006) and is now known as Medical West, an affiliate of the UAB Health System.

Medical West is a 300-bed acute care hospital offering a wide range of diagnostic, surgical, medical, and emergency services. Primary care physicians, specialists, and sub-specialists have offices located on the Medical West main campus. Residents

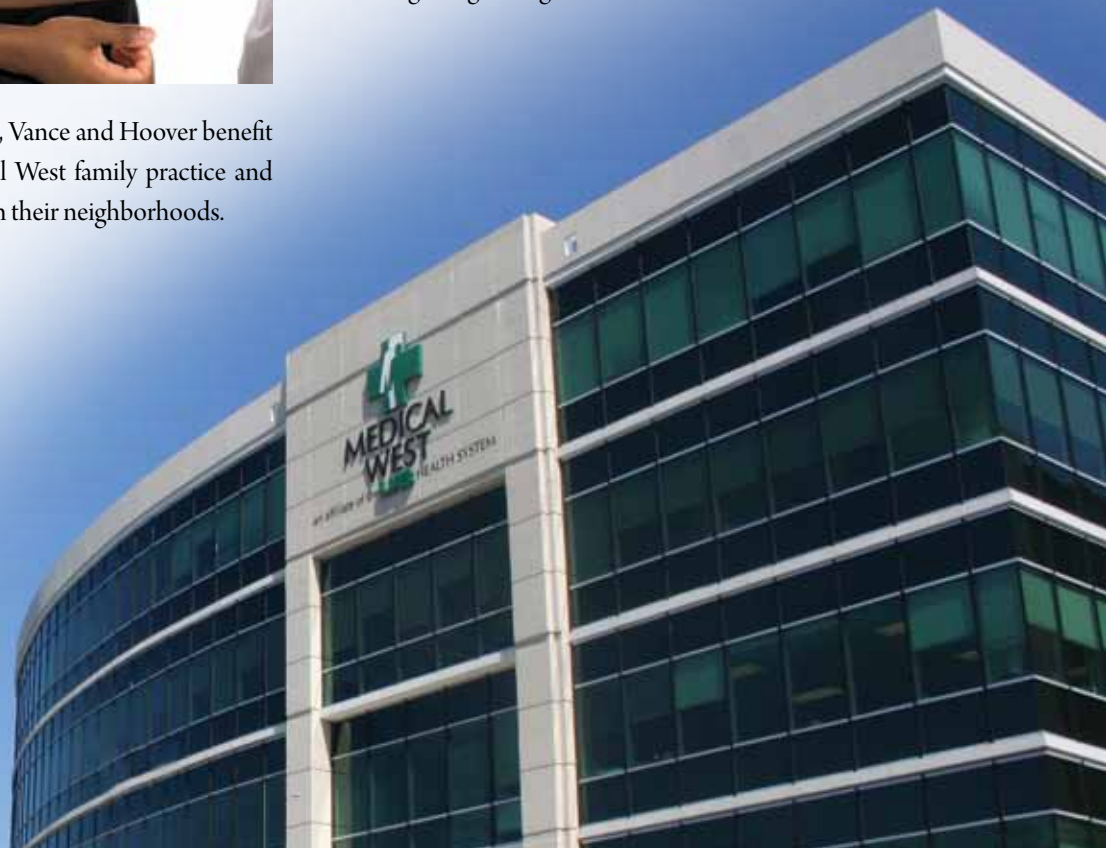


of Hueytown, McCalla, Tannehill, Vance and Hoover benefit from the convenience of Medical West family practice and internal medicine health centers in their neighborhoods.



Over the past several years, the hospital has added many new services and new state of the art technology. The Medical West Advanced Wound Center, which houses two hyperbaric oxygen chambers, opened in August 2010. The clinic averages around 4,000 visits each year. In 2012, Medical West opened HealthWorks, an Occupational Medicine clinic that currently serves many of our local businesses with health care for their employees. Also in 2012, the hospital added a new 64 slice CT Scanner with Cardiac capabilities and Digital Mammography. Recent hospital renovations include the new Women's Center and a 25-bed Geriatric Psych Unit.

It is evident that Medical West and health care in West Jefferson is thriving and growing!



“Everytime you smile at
someone,
it is an action of love,
a gift to that person,
a beautiful thing.”
~Mother Teresa



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Bessemer:

An Economic Development Dream

Bessemer, Alabama has risen from the depths of economic disaster after the closing of the U.S. Steel mills in Ensley and Fairfield, the Pullman-Standard Plant in Bessemer and Griffin Wheel Plant near Bessemer in the 1970s and 1980s. However, with the leadership of business minded and economic experts like Jim Byram, Hank Tyler, Don Holmes, Anthony Underwood, Vaughn Burrell, and many others, the City moved forward with developing its own industrial parks, developing projects at the new interstate interchanges, and diversifying the economic base in the Bessemer area.

A major plus for the area is the opening of the Norfolk Southern Intermodal facility in McCalla. Businesses large and small are recognizing the location and facilities in the area. Home Depot and Dollar General have located their distribution centers in the area. And upwards of 8,000 new jobs are anticipated as other distribution and manufacturing plants locate around the Norfolk site.

Bessemer has many positives working for it including: 1) location in one of the US's highest rated industrial development corridors (Birmingham to Tuscaloosa) on I-20/59, 2) located with interstates on three sides of the City and running through it, 3) infrastructure with high tech communications, plentiful water, plentiful natural gas, and plentiful electrical power, 4) educated work force, 5) educational system equipped to train manufacturing, distribution, construction, bio-tech, cyber-tech, medical, and most other fields that any company may be looking for, 6) CSX and Norfolk Southern Intermodal sites, 7) quality of life that includes affordable housing, entertainment, the arts, state parks, athletics, and more, and finally 8) a business friendly environment from the City to the State Capital.

Location is everything and the western Jefferson County region has it all. Poised between Tuscaloosa and Birmingham on one of the fastest growing industrial development corridors in the nation, the Bessemer Area has the facilities and sites to attract a diversity of business expansion.

In addition, the Bessemer business community has an incubator for beginning businesses that helps small businesses get a start, its own airport for business use and a Mayor and City Council that are focused on bringing jobs and growth to the Bessemer area. Bessemer is a great place to work and live. Let us show you our dream.



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Our Local Schools Make Education A Dream

It is appropriate that we remember the dedication and sacrifice of all those involved in the education of our children on the local level. Those that truly care about education are found working in the schools, helping teachers, and asking what more they can do. Bessemer business people have a selfish reason to be both supportive and involved with our schools. These young people will be the men and women who soon will be our employees, leaders, decision makers and bosses. They are the work force of the future and full of dreams.

The Chamber's efforts in the Adopt-a-School program is an easy way for local businesses to be involved in our schools. This takes some time but not much if any money. A business can be involved with the school of its choice in reading, mentoring, and participating with the students and teachers. This is a simple process that gets a company recognition and helps the schools at the same time. The Chamber encourages its members to get involved with our schools: Bessemer City, Jefferson County and Bessemer Academy. Our businesses can make dreams come true.

As parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts, etc., we should all be involved with our local school. Do we know what is happening in the schools and do we hold the educators accountable? Do we read to our own children? Can we spend time helping a child read? Are we there on workdays and clean up projects? Do we support the teachers and administrators? Bessemer City, McAdory, Oak Grove, and Hueytown High Schools, as well as Bessemer Academy are preparing our next generation workforce. Our business community takes pride in our community and schools to improve them.

Finally, as a homeowner and business owner, the better the

school system is in our area, the more valuable our property becomes. Homeowners and business people know the value of a quality school, a quality education. The Bessemer business community is doing those things that will improve the quality of education and the quality of the schools. This includes facing the difficult problems and making the hard decisions such as how to adequately fund our schools.

With major universities located within driving distance, a young person's dream of a higher education can be realized while staying close to home. The University of Alabama, University of Montevallo, Samford University, Birmingham-Southern College, and the University of Alabama-Birmingham are outstanding education providers. But we have a dream maker close to home in Bessemer, Lawson State Community College.

Lawson State Community College impacts the region in a positive and professional way. Not only has it had a regional impact but it also impacts all of the cities located in our area especially Bessemer. Lives have been enriched because of the availability of education, training, and growth in our work force in this region due to Lawson State Community College. The entire western area business community praises

Continued on page 26





**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

The Legacy YMCA

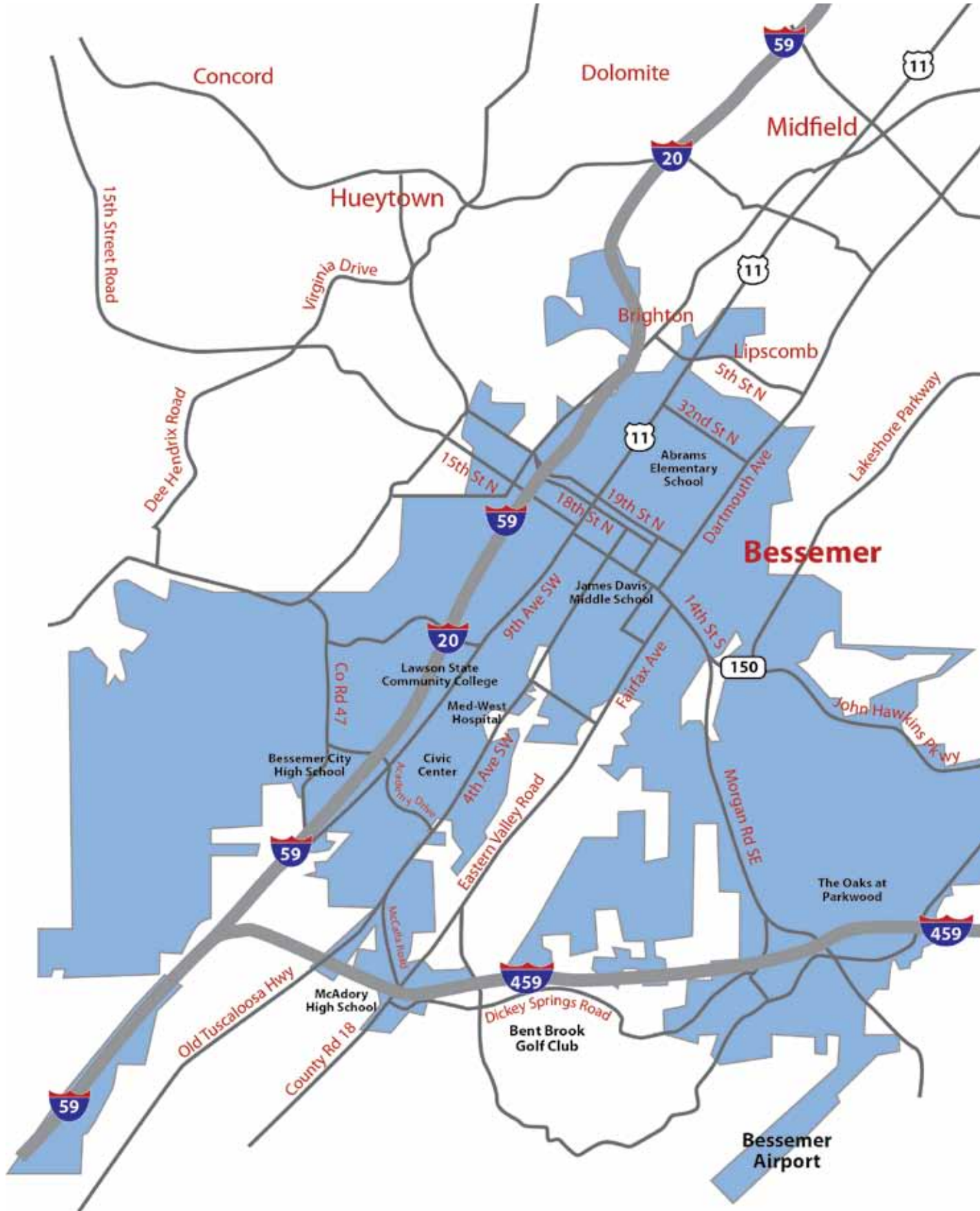
The Legacy YMCA offers a wide variety of activities for the entire family at a very affordable rate. We have a heated indoor pool, outdoor pool, tennis courts, racquetball courts, state of the art fitness center, 2 aerobics studios, spin room, youth sports, childcare, Crossfit, ZUMBA, BOOTCAMP CLASSES, YOGA and much more!



205-426-1211—www.legacyymca.org

1501 4TH AVENUE S.W. BESSEMER, ALABAMA 35022

Bessemer Area Map & Important Information





Mayor

Kenneth Gulley

City Council

- City Council President Ron Marshall, District 5
- City Council President Pro-Tem Sarah Belcher, District 3
- David Vance, District 1
- Chester Porter, District 2
- Donna Thigpen, District 4
- Jesse Matthews, District 6
- Cleophus King, District 7

Bessemer by the Numbers

Population: 28,772 (2010)
 Males: 13,042 (45.3%)
 Females: 15,730 (54.7%)
 Median Age: 35.9 years
 Median Household Income: \$27,332

Animal Control.....	(205) 426-5586
City Information	(205) 424-4060
• City Clerk	
• Building & Inspections	
• Economic Development	
• GIS/Information Technology	
• Mayor's Office	
Civic Center	(205) 424-7469
Fire Department.....	(205) 428-5151
Fleet Maintenance	(205) 425-3291
Municipal Court.....	(205) 426-8602
Parks and Recreation.....	(205) 428-1124
Police Department.....	(205) 481-4351
Public Improvements Department.....	(205) 424-4084

Dining In Bessemer is a Dream

Dining in Bessemer becomes a dream because you start with our two longest serving restaurants, The Bright Star and Bob Syke's BBQ. They are both on the list of places you have to eat in Alabama before you die. Try them and find out why they make dining dreams come true.

Since its inception in 1907, The Bright Star Restaurant has been located in downtown Bessemer, and it has been a fixture in Bessemer's Realty Building for 97 out of those 105 years. In a sense, The Bright Star has grown with downtown Bessemer, beginning as a 30 seat restaurant and having evolved into the 300 seat restaurant it is today. The Restaurant receives pedestrian traffic from individuals shopping at local merchants such as Simmons Sporting Goods, United Textiles, and Standard Furniture. The downtown location has increased its banquet business with large groups such as The Bessemer Board of Realtors and other civic organizations. Easy access from Interstate 20/59 exit 112 also enables The Bright Star to attract guests from Birmingham and Tuscaloosa as well as surrounding counties. Fortunate to be located in downtown Bessemer, The Bright Star will make your dream dining come true.

Van Sykes continues the tradition that his parents began in 1956: great barbecue and exceptional customer service. Dining at Bob Sykes BBQ begins with the aroma of slow cooked meat greeting you as you exit your car. You enter to see a grill full of pork, beef, and chicken with their long time staff working tirelessly to help you get the best meal you can find. From ribs to cheeseburgers you can't go wrong. Sandwiches, BBQ plates, onion rings, fries, even large pickles are there for the tasting. Eating with Van and his staff you feel at home, they make the atmosphere cozy and

warm. Located on the old Bessemer Super Highway (9th Avenue in Bessemer) Bob Sykes is one of the places to eat before you die.

Add to them the many downtown cafes like Muffalatta's Pizza & Pasta, Kaylyns Soul Food and Boateng Cajun Creations and dining downtown is a dream. But there is more. Sports bars such as Magic City Grill, W. T.s and Nuke's make watching sports much more enjoyable plus they have great burgers. If you are wanting country cooking Raggedy Ann's provides some of the best. Mr. Hot Dog and Sneaky Pete's have the best hot dogs around plus in Hueytown you will find Classic Burger, a must eat location. Many oriental restaurants such as the Jade Garden are in the area as are many Mexican restaurants like Habanero's, San Antonio, and Los Sombreros. Catfish and hush puppies at Ezell's Catfish Cabin are excellent. Join us in Bessemer for a dining experience that is a dream.



Above: The Bright Star's signature seafood gumbo
Below: Bob Syke's Bar-B-Q Restaurant



Weaver Land & Realty Inc.

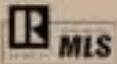
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CITIZEN'S DREAM, *continued from page 13*

turkey, and other prey are abundant.

Golfers are in a dream world with Bent Brook, Ross Bridge, Oxmoor Valley, Oak Mountain, Woodward and Frank House golf courses providing challenging and beautiful courses to play. Oxmoor Valley is part of the Robert Trent Jones golfing trail which runs from the Tennessee line in the north to the Gulf of Mexico.

In addition, NCAA college sports can be enjoyed at the University of Alabama campus and UAB. Located in the midst of several university campuses it is easy to watch a football game or enjoy a concert.

HISTORY: Historic homes, museums and numerous historic sites are close by and easy to get to for any one with a historic interest. The Bessemer Hall of History and the historic home trail offer a look into our regions past. The Tannehill ironwork furnaces and museum make the Civil War come alive as will the many Civil War plantation homes in the area. Downtown Bessemer is a historic district with buildings dating back to the 1800s including an original Carnegie Library (which houses the Chamber of Commerce). History buffs can travel a short distance to nearby Moundville State Park, the Birmingham Civil Rights Museum, and the Vulcan statue.

DINING: The Bright Star and Bob Syke's BBQ are our longest serving dining options. Both are a dream in their own way. Outstanding food from Southern cooking to Greek cuisine are available. Mexican, Chinese, Italian, Greek, Korean, Middle Eastern and European cuisine can all be enjoyed with just a short drive. There are numerous down home cafes with outstanding Southern cooking like fried chicken, grits, turnip greens, and on and on. You will dream of the food long after you try it.

SHOPPING: Tannehill Colonial Promenade, Letson Farms, Hoover's Galleria, all compliment the historic downtown Bessemer business district with shopping and retail outlets available. Exits 1 and 6 on I-459 and exit 108 on I-20/59 are bustling with retail activity and almost anything you want to buy. Add to that the Hueytown and Hoover areas and there is no shortage of shopping adventure. If you are looking for out of the way retail shops they abound in northern Bibb, eastern Tuscaloosa and northern Shelby Counties all just a very short drive from Bessemer. Our retail businesses are open and customer friendly, whatever you dream you want you will find.

FUTURE: Growth, quality of life, energy and excellent leadership make the western Jefferson County region a dream come true. Join us as we move into a bright future together, join us as we live the dream.

EDUCATION DREAM, *continued from page 20*

Lawson State for its contributions to our economy. Maya Angelou said it this way, "I have learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." Lawson State makes us feel capable, capable of success.

Another education shining light in western Jefferson County is ITT Technical Institute located at Exit 6 on I-459. It is a jewel in our economic development recruitment package. The faculty and staff at ITT Tech go about their service to the community with humility and professionalism. The employees follow the example of their leadership in following this statement from Jonas Salk when he said, "I feel that the greatest reward for doing is the opportunity to do more."



Our education facilities and organizations contribute mightily to the Dream that is Bessemer. They lead hand in hand with the business community in building a better Bessemer and western Jefferson County.

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Gina Bigham, Manager

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If your employer is a member of the Bessemer Chamber of Commerce, you are qualified to join MCFCU. You may also qualify if you have a immediate family member who already has a account with MCFCU. For more information to join MCFCU contact us today!

We Look forward to hearing from you!

(205) 426-0578



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Established in 1959



Lawson State

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

A quality education opens the door to your future. Start with us and build a solid foundation for success.

Lawson State Community College is a comprehensive, multi-campus college, which seeks to provide educational opportunities, promote economic growth and enhance the quality of life for people in its service area. The College is dedicated to providing affordable and accessible learning opportunities in order to prepare students for employment or career advancement, enable students to transfer to senior colleges and universities, and provide customized training needs for business and industry.

Start Here, Go Anywhere!

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Dr. Perry W. Ward, President

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(Exit 108 off Interstate 20/59)
1100 - 9th Avenue SW
Bessemer, Alabama 35022

Birmingham Campus
3060 Wilson Road
Birmingham, Alabama 35221

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1st VP: Lisa Coleman; Alabama Telco Credit Union
2nd VP: Hollyn Davis; Shawn Davis Companies
Treasurer: Elizabeth A. Williams; AT&T
Secretary: Rebecca W. Williams

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Jim Wells; Rural Metro
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Herb Ritchie; Clinton H. Ritchie & Assoc

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Mayor Delor Baumann
City Council:
Carole Marks, Michael Pickens, Phifer Crane,
Phillip Contorno, and Ray Roberson

CITY HALL

1318 Hueytown Rd
Hueytown, AL 35023
Phone: (205) 491-7010

FIRE DEPARTMENT

1318 Hueytown Road
Hueytown, AL 35023-2415
Phone: (205) 491-3551

POLICE DEPARTMENT

email: HueytownPD@Hotmail.com
1318 Hueytown Rd
Hueytown, AL 35023-2415
Phone: (205) 491-3523



Chamber Information

In April 1987 the Hueytown Chamber of Commerce felt that due to the growth of business in the City, the Hueytown community had sufficiently matured to a level that would support its own Chamber. During the 25 year history of the organization, it has grown from fewer than 100 members to approximately 200.

As business is the life blood of any chamber, Hueytown works to seek and promote business within our community. Welcoming and promoting new business is the primary responsibility of our organization. Some of the tools used by the Chamber to enhance your business include:

- **Chamber Business Directory**
- **Chamber Communications** –Website: www.hueytownchamber.com; Facebook and Twitter as well as the Hueytown Chamber Blog found at: www.hueytownareachamberchat.blogspot.com
- **Referrals** – All referrals are directed first to Chamber business.
- **Special Events** – New Business openings, Ribbon Cuttings, Open Houses, “Business after Hours Events” and more may all be arranged for Chamber members.
- **Business breakfasts and luncheons** promote collaboration, education, networking and referrals.
- **Chamber newsletters** – share news about your business and learn of Chamber programs and meetings. We also will work with your business to provide special event flyers to accompany our newsletters.
- **Chamber mailing lists/labels** provided upon request.
- **Window Decals** identify your business as a Chamber member.
- **“Spotlight on Business”** articles in local news outlets, as well as the Chamber newsletter.
- **Collaborates** with the City of Hueytown through special programs such as Hueytown Race (10K-5K-Fun Run), Miss Hueytown Pageant and more in order to establish a positive recognition of our community.
- **Annual Chamber Banquet** combines our Business, Educational and Civic organizations for networking and recognition.
- **Christmas Tree Lighting** festivities to officially kick off the Christmas shopping season.
- Annual Christmas Parade is held at 10 a.m. the second Saturday of each December to an enthusiastic crowd lining city streets.



City of Hueytown

Located in the southwestern corner of Jefferson County, also known as the “Bessemer Cut-off”, the City of Hueytown lies approximately 15 miles from downtown Birmingham and 37 miles from the City of Tuscaloosa. Covering approximately 27 square miles, this community of 16,105 citizens has an economy based on the steel making and its related industries- which has evolved into the present day inclusion of a variety of white and blue collar occupations.

Running the length of Hueytown, Allison Bonnet Memorial Drive is the city’s major thoroughfare and is easily accessed utilizing I-20/59 Exit 115.

Allison Bonnet Memorial Drive becomes Warrior River Road at the Hueytown city limits. This road leads directly to the Warrior River, a major waterway providing a means of commercial transportation delivering coal, timber and ore

as it joins the Tombigbee Waterway on its path to the Gulf of Mexico. Area residents are proud of the miles of beautiful water way available for boating, swimming and water sports of all types.



History

During the early 1800s members of the Huey family took the first steps to establish the community that would eventually become the City of Hueytown. Brothers Sam and Jesse Huey, for whom the community was named, along with the Waldrop and Vines families were early settlers in the area. While the area remained primarily farmland, the iron and steel industry would set the tone for the economy of the area. Post WWII, with good job prospects from U.S. Steel Fairfield Works, U.S. Pipe and other industrial employers, Hueytown began a rapid rise in population. This population growth led to the maturing of the Hueytown community.

As schools were established, churches founded and civic groups organized, business expanded to such a degree that it became necessary to incorporate. On April 29, 1960, the City of Hueytown was officially incorporated under a Mayor/ City Council form of government and basic city services were established. Both police and fire departments were critical needs in the city’s early days. Since that time the Hueytown Police department has grown to 36 sworn officers while the Hueytown Fire and Rescue department employs 34 members

and three stations. A public library as well as large Public Works and Park and Recreation departments were formed to meet the needs of an ever increasing population.

An additional source of pride for the Hueytown community has been its long standing connection to NASCAR racing. In 1960, Bobby Allison moved his family from Florida to the new city of Hueytown. In following years, Bobby and Donnie Allison and their families made Hueytown home. Originally composed of Bobby and Donnie Allison and Red Farmer, subsequently including Bobby’s son Davey Allison as well as Neil Bonnet and son David, the Alabama Gang made its mark on the national racing community. Though these racers have enjoyed many triumphs over the decades they have also suffered great tragedy. Both Davey and Clifford Allison were lost in separate accidents while Bobby and Donny have suffered significant injuries. Tragically, the third member of the original Alabama Gang, Neil Bonnet, was also lost in a racing accident. The city’s largest roadway, Allison Bonnet Memorial Drive, is thusly named as a continuing memorial to these families.

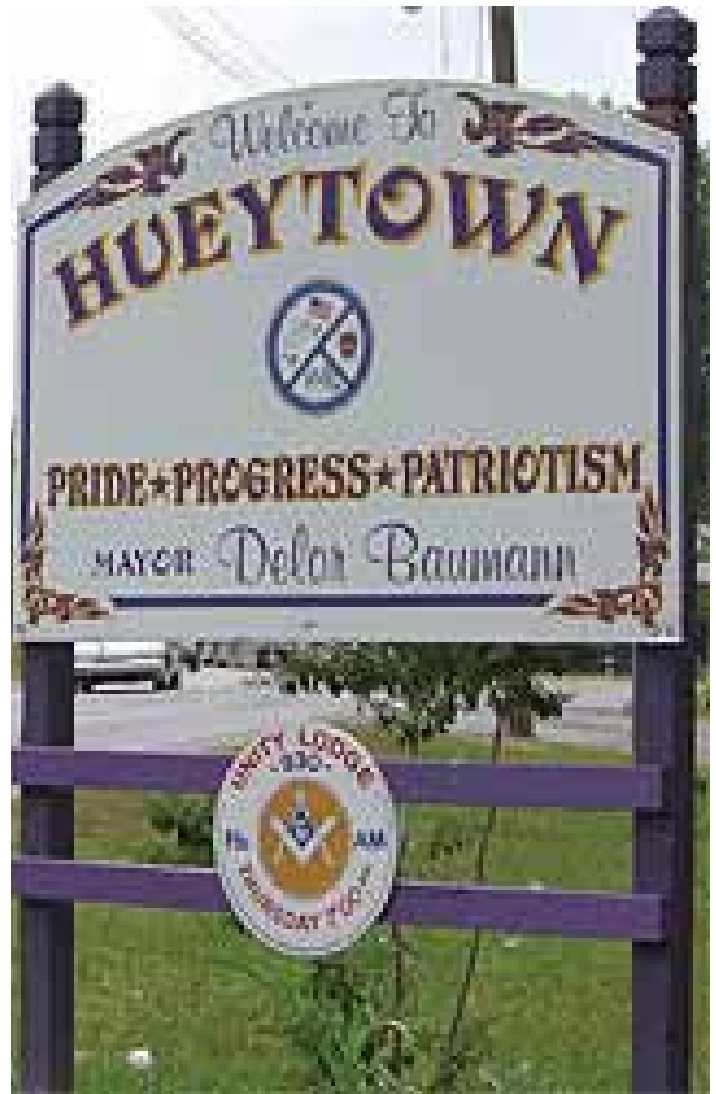
Hueytown Churches

Hueytown is blessed with a vibrant and active church community. Many faiths are available to meet the belief and worship needs of every citizen. Whether faith outreach takes the form of assisting victims during tornado disasters or the support provided to local athletic teams, our city's faith community is dedicated to strengthening and encouraging their fellow men.

Historic Bethlehem Methodist Church was founded in April of 1818 more than a year before Alabama became a state. The original church building at 1784 Tin Mill Road is a historical landmark and is available for touring. The cemetery's oldest marker is dated January 18, 1794.

Area Churches

Deeper Life Church 280 19 th Street North Hueytown, AL 35023 491-9100	First United Methodist Church 110 Sunset Drive Hueytown, AL 35023 491-9574
Earnest Methodist Church 3524 Warrior River Road Hueytown, AL 35023 497-0651	Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church 1343 Hueytown Road Hueytown, AL 3523 491-3771
Union Hill Baptist Church 7049 Taylors Ferry Road Bessemer, AL 35023 491-1103	North Highlands Baptist 4815 15 th Street Road Hueytown, AL 35023 491-7921
1 st Cumberland Presbyterian 4845 15 th Street Road Hueytown, AL 35023 491-9248	Hueytown Baptist Church 3000 Dwaine Avenue Hueytown, AL 35023 491-7130
New Mt. Moriah Baptist 330 Marsh Avenue Hueytown, AL 35023 744-9519	First Missionary Baptist 3244 Allison Bonnet Mem Dr Hueytown, AL 35023 491-9574
First Church of the Nazarene 1826 27 th Avenue Hueytown, AL 35023 491-3836	Industrial City Baptist 121 Ivy Avenue Hueytown, AL 35023 491-5170



Civic Organizations

Also available to Hueytown Citizens are a number of service clubs and organizations. These civic groups address any number of interests and will be happy to help you find just the right fit to deepen your connection with the community.

Hueytown Alumni Assoc. P.O. Box 3087 Hueytown, AL 35023	Hueytown Historical Society P.O. Box 3313 Hueytown, AL 35023
Hueytown Concerned Citizens 106 Love Street Hueytown, AL 35023	Hueytown Saddle Club P.O. Box 3004 Hueytown, AL 35023
Unity Club 205 Mimosa Drive Hueytown, AL	Hueytown Quarterback Club P.O. Box 3158 Hueytown, AL 35023
Hueytown Lions Club P.O. Box 3185 Hueytown, AL 35023	

Other social clubs in the Hueytown Area would also love to welcome you: Business and Professional Women of Hueytown, Hueytown Kiwanis Club, Hueytown Hobby Club, and Hueytown Study Club

Education

Hueytown Elementary, North Highland Elementary and Concord Elementary, along with Hueytown Middle and High schools, comprise the Hueytown feeder schools, a part of the Jefferson County School System. Over 2,000 students attend school in the Hueytown area.

Hueytown High School offers over 900 students an opportunity to participate in a broad spectrum of classes ranging from Advanced Placement classes to Career Tech studies. On August 15, 2011 the Golden Gophers opened a beautiful new 109 acre campus located at 4881 15th Street Road. This \$37.2 million dollar facility consists of a 287,103 square foot, two-story building comprised of 56 classrooms, 5 science labs, media center, theater and lecture hall as well as a 1,650 seat competition gym. This outstanding facility hosts 6A athletics at a new football stadium, replacing the 80 year old Gilmore Stadium. Outstanding softball fields provide facilities for 6A Girls softball champions as well as beautiful baseball accommodations. Additional acreage provides a soccer field and a band practice field.

Hueytown Elementary school anchors an award winning Exceptional Education program which continues through the High school level.



Schools

Hueytown High School
4811 15th Street Road
Hueytown, AL 35023
379-4150

Hueytown Middle School
701 Sunrise Boulevard
Hueytown, AL 35023
379-5150

Hueytown Elementary
112 Forest Road
Hueytown, AL 35023
379-4100

North Highlands Elementary
2021 29th Avenue, North
Hueytown, AL 35023
379-4950

Hueytown CEZ
131 Dabbs Avenue
Hueytown, AL 35023

Concord Elementary
6015 Warrior River Road
Hueytown, AL 35023
379-3150



Weldon Pharmacy

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Fax: 205.497.1432
weldonphar@aol.com



Eugene Pitts, CPA
Chief Executive Officer

2100 South Bridge Parkway, Suite 660
P.O. Box 360973
Birmingham, Alabama 35236

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Fax 205-822-0539
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Bessemer Chamber Member Directory

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td.abeautifulbeginning@gmail.com
Child Development Center

A. G. Gaston Boys & Girls Club

Rose Walker
2900 South Park Drive SW
Birmingham, AL 35211
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www.aggbgsc.org
Non Profit

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joeadams@adcoboiler.com;
crichard@adcoboiler.com
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jmelton@energen.com;
philip.richards@energen.com
Utilities/Gas

Alabama Power Company

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Hueytown, AL 35023
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www.alabamapower.com
jstaggs@southernco.com
Utilities

Alabama Radiologists, PC

Jeff Cutler, Keith Chesser
2000 A SouthBridge Pkwy Ste 300
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(205) 481-7155
Physicians/Surgeons

Alabama Technology Network

Dr. Mike Bailey, Chris Franklin
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Birmingham, AL 35209
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www.atn.org | mbailey@atn.org
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Alabama Technology Network - Lawson

Jim Ingalls
3060 Wilson Rd. SW
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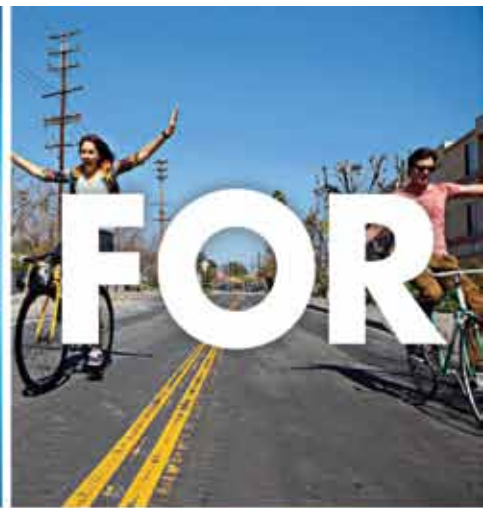
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 www.connectpoint.org
 mark@connectpoint.org
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Church - Lutheran

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Eye Care

4780 Letson Farms Parkway
McCalla, Alabama 35111

McCalla Memorial Funeral Home

Richard Clark
Manager

205-477-4888

McCalla Memorial Funeral Home LLC

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4780 Letson Farm Pkwy.
McCalla, AL 35111
(205) 477-4888
www.mccallamemorialfuneralhome.com
mccallamemorial@gmail.com
wandersonmmfh@gmail.com
Funeral Home

McCalla Orthodontics & Pediatric Dentistry

Robin Forrest, Dr. Olga Sanchez
4814 Bell Hill Road Bessemer, AL 35022
(205) 477-8004 | f (205) 477-8214
mccalla.orthodontics@yahoo.com
Dental

Mckesson Corporation

Tami Webb, Gary Smith
6775 Jefferson Metro Parkway
McCalla, AL 35111
(205) 477-2620 | f (205) 477-2660
www.mckesson.com
tami.webb@mckesson.com
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Bessemer, AL 35022
(205) 481-7000 | f (205) 481-7595
www.medicalwesthospital.org
kpennington@uabmw.org
Hospital

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Mini Storage/Truck Rental

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4810 Bell Hill Road Bessemer, AL 35020
(205) 426-3737 | f (205) 477-0373
www.middlecreekmedicalcenter.com
cbusbee@middlecreekmedicalcenter.com
Urgent Care Clinic

Miguel & Crew Landscaping

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948 Posey Avenue Bessemer, AL 35020
(205) 568-8735
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Landscaping

Milo's Tea Company - Jay Evers

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www.milosteas.com
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(205) 424-0430

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www.modularconnections.com
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129 Fourth Street North
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twburrows@moorecoal.com
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http://morganchirowellness.com
tanyasigvaldson@hotmail.com
massage4_u@yahoo.com
Chiropractor/Massage Therapy

Morgan United Methodist Church

Rev. Eddie Bolen
2701 Morgan Road Bessemer, AL 35022
(205) 425-1261 | f (205) 428-1819
www.morganumc.org
Church - Methodist

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mskimskids123@yahoo.com
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www.mthebronbessemer.com
revjones@mthebronbessemer.com
Church - Baptist

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1156 Victoria Drive McCalla, AL 35111
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Non Profit

New Bethlehem Baptist Church

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(205) 425-9556 | f (205) 425-9591
www.goodnewssofjesus.org
Church - Baptist

New Generation Charters

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New Jerusalem Baptist Church

Pastor Reginald Calvert
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njbtc2430@bellsouth.net
Church - Baptist

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Heating & Air

Nuke's Sports Grille

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justlikehomedaycare12@yahoo.com
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lawrence.baird@oaktracerehab.com
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Church - Baptist

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ascottr@bellsouth.net

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eric_messer@rmetro.com
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Ambulance Service

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gw@sgwaldropelectric.com
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salonlisabrown@att.net

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www.sleepinn.com
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Sneaky Pete's - Jo Carroll

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store4544@sonicpartnernet.com
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Real Estate

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Chamber of Commerce

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Pipe & Supply

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www.alabamaadventure.com
cberner@splashadventurewaterpark.com
ctaylor@splashadventurewaterpark.com
Amusement Park/Water Park

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Bessemer, AL 35020
(205) 425-1483 | f (205) 425-1483
Church - Primitive Baptist

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amcewen@servproofbirmingham.com

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julie@juliebellagency.com
Insurance

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5011 Ford Parkway Bessemer, AL 35022
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Insurance

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Staffing/Recruiting

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4954 Eastern Valley Road
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www.bcmcadory.org
churchatmcadory@bellsouth.net
Church - Baptist

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Housing Authority

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Salvation Army

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Urology Center

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Cellular Services/Telecommunications

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Construction Materials

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