

# Bessemer

2021/ Volume XI

Est. 1922



**WORKING  
TOGETHER  
WORKS:**

HOW BESSEMER'S UNITY CREATES SUCCESS

A PUBLICATION OF THE BESSEMER AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



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This is a publication of the Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce. Mail letters and story ideas to Bessemer Area Chamber; 321 18th Street North; Bessemer, Alabama 35020. [www.bessemerchamber.com](http://www.bessemerchamber.com). Copyright 2021 by Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce. All rights reserved. Disclaimer: This book is for informational and promotional purposes only. Bessemer Chamber in no way warrants or guarantees any information contained herein. All pictures not taken by staff of Chamber are used by permission.

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 Mary Milan, Administrative and Accounting Specialist  
 Micole Dudley, Member Services / Event Coordinator

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# BESSEMER MAGAZINE 2021



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

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 Chamber of Commerce



Dear Chamber Members, Supporters and Stakeholders,

It is an honor to be a part of the chamber and have the opportunity to lead and set an example for our community.

I want to take the time to reach out to our membership, both new and long-standing, to thank you for your continual support of your chamber.

As we weather the challenges brought by the global COVID-19 pandemic and regional difficulties, the chamber remains focused on the common good for the Bessemer area, which is to continue to unite and make a city that we are all proud to live, work, play and do business in.

The Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce plays a vital role in the success of the business community. We do much more than just promote and protect the interests of the business community; this chamber works daily to bridge gaps, build strong relationships and create an environment for success.

Together we can use our influence and resources to champion our region and drive ideas for unity and growth.

Bessemer without a doubt continues to live up to her name, "The Marvel City". We are all responsible for supporting that vision.

Our potential grows every year, and my goal is to do everything I can to support businesses and help them thrive. I challenge you to join me!

We invite businesses, non-profit organizations and individuals to become members of the Bessemer Chamber. We are looking for passionate members that will bring new ideas, fresh energy, and enthusiasm.

The chamber presents an opportunity for all members to grow their network, and in turn, grow their business. It can allow you to forge professional and personal relationships which can last for many years. I invite all of you to feel the energy, make the connections, and be active in what I believe is one of the best resources our community has at its fingertips.

Encourage your customers/clients to come out and join us. We want those who are not currently members to be welcomed and understand what the chamber can offer through membership.

There are many opportunities for you to partner with us. Attend an event. Join a committee. Invest through sponsorship. Invite a guest. Be involved!

I look forward to another amazing year for the chamber. Together we can achieve the unimaginable. "Working Together Works"



*Carlton Jackson*  
 2021 Chairman of the Board

# COMMUNITY CONTACTS

## ATTRACTIONS

Alabama Splash Adventure ..... 481-4750  
 Autobahn Indoor Speedway ..... 235-6230  
 Bessemer Hall of History ..... 426-1633

## BUSINESS SERVICES

Bessemer Building Inspector ..... 424-4060  
 Bessemer Business Center ..... 481-2000  
 Bessemer Community & Ind. Dev. .... 424-4060  
 Bessemer Development Board ..... 481-4800

## CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Bessemer Chamber of Commerce ..... 425-3253

## CITY OF BESSEMER

Bessemer City Hall ..... 424-4060  
 City Attorney ..... 432-0270  
 Fire Department ..... 428-5151  
 Fleet Maintenance ..... 425-3291  
 Municipal Court ..... 426-8602  
 Parks & Recreation ..... 965-5624  
 Police Department ..... 481-4350  
 Public Improvements ..... 424-4084  
 Recycling Plant ..... 425-0068  
 Street & Sanitation ..... 424-4084  
 Utilities ..... 481-4333

## EDUCATION

Bessemer Board of Education ..... 432-3000  
 Lawson State Community College ..... 925-2515

## Area Elementary Schools:

Abrams Elementary School ..... 432-3100  
 Greenwood Elem. School ..... 432-3200  
 Hard Elementary School ..... 432-3300  
 Hueytown Elementary School ..... 379-4100  
 Jonesboro Elem. School ..... 432-3400  
 McAdory Elementary School ..... 379-4650  
 Westhills Elementary School ..... 432-3500

## Area Middle Schools:

Bessemer City Middle School ..... 432-3600  
 Hueytown Middle School ..... 379-5150  
 McAdory Middle School ..... 379-4730

## Area High Schools:

Bessemer City High School ..... 432-3700  
 Hueytown High School ..... 379-4150  
 McAdory High School ..... 379-4700

## Area Private Schools:

Bessemer Academy ..... 428-6288  
 Dunnam's Private School ..... 425-4194  
 St. Aloysius Catholic School ..... 425-0045

## EMERGENCY NUMBERS

EMERGENCY ..... 911  
 Alabama State Troopers ..... 252-7445  
 Bessemer Fire Department ..... 425-5151  
 Bessemer Police Department ..... 481-4350  
 Jeff. Co. Sheriff's Dept.- Bessemer Office ..... 481-4201  
 Jefferson County Sheriff's Dept. .... 325-5700  
 Poison Control ..... 800-222-1222

## GENERAL INFORMATION

American Red Cross (Bessemer) ..... 439-7801  
 Bessemer Civic Center ..... 424-7469  
 Bessemer Food Stamp Office ..... 744-3600  
 Bessemer Housing Authority ..... 481-4420  
 Bessemer Municipal Airport ..... 428-9292  
 Bessemer Naval Marine Reserve Center ..... 497-2600  
 Bessemer Public Library ..... 428-7882  
 Bessemer Social Security ..... 800-772-1213  
 Clay House Children's Advocacy Center ..... 481-4155  
 Credit Bureau of Bessemer ..... 428-7323  
 Foundry Rescue Mission & Recovery Ctr. .... 424-4673  
 Jefferson Co. Dev. Authority ..... 943-4794  
 Salvation Army ..... 425-4303  
 U.S. Post Office ..... 800-275-8777  
 Voter Registration ..... 325-5550

## HOSPITAL

Medical West ..... 481-7000  
 Emergency Room ..... 481-7160

## LICENSES / TAXES

Alabama Revenue Department ..... 733-2740  
 Jefferson County Courthouse ..... 481-4165  
 Jefferson County Tax Assessor ..... 481-4125  
 Jefferson County Tax Collector ..... 481-4131  
 Veterans' Affairs, Bessemer ..... 481-4117

## LOCAL MEDIA

Birmingham News ..... 800-568-4123  
 The Cutoff News ..... 615-790-6959  
 Western Star ..... 424-7827

## RECREATION

Alabama State Parks ..... 800-252-7275  
 Legacy YMCA ..... 426-1211  
 Premiere Cinema 14 ..... 428-4404  
 Tannehill State Park ..... 477-5711  
 Public Golf Courses:  
 Bent Brook Golf ..... 428-9600  
 Frank House Municipal ..... 424-9540  
 Robert Trent Jones @ Oxmoor Valley ..... 942-1177  
 Woodward Golf & Country Club ..... 424-5500

## UTILITIES

Alabama Power Co. (Business) ..... 888-430-5787  
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## The Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors



are the  of the Chamber...

Our ambassadors include: Cathy Ackerman (First Financial Bank), Sarah Beasley (Joe Beasley Memorial Foundation), Sarah Belcher (Retired), Tamala Briggins (Oak Trace Care & Rehabilitation Center), Lori Chisem (Lawson State Community College), Sebrena Davis (Salvation Army Bessemer), Akilih Haley (Lawson State Community College), Denise Jackson (New Jerusalem Baptist Church), Donna King (D & K Lawncare), Danielle Matthews (Matthews & Associates), Claire Mitchell (Retired), Daryl Owens (New Jerusalem Baptist Church), Minnie Roper (Retired), Andie Sloan (Comfort Care Home Health & Hospice), Dorian Waluyn (Lawson State Community College), Anna Wooten (First Financial Bank)

*Ambassadors assist in promoting the plans and events set by the staff and board of directors. They are the public relation arm for Bessemer's business community.*



*Recognizing over 80 years of combined dedication to Bessemer*



For more information about the ambassador program, please visit [www.bessemerchamber.com](http://www.bessemerchamber.com)

**Bessemer City Hall**  
 1700 Third Avenue N., Bessemer, AL 35020  
 PH 205.424.4060  
 info@bessemeral.org · www.bessemeral.org



*Honorable Mayor*  
 Kenneth E. Gulley

**The City of Bessemer's  
 Mission Statement**

The City of Bessemer provides service oriented, responsible government, consistent with the community's values, priorities and expectations for a high quality of life, enhancing the City's fiscal health, providing professional and innovative services, and managing the City's resources while planning for the future.

*City Council*



Jarvis Collier  
 District 1



Kimberly Alexander  
 District 2



Cynthia Donald  
 District 3



LaTricia Crusoe  
 District 7



Donna Thigpen  
 District 4



Ron Marshall  
 District 5



Jesse Matthews  
 District 6

*Bessemer City  
 Board of Education*

District 1 – Amos Rembert, District 2 – Vera Eades, District 3 – Renna' Soles Scott, District 4 – Sam Morris, District 5 – Jerome Cook, District 6 – Remeka Thompson, District 7 – Lee Jones

1621 Fifth Avenue North, Bessemer  
 205-432-3000



*Area Elected Officials*

Senator Priscilla Dunn  
 Representative Louise Alexander  
 Representative Allen Farley  
 Jefferson Co. Comm. Jimmie Stephens  
 Jefferson Co. Comm. Sheila Tyson  
 Jeff. Co., Bess. D.A. Lynneice O. Washington  
 Jefferson Co. Sheriff Mark Pettway  
 Jeff. Co., Bess. Deputy Treasurer Sherry McClain  
 Jeff. Co., Bess. Tax Assessor Charles Winston  
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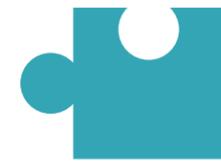
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# WORKING TOGETHER WORKS



The success of a city depends on important entities working together for the continual development and advancement of the city and its citizens. The City of Bessemer, the Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce, the Bessemer Board of Education, and the faith-based community are four major components that contribute to Bessemer's achievements. These entities operate collectively around the clock to bring businesses, revenue, and families to the Marvel City of Bessemer. Let us take a more in-depth look at these entities and the individuals leading these organizations to see how each work hand in hand with the other, because after all, working together works!



## MAYOR KENNETH GULLEY

CITY OF BESSEMER

The governing entity that is the City of Bessemer continues to work diligently to enrich and expand our communities. Citizens look to their elected officials to ensure that their city continues to improve socially, structurally, and economically. As the lead entity, the City of Bessemer is responsible for making sure that all other entities are properly equipped, resulting in the Marvel City's continuous progress and success.

### WHAT ARE THE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MAYOR?

The primary job of the mayor is to ensure the health and safety of the citizens of the city where you are elected to serve. The job of the mayor is to make sure the city is financially solvent. The mayor is also responsible for the day-to-day operations of city government. As mayor, I serve as the face of the city of Bessemer. I serve as an ambassador of Bessemer in meetings with elected officials at the local, state and national level and in dealings with business and industry leaders.

### HOW DID YOU COME TO HOLD THE POSITION OF MAYOR IN THE CITY OF BESSEMER?

Bessemer is a special place with so much to offer. I worked for seven years under former Mayor Quitman Mitchell as his assistant. It was during those years that I developed a passion and love for Bessemer. I worked for Lawson State when my time with Mayor Mitchell ended in 2002, but I remained involved in the city. I had grown dissatisfied with the direction of Bessemer when I decided to run for mayor in 2010. After much prayer and contemplation, I decided that rather than sit around and complain about the things taking place in Bessemer at the time, I would offer myself as a candidate for mayor. I wanted to see if I couldn't do things to improve the conditions in this city.

### HOW DOES THE MAYOR PARTNER WITH OTHER ENTITIES WITHIN THE CITY (BESSEMER AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, BESSEMER BOARD OF EDUCATION, FAITH-BASED COMMUNITY) TO ENSURE BESSEMER CONTINUES TO GROW AND PROSPER?

It is imperative for the Office of Mayor to partner with other entities to move our city forward. No one person or entity can accomplish anything of any significance alone. The faith-based community is a crucial part of any city because it spiritually nurtures the community. I

appreciate the work of the pastors in Bessemer and the support they have given my administration these past 10 years. Their kind words and prayers have meant a lot, especially during some of those dark early days. The contributions of our faith-based community have been vital to the successes we have enjoyed in this city. A healthy chamber of commerce is a must in any growing community. The business community is responsible for the majority of a city's resources. Successful businesses and the marketing of those businesses contribute to a livable city. A healthy business environment encourages other businesses to locate or relocate in your city. As a previous chairman of the board of the Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce, I realize how impor-



tant it is for the Mayor's Office, the city and the chamber of commerce to work together in order to attract businesses and meet the needs of the business community already present in our city. A successful chamber of commerce that works together with the city will always yield great rewards. In order for Bessemer, or any city, to reach its true potential, the mayor and city council must be able to foster a working relationship. We each have established roles we play. A mayor and city council may not always

agree, but you can agree to respectfully disagree in order to do what is in the best interest of the residents of Bessemer. The education of our children is paramount. The most successful cities around this country are those where there is a strong relationship between city hall and the board of education. The educational system is one of the single-most important components to a city's progress. Parents with school-age children are the lifeblood of any city. We are committed to the success of our school system. I have always maintained an open line of communication with our superintendent and board of education during my administration.

### WHAT CITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF DURING YOUR TENURE AS MAYOR?

I am thankful to God that this city has had many successes over the past decade. These successes have truly been a testament to what can happen when individuals lay their differences aside and do what is in the best interest of the citizens. I am extremely proud of the recruiting of industry such as Dollar General, Milo's, BLOX and Amazon and



many more over these past 10 years. Bessemer has really emerged as an economic powerhouse in this region. The recruitment of major industry has allowed us to attract small businesses into our city and create some 5,000 new jobs. Being gainfully employed helps our citizens be successful, thereby creating a successful city. I am tremendously proud of the construction of the city's first-ever youth and senior recreation center. This is the first such center in this city's 133-year history. A recreation center had been promised to the citizens of Bessemer for decades. We were most proud to finally deliver on the promise. The recreation center right now has a membership of over 12,000. Our new city hall is another major accomplishment. Our previous City Hall had outlived its purpose and was not indicative of the new direction of Bessemer. This new facility is one our citizens and employees can be proud of for years to come. I am equally proud of the equipment



upgrades we have made across our city departments to better serve the citizens and business community. We have invested in our employees. We have secured millions in federal and state grants to improve conditions in Bessemer. All of these things have made a tremendous difference as we move Bessemer forward. There is still work to be done, but Bessemer is moving in a positive direction.

### WHAT ARE SOME CHALLENGES AND REWARDS OF BEING THE MAYOR OF BESSEMER?

The challenges are always fighting crime and the criminal element in our city. Again, these are things city hall can't do alone. It takes the assistance of our residents to make our city safer. I have always harped on the need for our city to be cleaner. I continue to ask our citizens to join us in this effort to keep our city clean. •

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# PRESIDENT LATASHA COOK WILLIAMS, IOM

BESSEMER AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit organization that recruits and supports businesses within the city, bringing them together to develop relationships that not only benefit the business community, but the city of Bessemer overall. The chamber encourages and nurtures an environment where businesses and professionals create positive relationships amongst each other, while providing opportunities to get involved and improve our community.

## WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE BACOC?

The purpose of the BACOC is to create, promote, and enhance the business community throughout the Bessemer area. The Chamber of commerce plays a vital role by rendering useful services to the business community. Most of those services are creating a networking atmosphere for the businesses and assisting businesses in building strong lasting relationships. The Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce understands that



“Working Together Works”. It is important that entities such as local municipalities, the faith-based community, the board of education, and the chamber work together to build a strong foundation for its city to thrive. Each entity must fulfil their role and include the other entities to see astronomical results. The chamber role is to maintain a working relationship and provide a networking atmosphere for these entities. A representative from each of these entities works closely with the chamber by giving input in the chamber of commerce strategic planning. The chamber then in return should have input and support the other entities goals that are directed to enhance The Marvel City. The chamber of commerce aims to promote the city’s economic interest. It is important that the chamber of commerce continue to recruit and promote tourism throughout the city of Bes-

semer. You can find the Marvel City of Bessemer displayed on social media, billboards, in magazines, on promotional items and at conferences throughout the United States. Annually a magazine is created to display the marvelous things that make Bessemer, The Marvel City. This magazine is distributed throughout the U.S.

## HOW DOES THE BACOC PARTNER WITH OTHER ENTITIES WITHIN THE CITY (CITY OF BESSEMER, BESSEMER BOARD OF EDUCATION, FAITH-BASED COMMUNITY) TO CONTINUE BRINGING BUSINESSES AND REVENUE TO BESSEMER?

The chamber continues to work closely with the mayor and Bessemer city councilors to recruit new businesses, maintain businesses, and make Bessemer a great place to live, work and conduct business. Networking events are planned that allow businesses to engage with the community. Chamber members desire to have an avenue

that reaches the community, and the faith-based leaders are the key to the community. A representative from the faith-based community serves on the board of directors and assists the chamber in maintaining a good working relationship with local faith-based leaders. Annually we partner with the faith-based leaders in hosting the City of Bessemer’s National Day of Prayer program. The BACOC works closely with the board of education. Education is important for the social development and economic growth in the Marvel City of Bessemer. The critical role education plays in our economic success has become more and more apparent. Good, strong school systems encourage people to settle in our region because industries are more apt to locate in areas that are attractive to potential employees. The BACOC’s board of directors serve as

mentors for schools within our system. The chamber also supports area students and teachers with the Ora H. Foster Community Service Scholarship, back to school supplies and a “Teacher of the Year” presentation with recognition and gifts for the recipient at each school. There is immense power when a group of people with similar interests get together to work for a common good; these words define the leaders here in the city of Bessemer. We will continue to enforce our theme of “Working Together Works” as we continue the partnership to make Bessemer a city that continues to reach its full potential.

## HOW DID YOU COME TO HOLD THE POSITION OF BACOC PRESIDENT?

I began my work with the chamber in 1992 as a senior in high school working as a CO-OPT student with the TOPS program which was under the leadership of now Senator Priscilla Dunn. I have worked every staff position within the Bessemer Chamber over the span of 28 years! I attended the U.S. Chamber Institute for Organizational Management (IOM) in 2005 where I received my IOM Certification from the University of Georgia. I was named BACOC President in 2014. I currently serve on the executive committee for the Chamber of Commerce Association of Alabama (CCAA) and on the board of directors with the Clay House and the American Red Cross. As President, I have initiated several successful programs such as the Taste of Bessemer

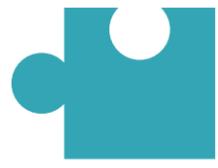
and Business Expo, The National Day of Prayer program, The City of Bessemer’s Pink and Purple Parade in honor of Breast Cancer and Domestic Violence, along with many others. Under my leadership,



The BACOC will continue to strengthen business and community ties, boost the local economy, and create professional relationships.

## WHAT IS THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING A WELL-FUNDED AND SUPPORTED CHAMBER?

For a chamber of commerce to work at its full potential, it must be well funded and supported by city government, businesses, and the community. Funding and partnerships allow the chamber to be a strong advocate for the business community. It is a domino effect: a well supported chamber will have the resources to advertise, promote, and create networking opportunities for business growth. Business growth would mean more jobs, customers, and tax dollars for the city. The increase in tax dollars means community enhancement. Community enhancement means a better quality of life for residents and families. The better quality of life residents and families experience sets the foundation for our children to receive an excellence education. The chamber of commerce is the entity that is necessary to bridge the gap in creating a strong united business community. •



# DR. AUTUMM JETER, SUPERINTENDENT

BESSEMER BOARD OF EDUCATION

A successful school system is one of the major factors that entices families to want to relocate to another area. At the Bessemer Board of Education, the superintendent and the board members understand the significance of investing in not only the students, but families as a whole. The education students receive is designed to equip them to be successful in their communities and beyond Bessemer's city limits.

discussed how the local churches and ministers could continue their support of the school district through mentorship, where ministers would come into our schools during certain times of the year to speak with students who have been identified as "at-risk" children based on grades, behavior, etc. and hopefully provide whatever assistance is needed for the child. The faith-based community has been particularly helpful during the COVID-19 pandemic, providing meals while meeting other various needs of those in the community. Some churches came out to help pack food and serve breakfast, lunch, and dinner meals. The partnership between the Bessemer Board of Education and BACOC is especially important because it allows the schools to connect and build a relationship with the businesses in the community and vice versa. We provide updates to keep the business community aware of what is going on in the school system. Business leaders may hear of initiatives that the district is working on and may want to partner with us either in person or financially. When the schools are doing well, the city does well. We all work together for the betterment of the city as a whole.

## WHAT ARE THE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF A SUPERINTENDENT?

A superintendent is responsible for overseeing the school district and all things related to the school district, to include supervising all school principals as well as their staff, the teaching and learning of students, the safety and security of students and personnel, and finances to name a few. The superintendent is the face of the school district and represents their school district on a local, state, and national level. The best school districts consist of board members and superintendents who work well together. The board members hire the superintendent, with both sides ultimately partnering to push the initiatives and mandates voted upon in the best interest of the students above all else. While the superintendent is in charge of the district, the board member's purpose is to provide approvals and policy work in various areas. Anything done within the school system such as the choosing of a curriculum, potential employees, etc. is brought before the board members. This allows them to hear more information about the topic at hand before making their final decision.



## HOW DID YOU COME TO HOLD THE POSITION OF SUPERINTENDENT IN THE CITY OF BESSEMER?

I have worked as an educator for 20 years, with 15 years as an administrator. I earned my Bachelor of Arts degree in education from Talladega College and my Master of Science in education from the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB). I have also received my Educational Administrator certification, Education Specialist degree, and my Doctor of Education degree from Samford University. I started my teaching career as a middle school teacher, eventually serving as principal here in Alabama. I served as the director of curriculum and instruction for Hoover City Schools before coming to Bessemer City schools. I was told that there was a superintendent position opening up in Bessemer, and after taking time to pray and talk it over with my family, I decided to apply for the position. I knew of Bessemer because I grew up not too far away in Fairfield. I knew of some of Bessemer's struggles and successes and felt that I could impact the area in a positive way.

## HOW DOES THE SUPERINTENDENT PARTNER WITH OTHER ENTITIES WITHIN THE CITY? (THE CITY OF BESSEMER, BESSEMER AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, FAITH-BASED COMMUNITY?)

Every entity in the city is connected in some way. The city council provides funding and donations that are used for the day to day needs of the school district. My initial interactions with the faith-based community happened by way of the Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce. I was invited to meet with the chamber's Minister's Committee, and we



## WHAT ARE SOME OF THE REWARDS AND CHALLENGES OF BEING THE SUPERINTENDENT?

One of the rewards of being superintendent is working with a bigger spectrum than just the small school population. Before coming to Bessemer, I was an elementary school principal and then a director, so as the superintendent, I get to connect with people within the community, the parents in all of my schools, and other agencies that could be of benefit to our school system. I get to help make decisions that are best for our children and their futures. It is also rewarding when our school system receives positive PR; it helps others to realize all of the great things that are happening here in Bessemer. In spite of what people may hear on the news, there are really great things happening in our school system. Another reward would be having the opportunity to grow leaders! Even though I sit in this position, I have to remember that there are others that one day hopefully will want to become principals, directors, and superintendents. That is a part of my job as well, helping to grow them into the next future leaders of our schools. It goes without saying that one of the biggest challenges is that we cannot please everyone. This is particularly difficult because we want everyone to know how much they are valued and how much their opinions and views matter in Bessemer City Schools, but it is impossible to do what everyone wants me to do. I would not necessarily consider this a challenge, but we are continuing to get all those involved in the learning process to understand the value of education. We want our children to receive the best education possible, so we

need to instill in our teachers, students, and parents what it takes to have a stellar school system. That is something that we are working on with our motto, "Reimage Bessemer City Schools." We are making sure employees understand what it takes to be strong teachers and provide a rigorous academic instruction for our students. We're also making sure that our parents understand what it takes for their student(s) to be successful. It should not be school/teachers against parents; we truly have to work together!

## WHAT IS THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING THE SUPERINTENDENT ON BOTH A PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL LEVEL?

Personally, I never knew I wanted to be a superintendent; I always wanted to be a teacher! But as I got into education, in every position I was blessed to receive, I realized that I could do more. When I was a teacher, my leaders saw something in me that I did not recognize I possessed. I was brought on to shadow them to one day be an assistant principal. Once I achieved that, I realized that I could expand myself to do even more and became a principal. After all of my years as a principal, I knew that I had what it took to lead a school district and make a difference in the lives of those in the community. Professionally, there are people that look up to me for various reasons, and for some, when they see others who look like them doing something that they have a desire to do, it empowers them to do more to pursue their true goals. Hopefully, I can be a role model to someone who is on the path to one day become a superintendent! •

# FAITH-BASED COMMUNITY

The church is a particularly important pillar within any community, not only teaching and educating their respective congregations, but also acting as an advocate and a place of refuge for those in the community. Churches open their doors to the community daily, providing an array

of programs and services to fit the demands of those in need. Pastors Dr. Reginald Calvert and George M. Matthews II and their churches are two of many that have been a tremendous blessing to the Bessemer community.

## PASTOR REGINALD CALVERT NEW JERUSALEM MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

### GIVE AN OVERVIEW OF YOURSELF AND YOUR CHURCH.

I have served as pastor of New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church since 1999. During that time, I led the church with excellence and integrity and sought to gain a deeper knowledge of the Bible and practical

ministry. I obtained a Master of Divinity degree and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Beeson Divinity School of Samford University. While attending Beeson Divinity School, I was selected by the faculty as the Outstanding Student Preacher, and I was also chosen by the dean and the faculty of Beeson as the M.Div. Distinguished Alumnus of the Year. I have served and continue to serve on various committees at Beeson Divinity School and Samford University, such as, the Beeson Braintrust Committee, the Beeson Alumni Advisory Committee, the Samford Black Alumni Association, and the Robert Smith, Jr. Scholarship Committee. The Lord has equipped me to serve the congregants of New Jerusalem in both theology and practice. During my tenure, I sought to further the spiritual, educational, physical, social, and psychological needs of the church and community through preaching, teaching, ministry, and evangelism. Under my leadership and through the vision that God has given me, numerous administrative and physical improvements have been implemented, and several new and innovative ministries have been established for the spiritual, physical, and social growth of the congregation. My motto as pastor, servant, preacher, teacher, administrator, and overseer of the church has been



“Follow me, as I follow Christ.” In addition, I previously served as Dean of the Mount Pilgrim District Congress of Christian Education, and as a Certified Instructor for the district and state Congresses of Christian Education. I serve as an adjunct faculty member with Huntsville Bible

College and have served as an adjunct faculty member with Anderson University of Anderson, South Carolina. I have been invited on numerous occasions to lecture at Beeson Divinity School of Samford University. I also have lectured and preached for conferences of the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A. and the Southern Baptist Convention. Organized in 1890, New Jerusalem is a historic church within the Bessemer community, and has continuously sought to meet the spiritual needs of generations of families throughout its existence. It has grown from a stone building on the corner of 10th Avenue North and 24th Street North, to its current sanctuary and educational building constructed in 1980, to its more recent multi-purpose

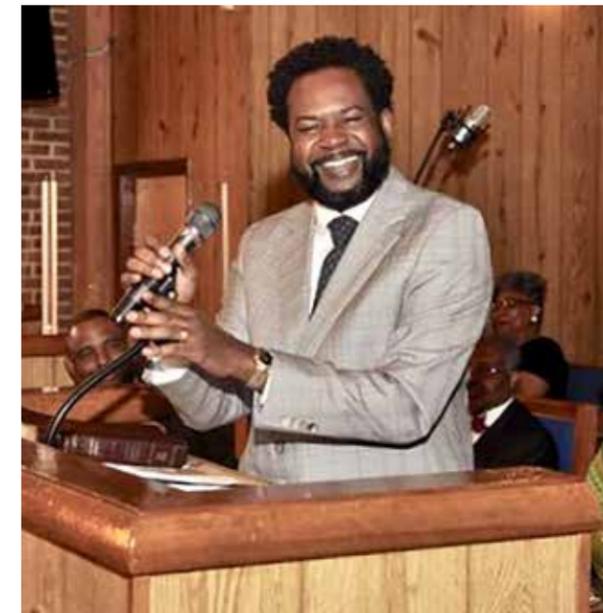
Family Life Center for Christian Education and Holistic Ministry constructed in 2009. Its motto is “A Christ Honoring Church Reaching the Lost and Training the Saved to Serve.” Its mission is to share the gospel of Jesus Christ for the purpose of transformation, building a community of committed and unified believers to evangelize the world to Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, thereby bringing glory to God. It seeks to accomplish that motto through conversion, commitment, community, and commission.

### WHAT ROLE DOES THE CHURCH PLAY WITHIN THE COMMUNITY?

The church plays a highly important role within the community. In Matt. 28:19, Jesus commanded the disciples to “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.” The church not only must meet the spiritual needs of the community, but it also must address the mental, physical, and social needs of the community. It, therefore, must have a holistic approach to ministry by being concerned about the well-being of the whole person.

### HOW SHOULD THE FAITH-BASED COMMUNITY PARTNER WITH OTHER MAJOR ENTITIES WITHIN THE CITY (CITY OF BESSEMER, BOARD OF EDUCATION, AND BESSEMER AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE) FOR THE BETTERMENT OF BESSEMER OVERALL?

The faith-based community should partner with other entities within the city for the betterment of Bessemer overall. We are called to minister to others not only within the four walls of the church, but also beyond the walls of the church and into the larger community within which we are located and beyond. Recognizing the value of partnering with the community, I currently serve on the following board within Bessemer and the larger community: the Bessemer Chamber of Commerce (chair of the minister’s division). As chair of the minister’s division of the Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce, I have organized and facilitated discussions between local pastors and Bessemer school superintendents. Under my leadership, the church has partnered with local government, and the Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce to make a difference in the lives of the citizens of Bessemer. As such, the church has supported various entities in tangible ways, such as through allowing council district meetings and community outreach functions to be held at the church, and by supporting the chamber through an annual membership commitment and support of various programs such as the back-to-school back pack drive, the Taste of Bessemer, and the annual chamber gala. In this manner, the church has embraced the needs of the larger community.

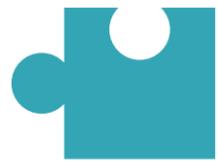


### WHAT IS THE IMPORTANCE OF CHURCHES BEING ACTIVE IN THE COMMUNITY? WHAT COMMUNITY PROGRAMS/SERVICES/ACTIVITIES ARE AVAILABLE AT YOUR CHURCH?

The church must be visible in the community to the point that if the church were no longer in the community, the community would know the difference. That’s how much of an impact the church should make in the community. Over the years, during my tenure as pastor, New Jerusalem Baptist Church has offered the following programs as a service not only to the church, but to the larger community that it serves:

- Community Facebook Forum on the Census and absentee voting
- Community Brothers Let’s Talk seminars dealing with psychological and social issues affecting African American men
- Venue for Economic Development programs/seminars held by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority (addressing various consumer and financial issues)
- Community seminars on Coping with Grief
- Financial literacy and empowerment classes
- Golden Years Ministry Outreach for Senior Citizens in the church

- and community
- Domestic Violence Awareness/Prevention Programs
- Breast Cancer Awareness Programs
- Angel Tree Ministry of Prison Fellowship
- Go Red for Women’s Heart Month (bringing awareness about women’s heart health issues)
- MotherWalk to support ovarian cancer awareness
- Various outreach projects for Children’s Village (drives for clothing, coats, cleaning supplies)
- Voter Registration Drives
- Health fairs and educational lectures on exercise and health issues
- Community Fellowship & Appreciation Program for First Responders and Elected Officials
- Food for the Soul ministry outreach to sick and shut-in persons in the church and community •



# PASTOR GEORGE MATTHEWS II

NEW LIFE INTERFAITH MINISTRIES

## GIVE AN OVERVIEW OF YOURSELF AND YOUR CHURCH.

My name is George M. Matthews II, and I am married to Judith C. Matthews. We are the parents of Oscar, George III, & Brianna and grandparents to Jordyn & Owen. I am the Senior Pastor of New Life Interfaith Ministries, Inc., 1600 8th Avenue North, Bessemer, AL 35020, and Calvary Resurrection Christian Church, 356 Killough Springs Road, Birmingham, AL 35215; both churches are affiliates of the Creflo Dollar Ministerial Association, headquartered in College Park, GA. The mantra of a local fellowship is driven by the convictions and ideologies of the Senior Leader. Reciprocally, my central mindset is that of creating a healthy, emerging, and accurate awareness of the ability of God, demonstrated through those yielded to Him to positively change the home, community, and world; consequently, reflecting heaven on earth. It is believed that every authentic “church”, derived from the New Testament Greek word “Ekklesia”, is defined as those who are called out, by the New Birth, from the common secular system(s) into the kingdom of God - appointed to impact the world spiritually and economically.



## WHAT ROLE DOES THE CHURCH PLAY WITHIN THE COMMUNITY?

I believe that the church is the pivotal voice of the community, reflecting God’s intervention; providing accurate and effective solutions to the problems that plague society. In that respect, the church should set the barometer of the mindset for correct relationships (home/family, racially, interpersonally, educationally, financially, and in every other imaginable aspect).

## HOW SHOULD THE FAITH-BASED COMMUNITY PARTNER WITH OTHER MAJOR ENTITIES WITHIN THE CITY (CITY OF BESSEMER, BOARD OF EDUCATION, AND BESSEMER AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE) FOR THE BETTERMENT OF BESSEMER OVERALL?

I believe that “all politics are local”, and further, that all city entities, whether directly or indirectly, immediately or futuristically, affect all people indiscriminately; therefore, whatever pervades, touching the ethos of people, to that same degree, the church should be involved, without reservation or restriction.

## WHAT IS THE IMPORTANCE OF CHURCHES BEING ACTIVE IN THE COMMUNITY? WHAT COMMUNITY PROGRAMS/SERVICES/ACTIVITIES ARE AVAILABLE AT YOUR CHURCH?

The church of God, in its most organic sense, is made up of persons who have, in a sense, “dual citizenship”. By that, we understand that as long as we are alive and live in the physical, ethereal world, we have expected responsibilities to our humanity, (working, rearing family, maintaining health, recreation, etc.). Along with these natural commitments, many have been, as mentioned earlier, “born from above” into a spiritual, intangible Kingdom

which has tenants for its propagation, as does the tangible world and society. It becomes of critical mass that the church is relevant in teaching, training, and modeling the proper engagement with both realms of existence. People should, through the church’s involvement in their lives, become successful, innovative, and conclusive in every hue of life’s challenges. Some of the programs of The New Life Church include:



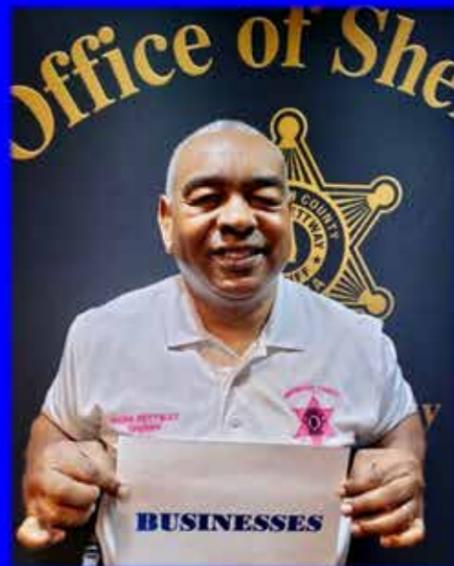
- The Learning Center at New Life – Preschool (6 months –Pre-K 4)
- New Life Christian School of Excellence – Kindergarten – Grade 5
- Ignite After School Program – Daily homework assistance, recreation, and student interrelations are provided
- New Direction Summer Camp – A 10-week program which includes breakfast & lunch, educational component, and classroom activities; community professionals are invited as guest presenters, daily recreation, trips, etc.
- Breaking Bread Feeding Program & Fellowship – Monthly free food supplied to community residents
- All church services are televised and offered on all social media formats, currently offered free of charge 6 days weekly.



- “The Silence of Our Friends” is a weekly podcast offering, designed to address the social ills of the community largely affecting people of color across our world, outside of the typical “church” format.
- Sponsored various Political Forums, where local residents have the opportunity to meet candidates, hear platforms, ask questions, and learn more about the political process.

Some of the programs of The Calvary Resurrection Church (Founded by former pastors Gary & Linda Whitt) include:

- The Calvary Resurrection Christian Academy – Pre-K 2 – Grade 5
- After Care Program - Daily homework assistance, recreation, and student interrelations are provided •



# Buy Bessemer Campaign

## Alabama Adventure and Splash Adventure

Alabama's largest amusement and water parks are located right here in Bessemer! The Alabama Adventure Amusement Park and Splash Adventure Water Park is a family owned business whose focus is to provide a fantastic, quality family experience for the community. Since 2014, the Koch (pronounced "Cook") family has worked hard to restore the parks, upgrading rides and providing amenities such as free parking, free soft drinks, free tubes and life jackets plus many more for the families that visit every summer to enjoy! Alabama Adventure and Splash Adventure is sure to offer large amusement park quality while maintaining local values during the months of May through September. Located minutes from Birmingham where I-20/59 meets I-459 at exit 10, plan your next trip today!

Alabama Adventure and Splash Adventure  
4599 Alabama Adventure Pkwy, Bessemer, AL 35022  
PH: 205-481-4750  
AlabamaSplash.com

## Bessemer Hall of History

The Bessemer Hall of History is our very own local museum completely dedicated to telling Bessemer's story! Started by the Bessemer Jr. Service League in 1970, the Hall of History moved to its current location, a former train depot, in 1987. The train depot itself was built in 1916 and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Just to give you more of an idea of the amazing history sitting here in our backyard, the museum is home to the cell block door from the Jefferson County Jail where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was held after an arrest in 1967, as well as a typewriter from Hitler's Eagles Nest that draws visitors from around the world! For those looking for Bessemer's historic events, the Hall of History has digital newspapers that

date back to the late 1800's! Make plans with your family to visit and relive Bessemer's rich history through photographs, machinery, books and many more!

Bessemer Hall of History  
1905 Alabama Avenue., Bessemer, AL 35020  
PH: 205-426-1633  
www.bessemerhalloffhistory.org

## The Bright Star

One of Bessemer's greatest treasures is the oldest family owned restaurant in Alabama! The Bright Star is considered "Southern with a Greek flair", featuring "meat and three's" for lunch and steak and seafood at night! The Bright Star is known for their fresh, hand cut fish that is delivered fresh twice a week and a Greek-style steak that was voted the Best Steak in Alabama! They are also known for their seafood gumbo and pies that are homemade every morning! As an Alabama landmark, the Bright Star has maintained their original tile floors in the main hall since 1915 and have several booths named after Alabama greats such as Bear Bryant that can be requested for up to 4-8 people. With 3 generations having worked at the restaurant, the Bright Star prides themselves on providing excellent food and service in a family atmosphere!

The Bright Star Restaurant  
304 19th Street N., Bessemer, AL 35020  
PH: 205-424-9444  
www.thebrightstar.com

## Bessemer Municipal Airport

The city of Bessemer has hosted a general aviation airport for over 70 years! The Bessemer Municipal Airport operates as a public-use, business friendly airport with a dedication to serving the Executive



and General Aviation community. The Bessemer Airport is owned by the City of Bessemer and is operated by the Bessemer Airport Authority. By its physical existence, the Bessemer Municipal Airport is a unique and highly valued asset for the city of Bessemer and houses over 100 aircrafts, has approximately 214K sq. ft. of hangar space and approximately 14 acres of ramp space for aircraft parking. The Bessemer Municipal Airport is much more than just the physical infrastructure of the airport. A complete view will show 20 businesses/entities conducting their operations here daily. The airport supports multiple businesses based in Bessemer, Jefferson County and central Alabama as they travel throughout the country to conduct and expand their businesses; the same is true vice versa, with countless business executives from across the US travelling to these areas to expand and manage their businesses. The airport also supports an array of leisure travel such as family visits, weddings, and a wide range of sporting events, to and from central Alabama. Conveniently located near Interstate 459, the airport serves as an important role in Bessemer's economic development and is cleverly considered "Bessemer's Gateway to the World".

**Bessemer Municipal Airport**  
 900 Mitchell Field Road, Bessemer, AL 35022  
 PH: 205-428-9292  
[www.bessemerairportauthority.com](http://www.bessemerairportauthority.com)  
[www.facebook.com/FlyEKY](https://www.facebook.com/FlyEKY)

### The Back Porch

The Back Porch is a full-service restaurant and catering service that offers an executive chef-prepared menu and high-quality products with consumer-based pricing! Chef Ron is an award-winning chef with over 25 years of experience in the culinary industry and features on Fox6 Good Day Alabama and newspapers throughout West Jefferson County. Located in downtown Bessemer, The Back Porch provides a variety of soul food, as well as specialty dishes from time to time. The great food, customer service, and smiles are sure to keep customers coming back!

**The Back Porch Restaurant**  
 1924 1st Avenue N., Bessemer, AL 35020  
 PH: 205-760-5035

### The Christian Bookstore & More

The Christian Bookstore and More is one of three black-owned land-based Christian bookstores in Jefferson County! Located on 19th Street, The Christian Bookstore and More offers Sunday school literature, Bibles and other books, communion supplies, J&L Candle products and information about vacation Bible school! They also offer services such as Bible engraving, piano lessons, book signings, and book club meetings. With an assortment of products and services, check out the Christian Bookstore and More today!

**The Christian Bookstore & More**  
 618 19th Street N., Bessemer, AL 35020  
 PH: 205-436-2333  
[www.thechristianbookstore.net](http://www.thechristianbookstore.net)

### Good Health to be Hail

Good Health to be Hail is Bessemer's own Holistic Wellness Center that features Alabama's 1st fully Raw Vegan café and juice bar. Located in downtown Bessemer, the husband and wife duo offers an abundance of vegan resources that includes plant based vegan meal preparation services, a networking center, and plant based conversion consultations; Good Health's products and services also include vitamins and supplements and consultations in how to eat, exercise and relieve stress. Good Health to be Hail has just what you need to begin or continue your vegan journey!

**Good Health To Be Hail**  
 1920 8th Avenue N., Bessemer, AL 35020  
 PH: 205-277-2810

### Simmons Sporting Goods

Simmons Sporting Goods is a family owned business that has been in downtown Bessemer since 1945. One of the largest hunting and fishing stores in the state, Simmons carries a full line of firearms. From deer hunting to personal defense or sporting clays to muzzle loaders. They also carry one of the largest selections of reloading equipment around! Simmons comes equipped with a fishing department that is unmatched in name brand bass fishing gear and a clothing department that can fit your every need. From camo outfitting to casual everyday

wear, work clothing to boutique dresses, Simmons is the place to shop for any occasion! Their knowledgeable sales staff has a combined total of over 500 years of serving the outdoor community in the hunting and fishing world. Simmons Sporting Goods is sure to provide valuable information along with excellent products and service!

**Simmons Sporting Goods**  
 2001 2nd Avenue N., Bessemer, AL 35020  
 PH: 205-425-4720

### United Textiles

United Textiles is a family owned home décor outlet that specializes in fine fabrics, window treatments, furniture, decorative lamps, and mattresses. United Textiles has the South's largest selection of area rugs, curtains, drapery, and upholstery fabric. The 50k sq. ft. showroom is constantly changing with new styles and colors in all products to include bedspreads and comforters, mirrors, framed art, table linen, and more! Visit United Textiles, where professional decorating specialists are ready to help today!

**United Textiles**  
 1917 2nd Avenue N., Bessemer, AL 35020  
 PH: 205-428-6208  
[www.unitedtextileshome.com](http://www.unitedtextileshome.com)



## The Back Porch Restaurant & Catering

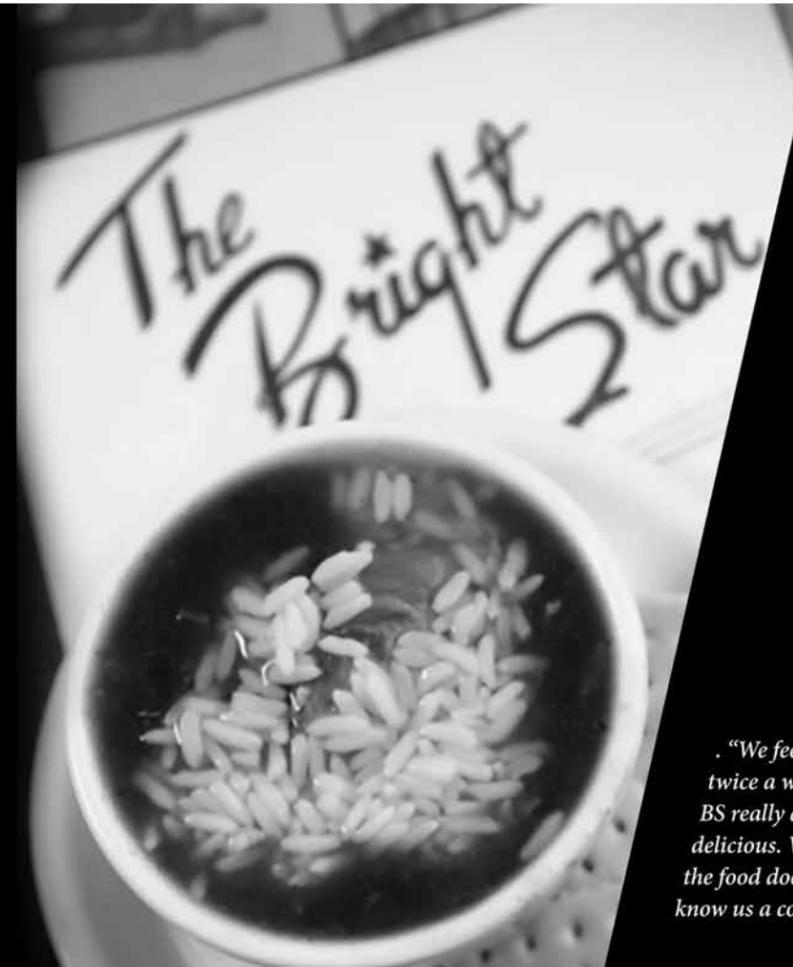
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*“We feel like the Bright Star is an extension of our home. We eat there at least twice a week and sometimes more. We're greeted warmly and made to feel like the BS really appreciates our business. The food is outstanding – always high quality and delicious. We can't wait to see what the specials are. We been all over the country and the food doesn't compare. The staff stays and that really says something today. They know us a come by to say hello. It's a totally good experience.”*

— David Johnson



## Tenderloin Beef Greek Style

Servings:4

### INGREDIENTS

- 4 9-10 ounces tenderloins cleaned and butterflied
- 2 cups olive oil
- 4 ounces lemon juice
- 2 tablespoons garlic
- 2 teaspoons oregano
- 6 ounces butter
- Salt and pepper to taste

### MARINADE

Combine the olive oil, 3 ounces of lemon juice, 1½ tablespoon garlic, 1 teaspoon oregano and salt and pepper to taste. Place tenderloins in marinade for 2-3 hours.

### SAUCE FOR TOPPING

Melt the butter, add the remaining garlic, lemon juice and oregano. Mix thoroughly. Broil or Char-broil tenderloins to desired temperature. Transfer to serving plate and top with 2 ounces sauce.

*\*Recipe provided by The Bright Star Restaurant, Bessemer, Alabama*



## Thelma's Famous Oxtails

with a light brown gravy

*I dedicate this recipe to my mother Thelma who developed my passion for cooking.*  
Chef Ron

Prep: 15 min. Cooking time: 4 hrs Servings:6



### INGREDIENTS

- 3 pounds of beef oxtails
- 2 tablespoons garlic powder
- 1 tablespoon of onion powder
- 2 tablespoons seasoning salt
- 2 tablespoons pepper
- 3 tablespoons of dales seasoning
- 1 teaspoon bacon drippings
- 2 tablespoons flour
- Oxtail broth

### DIRECTIONS

Wash oxtails and place in a large stock pot. Fill with water enough to cover oxtails. Add the garlic and onion powder, seasoning salt, black pepper, and dales seasoning. Cover and boil on medium heat for 3 to 3 ½ hours, adding water to cover oxtails when necessary.

### BROWN GRAVY

Warm 1 teaspoon of bacon drippings in a skillet over medium heat. Stir in 2 tablespoons of flour and stir until flour browns. Add 1 cup of the broth from the oxtails, stir and let simmer until gravy thickens (*if gravy is too thick add more broth*). Once gravy has reached your desired thickening remove from heat.

Drain and place oxtails in skillet, coat with gravy. Return to stove and cook over medium-low heat for 10 minutes. Serve over rice or with your favorite side item.

*\*Recipe provided by Chef Ron /The Back Porch Restaurant, Bessemer, Alabama*

**THE BACK PORCH**  
Restaurant

1924 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue North  
Bessemer, AL 35020  
**(205) 760-5035**

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205-426-1400
- Bre's Restaurant and Catering LLC  
205-760-5731, 205-999-4790
- Bright Star Restaurant, The  
205-424-9444
- Datburgaplaste  
205-434-4852
- Gourmet Services - Mrs. Winner's @  
Lawson State Community College  
205-929-6318
- Gourmet Services - Yazz's Catfish Cabin @  
Lawson State Community College  
205-929-6318
- J Wings  
205-565-4555
- Marco's Pizza  
205-461-3450, 205-349-9890
- Sneaky Pete's  
205-424-4036
- Sonic of Bessemer  
205-428-2002
- Subway #3112  
205-425-7827
- The Back Porch  
205-230-3395, 205-760-5035
- The Seafood King - Bessemer  
205-434-3766
- Zatie's Southern Cuisine  
205-518-5559

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- Ranked as the #4 RN and #1 PN Programs

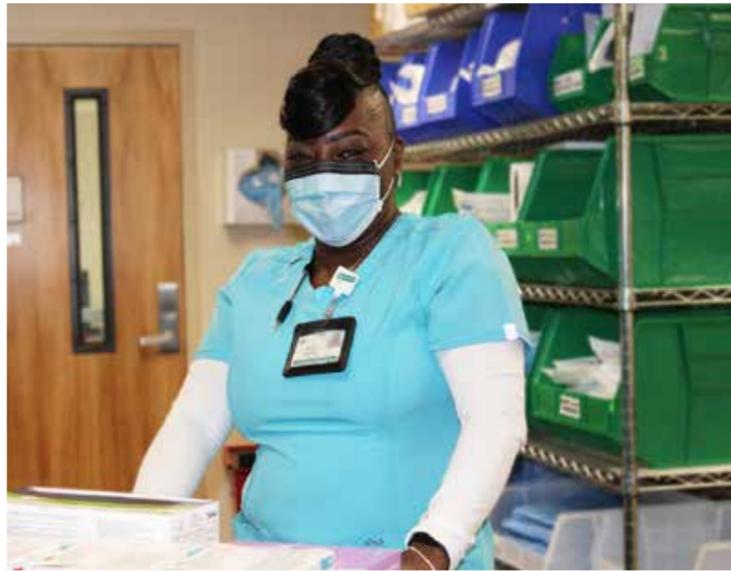
**(205) 925-2515**

FOR MORE INFORMATION: [WWW.LAWSONSTATE.EDU](http://WWW.LAWSONSTATE.EDU)  
DR. CYNTHIA T. ANTHONY, INTERIM PRESIDENT

# HEALTHCARE WORKERS KEEPING IT SAFE

The likelihood of a respiratory virus pandemic is a risk that has been identified for many years. Over the years, Medical West maintained their preparedness for such an event by conducting drills throughout the Jefferson County area. Each year Medical West assesses major risks to the health and well-being of the communities that they serve. They create a list of possible disasters and evaluate their readiness to respond. This assessment leads their efforts to improve staff knowledge and develop response plans. Medical West is a member of the Jefferson County Health Care Coalition which meets quarterly and coordinates activities between healthcare providers and the Emergency Management Operations Center. Medical West's first formal discussion regarding COVID-19 occurred during a daily leadership safety huddle on Monday, January 20, 2020 based on a CDC alert released on January 17. The hospital began to share daily situation updates and information about effective infection prevention, and within a week, Medical West facilities began screening patients for symptoms of illness and travel history. By the end of the month they encountered their first potential case at the Hueytown Health Center, confirming their first positive case by mid-March at the Freestanding Emergency Department in Hoover. "Beginning on March 16th when the State of Emergency was declared, our main issue was learning to be adaptable," says Cody King, Emergency Room Nurse Manager. "Changes were being announced several times a day, so our biggest challenge was communicating those

changes to staff. Each change would result in a revision to our current processes, all to keep our staff and patients as safe as possible. These immediate changes included screening in front of the Emergency Rooms, requiring temperature checks at all entrances of our hospital and health center locations, and implementing 'No Visitors' policies."



Medical West faced many challenges during the pandemic, all having been predicted through planning activities that included alternate plans for unanticipated events. Like many other hospitals, access to testing was one of their greatest challenges. Since this was essentially a new virus, the tests did not exist, and initial diagnosis was based on symptoms and risk factors. The CDC developed tests and began distributing limited numbers to the state health departments by early February. Testing capacity remained limited and as the number of cases increased, the time to get results increased as well. As commercial testing became available, access somewhat improved, and eventually Medical West and other organizations began providing community screenings to assist with local outbreaks. "The whole world was dealing with an unknown virus – not knowing exactly how it would spread and not knowing all of the signs and symptoms to look for – it was quite a challenge at the very beginning," says Sloan Caudle, ICU Nurse Manager. He continues, "We were just trying to keep everyone as safe as possible with the supplies we had on hand and trying to be as mindful as possible while using those sup-

plies, as the PPE shortages were one of the very first things that became apparent across the nation." The increased demand for masks, respirators, and other protective supplies was part of the plan. Medical West had prepared for restricted access to supplies, and in this situation, limited availability was due to factory closures in China. Predicting the potential for a shortage, Medical West sequestered supplies early, directed appropriate use to limit waste, and identified alternate suppliers. As a result, they were able to continue supplying the staff with the appropriate protective equipment throughout the pandemic. Recruiting staff, especially clinical positions, became a struggle throughout the community and the nation. Staff have been working under high volume, high stress circumstances for almost a year. Medical West did their best to continue building their workforce to allow staff to have adequate rest. They also implemented recruitment and retention activities to keep the workforce within our community.

Medical West and their healthcare partners provided expertise and support in several areas. They delivered supplies to local home health and hospice partners to ensure the staff entering homes had effective protective equipment and helped to ensure community services remained uninterrupted by testing essential workers in local govern-



ment and first responders following potential exposures. With the abundance of information available and constantly updating, Medical West's Marketing Team began using social media to promote accurate information about infection prevention and safe practices by sending consistent messaging about the importance of hand washing, social distancing and wearing face masks. While it is too early to really say what the long-term changes will be, the hospital's policies and operations have been significantly altered to promote safety for patients, staff, and visitors. Medical West operates 17 health centers in West Jefferson County including the cities of Bessemer, Vance, Tannehill, Hueytown and Hoover. Prior to COVID-19, the Medical West Health Centers did not provide telehealth services, but within the first week, our providers learned and implemented telehealth platforms to allow access to the greatest number of patients. This new technology will not totally replace traditional office visits but will provide an option for patients who are unable to travel or who may have contagious conditions. As the communities begin to recover, visitation policies will be re-evaluated to determine how to best protect patients and staff. "For the ICU especially, the No Visitor policy was one of the hardest adjustments for us, Sloan said. "When patients are sick, you want them to be able to see and talk

ment and first responders following potential exposures. With the abundance of information available and constantly updating, Medical West's Marketing Team began using social media to promote accurate information about infection prevention and safe practices by sending consistent messaging about the importance of hand washing, social distancing and wearing face masks. While it is too early to really say what the long-term changes will be, the hospital's policies and operations have been significantly altered to promote safety for patients, staff, and visitors. Medical West operates 17 health centers in West Jefferson County including the cities of Bessemer, Vance, Tannehill, Hueytown and Hoover. Prior to COVID-19, the Medical West Health Centers did not provide telehealth services, but within the first week, our providers learned and implemented telehealth platforms to allow access to the greatest number of patients. This new technology will not totally replace traditional office visits but will provide an option for patients who are unable to travel or who may have contagious conditions. As the communities begin to recover, visitation policies will be re-evaluated to determine how to best protect patients and staff. "For the ICU especially, the No Visitor policy was one of the hardest adjustments for us, Sloan said. "When patients are sick, you want them to be able to see and talk

to their loved ones. Our team of nurses knew this and frequently used their personal cell phones for patients to FaceTime their family members. If the patient was unable to FaceTime, we tried our best to communicate updates with the family as much as possible." When asked about how his staff is dealing with the long-term effects of the pandemic, Sloan states, "Overall, they have adapted. Our staff deals with the sickest of the sick patients daily. As a manager, my main goal is to just be visible and available for our staff whenever I am needed and letting them know that we are doing everything we can to protect them. Whether that's making sure they have the appropriate PPE, communicating with visitors or family members – anything I can do to take that stress off of them so they can focus on the most important part – taking care of the patient." Moving



forward, Dr. Michael Burch, Medical West Hospitalist, urged those in the community to continue to practice the appropriate safety precautions. "With flu season and the holidays quickly approaching, our main request is for people not to forget the importance of infection control by continuing to socially distance, wear your masks and wash your hands." Medical West CEO Keith Pennington says, "From the entire team at Medical West, we thank you for all of the support. You may not see our staff's reactions when they receive a letter, card, or a meal, but rest assured that it means the world to them; they are very appreciative. We look forward to continuing to serve the healthcare needs of our communities.

For more information on the current job openings at Medical West, please visit the career site at [www.medicalwesthospital.org/careers](http://www.medicalwesthospital.org/careers).

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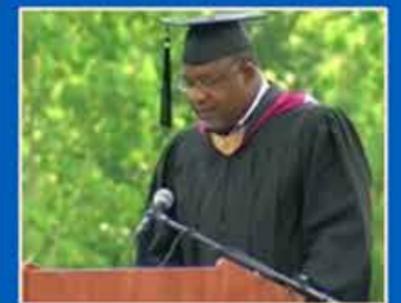


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# KEEPING IT SAFE COVID 19





# EARLY LEARNING

## in Bessemer City Schools

The Alabama Office of School Readiness defines school readiness as a condition whereby children enter school with:

- an enthusiasm for learning,
- an ability to function in a social setting,
- age-appropriate communication and problem solving skills,
- age-appropriate physical and emotional skills, and
- optimal health.
- get higher paying salaries as adults, and
- are more likely to stay out of prison and off welfare.

Bessemer City School System in collaboration with the Bessemer Community have made Early Learning one of four strategic goals.

Explore	Set Expectations	Create	Integrate	Implement	Evaluate	Refine
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### GOAL

#### Early Learning

We will focus on early assessment and intervention at the Pre-K through third grade levels to ensure early academic success.

### STRATEGY

#### Classroom Environment

“A preschool learning environment includes outside spaces, indoor places, and everything in between—toys, learning materials, wall

displays, and equipment. It also includes the children and adults who interact in these spaces. A well-planned environment reflects the culture, home language, and interests of all children and their families. The learning environment has an important impact on children’s efforts to build relationships, play and learn, eat, and rest.” (Cairone & Mackrain, pg.107) The social environment (schedules, responsibilities, expectations, and routines) works in tandem with the physical environment (materials, displays, learning areas, furniture, and maintenance) to create a positive and supportive learning community.

BESSEMER, ALABAMA SCHOOLS	
SCHOOL	PRINCIPAL
<b>Abrams Elementary</b> (205) 432-3100 or 432-3112 1200 23rd Street North, Bessemer, AL 35020 www.abramselementaryschool.com	<b>Mildred Posey</b>
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<b>Charles F. Hard Elementary</b> (205) 432-3300 2801 Arlington Ave., Bessemer, AL 35020 www.hard.bcse.schoolinsites.com	<b>Dr. Armentress Robinson</b>
<b>Greenwood Elementary</b> (205) 432-3200 5012 Roselyn Road, Bessemer, AL 35020 www.greenwood.bcse.schoolinsites.com	<b>Angela Bedgood</b>
<b>Bessemer City Middle School</b> 205-432-3600 1224 Clarendon Avenue, Bessemer, AL 35020 www.jadavismiddleschool.com	<b>Lisa Heard</b>
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Bessemer Board of Education • www.bessk12.org	

#### Classroom Community

A well-managed and inclusive classroom supports constructive and positive relationships, and discourages inappropriate behaviors. The goal is to help children develop self-regulation and autonomy. Creating this environment is a shared responsibility of the lead and auxiliary teacher, the director and all staff members (food service, custodial, special area teachers, volunteers, etc.) who work with the Pre-K child in the OSR classroom.

#### Building a Classroom Community

“Caring relationships are fostered through nurturing practices, and are the basis for building a safe, strong, and caring community in which everyone is accepted, secure, and ready to learn and have fun.” (Cairone & Mackrain, pg. B11)

#### Cooperation Among Teachers

#### Transitions

“When transitions are well planned and children are not expected to wait for long periods of time, which is something they are not yet developmentally ready to do, behaviors are more likely to be positive.” (Cairone & Mackrain, pg.96)

#### Discipline and Behavior Management (Developmentally Appropriate Practice in Early Childhood Programs, pgs. 150-159)

“Teaching preschoolers is hard work and can quickly become overwhelming when children’s behavioral concerns are a problem. There is no one solution or recipe that will ensure every day runs smoothly; however, there are steps teachers can take to help create a peaceful and inviting classroom, where both children and teachers feel safe and happy. Creating such places and implementing these practices ensures learning is happening at each and every moment, and children are gaining the social and emotional skills they need for a lifetime of success in and beyond the classroom.” (Cairone & Mackrain, pg. 5)

#### Planning, Teaching, Learning

Planning for instruction includes creating a daily schedule, daily lesson plans, short term lesson plans, (weekly/monthly themes and lessons), and long term lesson plans (themes or studies for the year). The interests, curiosity, and needs of the children should be taken into consideration when developing classroom plans. Developing lessons and free choice activities around themes or studies, maximizes learning in a meaningful context based on the NAEYC Developmentally Appropriate Practice

#### Gross Motor/Outdoor Play

Daily activities should include many opportunities for young children to develop competence and confidence in their gross motor skills. While children develop many of their physical capabilities through play they also need planned movement activities with verbal and modeled instruction and structured physical skill development opportunities. The OSR Pre-K classroom schedule is required to include 60 minutes of gross motor activity. This 60 minutes may be broken into smaller segments of time within the day.



Jefferson County Sheriff's Deputies can be seen patrolling and frequenting businesses in the city of Bessemer daily. What many do not know is just how much the Jefferson County's Sheriff's Office plays a significant role in the protection and service of Bessemer's communities and its citizens. Under the leadership of Jeff.

Co. Sheriff Mark Pettway, the Bessemer Division of the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office works every day to be an integral part of the Bessemer community. The Bessemer Division's office, led by 30-year veteran Major Cleveland Moore, is located in downtown Bessemer, directly across



from the Jefferson County – Bessemer Courthouse. Their office provides all the services of the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office for the Bessemer Division of Jefferson County, which includes most of the western half of Jefferson County. Several divisions of the Jeff. Co. Sheriff's Office work faithfully with the Bessemer Police Department, assisting each

other as often as needed. The Patrol Division operates joint patrols with the Bessemer Police Department regularly, with law enforcement officers from both agencies working together to maintain a strong relationship. The Criminal Division assists the Bessemer PD as needed and conducts criminal investigations as

the lead agency in all unincorporated parts of the county, to include the Bessemer Division. In addition, the Jefferson County Jail in Bessemer holds inmates from the Bessemer Division, although many of those inmates are brought in by the Bessemer PD. "I have worked with the Jeff. Co. Sheriff's Office for 30 years

now! They have always offered support to the Bessemer Police Department when called upon." says Bessemer Police Chief Michael Roper. He continues, "The Bessemer Police Department has a great relationship with the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office. The BPD and JCSO have collaborated on many occasions, and with the lines of communication

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always open, we have found that when you work together you can obtain more results. There have been instances when we needed back up and they were right there when we needed them and vice versa, and I look forward to a continuing relationship with JCSO." The Sheriff's Office also works closely with the Bessemer Cutoff District Attorney's Office as inmates are then prosecuted by DA Lynneice Washington and her staff. The Bessemer Corrections Division maintains the Jeff. County Jail and works with county and city courts to ensure that inmates are both treated humanely during their incarceration and are prepared for court appearances as scheduled.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Corrections Division has continued doing an excellent job maintaining the Jeff. Co. jail, offering COVID-19 testing to inmates upon request, resulting in the prevention of a major outbreak of COVID-19 at the Bessemer jail. Perhaps the most important example of cooperation between the Besse-

mer Sheriff's Office and the Bessemer Police Department is a Joint Task Force to stop human trafficking in the Bessemer area. That Task Force also works to stop drug trafficking in the community and its officers are trained to spot evidence of both types of illegal trafficking. The Sheriff's Office works tirelessly to take drugs and guns off the streets, having implemented a "drug take back" initiative, where residents can bring in unused prescription narcotics to ensure they do not fall into the wrong hands. Another important function of the Bessemer Division is the management and administration of "Project Lifesaver", a project that provides wristbands with

GPS locators to at risk members of the local population such as elderly Alzheimer's patients, as well as some autistic citizens, including young children. Should the individual wearing the wristband become lost to their loved ones, "Project Lifesaver" can be used to locate them and bring them home. The bands can even be tracked from Star One, the



Sheriff's Office's state-of-the-art helicopter that is conveniently housed at the Bessemer Municipal Airport. Star One is readily available to assist with any rescues or searches, as well as locating both criminal activity and missing persons within the Bessemer Division. Of course, the work of the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office in Bessemer is not confined to criminal investigations and prosecutions. The Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, including deputies and other employees, strive to support and be a part of the community in as many ways as possible. Sheriff Pettway serves on the Board of Directors for the Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce, where once a year the Chamber honors the "Sheriff's Deputy of the Year" during their annual Bessemer Business Awards and First Responder's Gala. The Command Staff in the Bessemer Office, including Major Cleveland Moore, Captain John Weatherly (Criminal Division), Captain Andrea Knight (Patrol Division) and Captain Wendell Major (Corrections Division) actively participate in local community events such as Heroes Day in the Park,



the City of Bessemer's Pink and Purple and Christmas Parades, and the Bessemer City High School's Homecoming Parade to name a few. Coming into office, Sheriff Pettway was driven by his faith in God and his love and passion for serving the community. "I knew that I wanted to break barriers and bridge the gap between law enforcement and the community. There will always be challenges, but the rewards always outweigh those challenges!" says Sheriff Pettway. His first duty as Sheriff was to position School Resource Officers in each Jefferson County School to ensure the safety of students and teachers. It was also important to reduce the rate of re-offense, which led him to announce the "Renewed for Reentry" program. "In this program we work with individuals within the Jefferson County jail to steer them away from destructive behaviors and decisions, and instead provide education and job opportunities that will help them to be constructive citizens of their communities. Being able to provide programs such as this to the community is always a great reward!" says Sheriff Pettway. •

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## BESSEMER UTILITIES

The Bessemer Land and Improvement Company simultaneously founded the City of Bessemer and the water works. Its first board of directors officially presented the company to the community on January 7, 1887. It now operates as Bessemer Water Service and continues to flourish and establish itself firmly in support of the surrounding communities. There are approximately 543 miles of water mains and 1401 fire hydrants to provide fire protection. The system pumps approximately 9,000,000 gallons of water per day and serves 29,250 customers. To contact Bessemer Utilities, call 205.481.4333.



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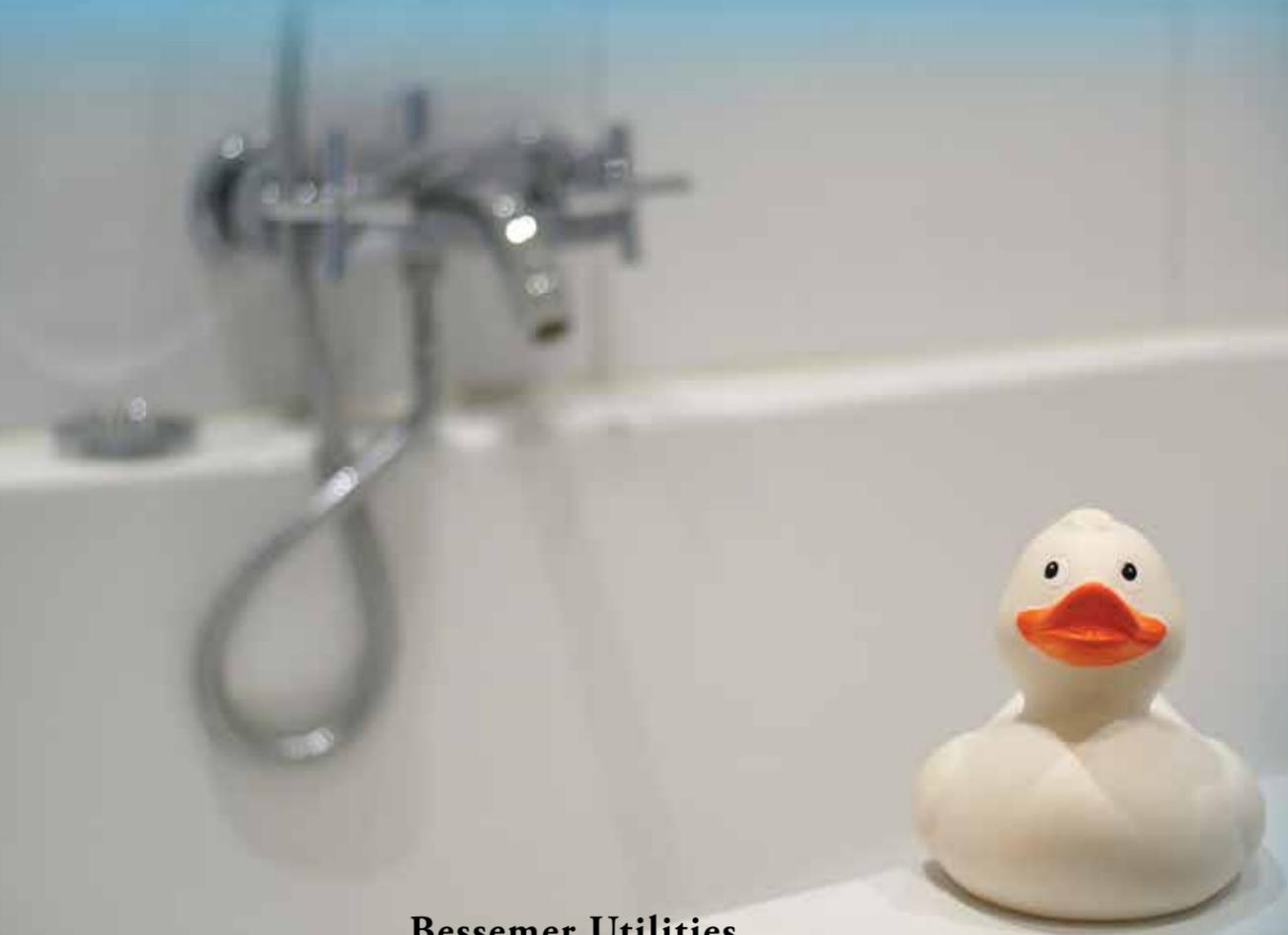
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 Dollar General  
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 205-425-2803

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 Bessemer B. O. E. - Olivia Johnson  
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Bessemer B. O. E. - Tonia Miller  
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Lawson State Community College  
 205-925-2515

Lawson State Community College -  
 Bessemer  
 205-929-3505

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 Astro Electric Company, Inc.  
 205-424-0060  
 S & G Waldrop Electric, Inc.  
 205-426-4168

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 / FORESTRY SERVICES**  
 Engineering, Environmental &  
 Forestry Service  
 205-424-3737

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 CATERER]**  
 Watermark Place Event Center  
 205-425-4529

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 205-424-2733

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 Bessemer Firefighters Local 980  
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 205-425-5235

Johnson Memorial Funeral Directors  
 205-425-2414  
 McCalla Memorial Funeral Home LLC  
 205-477-4888

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 Judge Thomas E. Thrash  
 205-424-1818

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 205-424-4060

Bessemer City Council - Ron Marshall  
 205-531-8724

Bessemer Development Board  
 205-481-2000

Bessemer Police Department - M. Roper  
 205-481-4350

Bessemer Police Department - R. Harris  
 205-281-1664

City of Bessemer - Angela Coleman  
 205-424-4060

City of Bessemer - Building Department  
 205-424-4060

City of Bessemer - Mayor's Office  
 205-424-4060

Jefferson County Commission  
 President Jimmie Stephens  
 205-325-5555

Jefferson County Commissioner  
 Sheila Tyson  
 205-325-5074

Jefferson County Sheriff's Office  
 205-325-5720

Lynneice O. Washington, Jefferson  
 Co. D. A., Bessemer  
 205-497-8610

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 Fourth Avenue Supermarket  
 205-424-6625

Fresh Value 98  
 205-425-8234

Torme Foods  
 205-428-7110

Urban Market  
 205-266-8817, 205-201-9903

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 Brown Beauty Barber School  
 205-253-3956

Dentbiofit and Wellness  
 205-765-2279, 205-861-6666

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 AK Heating & Air Conditioning  
 205-424-9620

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 United Textiles  
 205-428-6208

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 Comfort Care Home Health & Hospice  
 205-451-3602

Loving Care Home Health LLC  
 205-434-3235

**HOTEL**  
 Best Western Plus  
 205-481-1950  
 Quality Inn  
 205-428-3194

**HOUSING AUTHORITY**  
 The Housing Authority  
 of the City of Bessemer  
 205-481-4420

**INDIVIDUAL**  
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 205-612-4617

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 Michelle Jackson  
 205-436-2061

Sherry McClain  
 205-481-4192

Amos Rembert, Jr  
 205-426-3934

Scott Roebuck  
 205-424-4090

Cliff Vasser  
 205-424-0654  
 205-966-5195

Jack White  
 205-266-5126

Sharon Williams  
 205-612-4173

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 205-424-8368 ext 304  
 205-531-7380

Holt Insurance Agency Inc.  
 205-424-8368, 205-283-9333

Humana  
 205-461-7986

Jimmie Lay Agency -  
 Farmers Insurance  
 205-436-2870

Julie Bell, Agent - State Farm Ins.  
 205-424-3400

State Farm - Stan White  
 Insurance Agency Inc  
 205-425-3280, 205-288-9705

Viva Health  
 205-516-4541

**INVESTIGATION & SECURITY**  
 NAPS Background Checks  
 205-425-6277, 205-902-5143

**JEWELRY**  
 Paparazzi Accessories  
 205-317-5006

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 Bessemer Public Library  
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 MODULAR BUILDINGS**  
 Modular Connections, LLC  
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Tuff Shed  
 205-956-9944

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 205-957-6864

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 205-424-7827

**NON PROFIT**  
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 205-531-1704, 205-323-4237

Alabama STEM Education  
 205-910-7274, 205-436-2107

American Legion Worth Lewis Post 22  
 205-760-5800

American Red Cross - Bessemer  
 205-439-7801, 205-234-0945

Assistant Tax Assessor Office -  
 Bessemer Division  
 205-481-4125 x 1509

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 Professional Women  
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Bessemer Elks Lodge #721  
 205-424-7301

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Bessemer Local Food Education Network  
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Bessemer Salvation Army  
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 Greater AL Council  
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Legacy YMCA  
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 205-428-9383  
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 205-296-7742

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 205-424-6210, 205-424-0021

Gents Homes LLC  
 205-481-0010

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 Berkshire Hathaway Affiliate  
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 205-428-4139

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 205-426-1400

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TotalScape Farms  
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# Bessemer

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205-531-1704  
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amadison@southernco.com  
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Bessemer, AL 35020  
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(f) 205-434-3680  
alabamastemeducation@gmail.com  
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205-760-5800  
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Eric M. Crosby  
2623 8th Avenue North  
Bessemer, AL 35020  
205-523-6394  
artisticvisionz1981@gmail.com

**Assistant Tax Assessor Office -  
Bessemer Division**  
1801 Third Avenue N Room 209  
Bessemer, AL 35020  
205-481-4125 x 1509  
(f) 205-481-4128  
hendersonba@jccal.org

**Astro Electric Company, Inc.**  
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(f) 205-424-0072  
crolandj@bellsouth.net

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www.bbt.com

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**Bessemer Academy**  
Julie Kelly  
1705 Fourth Ave., SW  
Bessemer, AL 35022  
205-428-6288  
(f) 205-426-8888  
jkelly@bessemeracademy.com  
www.bessemeracademy.com

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Autumm Jeter  
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(f) 205-432-3085  
www.bessk12.org

**Bessemer B. O. E. -  
Education Association of Bessemer**  
Myra Allen Jones  
1805 Calgary Drive  
Bessemer, AL 35022  
205-862-1427  
majae82@hotmail.com

**Bessemer B. O. E. - Lee Jones**  
Lee Jones  
1516 Arlington Avenue  
Bessemer, AL 35020  
205-425-2623  
205-461-7690  
joneslee1024@gmail.com

**Bessemer B. O. E. - Mildred Posey**  
Mildred Posey  
1124 Posey Avenue  
Bessemer, AL 35022

**Bessemer B. O. E. - Olivia Johnson**  
Olivia Johnson  
308 Oakmont Street  
Birmingham, AL 35224  
205-243-7020  
(f) 205-787-6214  
ojeblack@bellsouth.net

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Tonia Miller  
436 Surrey Circle  
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toniatdm@gmail.com

**Bessemer Brown Service Funeral Home**  
Harlan Turman, Elizabeth Anne Wallace  
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205-481-2000  
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www.bessemerincubator.net

**Bessemer City Council - Jarvis Collier**  
Jarvis Collier  
1700 Third Avenue North  
Bessemer, AL 35020  
205-424-4060  
jcollier@bessemeral.org

**Bessemer City Council - Jesse Matthews**  
Jesse Matthews  
600 Flint Hill Road  
Bessemer, AL 35022  
205-428-1746  
jmatthews@bessemeral.org

**Bessemer City Council - Ron Marshall**  
Ron Marshall  
644 Elm Street SW  
Bessemer, AL 35022  
205-531-8724  
nakcorey@hotmail.com

**Bessemer Civic Center**  
Terry Dawson  
1130 Ninth Avenue, SW  
Bessemer, AL 35022  
205-424-7469  
(f) 205-424-9388  
tdawson@bessemeral.org  
www.bessemeral.org/civic-center

**Bessemer Development Board**  
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(f) 205-481-2100  
www.bessemeridb.net

**Bessemer Elks Lodge #721**  
Susan Franklin, Charles King  
1313 Fourth Avenue N.  
Bessemer, AL 35020  
205-424-7301  
(f) 205-424-7329  
bpoe721@bham.rr.com

**Bessemer Elks Lodge (P. E. R.)**  
Charles King  
1313 Fourth Avenue N.  
Bessemer, AL 35020  
205-424-7301  
(f) 205-424-7329

**Bessemer Family Eye Care**  
Claire Mowrer, Richard Williams  
5031 Ford Parkway Ste 113  
Bessemer, AL 35022  
205-424-2733  
(f) 888-424-6893  
bessemereye@gmail.com  
www.bessemerfamilyeyecare.com/

**Bessemer Firefighters Local 980**  
Ronald Moorehead  
P. O. Box 553  
Bessemer, AL 35021  
205-601-9380  
rjmoorehead@iaff980.com  
www.iaff980.com

**Bessemer Local Food Education Network**  
Joe Openshaw  
4010 Lakewood Drive  
Bessemer, AL 35020  
205-907-4099  
joe.openshaw@gmail.com

**Bessemer Police Department -  
M. Roper**  
Mike Roper  
23 N. 15th Street  
Bessemer, AL 35020  
205-481-4350  
mroper@bessemeral.org  
www.bessemeral.org/police-  
department

**Bessemer Police Department -  
R. Harris**  
Roy A Harris  
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(f) 205-424-5907  
raharris@bessemeral.org

**Bessemer Public Library**  
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www.bessemerlibrary.com

**Bessemer Salvation Army**  
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205-425-4304  
sebrena.davis@uss.salvationarmy.org  
www.uss.salvationarmy.org

**Bessemer Utilities - Director**  
Jerry Yarbrough  
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Bessemer, AL 35020  
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(f) 205-481-4323  
jyarbrough@bessemerutilities.com  
www.bessemerutilities.com

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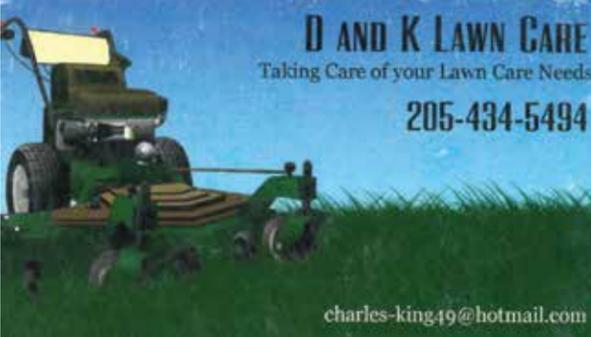


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**Gear 4 Case**



The smartphone case world, and it's obvious protection benefits to your device, are far from new, but a whopping 25% of US users still use a naked Smartphone, according to SquareTrade.

Any case on your phone is going to add substantial protection. Many phones are waterproof for a small duration of time, so water-proof cases have become less important. Best advice we have is to buy a case with a drop rating higher than your ear, because that is the highest place you would drop the device from. Gear 4 cases are designed using D30, a plastic derived for body armor. By far the strongest case on the market. Retail price \$39-59.



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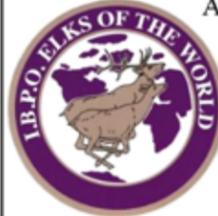
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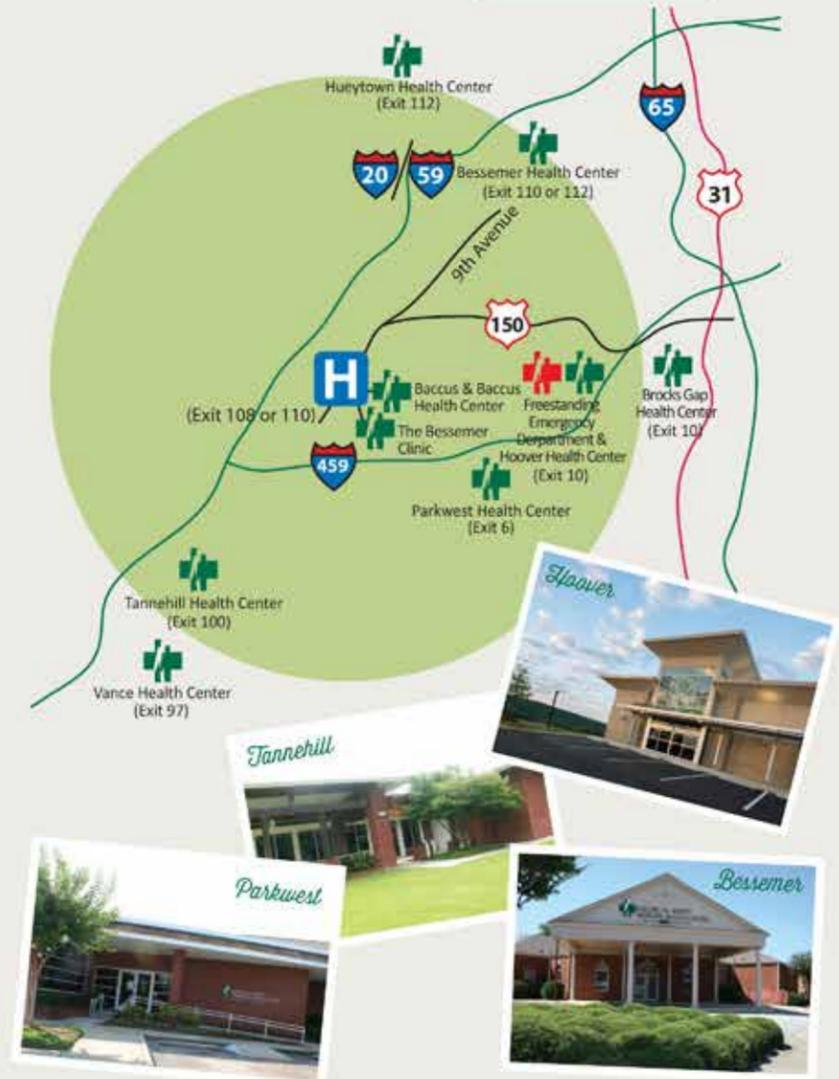
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