Since 1922

Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce
COMMUNIQUE

Our 94th Year | Believe in Bessemer | April / May 2016

Taste of Bessemer & Business Expo Fills the Bessemer Civic Center With Vendors and Guests

TASTE OF BESSEMER and BUSINESS EXPO

The 2nd Annual Taste of Bessemer and Business Expo was a huge success! This year's event was chaired by board chairman, Joni Holt with Holt Insurance Agency. Over 40 vendors and 450 guests attended the event. It was held at the Bessemer Civic Center on Thursday, April 21, 2016. This year's event featured live entertainment by the Robert Harris Blues Band. Guests enjoyed sampling foods from area restaurants and caterers and visiting local business vendors.

The Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce would like to thank the sponsors for this event. Our sponsors were

Our business vendors were: Academy Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram, Alabama Splash Adventure, Alabama STEM Education, America's First Federal Credit Union, Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce, Bill Veitch, District Attorney, Bright House Networks Business Solutions, Childcare Heaven, LLC, City of Bessemer , Comfort Care Home Health, Dex Imaging, ESD School LLC, Holt Insurance Agency, Inc., ITT Technical Institute, Latch and Live Foundation, Legacy YMCA, Medical West, Mary Dockery, Agent - Edward Jones, Michael Abney, Agent – American Income Life, Inc., Moore Coal Company, Moore Nissan , Pink Icing Accessories Boutique, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. – Alpha Zeta Sigma Chapter, Town & Country Ford, Walk-In Closet, Watermark Place and Widenet. Our food vendors were: Bessemer Elks Lodge 721, Boateng's Cajun Creations, Bob Sykes Barbecue, BRES Restaurant & Catering, LLC, Bright Star Restaurant, Chick-Fil-A McCalla, Fourth Avenue Supermarket's Wings & Waffles Restaurant, Golden Flake, I'm Listening Community Counseling LLC, J Wings, Jersey Boys Subs and Grub, Lawson State Community College's Culinary Department, McAlister's Deli, Milo's Tea Company, R. L. Zeigler Company and Waffle House.

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TASTE OF BESSEMER PHOTOS

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2016 Investors

GOLD SPONSORS

HOLT Insurance
DEX imaging
MEDICAL WEST an affiliate of the UAB HEALTH SYSTEM

SILVER SPONSORS

Bessemer Utilities
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PEPSI
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Lawson State COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Alagasco AN ENERGEN COMPANY
ITT Technical Institute
TOWN & COUNTRY Ford "A New Attitude"
ALABAMA POWER A SOUTHERN COMPANY

SMALL BUSINESS PARTNERS

Alabama Splash Adventure
America's First Federal Credit Union
Chambers Funeral Home
Comfort Care Home Health & Hospice
Engineering Environmental Forestry Service
Legacy YMCA
Paden & Paden, PC
Pinnacle Motorsports
Regional Paramedical Services
State Farm Insurance Agent, Julie Bell
Trustmark National Bank
William Parsons CPA

Sponsorship

Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce 2016 Sponsorship Investments

Diamond	$10,000
Platinum	$ 7,500
Gold	$5,000
Silver	$3,000
SBP	$1,000

Call us at 425-3253 for more details

PROMOTIONAL ITEMS IN STOCK

at the Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce

The Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce has promotional items for sale. We have X-large Beach towels and chairs for $20.00 each. Stop by and pick up your items at 321 18th Street N., Bessemer, AL 35020.

2016 BOARD MEMBERS

Chairman
Joni Holt
Holt Insurance Agency

Past Chairman
Eric Messer
Shoals Ambulance

Chairman Elect
Nathan Clark
Medical West

Treasurer
Connie Fuell
Dex Imaging

Finance Chairman
Kela Pryor
City of Bessemer

Mitch Avery
Alabama Gas

Richard Bishop
ITT Technical Institute

Lynn Brown
Alabama Splash Adventure

Trisha Galvez
Legacy YMCA

Carlton Jackson
Bessemer Fire Department

Louis Jones
Mt. Hebron Baptist Church

Vicki Lane
AAA Bessemer

Candice Lee
TBGS Holdings / Masonry Arts

Reggie Mays
United Prosthetics and Orthotics

Dr. Fred Primm
Bessemer Board of Education

Cristy Richardson
America's First Federal Credit Union

John Sides
Alabama Power Company

Hank Tyler
Town & Country Ford

Devron Veasley
Bessemer Business Center

Trina Vines
Oak Trace Care and Rehabilitation Center

Jerry Yarbrough
Bessemer Utilities

Bessemer Farmers Market

The Bessemer Farmers Market is recognized by the State of Alabama as a Certified Farmers Market which means that you can be assured that the produce you buy comes directly from the farm to this market and to you. Short of growing it yourself, you cannot get fresher food for your family.

Whether you choose to purchase fruits or vegetables or eggs or honey, you are getting **FRESH, LOCAL, AND HEALTHY** food for you and your family.

For the 2016 season, Bessemer Farmers market will begin operating June 2, and will be open each Thursday through the summer from 4:00 to 6:30 PM.

Each week we hope to update our web site to let you know what will be at the market on Thursday.

We are located at Alex Bradford Park, at the corner of 1st Avenue N and 19th Street in downtown Bessemer.

Bessemerfarmersmarket.com

Chambers' 5th Annual FUN DAY EXTRAVAGANZA!!

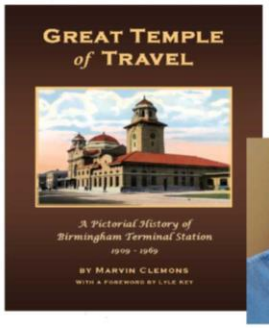
Where:
DeBardeleben Park
(Downtown Bessemer)
1623 Second Ave. N., Bessemer

When: June 4, 2016

Time: 12:00—5:00 PM

Please come out and join the family and staff of Chambers Funeral Home, Inc. as we host our annual Fun Day! There will be a trackless train, a pony to ride, face painting, water slides, obstacle course, bouncers, a DJ, bumper cars, swing ride, dunking booth carnival food and so much more. This event is free and our way of saying THANK YOU for allowing us to service the Bessemer and surrounding communities for over 81 years. Let's all have FUN!!!

BESSEMER HALL OF HISTORY
1905 ALABAMA AVENUE, BESSEMER, ALABAMA 35020



The Bessemer Hall of History Museum is pleased to announce a **book signing event** featuring
"Great Temple of Travel"
by Marvin Clemons
Book signing is Sunday June 5, 2016
from 2:00 P.M. till 4:00 P.M.
located at 1905 Alabama Avenue, Bessemer, AL 35020
For more info, please contact us at
(205) 426-1633 or
bessemerhallofhi@bellsouth.net
Come and enjoy all
The Bessemer Hall of History Museum
has to offer!
All Aboard!!

1916 - SOUTHERN RAILWAY DEPOT RESTORATION - 1985

AMERICAN VALUES DINNER TO HONOR THREE

The Cherokee District of the Greater Alabama Council of the Boy Scouts of America will honor Charles "Red" Farmer, **Bessemer City Chief of Police Nathaniel Rutledge**, and Jonathan McConnell with the **Heart of an Eagle Award** at this year's American Values Dinner. The Heart of an Eagle Award is given to deserving individuals who have demonstrated leadership, character, and integrity in their service to the community, their profession, and their country. It symbolizes strength and compassion and demonstrates that leadership and philanthropy go hand-in-hand in serving your fellow man. The award is unique to the Greater Alabama Council, Boy Scouts of America. The Cherokee District is composed of the cities and communities within the Bessemer Cutoff in Western Jefferson County. The Greater Alabama Council encompasses the twenty-two northern counties of Alabama.

Farmer, Rutledge, and McConnell will be recognized at the Cherokee District's American Values Dinner, which will be held from 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 09, 2016, at First United Methodist Church, in Hueytown, Alabama. The former University of Alabama Running Back, Bobbie Humphrey will present the keynote address. There will be a silent auction before the dinner with proceeds benefitting Scouts in the Cherokee District of the Greater Alabama Council.

For information about attending the dinner, please contact Carol Higgins, American Values Dinner Chairwoman, at Higgins170@bellsouth.net or David Self, Cherokee District Executive at 205-540-2302, david.self@scouting.org.

SAT, JUN 25, 2016 AT 7:00 PM

"Imagine Me"

EDU Warehouse Space, Bessemer, AL

1911 4th Ave. N

LATCH and Live Foundation "Imagine Me" gala is an elegant night including a 3 course plated gourmet meal, silent auction, live entertainment and dancing.

latchandlivefoundation.org

Tickets: $25.00 up to $100

CHAMBER NEWS
(2016 Chamber Calendar)

Think **BESSEMER** BUY LOCAL.

June

No Meeting	Ambassadors
Tuesday, June 21 11:00am	Executive Committee Mtg.
Tuesday, June 21, Noon	Board of Directors Meeting

July

No Meeting	Ambassadors
Tuesday, July 19, 11:00am	Executive Committee Mtg.
Tuesday, July 19, Noon	Board of Directors Meeting

August

Tuesday, August 2, 8:30am	Ambassadors Meeting
Thursday, August 11, 5:30pm	First Responders / Business Awards Gala
Tuesday, August 16, 11:00am	Executive Committee Mtg.
Tuesday, August 16, Noon	Board of Directors Meeting

September

Tuesday, September 13, 8:30am	Ambassadors Meeting
Wednesday, September 14, Noon	Chamber Membership Mtg.
Tuesday, September 20, 11:00am	Executive Committee Mtg.
Tuesday, September 20, Noon	Board of Directors Meeting

October

Tuesday, October 4, 8:30am	Ambassadors Meeting
Thursday, October 6	Golf "FORE" Progress
Tuesday, October 18, 11:00am	Executive Committee Mtg.
Tuesday, October 18, Noon	Board of Directors Meeting
	PINK & PURPLE PARADE

November

No Meeting	Ambassadors
Tuesday, November 15, 11:00am	Executive Committee Mtg.
Tuesday, November 15, Noon	Board of Directors Meeting

December

Tuesday, December 6, 8:30am	Ambassadors Meeting
Thursday, December 8, 5-7pm	Chamber Christmas Open House
Saturday, December 10, 2:00pm	City of Bessemer Christmas Parade
Tuesday, December 20, 11:00am	Executive Committee Mtg.
Tuesday, December 20, Noon	Board of Directors Mtg.

ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS HERE

Place Your Ad in the Chamber Communique

FULL PAGE AD
$75 per occurrence

SMALL AD
$50 per month or 6 months for $240

save the date®

25th Annual Bessemer Business Awards and First Responders Gala
Thursday, August 11, 5:30 pm

COMMUNITY

Alabama Kidney Action Day

The City of Bessemer, partnered with the American Kidney Fund, to host "Alabama Kidney Action Day" on March 19, 2016 from 11 am to 4 pm in Debardeleben Park. Free health screenings (blood pressure, blood glucose, kidney function and more), health food samples, family-friendly entertainment, fitness demos and more were enjoyed by the public on that day.

2016 CHAMBER AMBASSADORS

Coordinator
Lori Chisem,
Lawson State Community College

Co-Coordinators
Daryl Owens, Bessemer City Schools
Andie Sloan, Comfort Care

Secretary
Nelda Pate, Retired

Kay Baggett, Retired
Sarah Beasley, Joe Beasley Memorial Foundation, Inc
Sarah Belcher, Retired
Tamala Briggins, Oak Trace Care & Rehab
Erin Cooney, Holt Insurance Agency
Susan Franklin, TBGS Holdings
Paije Frazier
Sadie Harris, Retired
Shirley Horn, Retired
Latesia Jefferson, Oak Trace Care & Rehab
Charles King, Regional Paramedical Services
Doris Lewis, City of Bessemer
Claire Mitchell, Visalus - Body by Vi
Kenya Rose
Lula Walter, City of Bessemer
Trisston Wright Burrows, Moore Coal Co.

Ambassadors are the key resource in extending hospitality in the Bessemer area and are experienced in business, community, and promotional arenas.

An Ambassador must serve as an active public relations arm of the Chamber and be prepared to meet visitors, local businesses, and various forms of the media.

We encourage you join the ambassador program. The ambassadors meet on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 8:30am at the Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce.

COMMUNITY

Town & Country Spinal Pain Center Ribbon Cutting

Dr. Donovan Harper celebrated 10 years in business with a ribbon cutting on April 14th.

Childcare Heaven Located at Watermark Celebrates Opening With Ribbon Cutting

COMMUNITY

Bessemer's National Day of Prayer

The National Day of Prayer is an annual observance held on the first Thursday of May, inviting people of all faiths to pray for our nation. It was created in 1952 by a joint resolution of the United States Congress and signed into law by President Harry S. Truman. Since its inception, this day has continually united Americans from all socio-economic, political, and ethnic backgrounds in prayer while also encouraging personal repentance and righteousness in the culture. The National Day of Prayer belongs to all Americans and is a day that transcends differences, bringing together citizens to celebrate our most beloved freedom; the freedom to humbly come before God and seek His guidance in prayer.

The City of Bessemer National Day of Prayers was held at Perfecting Reconciliation Church International on Thursday, May 5, 2016

The speaker for this years' service was Reverend Louis Jones with Mt. Hebron Missionary Baptist Church. Capt. Kendric Hughley, Rev. Douglas Caddell, Dr. Barry F. Cosper, Mr. Jay Howton and Pastor George Blanks all offered prayers. Joni Holt welcomed everyone and the Honorable Mayor Kenneth Gulley made closing remarks.

CHAMBER

Business After Hours

The Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce, elected officials and business and community leaders go green for St. Patrick's Day Business After Hours held on March 17th. This event was sponsored by Medical West and Shoals Ambulance.

COMMUNITY

Congratulations to Bessemer Fire Department on Receiving ISO Class 1 Rating

The City of Bessemer Fire Department is pleased to report that their Public Protection Classification (PPC) will be reclassified from a Class 4 to a Class 1. For over 30 years, the City of Bessemer's PPC classification has held steady at Class 4. After many years of improvements in the Fire Department, Water Department and the Public Safety Dispatch Center, the Insurance Services Office re-evaluated the City of Bessemer's services and determined that they have improved sufficiently to earn the PPC Classification of "1". The ISO ranking scale is based on a 1 – 10 ranking with a Class 1 designation representing an exemplary fire suppression program and the highest recognition a department can receive.

Community 360 Connecting Generations Meeting

Councilor Chester Porter (District 2) held the Community 360 meeting at New Jerusalem Baptist Church on April 14th. Citizens enjoyed receiving health screenings and information from local businesses and organizations.

Bessemer Business Center
1020 9th Avenue SW
Bessemer, AL 35022
205.481.2000
bessemerincubator@yahoo.com

Downtown Entrepreneurial Center
401 19th Street North
Bessemer, AL 35020
205.481.4800
bessemerincubator@yahoo.com

ATTENTION: The Downtown Entrepreneurial Center rents its conference room facility to the public on an hourly and daily basis. The conference room is equipped with a state of the art audio visual system, Internet and adjustable tables. The room seats up to 15 people comfortably.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SERVICES AND OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE

The Bessemer Business Incubation System offers a wealth of professional business counseling and development services to people new to their own business or the business veteran. The BBIS counseling services include:

- **Business Start-up Design**
- **Business Plan Development**
- **Marketing Plan Development**
- **Business Loan Proposal Development and Counseling**
- **Business Training Seminars and Workshops**

The BBIS also has affordable office and manufacturing space in two prime Bessemer area locations. Available space is listed below:

Downtown Entrepreneurial Center – 401 19th Street North, Bessemer, Al. 35020

Office Suite	-	450 square feet
Office Suite	-	450 square feet
Office Suite	-	528 square feet
Office Suite	-	550 square feet
Office Suite	-	792 square feet

Bessemer Business Center – 1020 9th Avenue SW, Bessemer, Al. 35022

Office Suite	-	424 square feet
Office Suite	-	420 square feet

Bob Sykes BBQ & Blues Festival is Saturday, May 21st

The 7th Annual Bob Sykes BBQ and Blues Festival is set for May 21 from noon until 8 pm at Debardeleben Park. Visit www.bobsykesblues.com for ticket and event information.

Bring a chair and blanket and enjoy good food and good blues music in Historic Downtown Bessemer. Elijah Butler Band - Mose Stovall Band - Southern Avenue - The Lauren Mitchell Band - Sugar Blue. Tickets $15 in advance/$20 at Gate. VIP Tickets Available. 12 & Under FREE. Kids Activities. Over 50 vendors including arts and crafts.

2016

Sponsorship Opportunities

Gold SPONSORSHIP $5,000.00

94th Annual Meeting - Table of 8
25th Annual Bessemer Business Awards and First Responders Gala – Table of 8
1 full page ad in the 2017 Bessemer Magazine (preferred spot)
¼ page Story in the 2017 Bessemer Magazine
Silver Sponsor for Golf "FORE" Progress
Plan a business after hours on your behalf (Not to exceed $250)
Up to $400 credit toward annual membership dues
½ page ad in chamber Communiqué
Company Logo with website link on Chamber website
Chamber listing for up to 3 company representatives
Pre/Post event advertising

Silver SPONSORSHIP $3,000.00

94th Annual Meeting - Table of 8
25th Annual Bessemer Business Awards and First Responders Gala – 2 tickets
$500 credit toward an ad in 2017 Bessemer Magazine
Golf "FORE" Progress Golf Tournament (Team of 4 and Name/Logo on all promotional material)
94th Annual Meeting - Table of 8
25th Annual Bessemer Business Awards and First Responders Gala – 2 tickets
$500 credit toward an ad in 2017 Bessemer Magazine
Golf "FORE" Progress Golf Tournament (Team of 4 and Name/Logo on all promotional material)

Small Business Partner SPONSORSHIP $1,000.00

94th Annual Meeting (4 tickets) with option to upgrade
$200 credit toward an ad in the *2017 Bessemer Magazine*
Golf "FORE" Progress Golf Tournament - Hole Sponsorship
Business Card ad in one issue of the *Communique* newsletter
Chamber listing for up to 2 company representatives
Pre/Post event advertising

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.

We hope you will consider supporting the Bessemer Chamber of Commerce programs in 2016. This investment is tax deductible, so sign up today!