



# COMMUNIQUE

*Celebrating 98 Years*

*1922 - 2020*

FEBRUARY

## 6<sup>TH</sup> Annual Taste of Bessemer and Business Expo

The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Taste of Bessemer and Business Expo is scheduled for April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020 from 4-8pm at the Bessemer Civic Center. This event gives local businesses and organizations the opportunity to promote their products and services. The number of vendors and attendants has grown every year! Our goal is to register at least 100 vendors and prepare for at least 1,000 to be in attendance. Two additions that were introduced last year will be returning: Live cooking segments and the "People's Choice" Award! 2 local chefs will each be giving a 30 to 45-minute cooking demonstration, along with a sample and recipe card of the dish that is prepared. Attendants can also vote for their favorite food and business vendor; the vendors with the most votes will be awarded the "People's Choice" award in their respective category!

Call or stop by the Bessemer Chamber to register as a Sponsor or Food/Business Vendor today! Tickets are currently being pre-sold and will be available for pick up and/or purchase on March 20<sup>th</sup>! (See flyer and applications on pages 8-11)



# WHAT'S RIGHT WITH OUR SCHOOLS!

## **Bessemer City Schools Welcomes Dr. Autumm M. Jeter as New Superintendent**



The Bessemer City Schools held a reception to Welcome Dr. Autumm M. Jeter as the new superintendent on Sunday, January 12, 2020, at Bessemer City High School in the auditorium. Autumm McClure Jeter is a Fairfield, Alabama native and a product of the Fairfield City School System. Autumm received her B.A. degree in Secondary Education from Talladega College her M.A. in Secondary Education with a concentration in History from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. She started her career in 2001 as a middle school teacher and held her previous position as Director of Curriculum and Instruction in Hoover City Schools until her appointment as Bessemer City Schools' superintendent. Welcome to Bessemer!

## **Bessemer City High School's Boys Varsity Basketball Makes it to State Finals**

After beginning the 2019-2020 season unranked, the Bessemer City Purple Tigers fought their way to the 6A State Championship vs. Huffman High School on February 29, 2020. Hundreds of residents from the city of Bessemer attended the game, showing their support and cheering on the Purple Tigers during the entirety of the championship game. Both teams played their hearts out, with Huffman coming out on top BCHS 48 – Huffman 56. Congratulations to the Bessemer City Purple Tigers on an amazing season!



## **Bessemer City High School Kids Visit the Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce**



Students from Bessemer City High School stopped by the Bessemer Chamber during their Transitions Community Tour! Chamber President LaTasha Cook Williams took a few minutes to speak with the students about the purpose of the Chamber of Commerce and its importance within the city of Bessemer and surrounding areas!

**. BESSEMER .**  
*City Schools*

# CHAMBER NEWS – MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON

The Bessemer Chamber held their first “Taking Care of Business” Membership Meeting for 2020 on Tuesday, February 25th at the Bessemer Chamber. The meeting was very informative with insurance professionals from Holt Insurance (Joni Holt), State Farm (Julie Bell), and Iron ReHealth (Marty Vice) covering different aspects of insurance: Property and Casualty Insurance, Financial Services Insurance, and Business/Employee Health Insurance. The Chamber’s next Membership Meeting will take place in June 2020 (More information will be released as it becomes available). We look forward to seeing you there!



## Working Together, Works!



## CHAMBER NEWS



### Welcome to Bessemer!

The Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce would like to welcome the following businesses to the city of Bessemer:

**CPR- Cell Phone Repair**, located at  
1827 13th Ave N  
Bessemer, AL 35020



**YNI Center**, located  
at 711 19<sup>th</sup> Street  
North, Bessemer, AL  
35020

**The Seafood King – Bessemer**, located at  
5060 Academy  
Lane, Bessemer, AL  
35022



### New Members

**Caring Men and Caring Women Inc.**

P.O. Box 737

Adamsville, AL 35005

Email: [caringmenandcaringwomen@gmail.com](mailto:caringmenandcaringwomen@gmail.com)

Website: [www.caringmenandwomen.org](http://www.caringmenandwomen.org)

**The Seafood King – Bessemer**

5060 Academy Lane

Bessemer, AL 35022

Email: [theseafoodking180@gmail.com](mailto:theseafoodking180@gmail.com)

Website: <https://theseafoodking.com/>

*Thank  
you!*  
FOR  
YOUR  
MEMBERSHIP

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## Your Chamber Leadership Team



**Charles King**  
Regional Paramedical Services  
Chairman



**Carlton Jackson**  
Bessemer Fire Dept.  
Chairman Elect



**Reggie Mays**  
United Prosthetics & Orthotics  
Past Chairman



**Mitch Avery**  
Spire  
Treasurer



**Connie Fuell**  
Dex Imaging  
Finance Chairman



**Dr. Cynthia Anthony**  
Lawson State



**Laurence Baird**  
Oak Trace Care & Rehab Ctr.



**Ashley Brazel**  
BB&T



**Reginald Calvert**  
New Jerusalem Bapt. Church



**Bryonda Collins**  
Chambers Funeral Home



**Tabitha Dudley**  
Legacy YMCA



**Deaunka LeBeauf-Webster**  
AAA



**Antoinette Madison**  
Alabama Power



**Keith Pennington**  
Medical West



**Sheriff Mark Pettway**  
Jefferson County Sheriff's Office



**Paul Teasley**  
Buffalo Rock



**LaVada Varner**  
Alabama Technology Center



**Pete Winslett**  
The File Depot

## AMBASSADORS



### *Sitting – Left to Right*

Sarah Beasley (Joe Beasley Memorial Foundation, Inc), Lori Chisem (Lawson State Community College), Minnie Roper (Retired), Anna Wooten (First Financial Bank)

### *Standing – Left to Right*

Dorian Waluyn (Lawson State Community College), Danielle Matthews (Matthews & Associates), Chyna Brown (Brown Beauty Barber School), Denise Jackson (New Jerusalem Baptist Church), Tamala Briggins (Oak Trace Care & Rehabilitation), Erin Cooney (Holt Insurance Agency), Cathy Ackerman (First Financial Bank), Daryl Owens (New Jerusalem Baptist Church)

### *Not pictured*

Sarah Belcher (Retired), Claire Mitchell (Retired), Andie Sloan (Comfort Care Home Health), Donna King (D & K Lawncare)

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.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

We will be setup on 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue between Railroad Park and Regions Field



# SHRED DAY

Thursday, May 7, 2020 | 9 AM - 1 PM | Downtown B'ham

Secure document shredding from the convenience of your car!



WBRC  
FOX 6 NEWS  
ON YOUR SIDE



BBB Serving Central  
& South Alabama

The City of Bessemer & PREMIERE CHEVROLET PRESENT

12-8pm

11th Annual  
Bob Sykes  
BBQ & BLUES  
Festival

Saturday  
**APRIL 25<sup>TH</sup>**

**BobSykesBlues.com**

SPONSORED BY

with **Bobby Rush**  
Robert Kimbrough - Sr. Blues Connection  
Tullie Brae  
"Hurricane" Elaine Hudson  
Blues Showcase featuring Tara Sabree  
Regi Yarbrough & Robert Harris  
NJ Speights & Band

Save the Date

BESSEMER AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESENTS

**SEAFOOD BOIL**

5PM - 7PM

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

Thursday, May 14, 2020

*MEMBERS ONLY*

# 2020 Sponsors

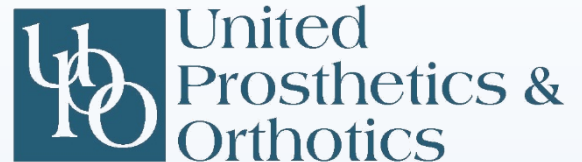
## PLATINUM SPONSOR

**DEX**  
*imaging*

## GOLD SPONSORS



**Bessemer  
Utilities**  
City of Bessemer  
Electric & Water  
Services



## SILVER SPONSORS



**EEFS**  
ENGINEERING, ENVIRONMENTAL &  
FORESTRY SERVICES COMPANY



District Attorney  
Lynnece Washington



**DOLLAR GENERAL®**

## SMALL BUSINESS PARTNERS

America's First Federal Credit Union  
Chambers Funeral Home  
Comfort Care Home Health & Hospice  
Julie Bell, Agent – State Farm Insurance  
Legacy YMCA  
Regional Paramedical Services  
William Parsons CPA



**Bessemer**  
Chamber of Commerce

# TASTE OF BESSEMER

and **BUSINESS  
EXPO**

**Thursday, April 16, 2020**

**4:00 - 8:00 pm**

**Bessemer Civic Center**

**Live Entertainment**

**Food / Business Vendors**

**Fun for the Entire Family**

Showcase  
your business  
to over  
1,000  
attendees



**Ticket Cost: 1 for \$16 / 12 for \$180 / 20 for \$275**

**Sponsors: \$300 (Member) / \$400 (Non Member)**

**Ticket Deadline: April 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Sponsor & Vendor Deadline: April 9<sup>th</sup>**

**Come sample foods from area restaurants and caterers**

**~ BRING CASH TO SHOP WITH YOUR FAVORITE VENDORS ~**

**All sponsor / vendor / ticket money is nonrefundable**

## **FOOD VENDORS**

**Chamber Member Vendor Cost: \$50**

**Non-Chamber Members Vendor Cost: \$100**

**For more  
information  
call**

**205-425-3253**

## **BUSINESS DISPLAY VENDORS**

**Chamber Member Vendor Cost: \$100**

**Non-Chamber Members Vendor Cost: \$200**



# TASTE OF BESSEMER

and **BUSINESS EXPO**

## 2020 SPONSORSHIP APPLICATION



### Sponsorship Cost:

**\$300** (Chamber Member)

**\$400** (Non-Chamber Member)

Company logo on all pre and post advertising

Receive 8 tickets to the event

Includes vendor space / benefits

Local newspaper advertisement

Post attendees mailing list

A door prize will be purchased on behalf of your company

*\*Sponsors limited to Business & Food Vendors only\**

Business Name \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name / Owner \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Merchandise to be displayed in vendor space \_\_\_\_\_

Need electricity in your space? \_\_\_\_\_

INDICATE PAYMENT: Check \_\_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_\_ Credit Card \_\_\_\_ Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name/Business on Card \_\_\_\_\_ CVV # \_\_\_\_\_ CC Billing Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Email your company logo to [mmilan1@bellsouth.net](mailto:mmilan1@bellsouth.net) in jpg format when you return this form \***

**~ SPONSOR DEADLINE: APRIL 9<sup>th</sup> ~**



Showcase your  
business to over  
1,000 attendees

**EVENT DATE: Thursday, April 16, 2020 from 4 — 8 PM at Bessemer Civic Center**



# TASTE OF BESSEMER

and **BUSINESS EXPO**

## 2020 Business Display Vendor Guidelines and Application

**Vendor Costs: \$ 100.00 (Chamber Member) \$200.00 (Non-Chamber Member)**

The Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce reserves the right to refuse ANY display that is not family friendly.

Vendors must conduct themselves in a professional manner.

Vendors will be responsible for their own display set-up

*(which includes tools, display screens, table coverings, shade or anything required to exhibit).*

Vendors will be provided an 8-foot table with white tablecloth.

*(Vendors must confine displays/products to their assigned space. Anyone needing extra room must reserve a 2<sup>nd</sup> space.)*

Vendors should plan to bring 750 - 1,000 giveaway/promotional items

Business Display Vendors **WILL NOT** be allowed to sell any food / beverages.

Vendors are expected to be completely set up 2 hours before the start of A Taste of Bessemer and agree to participate and/or sell during the entire duration of the event.

Vendors are responsible for cleanup of their area at the end of event.

Vendors must comply with all federal, state and local regulations.

A City of Bessemer business license is required.

All sponsor / vendor / ticket money is nonrefundable

***Space is limited and on a first reserved basis***

Showcase  
your business  
to over 1,000  
attendees

Vendor Booth Name \_\_\_\_\_

Vendor Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Fax # \_\_\_\_\_

INDICATE PAYMENT: Check \_\_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_\_ Credit Card \_\_\_\_ Card # \_\_\_\_\_ CVV# \_\_\_\_\_

Name/Business on Card \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ CC Billing Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Need electricity in your space?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Indicate type of merchandise to be displayed in vendor space** \_\_\_\_\_

I agree to abide by the rules stated. I understand that all promotion of my items must take place within the confines of my booth. I further understand that the Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce & all their representatives are not responsible for or liable for damages including, but not limited to, loss suffered before, during, or after each event I have applied to as a result of the display of my work, equipment or material. I understand that there are no refunds. The duplication or use of any trademarks or logos belonging to the committee is strictly prohibited. The Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce reserves all rights to refuse booth space based on event guidelines. If these guidelines are not upheld, my booth will be closed immediately without refund.

Vendor's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**~ VENDOR DEADLINE: APRIL 9<sup>th</sup> ~**

**EVENT DATE: Thursday, April 16, 2020 from 4 — 8 PM at Bessemer Civic Center**



# TASTE OF BESSEMER

and



## 2020 FOOD Vendors Guidelines / Application

**Vendor Costs: \$ 50.00 (Chamber Member) \$ 100.00 (Non-Chamber Member)**



Food Vendors should plan to prepare tastings/samples for 750 - 1,000 attendees  
Vendors will be allowed to sell their sampling product(s)  
Vendors will be responsible for their own display set-up  
(which includes tools, display screens, table coverings, shade or anything required to exhibit)  
Vendors are expected to be completely set up 2 hours before the start of a Taste of Bessemer  
Security will be on location to enforce guidelines  
Vendors will be provided an 8-foot table with white tablecloth  
Vendors will confine displays/ products to their assigned space. Anyone needing extra  
room must reserve and pay for a 2<sup>nd</sup> space.  
Vendors are responsible for cleanup of their area at the end of event  
Your Company name will be included on all pre/post advertising  
All sponsor / vendor / ticket money is nonrefundable

**\*Email your company logo immediately to [mmilan1@bellsouth.net](mailto:mmilan1@bellsouth.net) in jpg format \***

*Space is limited and on a first reserved basis*

Showcase  
your business  
to over  
1,000  
attendees

***A City of Bessemer business license, a food permit and liability insurance are required to participate in this event***

Description of Food Sample: \_\_\_\_\_ Will you need electricity? \_\_\_\_\_

Will you be selling your product? \_\_\_\_\_ Cost of Item to Be Sold: \_\_\_\_\_ Serving Size: \_\_\_\_\_

Food Vendor Company Name \_\_\_\_\_

Food Vendor Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Fax # \_\_\_\_\_

**INDICATE PAYMENT:** Check \_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_ Credit Card \_\_\_ Card# \_\_\_\_\_ CVV# \_\_\_\_\_

Name/Business on Card \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CC Billing Zip \_\_\_\_\_

I agree to abide by the rules stated. I understand that all promotion of my items must take place within the confines of my booth. I further understand that the Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce & all their representatives are not responsible for or liable for damages including, but not limited to, loss suffered before, during, or after each event I have applied to as a result of the display of my work, equipment or material. I understand that there are no refunds. The duplication or use of any trademarks or logos belonging to the committee is strictly prohibited. The Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce reserves all rights to refuse booth space based on event guidelines. If these guidelines are not upheld, my booth will be closed immediately without refund.

Vendor's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**~ VENDOR DEADLINE: APRIL 9<sup>th</sup> ~**

**EVENT DATE: Thursday, April 16, 2020 from 4 — 8 PM at Bessemer Civic Center**

# Bessemer

Area Chamber of Commerce



## SAINT PATRICK'S DAY



### BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

# 03.12.20 ~ 5-7pm

321 18<sup>TH</sup> STREET NORTH, BESSEMER

**NETWORKING    MUSIC    DOOR PRIZES    REFRESHMENTS**

Door prize drawing WILL BE LIMITED to those who make  
a reservation to attend – no exceptions

**RSVP 205-425-3253 BY MARCH 9<sup>TH</sup>**



**COME PREPARED TO TAKE A  
CHANCE ON A POT OF GOLD COINS**

Reservations will be accepted for up to 3 members per company  
(Platinum and Gold sponsors are excluded from limitation)  
Additional guests may attend at a cost of \$10 each.



This event is limited to  
members and prospective  
members of the Bessemer  
Chamber