



COMMUNIQUE

Celebrating 97 Years

1922 - 2019

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2019

28th Annual Golf “FORE” Progress Tournament

The Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce held their annual golf tournament on October 10th, 2019. The Frank House Municipal Golf Course hosted over 100 golfers for an amazing day of golfing that ended with an evening mixer. The golfers enjoyed great food and came prepared to bid and win silent auction items. Golfers also had the opportunity to enter the 50/50 raffle, which is always the highlight of the evening!

*Thank
you!*
FOR
YOUR
MEMBERSHIP



CITY / COMMUNITY NEWS

City of Bessemer's Pink and Purple Parade

The Bessemer Business and Professional Women's organization announced the 2019 Paint the City of Bessemer PINK and PURPLE event held on October 9th, 2019. October is Breast Cancer Awareness and Domestic Violence Month. The City of Bessemer, the Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce and the Bessemer Business and Professional's Women's Organization partnered to support awareness and the importance for both of these campaigns. This event brings together friends, families, and organizations to participate as supporters, survivors, or in memory of a loved one. The Bessemer Fire Department held their National Fire Prevention event immediately following the parade with festivities, food, and fun for the entire family!



CITY / COMMUNITY NEWS

Continued from page 2


Welcome to Bessemer!

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

McDonald's Grand Re-Opening, located at 4746 Eastern Valley Rd, McCalla, AL 35111



Just in Time Legal Solutions, located at 1922 3rd Ave N, Bessemer, AL 35020

Alabama Allergy & Asthma Center, located at 975 9th Ave SW Suite 210, Bessemer, AL, 35022



CITY / BUSINESS NEWS

Continued from page 3



Five Below, located at 4921 Promenade Pkwy, Bessemer, AL 35022.

Public Safety & Community Saferooms, located 651 Ninth Avenue SW, Bessemer, AL 35020.



OFR Furniture Return Store, located at 4835 Promenade Pkwy, Bessemer, AL 35022

Plush Bar and Grill, located at 4000 Bessemer Super Hwy, Bessemer, AL 35020



THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING BESSEMER!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Your Chamber Leadership Team



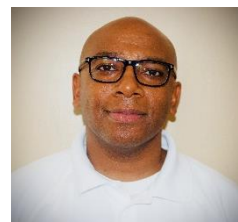
Reggie Mays
United Prosthetics & Orthotics
Chairman



Charles King
Regional Paramedical Services
Chairman Elect



Connie Fuell
Dex Imaging
Past Chairman



Carlton Jackson
Edge Realty
Treasurer



Mitch Avery
Spire
Finance Chairman



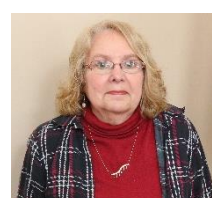
Cynthia Anthony
Lawson State



Laurence Baird
Oak Trace Care & Rehab.



Tabitha Dudley
Legacy YMCA



Judy Mathis
Moore Coal Co.



Keith Pennington
Medical West



Randy Tate
Comfort Care Home Health



Deaunka L. Webster
AAA Alabama



Bryonda Collins
Chambers Funeral



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.

CHAMBER NEWS

Veteran's Day 2019

Bessemer's annual Veteran's Day Program honors veterans and first responders who gave the ultimate sacrifice for the safety of our country. This year's program was held on Thursday, November 7, 2019, at the Bessemer Civic Center. Members of the 21st District of American Legion, including the district's commander Gordon Seale, were on hand for introductions and comments. Veterans present were recongized by branch and given standing ovations. Jamarius Lambert and Tamala Briggins each performed amazing solos that really moved those in attendance. The keynote speaker was Captain Walter Williams of the Marines Reserve Center. Toraine Norris gave closing comments on behalf of the mayor's office; the program concluded with lunch provided by the Bessemer Chamber. The Bessemer Chamber would like to thank everyone who took the time to show their support to our veterans and our first respsnders!



*Gordon Seale
Commander, District 21
American Legion*



*LaTasha Cook Williams, Bessemer Area
Chamber of Commerce President;
Captain Walter Williams, Marine
Reserve Center*



*Tamala Briggins performing
Mariah Carey's "Hero"*



CHAMBER NEWS

BACOC 2019 Christmas Open House

The Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce's membership gathered together for an evening filled with great food, a warm atmosphere, and more! The Christmas Open House is an opportunity for new and existing members to network and mingle. Members also have the chance to win amazing door prizes by entering their name in the raffle drawing. This event is always a great way to wrap up the year recognizing new members that have joined throughout the year and thanking existing members for their continuous support for the Bessemer Chamber and for the city of Bessemer!



CITY / BUSINESS NEWS

City of Bessemer 2019 Christmas Parade

Every year, hundreds of people come out on the second Saturday in December to one of Alabama's largest Christmas parades right here in Bessemer! This year was no different! The theme for the 2019 City of Bessemer Christmas Parade was "Teaming Up for Christmas", with all participants decorating and/or dressing in their favorite college or professional sports team attire. Kids of all ages received tons of candy and stuffed animals and enjoyed performances from Bessemer City and Midfield High Schools' bands. The parade concluded with a live Santa on the fire truck, which is always a highlight for the kids. We look forward to an even bigger and better parade next year!



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

CITY / COMMUNITY NEWS

This year, the city of Bessemer suffered the loss of several prominent community and business leaders. We would like to take the time to honor them, and we hope that their spirits will continue to live on through the hearts and minds of those they've influenced, as well as the citizens of Bessemer:

Jimmy Koikos

James Bill Koikos was born on April 21, 1938 in Birmingham, Alabama, to Bill and Anastasia Koikos. Jimmy had an idyllic childhood growing up on Dartmouth Avenue in Bessemer and working after school as a busboy at the Bright Star Cafe. He attended Arlington School and Bessemer High School, graduating in 1957. After attending the University of Alabama, Jimmy started working at the Bright Star on January 1, 1960. Aside from his time serving in the United States Coast Guard in the early 1960s, he worked at the Bright Star for the rest of his life. Jimmy's ambition and natural gregariousness as manager and host led the Bright Star to higher levels of cuisine, service, and recognition from the 1970s onward. The addition of Jimmy's niece Stacey Craig and cousin Andreas Anastassakis to the already-exceptional Bright Star staff was a great personal and professional blessing to Jimmy. Today the Bright Star's reputation for excellence--including an "America's Classic" award in 2010 from the James Beard Foundation



in New York--is largely due to Jimmy Koikos's vision and tenacity. Jimmy was best known and loved for his infectious sense of humor, his generosity to family and friends, and the keen interest he showed in everyone he met. He took great pride in having friends from all walks of life, including coaches, athletes, politicians, businessmen, and ministers. Jimmy was honored and humbled to be a member of the A-Club, the Red Elephant Club, and the Board of Directors of the First Financial Bank in Bessemer. On the rare occasions that he left the Bright Star, Jimmy enjoyed attending Alabama football games, visiting Panama City Beach, and seeing his cousins in Tallahassee, Florida. To have known Jimmy is to understand how much his love and humor will be missed every day, and how enormously his presence will be felt at the restaurant he loved, in the hometown that he loved. May his

memory be eternal. Jimmy Koikos's family wishes to express their deep gratitude to the many friends whose visits, prayers, and cards provided sustaining strength to Jimmy during his illness. James Bill Koikos died peacefully at home surrounded by loved ones on November 16, 2019.

Frank D'Alessandro

Frank D'Alessandro, 96, of Bessemer, AL, passed away November 15, 2019. Mr. Frank was born in 1923. He was a resident of Bessemer, AL, for a major part of his life. He was the founder and owner of 4th Avenue Supermarket until his retirement. Mr. Frank was a Member of Saint Aloysius Catholic Church. He served on the Board of Associated Grocers of the South and was a member of Woodward Golf and Country Club. Mr. Frank was preceded in death by his parents, Gaetano and Carmela S. D'Alessandro; his sister, Josephine D. Vacarella and his grandson, John D'Alessandro. He is survived by his wife of 68 years, Prue D'Alessandro;



CITY / BUSINESS NEWS

continued from page 9

his sons, Frank G. (Kathy) D'Alessandro and Jerry (Michaelene) D'Alessandro; his daughter, Judy (John) Holt; his grandchildren, Nick (Katie) D'Alessandro, AJ D'Alessandro (fiancee Alice Weaver), Katie D'Alessandro, Gerry (Mikayla) D'Alessandro and Virginia D'Alessandro and his great grandchildren, Ruth and Eileen D'Alessandro and Gus D'Alessandro; his sister, Sarah D. Modica.

Kenneth Gallo



Kenneth Frank Gallo, age 64, of Vestavia, AL passed away on June 25, 2019. Ken was born on December 24, 1954. He was a native of West End, AL where he graduated from West End High School. He was a member of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church. He was employed at Premiere Chevrolet as President Dealer Principal for over 15 years. He was preceded in death by his parents, Anthony Joseph Gallo, Sr. and Virginia McFerrin Gallo. Ken is survived by his brother, Anthony Joseph Gallo, Jr. (Jan) and his sister, Elizabeth Gallo-King (William); his nephews, Anthony Joseph Gallo, III, Grant and Brad King. He was a good friend and mentor to many and will be missed by all those that knew him. A funeral service for Ken will be held at 12:00 p.m. on Monday, July 1st at Jefferson Memorial Funeral Home Chapel in Trussville. Visitation will be held on Sunday, June 30th from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.

Merdith Byram



Born February 20, 1941, Merdith (Mert) was a long-time resident of Bessemer/McCalla, AL. She was raised in Concord, Alabama, an only child to the late Merl and Audette McFerrin. A graduate of Hueytown High School, she continued her education earning a bachelor's degree from the University of Montevallo and a master's degree and PhD from the University of Alabama. After graduation, she worked her way from Science Teacher to Counselor; to Principal of West Hills Elementary School; and on to Director of Pupil Personnel for Bessemer City Schools, the position from which she retired. She was recently described by one of her past student's parent as a beloved principal who truly cared for her students and celebrated their accomplishments. In addition to her work career accomplishments, Mert was a community leader with "dedicated service to the community, irrefutably successful leadership, impeccable integrity, strength of character and formidable use of personality" (according to the Jefferson County Historical Commission when awarding her the Thomas Jefferson Award for excellence in historical leadership). Byram also served as a board member of the Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce, and she was a recipient of the prestigious Charles A. Long Outstanding Civic Award. Merdith McFerrin Byram, age 78, ascended to her heavenly home on Monday, November 11, 2019.

2019 Sponsors

GOLD SPONSORS



MEDICAL WEST
an affiliate of the **UAB** HEALTH SYSTEM



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



**United
Prosthetics &
Orthotics**

SILVER SPONSORS



DOLLAR GENERAL®



District Attorney
Lynniece Washington

SMALL BUSINESS PARTNERS

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

98TH ANNUAL BANQUET

HIGHLIGHTS

Hear the Chamber's 2019 Year End Review and plans for 2020, Meet the new Board of Directors & Ambassadors, Join us in recognizing our 2020 Sponsors and participate in the presentation of the 2020 Charles A. Long Outstanding Civic Award, Network with elected officials and business and community leaders.

Date: Thursday, January 30, 2020

Time: 5:00 - 6:00 pm (Social Time)
6:00 pm (Banquet begins)

Location: Bessemer Civic Center's Main Hall

Ticket Price: \$40

Table of 8: \$320

Dress: Business Attire



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dr. Perry Ward

President

Lawson State Community College

Lawson State
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Call 425-3253 or email mmilan1@bellsouth.net to register or for more information

TICKET RESERVATION DEADLINE: THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 2020

Please fill out the information below completely

Company: _____ Contact: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

PH: _____ F: _____ Email: _____

OF TICKETS NEEDED: Ticket(s) (\$40 each) _____ Table of 8 (\$320) _____ Total Amount Paid = _____

METHOD OF PAYMENT: *ALL MONEY DUE BEFORE EVENT
Check _____ Invoice _____ Credit Card _____ TOTAL PAID \$ _____

Credit Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____ CVV # _____

Print Cardholder's Name: _____ Billing Zip _____

I authorize the Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce to charge my credit card for these fees and agree to pay the above total according to card issuer agreement.

Authorized Signature _____ Date _____

You will receive an electronic receipt via email when your card is processed

Mail completed registration & payment to the Bessemer Chamber at 321 18th St. N., Bessemer, AL 35020



Charles A. Long, Sr. Outstanding Civic Award

2020 Nomination Form

Charles A. Long was a devoted business and civic leader whose inspiration and guidance was of tremendous influence during, and after, his long years of leadership and service to Bessemer. The Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce annually presents the prestigious Charles A. Long, Sr. Outstanding Civic Award to a deserving recipient who has served the community in the tradition of Mr. Long. Any living man or woman who has provided leadership and service to the business and civic interests of Bessemer is eligible for nomination. *(Past recipients are not eligible for nomination – see page 2 for past winners).* This award will be presented at the 98th Annual Banquet on January 30, 2020.

Complete and Submit Nomination Form to the Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce by:

MAIL: PO Box 648, Bessemer, AL 35021

FAX: 205-425-4979

EMAIL: mmilan1@bellsouth.net

Nomination Deadline: Tuesday, January 14, 2020

Name of Nominee _____

Address _____

Business/Occupation/Profession _____

Number of Years _____

I. COMMUNITY SERVICE (as evidenced by membership/leadership/support of organizations such as YMCA, YWCA, Boys Club, Girls Inc., Scouts, others)

A. Community Organizations Served (If known, list length of service.)

B. Leadership Roles held in Community Organizations (as evidenced by serving as an officer, chairing committees, serving on special committees, etc.)

II. CIVIC SERVICE (As evidenced by membership/leadership/participation in civic organizations such as Kiwanis, Lions Club, Rotary Club, Chamber of Commerce, others)

A. Civic Organizations served (If known, list length of service.)

B. Leadership Roles in Civic Organizations (as evidenced by serving as an officer, chairing committees, serving on special committees, etc.)

III. VOLUNTEER SERVICE (as evidenced by participation in activities supportive of Red Cross, Easter Seals, Meals on Wheels, Salvation Army, Cancer Society, American Heart Association, hospitals, nursing homes and public schools, others)

A. Organizations for which Volunteer Service was provided (If known, list length of service).

B. Leadership Positions held with volunteer organizations (as evidenced by serving as an officer, chairing committees, serving on special committees, etc.)

IV. HONORS, AWARDS, AND RECOGNITIONS the Nominee has received for business, civic, professional, volunteer and/or leadership service.

V. STATEMENT OF SUPPORT. Please state in detail why you feel the nominee is deserving of this award.

(Attach additional sheets if necessary.)

VI. REFERENCES. Please provide the names and contact information of up to three individuals who can provide additional information in support of this nominee.

VII. PERSON OR ORGANIZATION MAKING NOMINATION

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____ Phone Number _____

Signed _____ Date _____

PAST RECIPIENTS

1965 - Charles A. Long, Sr.

1966 - Locke H. Jones

1967 - Norman Fountain

1968 - Jack Lunsford

1969 - Evans Smithson

1970 - Rev. F. E. Jordan

1971 - John R. Lathram

1972 - Milton J. Brooks

1973 - Sara Huey Lewis

1974 - Frank S. Sachs

1975 - Dr. LeRoy L. Holt

1976 - Rev. N.R. Edwards

1977 - Buddy Sokol

1978 - John B. Harris

1979 - Jim Moore

1980 - Vaughn Burrell

1981 - Earl Usher

1982 - Jerry I. Cherner

1982 - Jerry I. Cherner

1983 - Fred Blackerby

1984 - Tom Gloor

1985 - Ann Self

1986 - John Vines

1987 - Jason Dean

1988 - Ed Kean

1989 - Rev. Cecil E. Nelson

1990 - Ruth Toner

1991 - Jane Mulkin

1992 - Dr. Earl H. Pate, Jr.

1993 - Bonnie Buckner Lipscomb

1994 - Rev. Gerald Price

1995 - A.W. "Gus" Kuhn

1996 - Bessie Pippens

1997 - Margaret Snider

1998 - Ora H. Foster

1999 - Frank D'Alessandro, Jr.

2000 - Dr. Merdith Byram

2001 - Syble R. Shoults

2002 - Don Holmes

2003 - Priscilla Dunn

2004 - Diane Hyché

2005 - Quitman Mitchell

2006 - Anthony Underwood

2007 - Helen Cooley

2008 - Gene Cochran

2009 - Hank Tyler

2010 - Van Sykes

2011 - Nelda Pate

2012 - Joni Holt

2013 - Sarah Beasley

2014 - Ronald W. Acker

2015 - Keith Pennington

2016 - David C. Darby

2017 - Dr. Perry Ward

2018 - Jim Ed Mulkin

2019 - Claire Mitchell

Return nominations to the Bessemer Chamber of Commerce at PO Box 648,
Bessemer, AL 35021 or fax to 205-425-4979. Questions? Call us at 205-425-3253

