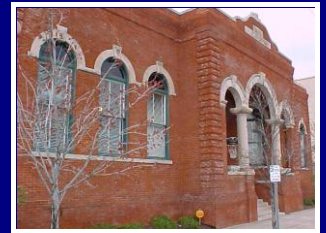


Communique

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AUGUST 2011

Bessemer
Area Chamber of Commerce

UPCOMING EVENTS

AUGUST

- 08/05 Ribbon Cutting at Standard Furniture** at 11am {301 19th Street N., Bessemer}
- 08/12 Ribbon Cutting & Re-Grand Opening** at T & S Boutique @ 11am {806 19th Street N., Bessemer}
- 08/23 Board of Director's Mtg.** @ Noon @ Chamber - Executive Comm. 11:30 am
- 08/23 Open House @** Therapy South 5:30-6:30 pm {4774 Eastern Valley Rd, Ste 109, McCalla}
- 08/30 Business After Hours** at The Sweet House {1823 3rd Avenue N.} *RSVP 425-3253 by 8/19.*

Steve Watts Secretary/Treasurer of Auto Dealers Association

Steve Watts, the dealer principal of Town and Country Ford in Bessemer and Town and Country Ford-Lincoln in Pell City, was elected Secretary-Treasurer of the Automobile Dealers Association of Alabama. The Automobile Dealers Association of Alabama, Inc. is a non-profit trade association representing and serving the interests of Alabama's 300 franchised new car and truck dealers. This honor comes to one of our areas top business leaders and the Chamber joins a host of others in congratulating Steve for this new position of leadership in his industry. The Bessemer area is blessed with top notch business men and women who work tirelessly to grow their businesses and our area. Please join us by going by Town & Country Ford to congratulate Steve on this singular honor.



Steve Watts elected Sec/Treasurer of ADAA

Carma Jude Will be Missed

Leading the Jefferson County Economic and Industrial Development Authority is a major task but couple that with being the mother of two young boys and having a husband in the military compounds the stress. Carma Jude is admired by all that know her and she will be missed. Carma's husband has been transferred to Mississippi for the Army and is taking the whole family with him, we are the losers. Carma has made a dramatic impact on the economic development arena in Alabama and we appreciate her great accomplishments. Adding jobs in the county was job one and she brought in well over 1,000 jobs to JefCo. Beyond her professionalism she also was a great friend with a great attitude. Everyone loves Carma. Please join the Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce in wishing Ms. Carma Jude the best in her move to Mississippi and may she always know that she has impacted lives of so many as well as the business community in Jefferson County.



Carma Jude will be missed

**Membership
Drive
Success:
80
New
Members**

Adding 80 new Chamber members in the economy we have today is amazing. Please join the Chamber's leadership in thanking our great group of Ambassadors for a job well done. Chamber Chairman Keith Pennington (Medical West) was ecstatic saying, "This is the best membership drive in years and I am proud of our Ambassadors." The reason the Chamber exists is to help our membership and new members provide the impetus to continue to stretch to make business growth in the Bessemer area a priority with our City, County and State. We will be celebrating this accomplishment soon.



Chamber Ambassadors do another great job!

The School Zone Ribbon Cutting

On July 14th The School Zone officially opened for business and hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony. Pamela Whitt prepared a great feast to serve those attending and the store was ready to help students and parents get set for the upcoming school year. From uniforms to art supplies The School Zone has everything your student might need for gaining a great education. The staff at The Zone was all set to help. Assisting Pamela in the ribbon cutting was Council member Sarah Belcher and State Senator Priscilla Dunn. Of course, your Ambassadors were there in large numbers to help in any way they could. Located at 508 West Town Plaza, we encourage all those with students to visit The School Zone.



Mary Whitt and Councilperson Sarah Belcher cut the ribbon at The School Zone.

Councilman Cleo King Helps Cut Ribbon at Mary's Kitchen & Catering

Mary Adams, owner of Mary's Kitchen & Catering, welcomed a tremendous crowd of Chamber members, Chamber board members, elected officials, first responders, and well wishers to her grand opening and ribbon cutting on July 29th. Chamber board member Charles King (Rural Metro Ambulance) was there to represent the Chamber. Serving fried chicken and other delicious items made the opening especially memorable. Helping with the ribbon cutting was City Councilman Cleo King and State Senator Priscilla Dunn. Among the Chamber Ambassadors present was City Council member Sarah Belcher. Police Chief Nathaniel Rutledge and several police officers were there including Captain Mike Roper, husband of Chamber Ambassador Coordinator Minnie Roper. The Bessemer Fire Department had a group there to welcome Mary's to the neighborhood as well. Located at 1200 Hall Avenue across from James A. Davis Middle School, you will find the food is outstanding and the prices are right. Please join us in welcoming Mary's Kitchen & Catering to the Bessemer business community.



Mary's Kitchen & Catering welcomes Chamber Ambassador Shirley Horn, Councilors Cleo King and Sarah Belcher and Ambassador Nikki Jordan at their ribbon cutting on July 29th.



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Photos



The School Zone enjoys having Mayor Kenneth Gulley attend their ribbon cutting ceremony on July 14th.



Circuit Clerk Benny Watson joins Chamber Ambassadors in Roosevelt Park for the 4th of July fireworks. Ambassadors (left to right) are Sarah Beasley, Minnie Roper, Ericka Watson, Sarah Belcher and Claire Mitchell



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Confusion, partisanship, self aggrandizement all are taking place in our elected officials at the federal level. Their actions are a source of stress which is continually put on our small business owners, they deserve so much better. Most jobs in our economy are the direct result of small business owners and the Chamber appreciates all that they do, all that they overcome, and all that they sacrifice to make our economy so strong even in these difficult times.

Oh don't we wish that our Senate, House and President would follow the businessman's example. Especially when it comes to managing finances. Live within our means is a requirement of a successful business. We elected them to handle things like we would, not like they are some type of royalty. We deserve better.

In 1887 Alexander Tyler, a Scottish history professor at the University of Edinburgh, had this to say about the fall of the Athenian Republic some 2,000 years ago. "A democracy is always temporary in nature: it simply cannot exist as a permanent form of government. A democracy will continue to exist up until the time that voters discover that they can vote themselves generous gifts from the public treasury. From that moment on, the majority always votes for the candidates who promise the most benefits from the public treasury, with the result that every democracy will finally collapse over loose fiscal policy, (which is) always followed by a dictatorship."

We deserve better. But we must take the reins, elect those who will NOT just give us or any citizen gifts. A citizen in a true democracy must work for what they get, whether they get a job or help from the public funds they NEED to WORK. You as a business person work hard for what you have, so must everyone according to their ability. Our welfare system must be revamped to require earning the assistance to the extent possible, no one on the dole respects themselves, they would rather work, so let us provide community/state/federal opportunities for welfare recipients to earn their money. They deserve better.

Businesses cannot exist without hard work and getting the government out of the way. Too many business restraints depress the number of jobs our business world can provide. We each must realize that being too liberal with our limited Government revenue is not helping our struggling economy. We must tighten the reins, pull in the gifts, make the decision to live within our means. We must be like you, business minded, and make the Nation's limited funds be put to use like a business. We deserve better.

Community News

Career Technical Education

Jefferson County Schools, Bessemer City Schools, and almost all school systems in the State offer our children a chance to select their career whether it requires college, trade school or apprenticeships. Jefferson County states it like this, "The Career/Technical Education program is a vital, progressive, and rigorous part of the total educational system that provides students with life skills and prepares them as a workforce in which business and industry are confident."

And here is where you as a business person can help. One of the primary goals of any Career Tech program is to maintain effective partnerships to promote development of Alabama's workforce. Our workforce! We encourage you to get involved at a high school in your community, participate in their advisory groups, let them hear from you on what you need prospective employees to know, how you want them to act, and the requirements for working at your business. This is your way of ensuring the future workers your business will need.

Bessemer July 4th Fireworks Were Amazing

The heat, the rain nor the humidity dampened the July 4th fireworks at Roosevelt Park on Hwy. 150. Mayor Kenneth Gulley and Council members Jesse Matthews, Sarah Belcher, Donna Thigpen, Sherrina Rice-Franklin, Cleo King and David Vance were there mingling with the hundreds of citizens coming by to enjoy watermelon, pickles, and other delicious goodies. Leading up to the grand ending was some great music and warm fellowship. Thanks to our police department and fire department it was another safe and enjoyable evening. Also, thank you to our Chamber Ambassadors and City workers for working so hard to make the evening a success. Thank you City Council and Mayor for another exceptional July 4th. Special thanks to the Chamber's Latasha Cook for coordinating everything.



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Minnie Roper, Retired

Co Coordinator

Claire Mitchell, Hair Gallery Beauty Salon

Secretary

Nelda Pate, Retired

Kay Baggett, Retired

Sarah Belcher, Bessemer City Council

Sarah Beasley, Joe Beasley Memorial Foundation, Inc.

Regina Doriety, Lawson State - Bessemer

Beverly Edwards, Rural Metro Ambulance

Connie Fuell, Konica Minolta

Louise Hickey, Legacy YMCA

Shirley Horn, Retired

Nikki Jordan, Sarrell Dental

Doris Lewis, City of Bessemer

Diane Sparks, Retired

Katherine Taylor

Rachel Townsend, Rural Metro Ambulance

Lula Walter, City of Bessemer

Ericka Watson, Individual

Newest Ambassador:

Daryl Owens, Dr. Miracles, Inc.