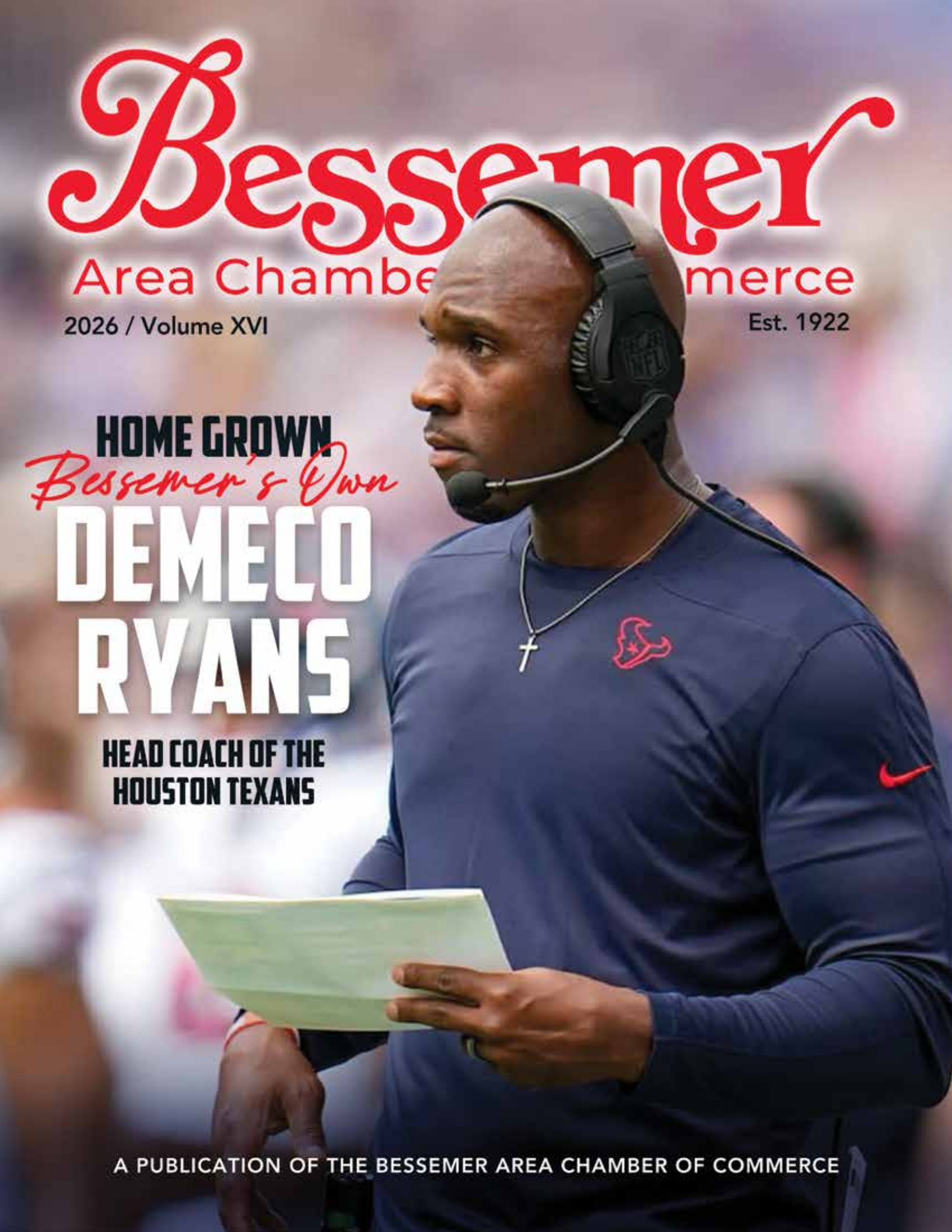
Bessemer

Area Chamber of Commerce

2026 / Volume XVI

Est. 1922



HOME GROWN

Bessemer's Own

DEMECO RYANS

HEAD COACH OF THE HOUSTON TEXANS

A PUBLICATION OF THE BESSEMER AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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2026 EDITION

BESSEMER, AL

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HOURS OF OPERATION: MON-FRI | 8AM-5PM

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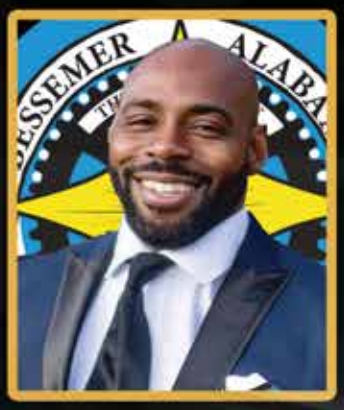

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CARLA JACKSON
DISTRICT 6

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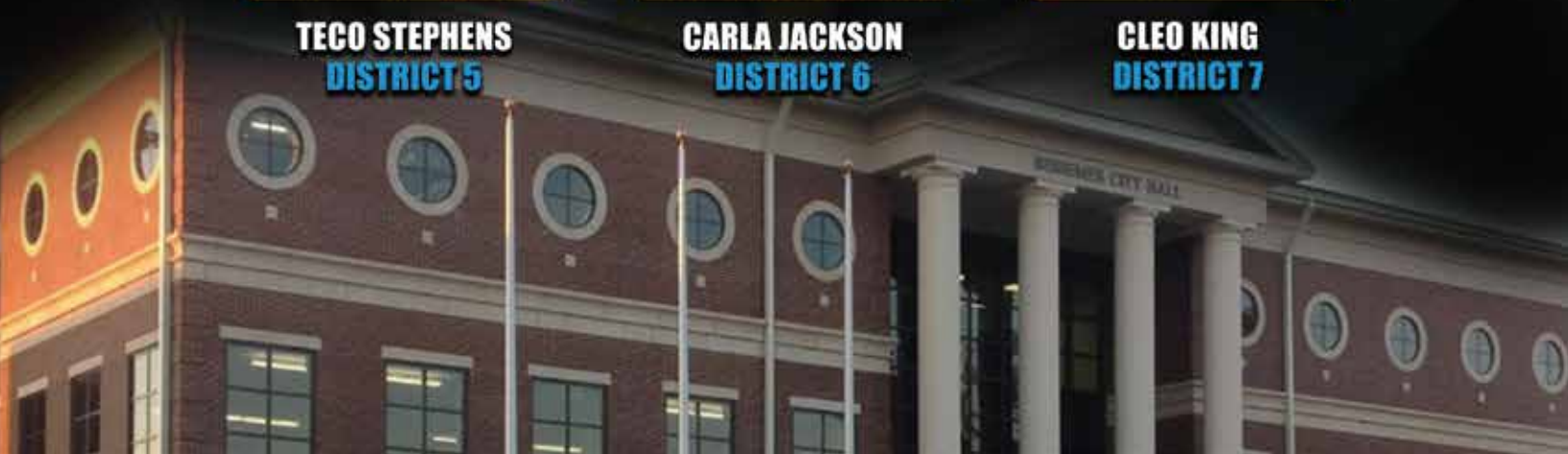

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Connections

One Team... One Purpose... Meaningful Connections

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BESSEMER MAGAZINE 2026

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www.bessemerchamber.com

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Chamber of Commerce

Dear Friends and Members of the Bessemer Business Community,

It is an honor to serve as Chair of the Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce for 2026, and I am grateful for the support you continue to show to your Chamber. The Chamber has long been a cornerstone of progress, partnership, and pride in this region. As we look ahead, we remain deeply committed to strengthening the economic vitality of Bessemer and championing the businesses, organizations, nonprofits and individuals who make our community exceptional.

From our historic industrial roots to the innovative growth we see today, this city continues to prove that opportunity thrives where people work together with vision and determination. The Chamber is proud to support this momentum by fostering collaboration, advocating for our members, and providing resources that help businesses of all sizes succeed.

In the year ahead, we will focus on expanding member engagement and creating new avenues for connection and growth. Whether through networking events, educational programs, or strategic partnerships, our goal is to equip our business community with the tools and relationships needed to flourish in an ever-changing environment.

I want you to know that the Chamber exists for you. Your involvement, your insight, and your passion for Bessemer are what drive our mission. I encourage you to continue investing in this community, engaging with fellow members, and sharing your ideas as we move forward together.

Thank you for your dedication to the Bessemer area and for your partnership with the Chamber. It is a privilege to serve alongside you, and I look forward to all we will accomplish in 2026.

With appreciation and commitment,

Micah Andrews
2026 Chair of the Board
Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce

Micah Andrews
2026 Chair of the Board

The Bessemer Area Chamber Of Commerce

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AMBASSADORS

are individuals who are motivated, enthusiastic, and articulate. They serve as the backbone of the Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce. They assist in creating connections that help our business community in accomplishing their goals.

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."
– Gandhi

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Area Chamber of Commerce

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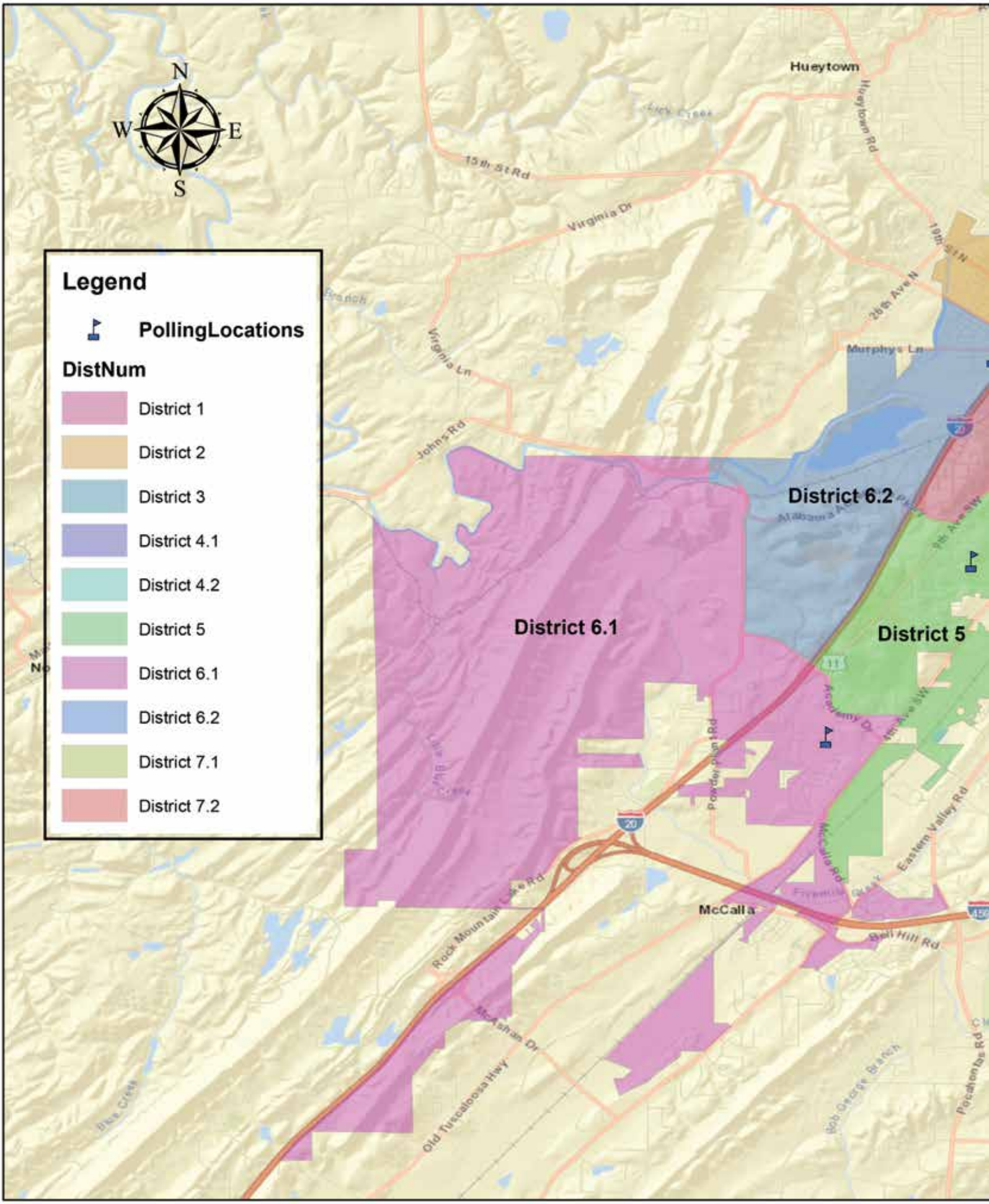
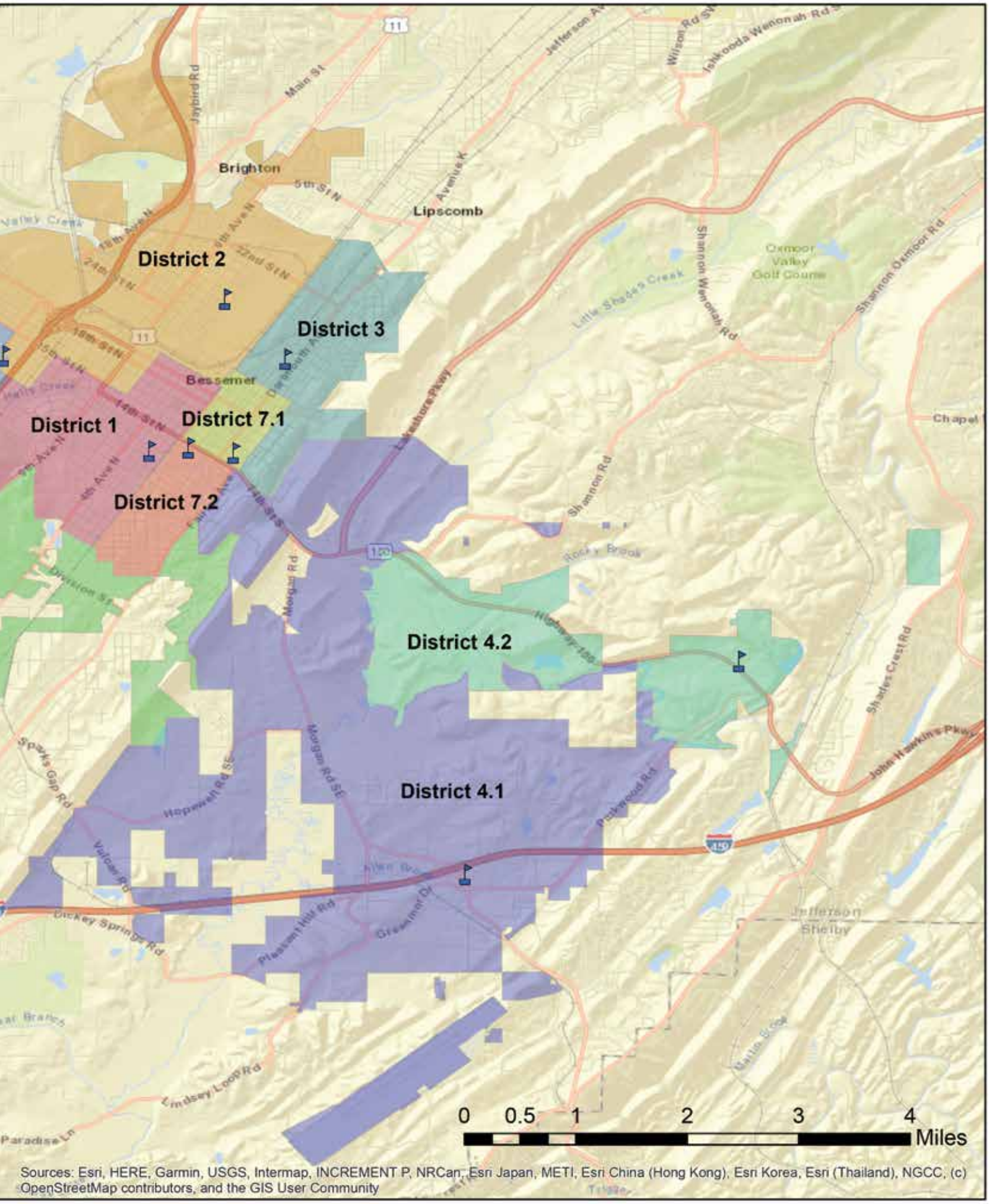


VOTING DISTRICTS



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ATTRACTIONS
Alabama Splash Adventure 481-4750
Bessemer Hall of History 426-1633
K1 Speed Indoor Speedway 235-6230

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

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City Attorney 424-8703
Fire Department 428-5151
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
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Lawson State Community College 925-2515

Area Elementary Schools:
Abrams Elementary School 432-3100
Greenwood Elem. School. 432-3200
Hard Elementary School. 432-3300
Jonesboro Elem. School. 432-3400
Westhills Elementary School 432-3500

Area Middle Schools:
Bessemer City Middle School 432-3600

Area High Schools:
Bessemer City High School 432-3700

Area Private Schools:
Alabama Aerospace and Aviation High School . . .538-0702
Bessemer Academy 428-6288
Dunnam's Private School 425-4194
Empower Community School. 413-8600
Heritage Christian Academy. 978-6001

ELECTED OFFICIALS
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Senator Merika Coleman. 334-261-0226
Jefferson Co. Comm. Jimmie Stephens 325-5555
Jefferson Co. Comm. Sheila Tyson 325-5074
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Jefferson Co. Sheriff Mark Pettway 325-5720
Jeff. Co., Bess. Deputy Treas. Sherry McClain . . .481-4192
Jeff. Co, Circuit Clerk Karen Dunn. 497-8510
Jeff. Co., Bess. Tax Assessor Charles Winston . . .481-4125

EMERGENCY NUMBERS
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Alabama State Troopers 252-7445
Bessemer Fire Department 428-5151
Bessemer Police Department 481-4351
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 (Birmingham) 439-7800
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 Ministries. 424-4673
Jefferson Co. Dev. Authority 943-4794
Salvation Army 425-4303
U.S. Post Office 800-275-8777
Voter Registration 481-4100

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

LICENSES / TAXES
Alabama Revenue Department 334-242-9000
Jefferson County Courthouse 481-4110
Jefferson County Tax Assessor 481-4125
Jefferson County Tax Collector 481-4131
Veterans' Affairs, Bessemer 481-4117

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Western Star 424-7827

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Simmons Sporting Goods	2001 2nd Avenue N, Bessemer	205-425-4720
The Walk-In Closet	218 19th Street N., Bessemer	205-506-2897
Torme Foods	527 20th Street N, Bessemer	205-428-7110

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Bob Sykes Barbecue	1724 9th Avenue N, Bessemer	205-426-1400
Bre's Gourmet Catering & Restaurant	5204 Bessemer Super Hwy, Brighton	205-760-5731
Bright Star Restaurant	304 19th Street N, Bessemer	205-424-9444
D's Country Cookin' (Food Truck)		205-310-0850
Granny Boy's Lemonade LLC	4547 McCalla Trace Pkwy, Bessemer	205-475-3330
Lil Mama's Meeting & Event Space	1200 Hall Avenue, Bessemer	205-728-4063
Lisa's Delightful Designs (Bakery)		205-223-5972
Sneaky Pete's	400 18th Street N, Bessemer	205-424-4036
Solcial Veg	1509 19th Place SW, Birmingham	205-926-8660
Sonic of Bessemer	732 Academy Drive, Bessemer	205-428-2002
Taziki's Mediterranean Café	4859 Promenade Pkwy, Bessemer	205-213-8029
Wings R King	4760 Eastern Valley Road Ste 116, McCalla	205-434-2395
Yoki Buffet	5020 Academy Lane, Bessemer	267-666-2618

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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.

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Dr. Cynthia T. Anthony, President

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SCAN ME

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HOME

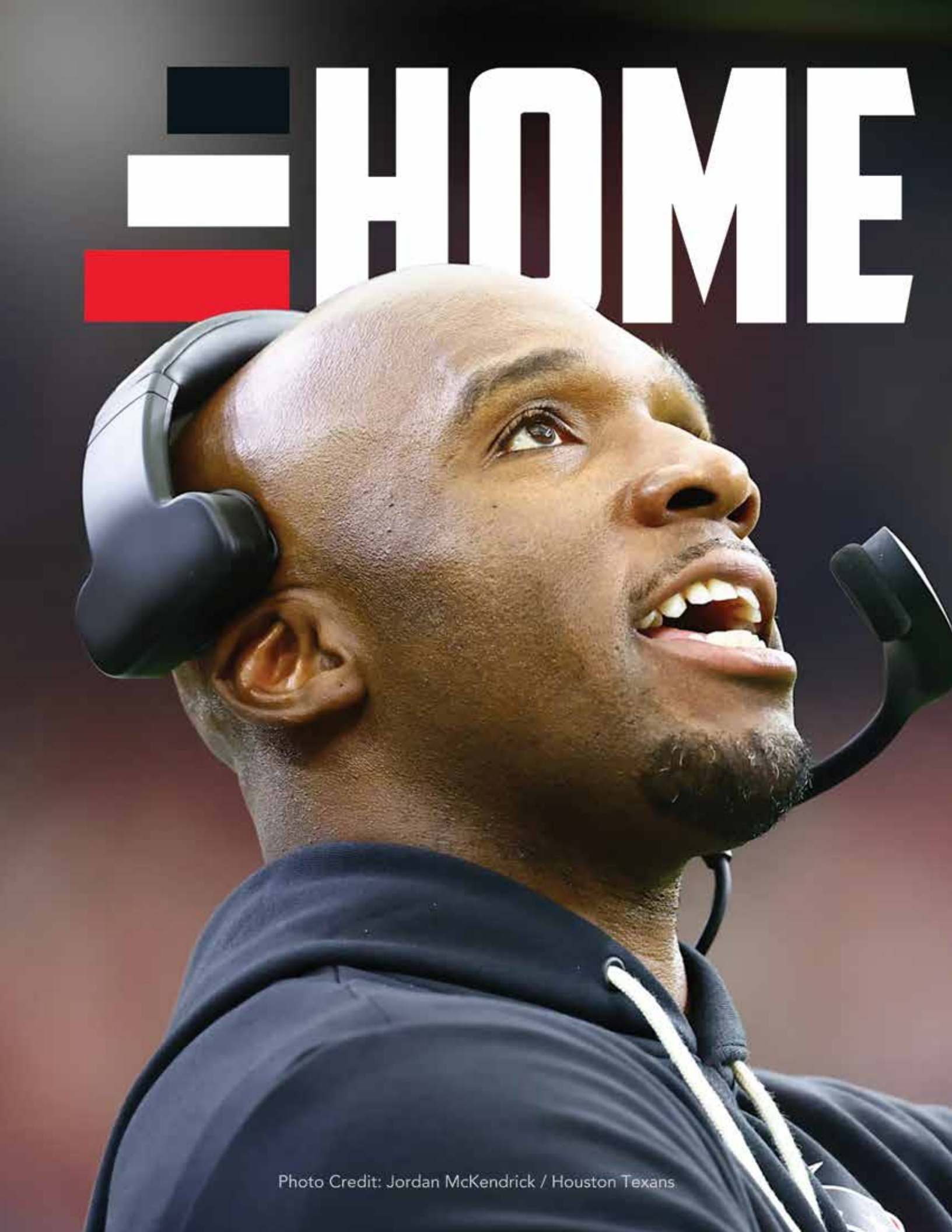

Photo Credit: Jordan McKendrick / Houston Texans

GROWN

DeMeco Ryans

FROM THE FRONT PORCH TO THE SIDELINES

In the heart of Bessemer, Alabama, a city known as much for its grit as its generosity, a young boy once sat on his front porch, dreaming of a life bigger than the streets he saw before him. That boy was DeMeco Ryans. Today, his name echoes through football stadiums, locker rooms, and leadership circles across the country. But long before NFL glory and coaching acclaim, his story began with something far more powerful than fame: faith, family, and an unwavering desire to make his mother proud.

A Mother's Strength and a Son's Determination

DeMeco was raised in a single-parent home by his mother, Martha Ryans, a woman whose strength became the blueprint for his own. As one of four children, he watched his mother juggle multiple jobs, including grueling hours at a plastics plant molding automobile parts, just to keep the family afloat. Her hands bore the scars of hard work, her spirit the weight of sacrifice. Even after suffering a serious injury that nearly cost her a finger, Martha never slowed down. Her resilience became a silent sermon, one that shaped her young son's outlook on life. "Seeing my mom work like that," DeMeco would later share, "made me realize that I had no excuse not to give my best every single day." Every sprint on the field, every late-night study session, every challenge he fought through was rooted in his desire to honor her sacrifices. Her example cultivated in him a work ethic defined not just by effort, but by purpose.

The Reluctant Player Who Found His Purpose

Ironically, the boy who would become one of football's most respected defensive minds was once afraid to play the game at all. But once DeMeco finally stepped onto the field at Jess Lanier High School, the fear faded — replaced by passion, discipline, and a quiet fire that coaches quickly noticed. By his senior year, he had transformed into one of Alabama's most dominant defensive forces, recording 135 tackles, 11 sacks, two forced fumbles, and two interceptions. His performance wasn't just impressive; it was the kind of season that turns heads across the country. Yet what truly set DeMeco apart wasn't just raw talent. It was humility. Focus. Integrity. The same traits he had learned at home. Those qualities earned him a scholarship to the University of Alabama, where his impact would be felt far beyond the stat sheet.

Crimson Tide to the NFL

At Alabama, DeMeco Ryans became a model of what a student-athlete could be. Coaches marveled at his advanced film study habits. Teammates respected his consistent leadership. Fans loved the relentless spirit he brought to every snap. His standout performance eventually earned him SEC Defensive Player of the Year honors, a recognition that propelled him into the 2006 NFL Draft. Selected by the Houston Texans in the second round, he wasted no time proving he belonged on the biggest stage. He captured the NFL Defensive Rookie of the Year award and quickly emerged as a team captain. His leadership extended beyond the field, and he became a culture-setter, the kind of player others listened to, learned from, and followed. After impactful years with both the Texans and the Philadelphia Eagles, DeMeco transitioned into coaching, bringing his leadership full circle and sparking a new chapter in his football journey.

The Coach, the Husband, the Father

Today, DeMeco Ryans stands as the Head Coach of the Houston Texans, guiding a new generation of players with the same values that shaped him. Yet his greatest titles have nothing to do with football. He is a devoted husband to his wife, Jamila, and a loving father to their four children: MJ, Xia, Micah, and Zuri. Faith and family anchor his life. "My relationship with God keeps me grounded," he often says. "No matter what success comes, I know who I am and where I came from." That grounding gives him balance, clarity, and the strength to face the immense pressures of NFL leadership

Overcoming Doubt and Defining Success

Behind every accolade lies a story of uncertainty. DeMeco faced doubts, moments of questioning, setbacks, injuries, and transitions. But each challenge became a catalyst for growth. Guided by faith and supported by family, he learned to see adversity not as a barrier but as preparation.

Bessemer

His message to young athletes mirrors his own journey:

"You're going to have doubts, but don't let them stop you. The key is to stay consistent, stay humble, and keep your faith strong."

Advice for Aspiring Dreamers

From Bessemer to the NFL, DeMeco carries lessons worth sharing:

- **Work Hard Even When No One Is Watching.**
  "The habits you build in private will show up when the lights come on."
- **Stay True to Your Values.**
  "Success means nothing if you lose your integrity."
- **Honor Those Who Believe in You.**
  "Never forget the sacrifices others made so you can stand where you are."
- **Keep God First.**
  "When faith leads, everything else falls into place."

Photo Credit: Houston Texans Staff / HoustonTexans.com

Proudly From Bessemer

No matter how high he rises, DeMeco Ryans never forgets where he started. Bessemer shaped his toughness, his humility, and his heart. "Everything I am started there," he says. "It's home, and I carry that with me everywhere I go."

A Legacy Beyond the Game

DeMeco Ryans' story is about far more than football. It is a testament to resilience, faith, and the power of humility. From a timid boy afraid to play the game to a respected NFL coach and leader of men, his journey proves that no dream is too distant when built on hard work, gratitude, and unwavering purpose. His legacy is not merely in wins or titles — it's in the lives he inspires, the values he upholds, and the example he sets for future generations

And it all began on a porch in Bessemer. •

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DIRECTOR, MAKEDA SMITH

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- *"New Year, New You" Fitness Challenge: Jan.-Feb.*
- *Black History MLK Day Celebration: Jan. 16th*
- *Mardi Gras/Valentine Bash @ Bessemer Civic Center: Feb. 13th*
- *March Madness Fitness Challenge: March 23rd-27th*
- *Spring Break Camp: March 23rd-27th*
- *Glow Night Easter Egg Hunt: Apr. 4th (EVENING)*
- *5K Vision Walk: May 30th*
- *Summer Camp: June 19th-July 4th*
- *Laser Show: July 5th (SUNDAY)*
- *Regional Master Games: July TBA*
- *Multi-generational Talent Show: Aug. 28th*
- *Mini Triathlon Challenge: Aug. TBA*
- *"Focus on Nutrition" Challenge: Sept. (ENTIRE MONTH)*
- *State Senior Master Games: Oct. TBA*
- *Fall Festival: Oct. 17th*
- *Thanksgiving Program: Nov. 19th*
- *Food Journaling to Healthier Eating: Dec. (ENTIRE MONTH)*
- *Christmas Camp: Dec. 21st-Jan.1st*

JOIN NOW!

HAVE FURTHER QUESTIONS?
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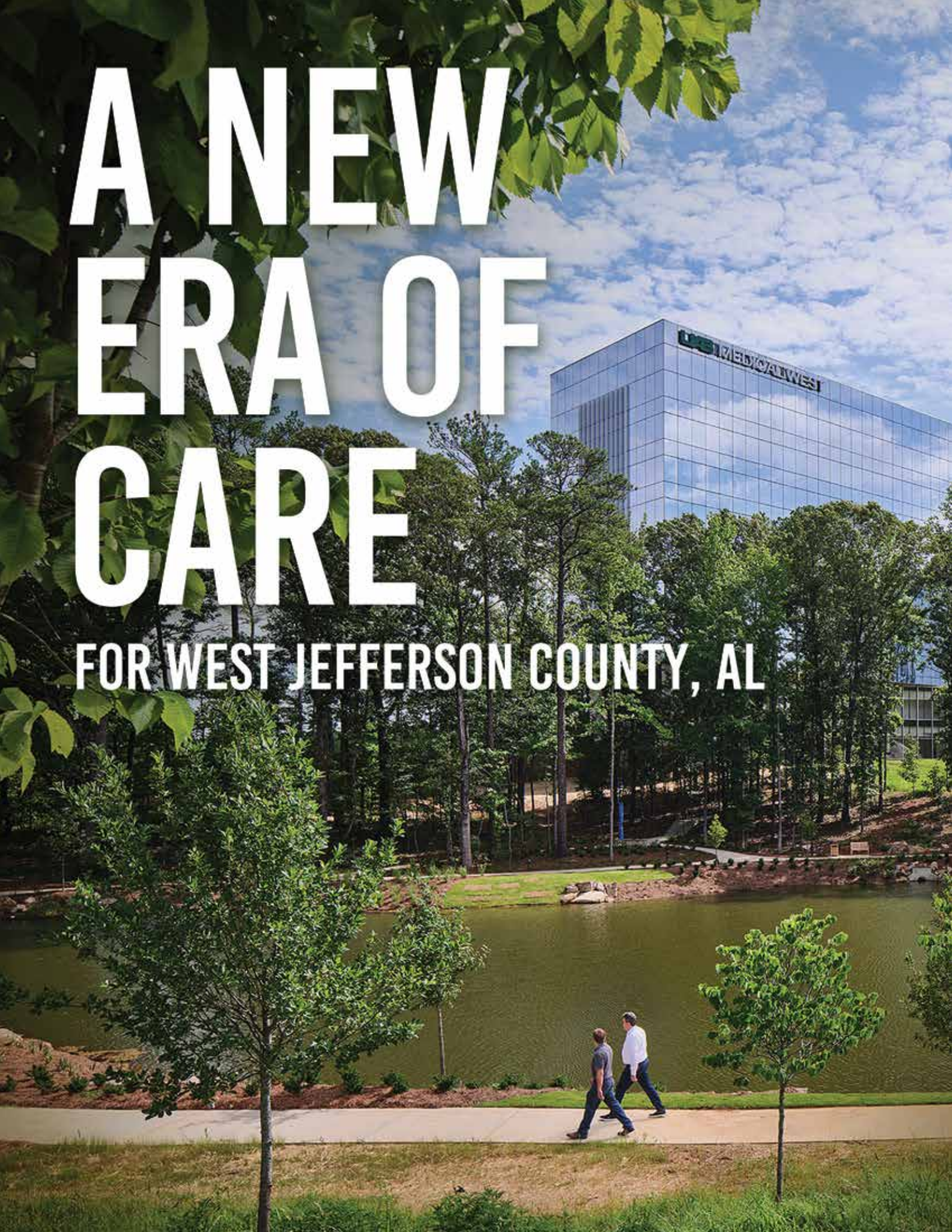
A NEW ERA OF CARE

FOR WEST JEFFERSON COUNTY, AL



UAB MEDICAL WEST

BRINGING STATE-OF-THE-ART HEALTHCARE HOME

By UAB Medical West Hospital

A Proud Partner of the Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce

For more than half a century, UAB Medical West has been a cornerstone of care for the residents of West Jefferson County. Our story began with the construction of our original facility in 1964 — a building that proudly served generations of families but, over time, could no longer meet the evolving demands of modern healthcare. As our community grew, so did the need for a more advanced, efficient, and patient-centered hospital.

That vision recently became a reality in August 2024 - when we opened our beautiful, new, state-of-the-art facility — one that our community can truly call its own. The new hospital represents not only cutting-edge design and technology but also a renewed commitment to the people we serve every day.

A Relaxing & Calming Environment – A Top Priority

When visitors enter the new building, they will immediately notice elements of nature. Whether it be in the artwork provided by local Alabama artists, the flowers and color elements on each floor that represent flora native to the state of Alabama, or the pond outside with walking trails, the design concept of the new facility was to create a calming, nature-like experience.

"Nobody particularly wants to be in a hospital. They may be here for a surgery, or visiting a loved one that is ill – all of which are stressful situations. That's why we made sure to have as much natural light as possible, with floor-to-ceiling windows in every patient room, and beautiful views of the pond and trees in our main waiting areas. We wanted patients and visitors to feel like they are tucked into nature, providing as much of a relaxing and calming environment as possible," says UAB Medical West CEO Keith Pennington.

The facility was designed to be a true space of wellness and healing not only for patients, but for our staff members, visitors and entire community.

Proud to Offer World-Class Care Close to Home

At UAB Medical West, we take immense pride in the services we offer our patients. Our new facility features advanced surgical and endoscopy suites, state-of-the-art imaging technology, and robotic-assisted surgery, allowing for greater precision, faster recovery times, and improved patient outcomes.

As a proud affiliate of the UAB Health System, we now provide more UAB Medicine service lines than ever before — bringing world-class expertise right here to the Bessemer community.

"This world-class facility enables us to further our mission and vision to provide life-changing care and be the leader in improving the health and lives of the residents of the western part of our community and beyond," says Dawn Bulgarella, CEO of UAB Health System.

Deep Roots in the Community

Our dedication to the community extends far beyond hospital walls. As a long-standing member of the Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce, we value the partnerships and collaboration that make our region thrive.

In addition to our new hospital, we proudly operate 11 primary and specialty care locations across West Jefferson County, ensuring convenient access to compassionate, high-quality care. Our physicians and staff share one goal: to improve the health and well-being of the people who call this area home.

Meeting Challenges and Celebrating Milestones

Like many healthcare organizations nationwide, we've faced our share of challenges — from staffing shortages to growing patient volumes. Yet each challenge has helped define who we are today: resilient, committed, and always evolving.

"We are always eager to welcome new employees who share our mission of providing exceptional care to our community," says Pennington. "We continue to expand our team and welcome those interested in joining our UAB Medical West family."

For career opportunities, *visit medicalwesthospital.org/careers.*

And as our patient volumes grow, we're working diligently to provide parking relief for our visitors — a testament to our commitment to listening and responding to the needs of our community.

Looking Ahead: A Bright Future

Since opening our new hospital in August 2024, we have credentialed more than 150 new providers — expanding access to more services, specialties, and expertise than ever before. And this number continues to grow.

We're deeply grateful for the community's continued support and invite everyone to come experience our new campus — take a tour, stroll around our scenic pond, and enjoy the nature-inspired, relaxing environment that our hospital was intentionally designed around.

We're deeply grateful for the city of Bessemer's continued support and invite everyone to come experience our new campus — take a tour, stroll around our scenic pond, and enjoy the nature-inspired, relaxing environment that our hospital was intentionally designed around.

About Medical West Hospital

UAB Medical West is proud to serve Bessemer and West Jefferson County as a trusted healthcare partner for over 60 years. We look forward to continuing our mission of delivering exceptional, innovative care close to home — where it matters most.

For more information about UAB Medical West, our physicians and services, *visit medicalwesthospital.org.* •

UAB MEDICAL WEST

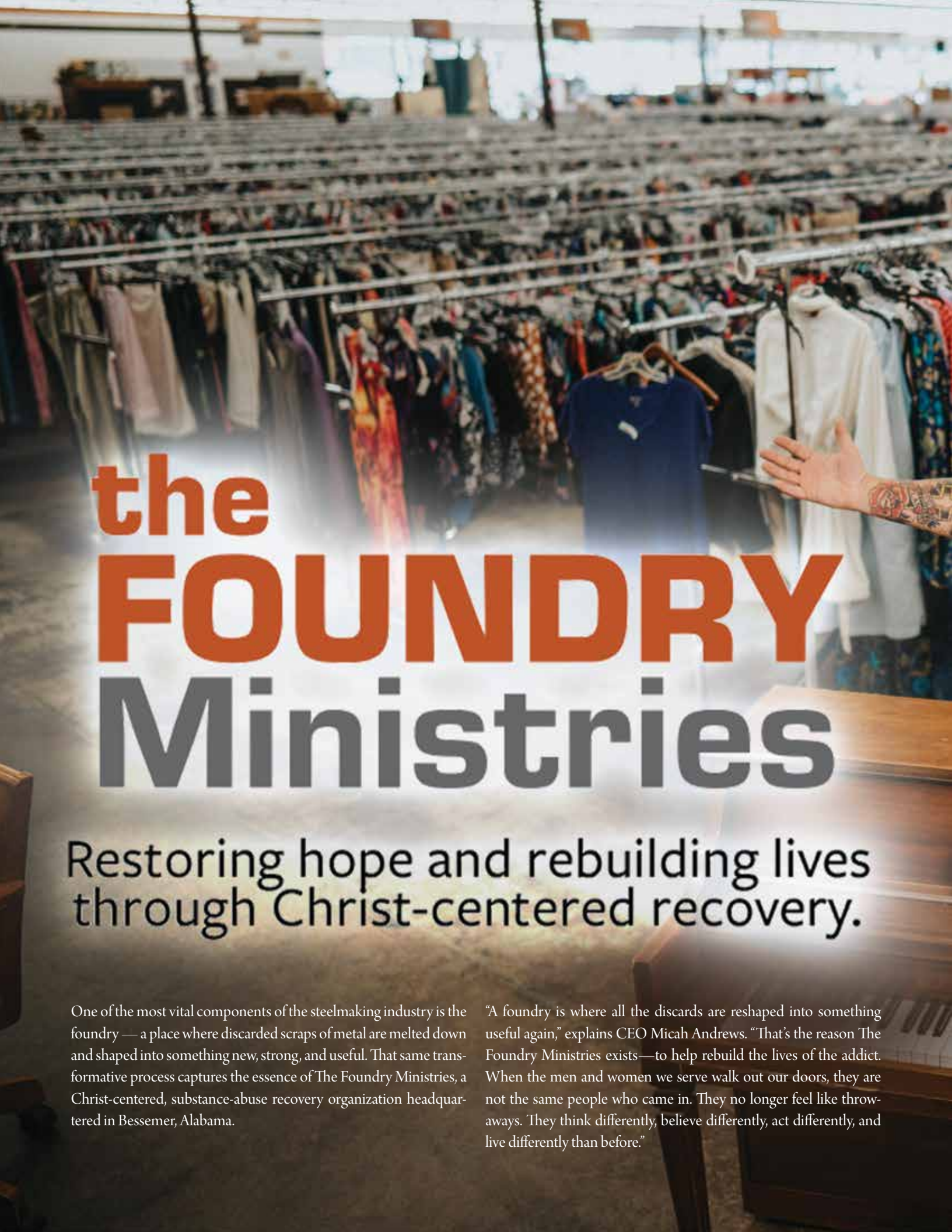
We're proud to be your community hospital.

At UAB Medical West, our number one priority is to offer quality, convenient care for those in West Jefferson County, AL. Currently offering emergency care, 11 primary & specialty care locations in your community, and a brand new state-of-the-art hospital with the latest imaging and surgical technology, UAB Medical West is committed to being here for you and your entire family. It's one more way we can offer quality, compassionate care near you.

Our services include:

Cardiovascular | Diagnostic Imaging | Ear Nose & Throat | Emergency | Endocrinology | Gastroenterology | General Surgery | Geriatric Psychiatry | Neurosurgery | Oncology | Orthopedics | Pain Management | Primary Care | Pulmonary | Rehabilitation | Rheumatology | Robotic Surgery | Sleep Center | Robotic Surgery Surgical Services | Total Joint Center | Women's | Wound Care

For more information about UAB Medical West, our physicians and our services, scan the QR code or visit us online at **medicalwesthospital.org.**



the FOUNDRY Ministries

Restoring hope and rebuilding lives through Christ-centered recovery.

One of the most vital components of the steelmaking industry is the foundry — a place where discarded scraps of metal are melted down and shaped into something new, strong, and useful. That same transformative process captures the essence of The Foundry Ministries, a Christ-centered, substance-abuse recovery organization headquartered in Bessemer, Alabama.

"A foundry is where all the discards are reshaped into something useful again," explains CEO Micah Andrews. "That's the reason The Foundry Ministries exists—to help rebuild the lives of the addict. When the men and women we serve walk out our doors, they are not the same people who came in. They no longer feel like throwaways. They think differently, believe differently, act differently, and live differently than before."

That kind of transformation happens every day at The Foundry, where more than 500 men and women each year find freedom from addiction, restoration of purpose, and renewed hope for their future.

A Legacy of Compassion

The Foundry's story began in 1971, when Bob Bell and Sam Reynolds established the Bessemer Rescue Mission to meet the basic needs of the city's homeless population. What started as a 5,000-square-foot facility offering food, clothing, and shelter soon grew into a ministry of compassion that reached hundreds each year. In 1992, a women's shelter was added, expanding the mission's reach and deepening its impact.

After nearly 25 years of faithfully serving the homeless, the organization recognized a deeper need—many who came seeking food and shelter were also battling addiction. In 1996, under new leadership from Bill Heintz, the name changed to City of Hope, and the ministry began incorporating addiction recovery and re-entry programs for individuals leaving incarceration.

In 2004, reflecting the refining, redemptive process of transformation at its core, the ministry adopted its current name: The Foundry Ministries. In 2016, Micah Andrews stepped into leadership, continuing a legacy of faith, compassion, and innovation in recovery.

Focused on Freedom

In 2020, The Foundry refocused its mission to specialize in Christ-centered, residential substance-abuse recovery. The decision came at a time when the need was greater than ever. Across the United States, someone dies every six minutes from a drug overdose. In Alabama alone, more than 1,400 people lost their lives to overdose last year — the equivalent of a fully loaded 737 jet crashing every month.

The Foundry exists to stand in that gap, offering a place of safety, healing, and lasting change. With facilities including The Foundry Farm

in Cullman and the Changed Lives Christian Center near downtown Birmingham, the ministry can accommodate up to 240 men and women at various stages of recovery.

"The people who come to The Foundry have often tried everything else," Andrews says. "We're like a spiritual trauma center—a last stop for many who are broken, hopeless, and ready for real change."

CITY OF HOPE
Ministries

the FOUNDRY Ministries
Graduation

The Foundry Way

The Foundry's nationally recognized model for recovery, known as The Foundry Way, is built on five core components:

- **Classroom Learning** – Providing biblical teaching and life skills training that renew the mind and reshape perspective.
- **Counseling** – Addressing trauma, addiction, and emotional health through licensed and pastoral counseling.
- **Case Management** – Offering individualized support to navigate barriers and set a plan for sustainable recovery.
- **Employment Readiness & Workforce Development** – Equipping participants with practical job skills and work experience to prepare them for meaningful employment.
- **Aftercare** – Continuing support and community connection to ensure lasting transformation beyond graduation.

"Our approach is open-armed and deeply personal," Andrews says. "It's not just about sobriety—it's about total life transformation."

Sustained by Generosity

A unique aspect of The Foundry's ministry is its self-sustaining model. Nearly 60 percent of its operating revenue comes from its two thrift stores located in Pelham and Cullman. These stores serve a dual purpose: they provide affordable goods to the community while generating vital funds to support recovery services.

"This model allows us to remove financial barriers for the people who need help the most," Andrews explains. "No one should be denied hope because they can't afford it."

The remaining resources come from a faithful network of individual donors, churches, foundations, and businesses who believe in the mission and invest in the work of restoration.

A Hope That Multiplies

Since its founding, The Foundry has served more than 42,000 individuals from nearly every county in Alabama—and countless families have also found healing as a result.

"Addiction doesn't just affect one person—it impacts entire families," Andrews says. "Our work is about restoring families, restoring dignity, and restoring hope. We believe every family deserves a future filled with hope."

Just as a foundry takes what was once broken and gives it new strength and purpose, The Foundry Ministries continues to reshape lives through the power of Christ—proving, again and again, that nothing is beyond redemption. •

the FOUNDRY Ministries

About ten years ago, Ike made a choice that changed the course of his life. “We ran into somebody’s house and took their stuff,” he recalls. “We caught a home invasion, and that’s what ***landed me in prison for five years***.”

When he got out, the cycle didn’t stop. Small drug charges and bad influences kept pulling him back in. “They say you’re hanging around the wrong crowd,” Ike says, “but at what point do you become the wrong crowd?”

Addiction drove that downward spiral. “I couldn’t stop. I couldn’t go home. They were tired of me.” Ike drifted from house to house, bouncing between couches, hotels, and even nights at the casino. ***Eventually, he had nowhere left to go.***

“One day I was just walking,” he remembers. “It was raining, no shoes, shirt beat up, pants beat down, hungry. So hungry I opened a barbecue sauce packet just to eat.” That moment of desperation led him to his mother’s old church. Ike fell to his knees, and ***prayed for the first time in a long time***.

“I went to the neighborhood my auntie lived in. I thought she’d be mad,” he says, “but she was so excited. They started calling the whole family over.” Their response planted a new thought in Ike’s mind: maybe God had been protecting him even when he didn’t see it.

You’ve got to be sick and tired of being sick and tired. Ike had reached that point. ***He told his family to bring him to The Foundry.***

Ike had a new motivation too, his daughter. “I was a deadbeat. Didn’t see her for years. Then one day I looked up, and she was eight years old. She calls me almost every day now, especially when she wants something,” he says with a smile.

Since arriving at The Foundry, Ike’s transformation has been remarkable. Today, Ike stands in a new life. “I’m not that same person I used to be,” he says. “God had a different plan for me.”

LEARN MORE
GET HELP
DONATE

foundryministries.com

Dr. Mittie Cannon: Powering Up the Next Generation of Women in Construction

Inspiration Behind the Movement

Dr. Mittie Cannon's journey into the world of construction began not on a job site, but in a laboratory. Early in her career, she managed a drug testing lab for a major construction project and couldn't help but notice a glaring disparity — the absence of women in the skilled trades. This observation sparked a question that would ultimately define her life's work: Where are the women in construction?

Determined to understand and change the landscape, Dr. Cannon began learning the trades firsthand. She became an electrical helper, working side-by-side with her husband, an electrical engineer. As she gained experience, she encountered the barriers women faced in entering and advancing within the construction industry. Rather than being discouraged, she transformed those challenges into motivation by dedicating her career to building opportunities for women and other underrepresented groups to find their place in the skilled trades.

Over the years, Dr. Cannon rose to become a nationally recognized leader in workforce development and a passionate advocate for gender equity in construction. But even as she trained and mentored countless professionals, she saw a continuing need — to reach young women early, before stereotypes or self-doubt could steer them away from the trades.

That need became the seed for Power UP, Inc., and its signature event, Power UP: It's A Mother-Daughter Thing!

The Birth of Power UP, Inc.

In 2015, during a period of personal recovery following a severe accident, Dr. Cannon found renewed clarity of purpose. Reflecting on her decades in construction and education, she envisioned a program that would introduce young women, and their mothers, to careers in construction in an environment that was fun, hands-on, and empowering.

That vision became reality in March 2016 with the first Power UP: It's A Mother-Daughter Thing! event in Birmingham, Alabama. The inaugural event drew overwhelming participation from students,

parents, industry partners, and educators, confirming the demand for a platform that connects families with real opportunities in the skilled trades.

What began as a one-day event has since evolved into a movement that has reached thousands of young women, families, and educators across the region.

Mission and Vision

The mission of Power UP, Inc. is to educate, engage, and empower young women to explore and pursue rewarding careers in the construction and skilled trades industries.

Its vision is to build a future where women are fully represented and valued in all aspects of construction, from the job site to the boardroom. Power UP creates pathways that inspire confidence, develop skills, and connect participants to tangible career opportunities.

Through hands-on workshops, mentorship programs, and exposure to industry role models, Power UP challenges stereotypes and builds awareness about the economic and personal rewards of working in the trades.

Power UP: It's A Mother-Daughter Thing! – An Annual Celebration of Opportunity

Each March, Power UP hosts its hallmark event, Power UP: It's A Mother-Daughter Thing!, a unique gathering designed to spark curiosity and open doors for future tradeswomen. Held in partnership with schools, contractors, industry sponsors, and workforce agencies, the event brings together hundreds of mothers and daughters for an evening of discovery, learning, and inspiration.

The event includes:

- **Hands-on demonstrations** led by female professionals and instructors in carpentry, electrical, welding, and other skilled trades.
- **Panel discussions and career talks** featuring women in leadership positions across construction and engineering.
- **Interactive exhibits and vendor showcases** highlighting tools, technologies, and training opportunities.
- **Networking and mentorship opportunities** that connect attendees directly with industry professionals and educational institutions.

Beyond the excitement and hands-on activities, the event fosters meaningful conversations between mothers and daughters about career possibilities, financial independence, and the importance of women supporting one another in male-dominated industries.

Become a Jefferson County Deputy

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WWW.JEFFCOSHERIFFAL.COM
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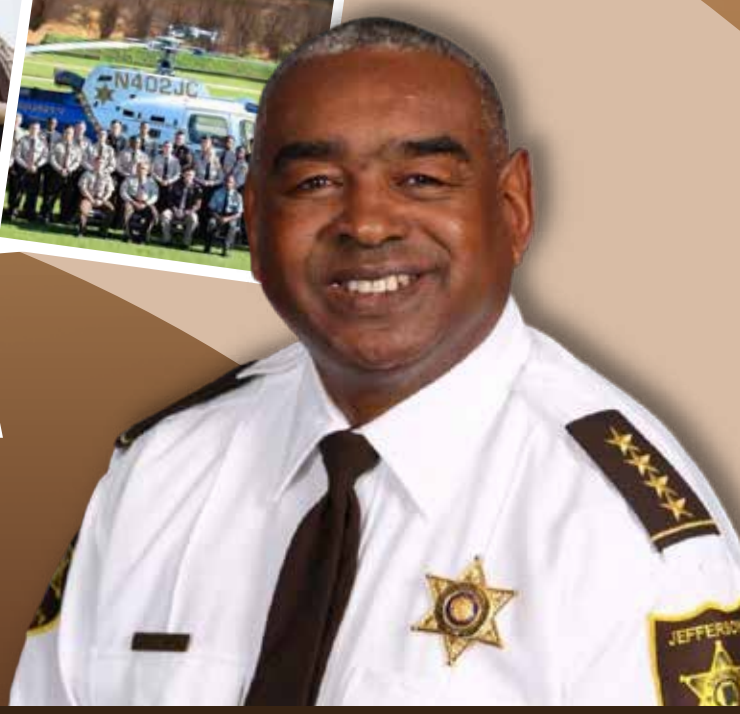

SHERIFF MARK
PETTWAY

Make a difference in your community starting **TODAY.**

Impact and Legacy

Since its inception, Power UP: It's A Mother-Daughter Thing! has grown into a cornerstone event in workforce development outreach. It has inspired countless young women to consider careers in construction and motivated industry leaders to reexamine how they recruit, train, and retain female talent.

Through Power UP, Dr. Cannon continues to bridge the gap between education and opportunity, ensuring that the next generation of women knows that construction is not just a man's world — it's a world full of possibilities.

As Dr. Cannon often says, "When we empower women, we empower families, communities, and the entire workforce. Power UP is not just about building careers — it's about building lives."

Accolades, Recognitions, and Achievements

Dr. Mittie Cannon's extraordinary contributions to workforce development and her unwavering commitment to advancing women in construction have earned her numerous national and regional honors throughout her career. Her leadership, advocacy, and innovation continue to inspire industry professionals and educators alike.

Professional Awards and Honors

- Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award (2023) – Presented in recognition of her lifelong dedication to service, leadership, and advancing opportunities for women and underrepresented populations in the skilled trades.
- Construction Dive's Luminary of the Year – Honored for her outstanding influence and leadership in shaping the future of construction workforce development.
- Birmingham Business Journal's Top Business Women Honoree – Recognized as one of Alabama's most impactful leaders championing diversity, inclusion, and workforce education.
- Who's Who in Black Alabama – Inducted for her excellence in leadership and trailblazing efforts in the construction industry.
- Birmingham Women's Exchange "Champion for Women" Award – Celebrated for her advocacy in empowering women and girls to pursue careers in nontraditional occupations.

Thought Leadership and Research Contributions

In addition to her professional honors, Dr. Cannon's academic and industry research has positioned her as a thought leader in construction workforce development. Her NCCER-published research study, "Women in Construction: An Exploration of Challenges and Opportunities," examines the pathways and barriers for women entering the skilled trades and provides actionable insights for improving gender diversity in the industry.

Her work has been featured in major publications, conferences, and industry media, and she is frequently invited as a keynote speaker and panelist at

"Delivering Hope"

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More Information
www.besha.org

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

national workforce development events, including those hosted by NCCER, Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC), and COABE (Coalition on Adult Basic Education).

A Legacy of Empowerment

From her early days on the job site to her national leadership in workforce development, Dr. Cannon's impact reaches far beyond individual programs. Through her teaching, mentorship, advocacy, and research, she has helped thousands of individuals find purpose, skill, and opportunity in the skilled trades.

Her accolades reflect not only personal achievement but also a collective victory — one that amplifies the message that diversity, education, and opportunity are the true foundations of progress in construction.

Breaking Barriers and Paving New Pathways

Throughout her career, Dr. Mittie Cannon has made history — not only through programs she built, but through personal trailblazing achievements that transformed expectations for women in the skilled trades. She coached and trained the first woman to ever take top honors in Welding at the ABC National Craft Championships — a groundbreaking milestone in the competition's long history that validated the capabilities of women in highly skilled construction trades.

She also holds a historic distinction of her own: Dr. Cannon became the first African American woman to serve as the Master Trainer for NCCER, the nationally recognized standard in construction education and credentials. In this role, she has been responsible for preparing instructor candidates across the United States to deliver industry-leading training using the NCCER curriculum. Her influence in this position has helped ensure that individuals entering the field are taught with the highest quality standards and instructional excellence.

Expanding Workforce Opportunities Through Consulting & Capacity Building

In 2018, driven by her passion to strengthen construction workforce pipelines, Dr. Cannon launched CRL Resources, a consulting firm specializing in strategic workforce development solutions for organizations nationwide.

CRL Resources provides services including:

- Designing and implementing NCCER-accredited training programs
- Facilitating apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship development
- Supporting companies with recruiting, mentoring, and talent retention
- Providing program oversight and evaluation to maximize workforce impact
- Guiding business owners and training providers in certification and compliance
- Delivering customized workforce solutions based on industry needs

Through this work, CRL Resources has helped construction companies, educational institutions, and workforce agencies globally build sustainable, high-performing training and apprenticeship programs. Organizations routinely seek out CRL Resources for guidance in strengthening their workforce pipeline, expanding diversity initiatives, and fostering a future-ready construction industry.

What sets Dr. Cannon and CRL Resources apart is their commitment to mentorship is not only for emerging craft professionals but also for small businesses and program leaders who are navigating complex workforce development systems. The firm actively supports other women- and minority-owned companies by equipping them with tools and mentorship needed to grow, compete, and contribute to the industry's skilled workforce.

UPcoming Events

As the construction industry continues to evolve, Dr. Cannon remains focused on expanding pathways into skilled trades careers — ensuring that women, youth, and underserved communities have access to education that leads to economic mobility. Several exciting initiatives are already underway:

Electrical & Carpentry Training Program Launch — January 12, 2026

Power UP and CRL Resources will kick off an evening NCCER credentialed training that includes Electrical Level 1 and carpentry level 1 training programs beginning January 12, with classes held Monday–Thursday, 5:00 PM to 9:30 PM. This program is designed to prepare participants for immediate entry into the construction workforce while earning industry-recognized credentials.

Power UP: It's A Mother-Daughter Thing! — March 10, 2026

The signature annual event returns on March 10 at 5:00 PM, continuing to spark interest and build confidence in young women exploring construction career pathways. With hands-on experiences, industry mentors, and community engagement, the event is poised to inspire even more families in 2026.

Senior Homeowner DIY & Safety Workshops- Spring 2026

Recognizing a growing need among older adults to maintain safe and accessible homes, Power UP is expanding its impact through DIY and Home Maintenance Workshops for seniors. These sessions introduce foundational repair and household safety skills while empowering seniors to remain independent within their homes. •

BESSEMER
CITY SCHOOLS
LEADING THE WAY TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE

BCS Is Turning a New Leaf: District Sees Seven-Point Gain on State Report Card

Bessemer City Schools is Turning a New Leaf as we renew our commitment to high-quality teaching and learning across all campuses. This year marks a significant milestone in our district's progress: BCS earned a score of 75 on the Alabama State Report Card — our first time achieving a 'C' since the A–F Report Card system was introduced.

This accomplishment reflects the hard work and dedication of our students, teachers, school leaders, support staff, and families. Over the past year, the district has implemented targeted instructional initiatives, strengthened curriculum alignment, and expanded professional learning opportunities designed to elevate student performance. These efforts are beginning to show meaningful results, and we are excited to continue building on this positive momentum.

While we celebrate this achievement, we recognize that our work is far from finished. BCS remains focused on ensuring every student receives rigorous instruction, personalized support, and access to high-quality learning experiences that prepare them for future success.

"We believe in Bessemer — in our students, in our educators, and in the strength of our community," said Mr. Michael Turner, superintendent. "This report card is evidence of what happens when we work together with a shared belief in what our children can achieve."

Together, we are proving what's possible when a community comes together around a shared vision for excellence. Thank you for your continued support as Bessemer City Schools confidently turns a new leaf and strives for even greater academic growth in the years ahead.

bessk12.org

7 POINT INCREASE
ON STATE
ASSESSMENTS

ADULT LEARNERS LEVEL UP AT LAWSON STATE

Lawson State Community College is committed to meeting students where they are and helping them get where they want to go.

Adult learners juggling jobs, families, and other responsibilities have flexible options to further their education.

Lawson's Weekend College is open on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays to all students, but it is especially designed for non-traditional learners who work during the week and need alternative program options. It's an excellent way to earn an associate degree on the weekend and transfer to a four-year college for further study.

"As a community college, we serve everyone from high school students to those who are learning later in life," said Dorian WaLuyn, executive director of strategic initiatives for the college. "A lot of our students want to get work done on the weekends. We are here for them."

Weekend College is also where adult learners can complete prerequisite courses for health professions programs such as Nursing, Radiologic Technology, or Diagnostic Medical Sonography (DMS). Students who take a full load of courses through Weekend College may be eligible for financial aid; FAFSA registration is required.

To take classes through Weekend College, apply for regular admission to Lawson State. Visit **lawsonstate.edu/how_to_apply/**.

Never Too Late to Learn

Lawson State is also home to an exceptionally supportive Adult Education program, which may be the first step for someone who did not complete their high school diploma. That doesn't mean there aren't options.

"We offer GED/High School Diploma Option classes both day and night on the Bessemer Campus, as well as daytime classes on the Birmingham Campus," said Charlette White, director of Adult Education at Lawson State. "We also have an evening ESL class available on the Bessemer Campus."

In addition, adults who already have their GED or high school diploma can pursue a Nursing Assistant short course that leads to meaningful work. Those classes are held in the evenings, Ms. White added.

Here's how to get started:

- Complete the public enrollment form at **https://bit.ly/Lawson-enroll-adult-ed**.
- Once the Adult Education application is submitted, students should email **anix@lawsonstate.edu** or call **205-929-2133** to register for the next available orientation class.

"It's really important that they reach out so we can make sure they're placed in the right Adult Education program," said Ms. White. "We are here to help. Someone will get in touch within 48 hours. We promise!"

Going back to school, gaining momentum

Lawson State offers a wide range of certificates and short courses that are ideal for learners looking to return to school without taking too many classes. In some cases, earning short-term credentials can be a great way to get ahead at work or try something new. Here is a partial list:

Lawson State COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- Air Conditioning/Refrigeration (HVAC)
- Automotive Mechanics/Auto Body-Collision Repair
- Barbering & Cosmetology
- Building Construction
- Culinary Arts
- Dental Assisting
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
- Graphic Art Communications
- Hospitality Management
- Industrial Electronics
- Industrial Maintenance
- Logistics and Supply Chain Management
- Machine Tool Technology
- Mechatronics
- Medication Aide
- Media Production
- Medium/Heavy Truck Technician
- Plumbing
- Robotics
- Welding Technology

More about Health Professions at Lawson State

DMS: Sonography is a high demand field where the median salary for seasoned sonographers was $89,340 in 2024, according to the U.S. Department of Labor. Sonographers can also pick up additional certificates and skill sets and perform ultrasounds of the abdomen (for pregnant patients), muscular skeletal, breast, and more.

Rad Tech: An associate degree in Radiology Technology allows students to sit for the ARRT Radiography Exam. A Registered Radiologic Technologist can work in Radiology, Fluoroscopy, Surgery, Outpatient Imaging, and Urgent Care facilities

Nursing: Nursing is one of the fastest-growing and most competitive programs at Lawson State. The college provides tracks for R.N. and L.P.N. training, with opportunities to do externships at a variety of medical facilities across central Alabama. The college is also a partner in UAB's Rural Health Care Initiative, which aims to bolster services at rural hospitals and clinics. •

BBIS

BESSEMER BUSINESS INCUBATION SYSTEM

The City of Bessemer, Alabama's Industrial Development Board fosters local economic development growth by attracting and retaining light industrial, wholesale/distribution and transportation businesses, encouraging redevelopment and fostering innovation. Our staff is dedicated to supporting the creation, growth and sustainability of business of all sizes and entrepreneurs through its industrial development activities and business incubator program.

1913 4th Avenue North
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BESSEMER INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD

The Bessemer Business Incubation System (BBIS) is a division of the Bessemer Development Board. The BBIS serves as the small business wing of the Bessemer Development Board and serves/houses businesses with revenues up to $10,000,000.

Where History & HOSPITALITY Meet in Every Bite

Nestled just southwest of Birmingham, the city of Bessemer, Alabama, may not be the first place that comes to mind when people think of iconic Southern food; but its culinary traditions tell a deeper story, fusing the region's Black Southern comfort cooking with immigrant flavors, working-class grit, and a century of local continuity.

Bessemer's roots stretch back to the early 20th century, when its steel mills drew a diverse population, including African American workers and European immigrants. This demographic mix played a foundational role in shaping its food culture. According to a local heritage map published by Creative Birmingham, Greek immigrants who settled in the industrial era established restaurants that mixed their culinary heritage with Southern staples.

One place embodies this blend more than any other: **The Bright Star**, founded in 1907. It is not only Bessemer's dining landmark, but also one of Alabama's most beloved restaurants.

Walking into **The Bright Star** feels like stepping into history. Once a 25-seat café, it's now a sprawling institution with multiple dining rooms and decades of stories behind its wood-paneled walls. Murals painted long ago line its walls, and longtime staff members serve familiar faces with the ease of a homecoming.

What makes **The Bright Star** truly special is its menu—a graceful fusion of Greek and Southern traditions. Oregano, lemon, and garlic, hallmarks

of Greek cooking, find their way into the dishes, yet the soul of the South pulses through in classics like gumbo, fried catfish, and meat-and-three sides.

One of the most talked-about dishes is the fried snapper throats, a humble cut turned iconic. These came about in the 1930s, when leftover fish parts were repurposed into a crunchy, flavorful delicacy Their seafood gumbo is rich and deeply savory, while the steaks, particularly the New York Strip, are expertly grilled and treated with Mediterranean flair.

While **The Bright Star** is perhaps the most well-known, it's not the only place in Bessemer where Southern cuisine thrives. According to the Bessemer Chamber of Commerce, the city boasts several down-home cafés serving up fried chicken, grits, turnip greens, and other Southern staples.

This blend exemplifies how Southern cuisine itself is a product of many influences: European, African, Native American. In Bessemer, those influences coalesced into something distinct; a menu that honors Southern comfort food but isn't afraid to lean into Mediterranean flair.

Moreover, several of Bessemer's restaurants serve as living archives. They preserve not just recipes, but stories: of families, of migration, of generations who have gathered under the same roof for over a century.

For visitors, a meal in Bessemer offers a tasting tour of regional history. Each plate, whether it's the gumbo, lamb chops, snapper, or a slice of pie, tells a story of community, continuity, and creativity.

Classic Cole Slaw

(4 SERVINGS)

INGREDIENTS

- 1/3 cup mayonnaise
- 1 1/2 tablespoons tarragon vinegar or white wine vinegar
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 7 cups thinly sliced green cabbage
- 1 cup grated peeled carrots
- Chopped fresh parsley

DIRECTIONS

- Mix Mayonnaise, vinegar and sugar in large bowl
- Add Cabbage and carrots
- Toss to coat
- Season to taste with salt and pepper
- Cover and Refrigerate
- Sprinkle Coleslaw with parsley and serve

BOB SYKES BAR-B-Q 1724 9th Avenue North | Bessemer, AL | BobSykes.com

Bessemer, Alabama has plenty of great spots to satisfy any craving, and some local favorites really stand out.

Bob Sykes Bar-B-Q is a community staple, known for its classic Southern barbecue and signature sauce that keeps people coming back for more. **Bob Sykes** was founded in 1957 by Bob and Maxine Sykes. Originally, they ran an ice cream and hamburger stand, and Bob built his first barbecue pit around that same time. It's a family-run restaurant: now run by Van Sykes.

BBQ is cooked "from the pit to the plate", and they smoke pork shoulders over natural hickory coals. The pit is an open brick pit in the dining room, so diners can see the smoke and fire. Voted #1 BBQ sauce in Alabama, their BBQ pork sandwich was named as one of the "100 Dishes to Eat in Alabama Before You Die".

Bob Sykes was inducted into the Alabama Barbecue Hall of Fame in 2015. They host the Bob Sykes BBQ & Blues Festival, which brings together BBQ, music, and charity. The Sykes family published a book titled, "From the Pit to the Plate", telling the story of the restaurant and their BBQ tradition.

It's not just a BBQ restaurant; it's a family legacy, and the way they cook (pit, wood smoke, open fire) gives the food a genuine, traditional feel.

Bre's Gourmet Restaurant & Catering (often just called "Bre's") is a beloved, family-owned soul food and Southern-style eatery just off Bessemer Super Highway in Brighton (near Bessemer), Alabama. Known for its cafeteria-style "meat-and-three" setup, it offers a rotating steamtable of vegetables like candied yams, collard greens, fried okra, and macaroni and cheese. The entrees range from baked chicken and oxtails to seafood dishes such as salmon croquettes and Caribbean-style pork. **Bre's Gourmet Restaurant and Catering** is open for lunch most weekdays and Sundays. Bre's combines warm hospitality with well-seasoned, home-style dishes, making it a go-to for both quick takeout and more relaxed dining.

Bistro on 19 is a cozy, contemporary dining spot located off 19th Street in Downtown Bessemer that brings a fresh twist to modern cuisine. They are known for their warm atmosphere and thoughtfully curated menu, which includes their famous lamb chops, ribeye, and a full soul food selection.

On any given night the **Bistro** blends classic culinary techniques with creative, globally inspired flavors. Guests can savor beautifully plated dishes made with seasonal ingredients, all while enjoying the relaxed yet refined ambiance that sets the restaurant apart. Whether stopping by for a casual lunch or an intimate dinner, **Bistro on 19** offers a memorable culinary experience that delights both the palate and the senses. Each week, guests line up for their Sunday Soul food brunch.

Bistro proudly offers full catering services to meet the need for special events like birthdays, anniversaries, meetings, workshops and much more.

Bre's adds to the city's charm with delicious comfort food, while **Yoki Buffet** gives diners a wide variety of Asian-inspired options to enjoy. And when it comes to bold flavor, **Wings R King** truly lives up to its name with wings that are packed with taste. These are just a few restaurants that highlight the diverse and delicious food scene that Bessemer residents love. •

Uncrustables® Proudly Made in McCalla, Alabama

BESSEMER "BLUE ZONE"

KENNETH E. GULLEY RECREATION CENTER: THE PATHWAY TO BETTER LIVING

The Kenneth E. Gulley Recreation Center, formerly known as the Bessemer Recreation Center, was renamed in honor of Mayor Kenneth E. Gulley, whose vision was to create a first-class recreation facility within the Bessemer Parks and Recreation Department.

Under the leadership of the Director of Parks and Recreation, Makeda Smith (formerly Alton Woodard), the Center has been an essential part of the community since its establishment on September 16, 2016. It serves as a safe haven for residents of all ages, encouraging active living, purpose, and a strong sense of community belonging.

Our Vision: The "Blue Zone" Philosophy

The Bessemer Parks and Recreation proudly aligns its vision with the philosophy of Blue Zones—communities around the world known for longevity and well-being (Ref: Live to 100). The Blue Zone lifestyle promotes healthy living, purpose, and community connection. We are proud to be laying a strong foundation for these principles in the City of Bessemer.

Pictured Left to Right: Makeda Smith, Victor Brown and Tiffany Harris.

Photo Credit: R. Burgins, Jr. for Regally Focused Photography

- **Diet**: Predominantly plant-based diets rich in vegetables, fruits, legumes, and whole grains, with limited meat consumption.
- **Physical Activity**: Regular, moderate physical activity as part of daily routines, such as walking, gardening, and manual labor.
- **Social Connections**: Strong family bonds, faith, social networks, and community involvement that provide emotional support and a sense of belonging.
- **Purpose**: A sense of purpose and reason for living that motivates individuals and gives their lives meaning.
- **Stress Reduction**: Practices such as meditation, prayer, napping, and spending time with loved ones to manage and reduce stress.

Programs & Leadership

Bessemer Recreation Center led by Recreation Center Director Mykee Jackson, offers a wide array of programs that promote wellness, inclusion, and active living across generations.

Silver Boomers: Our senior citizens' program, serving the 55+ population and led by Senior Citizens Director Linda Vinson. This program promotes staying active, fostering belonging, and celebrating life. In 2026, the initiative will expand to include multigenerational events connecting youth and elders.

Fitness Center: Directed by Tiffany Harris, this state-of-the-art facility offers both group and individual exercise opportunities, including step aerobics, line dancing, cycling, fitness challenges and indoor walking to promote endurance and stamina.

Aquatic Center: Under the direction of Billy Greene, this facility provides a low-impact environment for fitness and rehabilitation, accommodating individuals from beginners to advanced swimmers.

Athletics: Led by Athletic Coordinator Tim Johnson, this program provides structured and safe recreational sports opportunities for youth and adults.

Athletics: Led by Athletic Coordinator Tim Johnson, this program provides structured and safe recreational sports opportunities for youth and adults.

Events: Managed by Event Planner Jalen Chatman, who oversees both internal and external events held in our multipurpose spaces, activity rooms, gymnasium, and city parks.

Maintenance Department: Supervised by Maintenance Supervisor, Regina Caddell, and this team plays a vital role in maintaining the cleanliness, safety, and functionality of all recreation facilities.

TOP: Train Ride–2025 Bessemer Parks and Recreation Annual Fall Festival. Photo Credit: R. Burgins, Jr. for Regally Focused Photography

MIDDLE: Pictured Left to Righ: Mayor Gulley, Amanda Maize. Photo Credit: R. Burgins, Jr. for Regally Focused Photography

BOTTOM: The Kenneth E. Gulley Recreation Center is a family-friendly environment for all to enjoy!

Community Impact & Partnerships

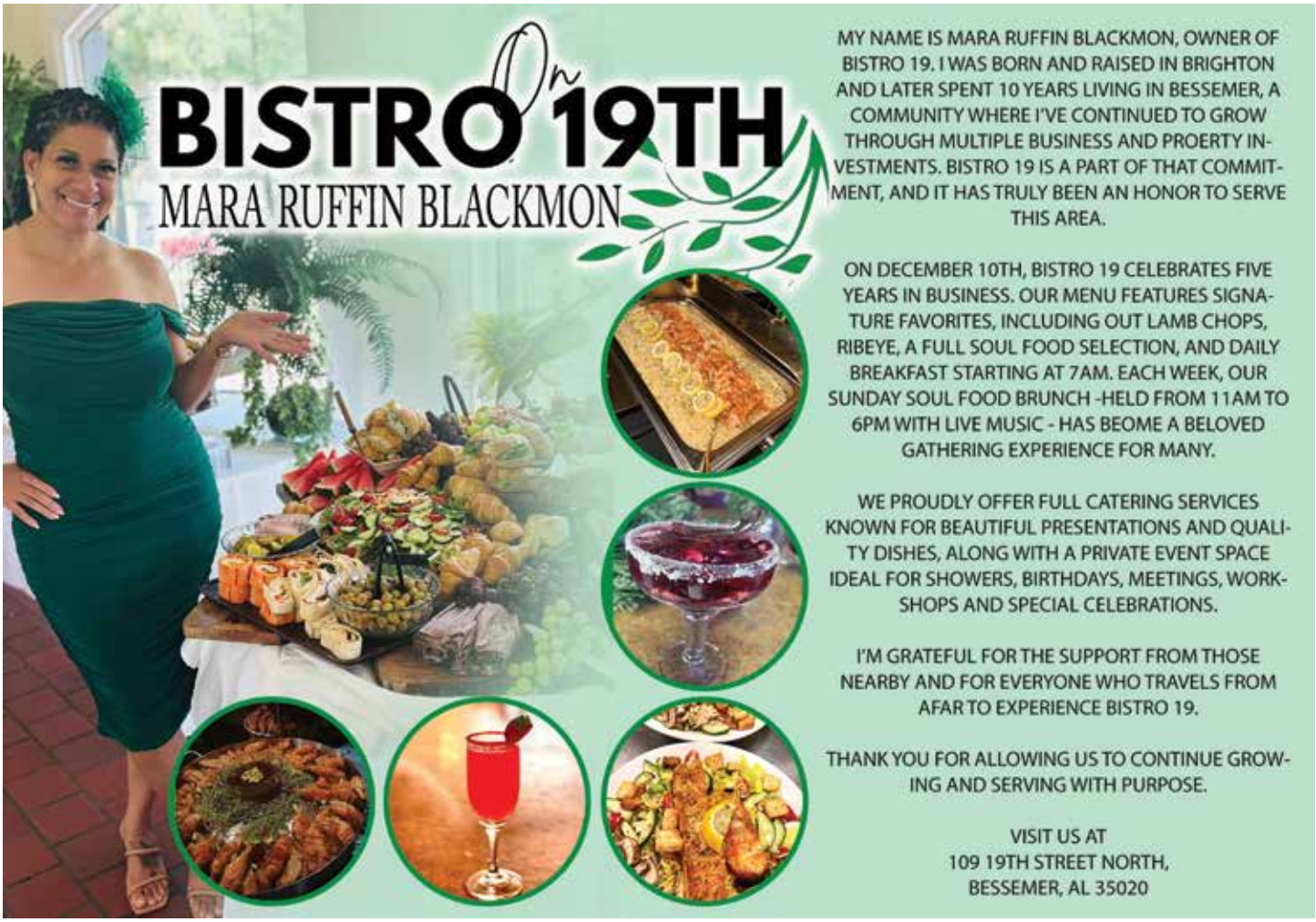
Over the past year, the Bessemer Parks and Recreation Department has achieved major milestones through strategic partnerships. Collaborations with the Bessemer City Board of Education have allowed youth football home games to be hosted locally, creating memorable experiences for young athletes. The department has also partnered with DJ Mystro to offer the popular 'Get Fit While You Sit' senior fitness initiative, as well as with UAB's C.A.R.E.S. (Cancer Awareness Research, Engagement & Support) and L.E.A.P. (Leading Healthy Eating Activity Promotion) grant programs to advance health and wellness outreach. A particularly meaningful achievement has been the creation of three After-School Recreation Centers located at J.S. Abrams Elementary, Charles F. Hard Elementary, and Jonesboro Elementary. These centers strengthen connections with local families and provide youth with valuable recreational and educational opportunities.

Looking Ahead

As the first recreation center within the Bessemer Parks and Recreation Department, established in 2016, the Kenneth E. Gulley Recreation Center will celebrate its tenth anniversary on September 16, 2026. The facility remains a cornerstone of the community—committed to promoting health, wellness, and a vibrant quality of life for all residents of the City of Bessemer. •

Bessemer Parks and Recreation Department Heads

Photo Credit : Lee Anderson



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City of Bessemer Electric & Water Service

Bessemer Utilities
P.O. Box 1246 | 1600 First Ave. N. | Bessemer AL | p: 205.481.4333 | f: 2015.481.4323
www.bessemerutilities.com
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830 22nd Street North
Bessemer, AL 35020
(205)-920-2018
information@gradea-am.com

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The Chambers legacy of excellence in professional, dignified and personal funeral service began over 87 years ago fueled by the vision of Laura Mae Chambers. Currently, Chambers Funeral Home, Inc. offers a full line of quality, end-of-life services. From our large selection of caskets, urns, and clothing fit for every budget to a highly experienced and compassionate staff, Chambers Funeral Home is committed to ensuring services for your loved one are dignified and memorable.

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Chambers Funeral Home takes pride in remaining current with advancements in funeral services and industry trends. Our facility consists of a chapel that seats two hundred of your loved ones and three intimate viewing rooms (both equipped with high definition TVs) and a state-of-the-art selection room.

We have always understood that every situation is unique. Through the years our firm has perfected ways to provide families with burial options, while not overwhelming them during difficult times. We offer personalized funeral services, cremations and pre-planned funeral arrangements and we are willing to work with families of all means. It's simple - our experience, professionalism, kindness and empathy set us apart from other firms.

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Bessemer
Area Chamber of Commerce

2026 CATEGORICAL MEMBERSHIP LISTING

Refer to Membership Directory for contact information

ACCOUNTING

Kellum, Wilson & Associates
205-942-5424

Paragon Financial Services dba Farr Tax Service
205-426-5431

Russell & Company, LLC CPA
205-428-9064

The Principal & Associates CPA
205-542-9874

William Parsons CPA
205-424-1511

AIRPORT

Bessemer Airport Authority
205-424-7234

AMBULANCE SERVICE

Regional Paramedics (RAMS)
205-384-4310

ATTORNEY

Cloud and Willis LLC
205-322-6060

Killings & Poe LLC
205-424-8703

AUTOMOBILE [REPAIR / SALES / SERVICE / TOWING / TRUCKS]

Benton Nissan of Bessemer
205-428-6314, 205-979-5420

First Class Auto Sales
205-747-0895

McCormick's Barber Shop / Performance Automotive LLC
205-368-1393

Step One Chevrolet
205-424-4121

Town & Country Ford
205-491-0000

Wheeler Wrecker Service
205-424-3200

AWARDS / PLAQUES / TROPHIES

American Pride Trophies & Awards
205-744-0421

BAIL BONDING

AAA Next Step Bail Bonds
205-573-6271

BAKERY

Lisa's Delightful Designs
205-223-5972

BANK / FINANCIAL SERVICES

AmFirst - Bessemer
205-424-8542

AmFirst - McCalla
205-477-9360

First Financial Bank
205-428-8472

Legacy Community Federal Credit Union
205-930-5059, 205-930-5090

Marvel City Federal Credit Union
205-426-0578

Regions Bank
205-830-6760

BARBER

McCormick's Barber Shop / Performance Automotive LLC
205-368-1393

Wood Cutz Barbershop
205-583-5090

BASEBALL TEAM

Birmingham Barons
205-988-3200

BEAUTY SALON

Brown Beauty Barber School
205-424-4247

Great Clips
706-937-5445

Haus of Charm Salon
205-514-2558

Lisa Brown SalonSpa
205-477-1477

BEVERAGES / SNACKS / COFFEE

Buffalo Rock - Pepsi Company
205-940-9799

BOILER COMPANIES

ADCO Boiler Company
205-428-2326

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS

Bessemer Business Incubation System
205-481-2101, 205-481-2000

Birmingham Business Resource Center
205-250-6380

Grade A Asset Management
205-920-2018

CATERER

B's Catering Culinary Creators
205-432-9572

Granny Boys Lemonade LLC
205-475-3330

Solcial Veg
205-926-8660, 205-541-3410

CHARTER BUS SERVICE

New Generation Charters
205-424-6928

CHIROPRACTOR

McCalla Chiropractic & Massage
205-477-8305

Premier Chiropractic Center
205-519-4024

CHURCH

Bethel Baptist Church
205-428-8343

Beulah Baptist Church
205-424-0861

Canaan Baptist Church
205-428-5565

Fountain of Life Church
205-434-2374, 251-769-3518

Macedonia Baptist Church
205-994-5180, 205-426-3340

Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist Church
205-426-4555, 205-542-9773

New Bethlehem Baptist Church
205-425-9556

New Jerusalem Baptist Church
205-425-9421

New Life Interfaith Ministries
205-425-4735

New Zion Missionary Baptist Church
205-913-2990, 205-997-6020

Rock Mountain Lakes Baptist Church
205-425-3424, 205-907-8322

Sixth Avenue Beulah Baptist Church
205-923-1774, 205-426-0108

The Baptist Church at McAdory
205-477-8265

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
205-426-5257, 205-243-8020

True Worship Missionary Baptist Church
205-613-7917

Twenty First Street Baptist Church
205-424-7651

CHURCH - NON-DENOMINATIONAL

New Hope Inheritance Ministries Single Moms Initiative
360-513-1078

CITY GOVERNMENT

Bessemer City Council - Carla Foreman Jackson
205-565-1281, 205-424-4060

Bessemer City Council - Chester Porter
205-612-4617

Bessemer City Council - Donna Thigpen
205-281-3931

Bessemer City Council - Teco Stephens
205-997-8345

City of Bessemer - Economic & Community Development
205-424-4060 ext 4232
205-424-4060 ext 4233

City of Bessemer - Retired Mike and Minnie Roper
205-253-7310

CIVIC CENTER / MEETING FACILITIES

City of Bessemer - Civic Center
205-424-7469

CLEANING / JANITORIAL

Cintas
334-590-4245

COMMERCIAL WASTE REMOVAL / RECYCLING

Moore Coal Company, Inc.
205-424-2705

CONSTRUCTION

Coston General Contractors, Inc.
205-481-1246

HHM Roofing & Construction
205-881-9489

National Fire & Life Safety
205-329-6641

Smith Douglas Home
205-600-9820, 205-401-3100

CONSULTING

Restoration Life Group, LLC/ Eades Solution
205-807-6087

Strategic Alignment Group, LLC
205-639-0049

COPIERS / PRINTERS

Dex Imaging
205-427-3835

COUNSELING

Push Pull and Pray LLC
205-276-6864

DAYCARE

Beautiful Minds Childcare LLC
205-461-7570, 205-815-7650

Busy Bee Child Care Center
205-425-9577

Buzzin' Bees Learning Center
205-425-6930

Just Like Home Day Care, Inc.
205-425-2097

Little House For Little People
205-481-9630, 205-481-9650

Little Wyngz Preschool & Daycare
205-542-5263, 205-477-0300

Kids Konnection Learning Academy
205-260-8002

Mt. Sinai Kiddie Kare
205-426-4555, 205-601-6957

Ro's Heavenly Angels Learning Center
205-436-2569, 205-899-1080

Triumph the Church - Triumphant Child Care Center
205-424-6892, 205-229-5105

DISTRIBUTION CENTER

Amazon.com Services LLC
205-761-5215

DOCTOR / MEDICAL / PHYSICIANS / HOSPITAL / DENTAL / EYE

ArchWell Health
205-336-1535

Behavior Health Group Bessemer Treatment Center
205-425-1200

Foundry Dental Center
205-434-2031

Luma Dentistry
205-477-4242

Thomas C. Pendleton, MD
205-481-7470

TriaVision
833-733-8742

UAB Medical West
205-481-7000

United Prosthetics & Orthotics
205-588-8125

DRAINAGE

French Drains Pro
205-244-1114

DRUG SCREENING

Golden Hour Onsite Safety Testing
205-789-0816

DRUG STORE

FMS Pharmacy
205-424-3194

Hinkle Pharmacy
205-425-3039

Weldon Pharmacy, Inc.
205-491-2805

EDUCATION

Alabama Aerospace and Aviation High School
205-538-0702

Bessemer B. O. E. - Albert Soles - Retired
205-936-0982

Bessemer B. O. E. - Claire LaQuita Benjamin
205-317-5006

Bessemer B. O. E. - Iverson Dudley
205-432-3805

Bessemer B. O. E. - Lee Jones
205-425-2623, 205-461-7690

Bessemer B. O. E. - Mildred Posey

Bessemer B. O. E. - Remeka Thompson

Bessemer B. O. E. - Superintendent's Office
205-432-3000

Bessemer City Council - Sarah Bell Person
205-243-3993

Empower Community School
205-413-8600

Heritage Christian Academy
205-978-6001

Invictus Career Institute
205-585-8386

Justice Center Court Specialist
205-527-2356

Lawson State Community College
205-925-2515

Lawson State Community College - Bessemer
205-929-3505

UNCF
205-919-7376

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS

Astro Electric Company, Inc.
205-424-0060

S & G Waldrop Electric, Inc.
205-426-4168

ENGINEERING / ENVIRONMENTAL / FORESTRY SERVICES

Engineering, Environmental & Forestry Service
205-424-3737

ENTERTAINMENT

Grade A Cafe and Lounge
205-434-4847, 719-930-3164

TCS Royalty Rental South
205-230-6812

EYE CARE

Sight Clear 2020 - dba 2020 Optical
205-424-2020

FACILITY SERVICES

Cintas
334-590-4245

FINANCIAL ADVISOR

Merrill Lynch
205-903-8184

FIRE DEPARTMENT / SAFETY

Bessemer Fire Department - Chief
205-428-5151

Bessemer Fire Department - KD Gulley
205-470-1927

Bessemer Fire Department - R. Horn
205-283-7971

VSC Fire and Security, Inc.
256-903-8599, 256-200-0875

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FOOD TRUCK

D's Country Cookin
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Chambers Funeral Home, Inc.
205-425-5235

Johnson Memorial Funeral Directors
205-425-2414

McCalla Memorial Funeral Home LLC
205-477-4888

GOVERNMENT - JUDGE

Judge Kathy Ann Alexis
205-497-8530

GOVERNMENT [FEDERAL / STATE / CITY]

Bessemer Development Board
205-481-2000

Bessemer Police Department - Chief's office
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

City of Brighton
205-424-0069

City of Lipscomb
205-997-3004

Jefferson County Commission President Jimmie Stephens
205-325-5555

Jefferson County Commissioner Sheila Tyson
205-325-5074

Jefferson County Sheriff's Office
205-325-5704, 205-731-2840
205-602-7988

Jefferson County Sheriff's Office - Bessemer
205-481-4214

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

Senator Merika Coleman
334-261-0226

Sherry McClain, Jefferson County Deputy Treasurer
205-481-4192

Representative Ontario Tillman
256-603-7794

GROCERY STORE

Fresh Value
205-424-6625

Fresh Value Inc
DBA Bin Depot Bessemer
205-434-3295, 205-756-6967

Torme Foods
205-428-7110

HEALTH AND FITNESS

LIV Hydration and Wellness
205-800-4032, 205-563-7466

Peak Chiropractic Health and Wellness
205-424-8400

HEALTH CARE / HOSPITAL

Complete Health
205-858-1109

Humana
205-480-7131

True Dermatology - McCalla
205-624-2100

HEATING & AIR

LAK Heating and Air Conditioning
205-424-9620

S TEK Heating and Air, LLC
205-855-0400, 205-424-9620

HOME HEALTH CARE / HOSPICE

Harmonics Care Consultants
205-756-7697

HOTEL

Holiday Inn Express and Candlewood Suites by IHG
659-265-2515, 659-265-2510

Motel 6
205-426-9646

Red Roof Plus Inn and Suites / Baron Hospitality
205-771-9071, 270-366-3626

HOUSING AUTHORITY

The Housing Authority of the City of Bessemer
205-481-4420

HVAC CLEANING SERVICES

Steamtech
205-460-0659, 205-612-8398

INDIVIDUAL

Sadie Harris
205-427-5997, 205-428-5997

Travis Head Jr.
205-218-4243

Judge Chuantae Brown
Chuantae Brown

Tessi Jones
205-908-8740

spire

Jesse Matthews
205-428-1746

Judge Jameria Moore
Jameria Moore

A. Scott Roebuck
205-424-4090

Reginald Spencer
205-434-6319

William Stokes
205-541-6853

Alycia White
205-266-5126

Jack White
205-266-5126

Valerie Williams
205-230-7430

INSURANCE

Corkren Insurance LLC
205-565-0060

Holt Insurance Agency Inc.
205-424-8368 ext 304
205-531-7380, 205-283-9333

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

Viva Health
205-516-4541

JEWELRY

Coin Castle West
205-426-3984

LANDSCAPING

D & K Services LLC
205-434-5494

LIBRARY

Bessemer Public Library
205-428-7882

LIFE COACH

Push Pull and Pray LLC
205-276-6864

LIVESTOCK FEED

ReConserve of Alabama, Inc.
205-217-7784, 205-917-9128

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Express Trucking Logistics
205-336-1302, 844-378-3732

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Klassic Smokes Cigar Lounge LLC
205-515-7790

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Modular Connections, LLC
205-980-4565

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J. M. Smucker
659-265-2505

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866-347-7473

MANUFACTURING - REFRIGERATION UNITS

Southern CaseArts
205-428-4800

MASONRY AND STONE SUBCONTRACTOR

Masonry Arts, Inc.
205-428-0780

MUSEUM

Bessemer Hall of History Museum
205-426-1633

NEWSPAPER

Western Star, The
205-424-7827

NON PROFIT

Alabama STEM Education, Inc.
205-436-2107

Bessemer Business & Professional Women
205-413-0001

Bessemer Elks Lodge #721
205-424-7301, 205-915-9330

Bessemer Elks Lodge (P. E. R.)
205-424-7301, 205-915-9330

Bessemer Hall of History Museum
205-426-1633

Bessemer Salvation Army
205-425-4303, 205-425-4304

Boy Scouts of America - Greater AL Council
205-969-4276

Brenda's Brown Bosom Buddies
205-356-3892

Cahaba Medical Care Bessemer
205-277-2358, 205-277-2954

CARA - Central Alabama Redevelopment Alliance
866-965-7272

Central Alabama Caribbean American Organization
205-746-6916, 205-239-5886

Community Food Bank of Central Alabama
205-942-8911

Create Birmingham
205-458-1393

Dothan Lodge #112 Free & Accepted Masons
205-401-3775, 205-585-8654

Home Front Housing for the Green & Blue Organization
205-587-4315

Hope Inspired Ministries
334-649-4330

Legacy YMCA
205-426-1211

Macedonia Baptist Church
205-994-5180, 205-426-3340

Malik Temple #270
205-276-1277, 719-930-3164

Nurturing Golden Hearts
205-417-0053, 205-902-7910

Paragon Purpose People
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BESSEMER, AL 35020
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Bessemer, AL 35020

A. SCOTT ROEBUCK
ATTORNEY
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BESSEMER, AL 35020
(205) 424-4090

StateFarm
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1821 13th Avenue North
Bessemer, AL 35020-3246
Bus 205.424.3400 Fax 205.428.0515
www.juliebellagency.com
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Pinktopps Inc.
205-566-8361

Power UP Inc.
205-914-4464

The Clay House Children's Advocacy Center
205-481-4155

The Foundry Ministries
205-428-8449

The Gathering Mentoring Networking
205-789-8725

The Learning Garden, Inc.
205-434-0875

The Phenomenal Women Foundation Inc
205-862-6404, 205-425-9577

UNCF
205-919-7376

Veterans of Foreign Wars, Bailey - Rogers Post 1762
205-304-8799, 205-637-0612

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. Lambda Zeta Zeta Chp
205-568-9819

NURSING HOME

Oak Crest Health and Wellness
205-428-9383

PEST CONTROL

Cook's Pest Control
205-290-0890

PHOTOGRAPHER

GottaHavelt
205-354-4732

PIPE & SUPPLY

Southland Pipe & Supply
205-426-9764

POLITICAL ORGANIZATION

Concerned Citizens of the Bessemer Cutoff
205-475-6672

PRESCHOOL

Little Wyngz Preschool & Daycare
205-542-5263, 205-477-0300

PRINTING

C & C Banners and Signs LLC
205-586-5899, 205-436-2016

Southern Nameplate & Graphics
205-426-0181

REAL ESTATE

2 the Rest-Q, dba Home Transformations
205-527-3036

Carlton Jackson, Realtor, ABR* -Building Areas of Excel
205-296-7742

Gents Homes LLC
205-481-0010

Pace Properties, LLC
205-434-3511, 205-222-1551

Paden Realty & Appraisals, Inc.
205-424-3464

Realty South I-459
205-586-4415, 205-477-7769

Weaver Land & Realty, Inc.
205-428-4139

RECREATION CENTER

Kenneth Gulley Recreation Center
205-425-0655

RESTAURANT

Bistro on 19
205-800-7310

Bob Sykes Barbecue
205-426-1400

Bre's Gourmet Catering & Restaurant
205-760-5731, 205-999-4790

Bright Star Restaurant, The
205-424-9444

Lil Mama's Meeting and Event Space
205-728-4063

Sneaky Pete's
205-424-4036

Sonic of Bessemer
205-428-2002

Taziki's Mediterranean Cafe
205-213-8029

Wings R King
205-434-2395

Yoki Buffet Bessemer Inc
267-666-2618

RESTORATION CLEANUP

Servpro of Birmingham
205-305-3641

RETAIL

Coin Castle West
205-426-3984

Fountain Building and Supply
205-428-4173

Fresh Value Inc
DBA Bin Depot Bessemer
205-434-3295, 205-756-6967

Fruit of Her Hands
205-368-4282, 205-259-3118

Sam's Club
205-941-3326, 205-447-8652

The Walk-In Closet
205-506-2897

ROOFING / GUTTERS

HHM Roofing & Construction
205-881-9489

The Roofing Dudes
205-308-0898

SCRAP METAL

Rather Recycling LLC
205-614-5373, 205-234-7736

SERVICE / SHIPPING

The UPS Store
205-230-0088

SPORTING GOODS

Simmons Sporting Goods
205-425-4720

STAFFING

Automation Personnel Services
205-444-9774, 205-965-9694

Crown Staffing
205-875-0701, 270-985-3422

Elwood Staffing
205-434-3636

TECHNOLOGY

RJ Young
205-847-5465

Visture Technologies
205-530-0538

TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENCE PROGRAM

Alabama STEM Education, Inc.
205-436-2107

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

T-Mobile
205-424-0520, 205-915-0488

TOURISM

Greater Birmingham Convention & Visitors Bureau
205-214-9217

Koch Family Entertainment LLC dba Alabama Adventure & S
205-481-4750

TRANSPORTATION

One Stop CDL Training
205-729-4200, 205-396-4597

TRANSPORTATION [NON-EMERGENCY MEDICAL]

Easy Care Transport
205-774-9941

UTILITIES

Alabama Power Company
800-245-2244

Bessemer Utilities - Director
205-481-4333

Spire
800-292-4008

WATER / AMUSEMENT PARK

Koch Family Entertainment LLC dba Alabama Adventure & S
205-481-4750

WATER TREATMENT FACILITY

Governmental Utility Services Corporation
205-481-4010, 205-747-8035

WELDING SUPPLIES

Advanced Welding Supply
205-481-1880

WHOLESALE [DISTRIBUTION / MANUFACTURER / NURSERY]

Milo's Tea Company, Inc.
205-424-4284

TotalScape Farms
205-540-4653

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Power UP Inc.
205-914-4464

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bmthrash@bellsouth.net

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Robert Horn
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www.bethelbcbessemer.org

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205-424-0861

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Birmingham, AL 35223
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www.barons.com

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Robert Dickerson
1500 1st Avenue N #H101
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info@bbrc.biz
www.mybbrc.biz

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Bessemer, AL 35020
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(f) 205-428-5751
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(f) 205-970-0349
anthony.edwards@scouting.org
www.1bsa.org

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Brighton, AL 35020
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(f) 205-760-5732
bremeansbg@gmail.com

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Brenda J. Phillips Hong
PO Box 310532
Birmingham, AL 35231
205-356-3892
icuhong@outlook.com
www.brendasbrownbosombuddies.org

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Andre Anastassakis, Stacey Craig
304 19th Street, N.
Bessemer, AL 35020
205-424-9444
brightstarreservations@gmail.com
www.thebrightstar.com

Brown Beauty Barber School
Chyna Brown
1724 First Avenue North Ste 120
Bessemer, AL 35020
205-424-4247
chyna@brownbeautybarberschool.edu
www.brownbeautybarberschool.edu

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436 Carriage Hills Drive
Bessemer, AL 35022
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blwormley@yahoo.com

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800 Lakeshore Pkwy
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205-940-9799
www.buffalorock.com

Busy Bee Child Care Center
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1401 Fourth Avenue SW
Bessemer, AL 35020
205-425-9577
busybee0109@att.net
www.busybeeacademy.net

Buzzin' Bees Learning Center
Valerie Wood, Monica Barham
1710 Second Avenue
Bessemer, AL 35020
205-425-6930
buzzinbees1710@gmail.com
www.busybeeacademy.net

Cahaba Medical Care Bessemer
JohnQueta Bailey-Archie
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Bessemer, AL 35022
205-277-2358, 205-277-2954
(f) 205-926-4737
johnqueta.bailey@cahabamedicalcare.com
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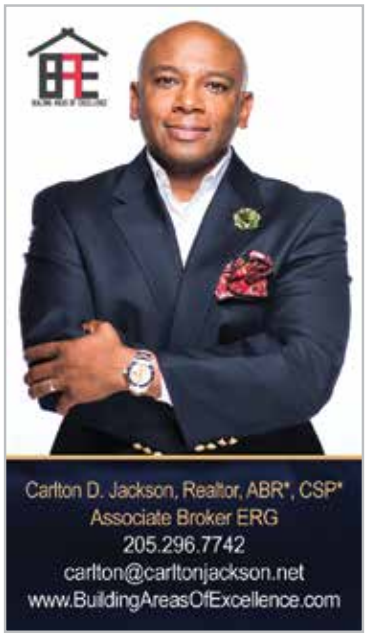

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Douglas & Bobbie Caddell
824 15th Street North
Bessemer, AL 35020
205-428-5565
(f) 205-428-2305
canaanbaptistchurch@gmail.com

CARA - Central Alabama Redevelopment Alliance
Jeremy Duckworth
6516 Aaron Aronov Drive
Fairfield, AL 35064
866-965-7272
jduck@cara-now.org

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5719 Heritage Park Lane
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205-296-7742
carlton@carltonjackson.net
www.buildingareasofexcellence.com

Central Alabama Caribbean American Organization
Gina Sealy
1838 Satterwhite Street
Birmingham, AL 35235
205-746-6916, 205-239-5886
cacaoonline@gmail.com
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Chambers Funeral Home, Inc.
Bryonda Collins
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Bessemer, AL 35020
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chambersfuneralhome@gmail.com
www.chambersfuneralhome.net

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5970 Greenwood Parkway
Bessemer, AL 35022
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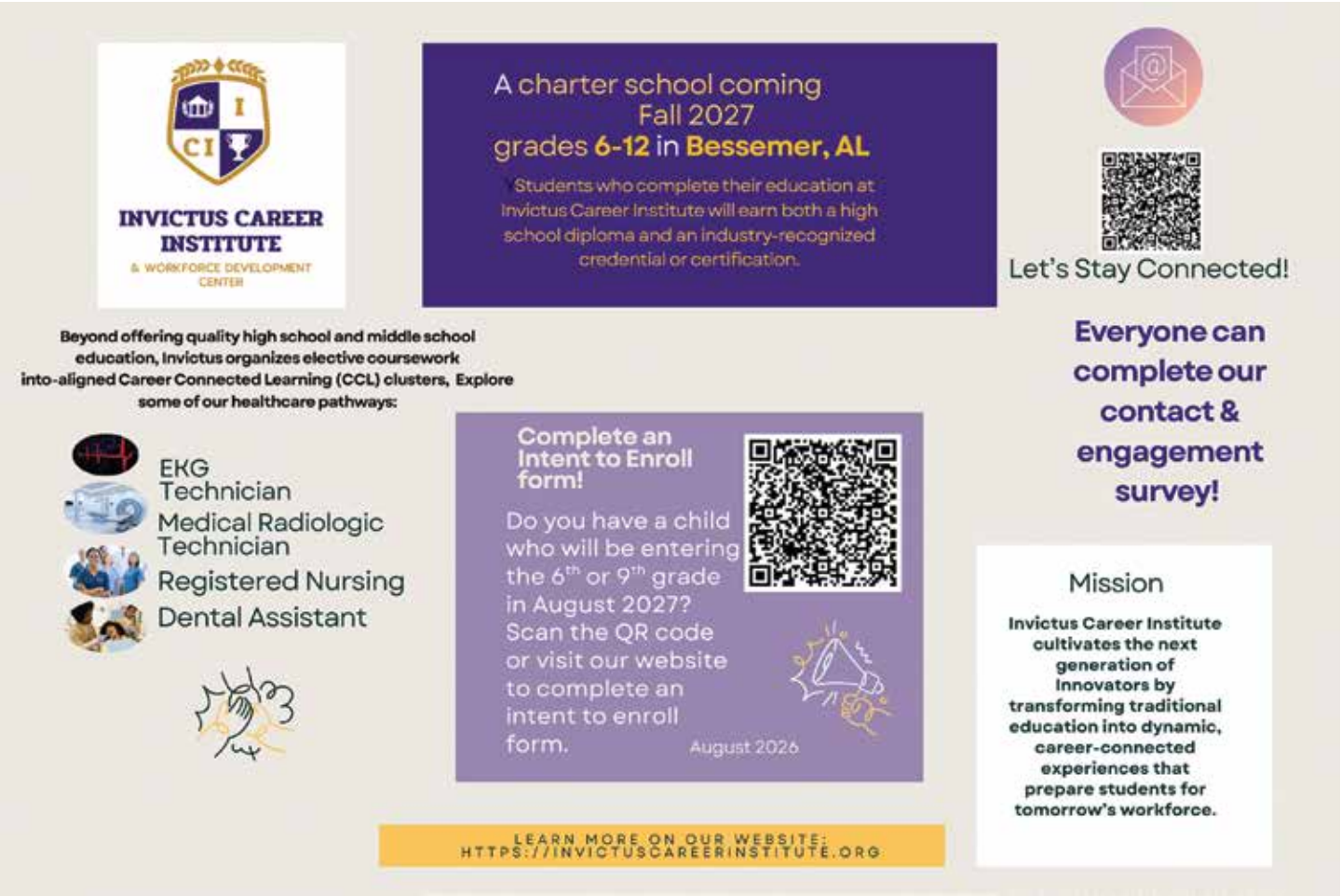

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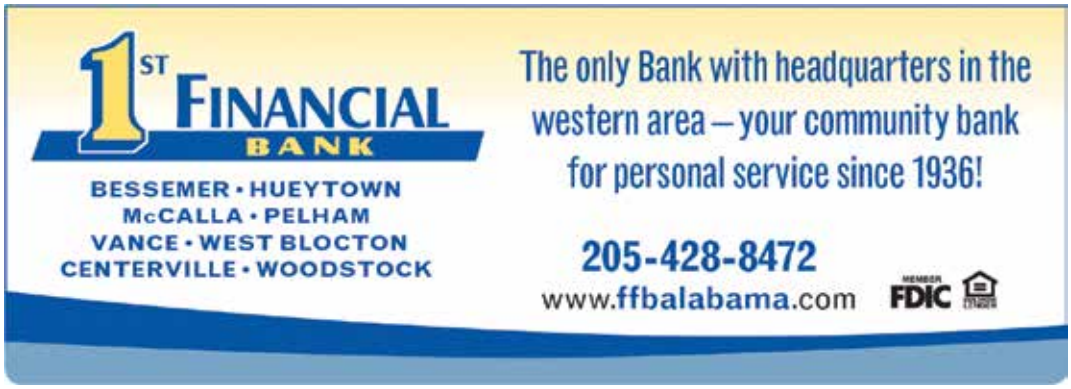

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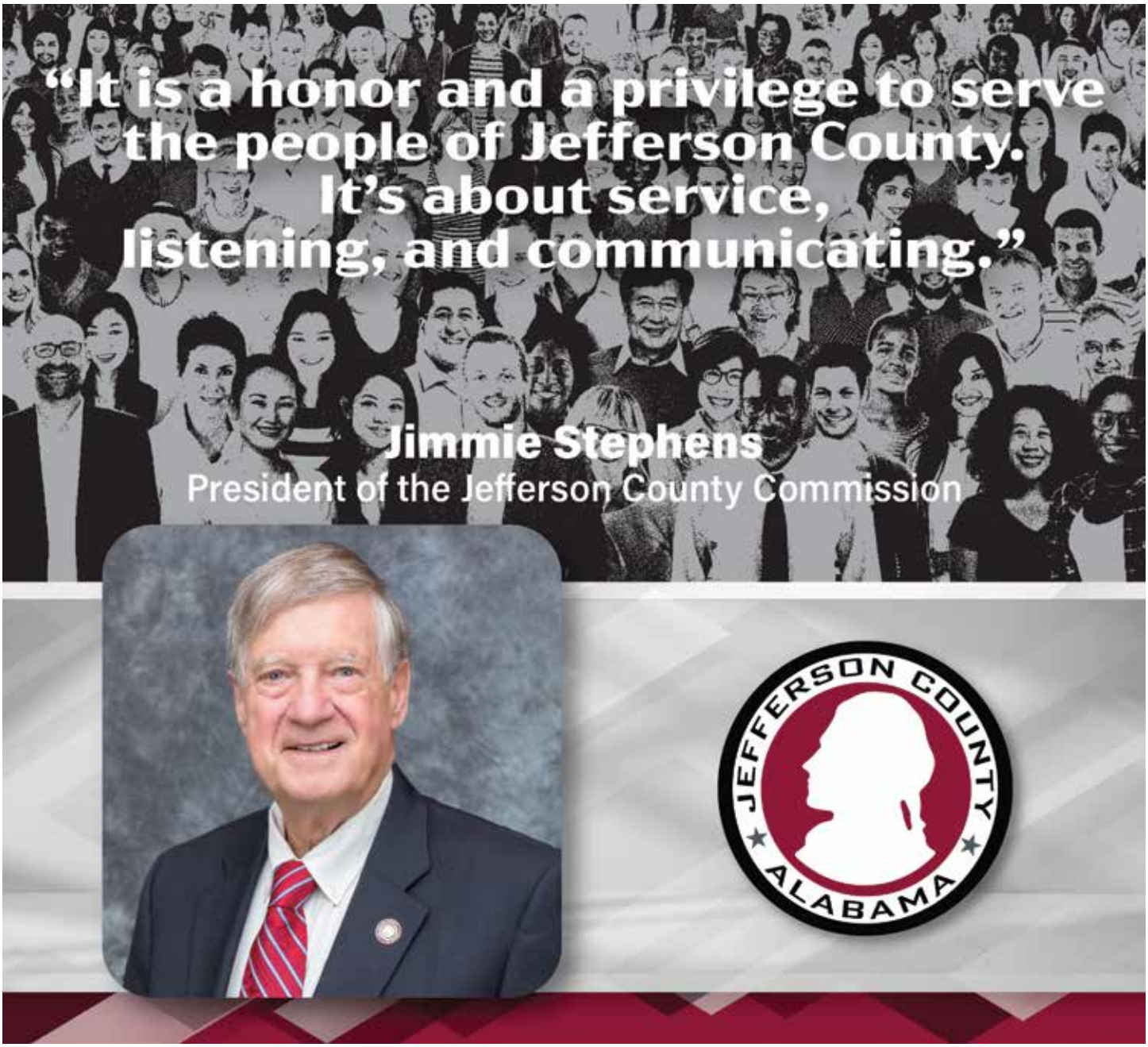

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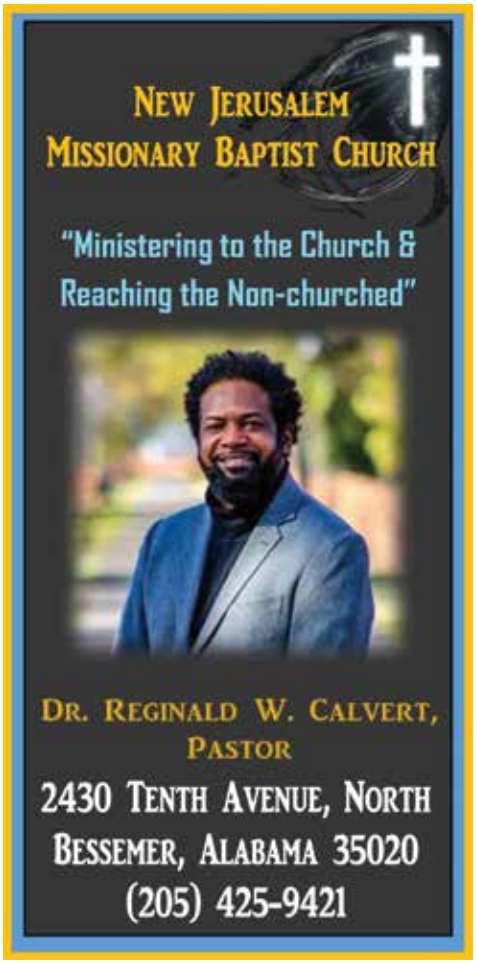

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