

# Bessemer

2022/ Volume XII

Est. 1922

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**CENTENNIAL**

EDITION



A PUBLICATION OF THE BESSEMER AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



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This is a publication of the Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce. Mail letters and story ideas to Bessemer Area Chamber, 321 18th Street North, Bessemer, Alabama 35020. [www.bessemerchamber.com](http://www.bessemerchamber.com). Copyright 2022 by Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce. All rights reserved. Disclaimer: This book is for informational and promotional purposes only. Bessemer Chamber in no way warrants or guarantees any information contained herein. All pictures not taken by staff of Chamber are used by permission.

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Mary Milan, Administrative and Accounting Specialist  
Micole Dudley, Member Services / Event Coordinator

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**Keith Pennington**  
Medical West



**Sheriff Mark Pettway**  
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**Noah Rocker**  
Fountain Life Church



**William Smith**  
Marco's Pizza



**LaVada Varner**  
Alabama Technology



**Devron Veasley**  
Bessemer Business Incubation System

# BESSEMER MAGAZINE 2022



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[www.bessemerchamber.com](http://www.bessemerchamber.com)

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Chamber of Commerce



Dear Chamber Members, Supporters and Stakeholders,

It is with my sincere gratitude and humility that I have the opportunity to lead our chamber for the upcoming year. I am also honored to continue the legacy of those business leaders who came before me and participated in making our chamber the fine organization that it is today.

The year 2022 marks the Centennial Anniversary of the Bessemer Chamber of Commerce's existence and its service to the business community of Bessemer, Alabama. Over the past 100 years, the Bessemer Chamber has played a vital role in the success of the business community and surrounding area, from the once mighty Pullman Standard Railcar Facility, to the sprawling Amazon Fulfillment Center on Powder Plant Road.

As we reflect on 2021 and the challenges brought on by the global COVID 19 Pandemic, the chamber's resilience was demonstrated by promoting "virtual" business meetings, and outdoor "safe-distance" events. This past spring, Debardeleben Park was the site for such an event to show appreciation to our first responders and hospital workers for their service to the local community.

We invite businesses, non-profit organizations, individuals, and the faith-based community to become members of the Bessemer Chamber. We are continuing to offer events and programs that will add value to you and your company being a member of this chamber.

I want to challenge you to join me by encouraging your customers and clients to come out and become members. It takes a team to continue a strong chamber; therefore, we must work together to accomplish this common goal – "A Stronger Chamber, A Better Bessemer, Bessemer Proud".

I look forward to another amazing year for the chamber and our business community. I want to thank every one of you in advance and encourage you to help make 2022 an "Awesome" year for the Bessemer Chamber, because "Working Together Works".

Bessemer Proud,  
Mitch Avery  
2022 Chairman of the Board  
Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce



*Mitch Avery*  
2022 Chairman of the Board

# COMMUNITY CONTACTS

**ATTRACTIONS**  
Alabama Splash Adventure ..... 481-4750  
Autobahn Indoor Speedway ..... 235-6230  
Bessemer Hall of History ..... 426-1633

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

**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
Bessemer Chamber of Commerce ..... 425-3253

**CITY OF BESSEMER**  
Bessemer City Hall. .... 424-4060  
City Attorney ..... 432-0270  
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**  
Bessemer Board of Education. .... 432-3000  
Lawson State Community College ..... 925-2515

Area Elementary Schools:  
Abrams Elementary School. .... 432-3100  
Greenwood Elem. School ..... 432-3200  
Hard Elementary School ..... 432-3300  
Hueytown Elementary School ..... 379-4100  
Jonesboro Elem. School ..... 432-3400  
McAdory Elementary School ..... 379-4650  
Westhills Elementary School ..... 432-3500

Area Middle Schools:  
Bessemer City Middle School. .... 432-3600  
Hueytown Middle School ..... 379-5150  
McAdory Middle School ..... 379-4730

Area High Schools:  
Bessemer City High School. .... 432-3700  
Hueytown High School. .... 379-4150  
McAdory High School ..... 379-4700

Area Private Schools:  
Bessemer Academy. .... 428-6288  
Dunnam's Private School. .... 425-4194  
St. Aloysius Catholic School ..... 425-0045

**EMERGENCY NUMBERS**  
EMERGENCY ..... 911  
Alabama State Troopers ..... 252-7445  
Bessemer Fire Department ..... 428-5151  
Bessemer Police Department ..... 481-4350  
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 ..... 733-2740  
Jefferson County Courthouse ..... 481-4110  
Jefferson County Tax Assessor. .... 481-4125  
Jefferson County Tax Collector ..... 481-4131  
Veterans' Affairs, Bessemer ..... 481-4117

**LOCAL MEDIA**  
The Cutoff News. .... 615-790-6959  
Western Star. .... 424-7827

**RECREATION**  
Alabama State Parks. .... 800-252-7275  
Legacy YMCA ..... 426-1211  
Premiere Cinema 14. .... 428-4404  
Tannehill State Park. .... 477-5711  
Public Golf Courses:  
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Woodward Golf & Country Club ..... 424-5500

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FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE AMBASSADOR PROGRAM, PLEASE VISIT [WWW.BESSEMERCHAMBER.COM](http://WWW.BESSEMERCHAMBER.COM)



**Bessemer City Hall**  
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PH 205.424.4060  
info@bessemeral.org • www.bessemeral.org



*Honorable Mayor*  
Kenneth E. Gulley

**The City of Bessemer's  
Mission Statement**

The City of Bessemer provides service oriented, responsible government, consistent with the community's values, priorities and expectations for a high quality of life, enhancing the City's fiscal health, providing professional and innovative services, and managing the City's resources while planning for the future.

*City Council*



Jarvis Collier  
District 1



Cynthia Donald  
District 3



Donna Thigpen  
District 4



Ron Marshall  
District 5



Jesse Matthews  
District 6



Kimberly Alexander  
District 2



LaTricia Crusoe  
District 7

*Bessemer City  
Board of Education*

District 1 – Amos Rembert, District 2 – Vera Eades, District 3 – Renna' Soles Scott, District 4 – Sam Morris, District 5 – Jerome Cook, District 6 – Remeka Thompson, District 7 – Lee Jones

1621 Fifth Avenue North, Bessemer  
205-432-3000



*Area Elected Officials*

Senator Priscilla Dunn  
Representative Louise Alexander  
Representative Allen Farley  
Jefferson Co. Comm. Jimmie Stephens  
Jefferson Co. Comm. Sheila Tyson  
Jeff. Co., Bess. D.A. Lynneice O. Washington  
Jefferson Co. Sheriff Mark Pettway  
Jeff. Co., Bess. Deputy Treasurer Sherry McClain  
Jeff. Co., Bess. Tax Assessor Charles Winston  
Jeff. Co., Bess. Tax Collector Eric Burks

*IN THE HEART OF  
BESSEMER*



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# COMMUNITY

## BESSEMER CITY COUNCIL

# LIVING



City councilors are elected officials entrusted to represent the interests of their constituents within their individual districts by providing a direct link between citizens and their local government. Seven individuals preside over Bessemer's districts with the goal to nourish their communities while empowering the citizens of those communities. The Bessemer City Council works diligently alongside the mayor to ensure that the city continues to move in

a positive direction. Bessemer has grown tremendously over the last several years, with each district experiencing its own distinctive growth and development. Here's a glimpse inside these districts, the city councilors who govern them, and a few of the prominent aspects that ultimately come together to truly make Bessemer a marvelous city!

## COUNCILMAN

# JARVIS COLLIER

## DISTRICT 1

**TELL ME ABOUT YOURSELF, YOUR TIES/HISTORY TO BESSEMER, AND HOW YOU CAME TO HOLD THE POSITION AS CITY COUNCILOR OF YOUR DISTRICT.**

I am a leader, motivator, and the voice for the people in the community. I am married to Jocelyn Collier, and we have four children and one grandchild. I grew up in Bessemer, AL, and I started my business here over 21 years ago. I am the owner of Collier's Barber & Style and founder of Collier's Barbering Institute, both located right



here in the Marvel City. I am a deacon and member of First Baptist Church Old Jonesboro. My belief in family and my community led me to run for office. I had an abundance of support not only being from this district, but by knowing a lot of the residents personally. It felt like it was the right place to be. I hit the streets of District 1 knocking door to door, my dedicated team made phone calls and together we campaigned. With many prayers and support of the community, I became Councilman Jarvis Collier.



**HOW HAS YOUR DISTRICT GROWN OR IMPROVED SINCE YOU TOOK OFFICE?**

District 1 has improved mainly because I am attentive. I pride myself on riding through the community, listening to the citizens and noting what their needs are. I work closely with the Street and Sanitation Department to ensure that the needs of the residents are met, and items picked up timely. I have great participation with quarterly clean ups; this also ensures the entire community stays clean. I have also had the opportunity to partner with other non-profit organizations to assist with building accessible ramps to some of the citizens in my district.

**WHAT ARE SOME OF THE PROMINENT THINGS IN OR ABOUT YOUR DISTRICT THAT YOU ARE THE PROUDEST OF?**

I am most proud of my district because of the history that surrounds it. District 1 has one of the oldest standing communities in Jefferson County, which is the Jonesboro Community. Located in

the heart of central Alabama, Bessemer is home to almost 27,000 residents. Founded in 1887 by Henry DeBardeleben, Bessemer grew rapidly earning its nickname “The Marvel City”. District 1 is the historical landmark of DeBardeleben Park, named after the city’s founder. It is currently used for family picnics, walks, and entertainment gatherings.

As a young boy, I would pass this bright star on the front of the restaurant whenever my grandmother would go into town. It was not until I became councilman that I learned the history of “The Bright Star”.

It is with great honor that I am to speak about one of the most influential people that made a positive impact on District 1. It is a privilege to have personally known one of our former mayors, Mayor Quitman Mitchell. Mayor Mitchell reminds me a lot of myself: his love for God, family, community, and the art of barbering. As a child, Mayor Mitchell believed in becoming a barber, and he would watch his father for long hours day after day cutting hair. He would go on to become a licensed barber and was the first African American voted

on the Jefferson County Barber Commission. Mayor Mitchell once worked at and later became the owner of 20th Century Barbershop in Bessemer, AL. He had an outstanding career for over 34 years before he became the mayor of Bessemer in 1990.

**WHAT FUTURE PLANS DO YOU HAVE FOR YOUR DISTRICT?**

My future plans for District 1 consist of continuing to work with the mayor and the other councilors for better infrastructure. The city of Bessemer is moving forward and with economic development, an increase of public safety and the expansion of community engagement we should begin to see less crime and more community growth. One of my main focal points for the new year is to revitalize downtown. We can give downtown an uptown vibe by investing into the area, generating more businesses, and providing more opportunities for business owners. •

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COUNCILWOMAN

# KIM ALEXANDER

DISTRICT 2

TELL ME ABOUT YOURSELF, YOUR TIES/  
HISTORY TO BESSEMER, AND HOW  
YOU CAME TO HOLD THE POSITION AS  
CITY COUNCILOR OF YOUR DISTRICT.

I've been in Bessemer all of my life; my family is here in Bessemer. I attend New Jerusalem Baptist Church under the leadership of Pastor Reginald Calvert. I am a mother of one son that attends Alabama State University. Being a nurse for 14 years and traveling the world,

HOW HAS YOUR DISTRICT GROWN OR  
IMPROVED SINCE YOU TOOK OFFICE?

Since taking office, we have torn down several dilapidated houses; I think my district has the most houses of all 7 districts to be torn down. We have new gas lines, new sidewalks, several small businesses that have opened, and food pantries that really helped our citizens receive fresh fruits, vegetables, and hot meals during the Covid-19 pandemic. When Covid-19 hit, it slowed a lot of the plans and progress down in my district.

WHAT FUTURE PLANS DO YOU HAVE  
FOR YOUR DISTRICT?

We will be building back more homes because we want more home ownership and working closely with the board of education for the children in the school system. We also plan to organize a cleanup and cutting crew for the elderly in the district and partner with non-profits



you see a lot of things. You also see a lot of communities change, and you want to see that for your own community. I've always been involved in politics all my life; my mom is Alabama State Representative Louise Alexander. Helping people and being an advocate for people has always been a passion of mine. When it was time to run for the city council seat, I decided to give it a try to see if I could make a difference.



to open more food pantries throughout the city. We're going to continue to work with the churches and the pastors throughout the district, as well as partnering with organizations to restore historical landmarks that are vital to maintaining the history of our Marvel City. •

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION: WWW.LAWSONSTATE.EDU**  
**DR. CYNTHIA T. ANTHONY, PRESIDENT**

# CYNTHIA DONALD

D I S T R I C T 3

## TELL ME ABOUT YOURSELF, YOUR TIES/ HISTORY TO BESSEMER, AND HOW YOU CAME TO HOLD THE POSITION AS CITY COUNCILOR OF YOUR DISTRICT.

I am the mother of three beautiful children and grandmother to ten grandchildren. I was educated in the Bessemer City school system and studied at both Miles College and Birmingham Easonian Baptist Bible college. I'm a member of the National League of Cities Board of Directors, the Alabama League of Municipalities HD



Committee, and the National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials (NBC-LEO). I was born and reared in District 3, and there was a need for change! With the previous councilor retiring, the time had come for me to be the voice of the change that I wanted to see. I campaigned and was elected by the citizens in District 3. I currently serve as Bessemer City Council President and have done so since 2019.

## HOW HAS YOUR DISTRICT GROWN OR IMPROVED SINCE YOU TOOK OFFICE?

We have increased businesses within the district and worked to make the former Charles F. Hard Park family friendly by changing the name to include the citizens, the Southside Community Park. We added a water fountain, sitting areas, a pavilion and upgraded the lighting. We have also hosted numerous events and activities in the community such as the annual "Back to School, School Supply" rallies, egg hunts and "trunk



o' treat", and an annual "Health Walk". We've partnered with Charles F. Hard Elementary School to purchase an electronic sign board and with a local church to start the first ever warming station in the city of Bessemer for the homeless and less fortunate. We've also started the "Living Legend Luncheon (LLL)" to honor local unsung heroes.



## WHAT ARE SOME PROMINENT REASONS YOU ARE PROUD OF YOUR DISTRICT?

The historical background in iron ore (The Sloss Mine) and the public-private partnership with local businesses are what I'm most proud of.

## WHAT FUTURE PLANS DO YOU HAVE FOR YOUR DISTRICT?

My wish list and future plans for District 3 include upgrading infrastructure, mainly water lines, and improving lighting and paving in the middle-class subdivisions.

I would like more public and private partnerships with incoming businesses creating revenue for the city of Bessemer. Other plans include a strip mall with a supermarket, a storm shelter, a water park for the children, and a senior citizen's center with meeting rooms and city-wide broadband to generate revenue. •



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# RON MARSHALL

D I S T R I C T 5

## TELL ME ABOUT YOURSELF, YOUR TIES/ HISTORY TO BESSEMER, AND HOW YOU CAME TO HOLD THE POSITION AS CITY COUNCILOR OF YOUR DISTRICT.

I was reared in Roosevelt City and attended Roosevelt Elementary School. I am a graduate of Wenonah High School. I also earned a B.A. Degree from the University of Alabama- Tuscaloosa Campus. My professional careers were in the banking and telecommunications industry. I am currently the co-owner of Myriad Communications Network, Inc. where we produce the Myriad Gospel Music



Countdown; a program heard on over 50 radio stations across the country. Locally, I am the host of the Ron Marshall Praise Experience heard every Sunday Morning from 6am-10am on V-949 and WATV. My ties to Bessemer are from a time when Bessemer had a booming downtown with a variety of department stores. My college degree encompassed quite a bit of Political Science courses; thus, I gained an interest in politics and decided to enter the arena with a notion to use my managerial and interpersonal skills to strive to help Bessemer to grow and to prosper.

## HOW HAS YOUR DISTRICT GROWN OR IMPROVED SINCE YOU TOOK OFFICE?

With the cooperation of the mayor, council members and employees of the City, I have seen dilapidated structures torn down, some streets paved, roofs replaced on the homes of several senior citizens, several handicap ramps, mechanical indoor ramp, and heating/cooling units. As the councilor for District 5, I am committed to spending time in the district to interact with residents and business owners to listen and address their concerns as well as to make them aware of available city programs.

## WHAT ARE SOME PROMINENT REASONS YOU ARE PROUD OF YOUR DISTRICT?

I am proud to have UAB Medical West in District 5 as well as Lawson State Community College. I am also proud of Westhills Elementary School and Bessemer City Middle School. We also have a number



of churches and pastors who are supportive of the district. I cannot fail to mention a number of citizens who are concerned about the overall condition of the district and who will call upon me to make

me aware of issues that need to be addressed. Even though I survey the district on a regular basis and report to the appropriate department the issues that need to be addressed, I depend on the help and support of citizens and business owners to make this district better. "Working Together Works."

## WHAT FUTURE PLANS DO YOU HAVE FOR YOUR DISTRICT?

As we move forward, I look forward to working with the churches to establish a food pantry in association with Nurturing Golden Hearts. I also have as a goal to do a better job of informing our citizens of city programs that are available to them through our Economic Development Department. I will also be focused on the overall appearance of the district and new housing.



## MARVEL CITY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

INDIVIDUAL RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS (IRA)

CHECKING ACCOUNTS

CHRISTMAS CLUB ACCOUNTS

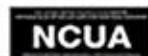
LOANS (PERSONAL, AUTO, RECREATIONAL)

CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSITS

If your employer is a member of the Bessemer Chamber of Commerce, you qualify to join MCFCU. You may also qualify if you have an immediate family member who has an account with MCFCU. For more information to join MCFCU, give us a call!

We look forward to hearing from you!

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www.marvelcityfcu.com

Established in 1959

# JESSE MATTHEWS

D I S T R I C T 6

## TELL ME ABOUT YOURSELF, YOUR TIES/ HISTORY TO BESSEMER, AND HOW YOU CAME TO HOLD THE POSITION AS CITY COUNCILOR OF YOUR DISTRICT.

I was first elected to the Bessemer City Council to represent the citizens of District 6 as well as all the citizens of Bessemer. I am proud of all the businesses that have chosen the City of Bessemer and especially District 6 as their home.



## WHAT ARE SOME PROMINENT REASONS YOU ARE PROUD OF YOUR DISTRICT?

- Alabama Splash Adventure which was originally known as VisionLand, Alabama Adventure and Splash Adventure is a water park/amusement park that is located off of Interstate 20/59 in Bessemer, Alabama. The park was a team effort of eleven cities that came together and formed the West Jefferson Amusement and Public Park Authority. Currently, the park is operated by the Koch Family Parks and

offers a safe, family fun environment. They have added to the many existing attractions a kids roller coaster, a train, two boat rides, mini helicopters, and a laser maze. In 2015 Rampage, the park's signature wooden roller coaster, reopened after a complete restoration. In 2021, Alabama Splash Adventure announced a new Rocket Racer, a new six-lane water slide, which stands more than 50 feet tall and represents their largest waterpark expansion to date. Alabama Splash Adventure employs seasonal part-time and full-time employees which adds a boost to the local economy. (BHAM WIKI, 2018)

- In June 2018, the Seattle, Washington-based internet retail giant confirmed plans for an 825,000-square-foot fulfillment center in Bessemer, just minutes away from downtown Birmingham. Total investment from Amazon and its partners in the project is \$325 million. The center has brought approximately 1,500 full-time jobs. The 1,500 full-time employees will work alongside Amazon's advanced robotics technology. The Amazon Fulfillment Center is projected to deliver a significant economic impact for Jefferson County and



Alabama. For starters, the annual payroll at the high-tech facility will top \$46 million. Overall, the center will contribute \$203 million to the county's economic output annually, while adding \$123 million to the county's GDP, according to a study prepared by the Center for Business and Economic Research in the University of Alabama's Culverhouse School of Business. Amazon is seen as a powerful catalyst for growth in Bessemer, a former industrial center that was once

home to large steelmaking operations. In fact, U.S. Steel previously owned the land where the facility is being built. (How Amazon Picked the Prime Site for Its First Alabama Fulfillment Center, n.d.)

- Promenade Tannehill (formerly Colonial Promenade Tannehill) is located at the intersection of Eastern Valley Road and Pocahontas Road that is easily seen from I-459 in Bessemer. The shopping center officially opened in July of 2008. The approximately \$75 million, 347,151-square-foot shopping center was developed by Colonial Properties Trust. The shopping center was sold to Dallas, Texas-based Cypress Equities in September 2013. (BHAM WIKI, 2021)

## WHAT FUTURE PLANS DO YOU HAVE FOR YOUR DISTRICT?

I would like to see a community park for the Carriage Hills neighborhood. •

(2018, June 15). Retrieved from BHAM WIKI: [https://www.bhamwiki.com/w/Splash\\_Adventure](https://www.bhamwiki.com/w/Splash_Adventure)

(2021, April 21). Retrieved from BHAM WIKI: [https://www.bhamwiki.com/w/Promenade\\_Tannehill](https://www.bhamwiki.com/w/Promenade_Tannehill)

How Amazon Picked the Prime Site for Its First Alabama Fulfillment Center. (n.d.). Retrieved from Made In Alabama: <https://www.madeinalabama.com/why-alabama/success-stories/how-amazon-picked-the-prime-site-for-its-first-alabama-fulfillment-center/>



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because, to us, you are  
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[www.comfortcarehospice.com](http://www.comfortcarehospice.com)

C O U N C I L W O M A N

# LaTRICIA CRUSOE

D I S T R I C T 7

## TELL ME ABOUT YOURSELF, YOUR TIES/ HISTORY TO BESSEMER, AND HOW YOU CAME TO HOLD THE POSITION AS CITY COUNCILOR OF YOUR DISTRICT.

I was born and bred in the Marvel City of Bessemer. My Christian faith has been nurtured and groomed at New Bethlehem Baptist Church. I am a proud mother of my beautiful daughter, Erica. Throughout my life, I have been taught to advocate for a positive change and be



a voice for the people. I have worked diligently throughout the City of Bessemer. I am a real estate agent with Matthews and Associates which is also located in Bessemer.

## HOW HAS YOUR DISTRICT GROWN OR IMPROVED SINCE YOU TOOK OFFICE?

Under my leadership in District 7, We have great things happening! We are working to complete the construction that will provide a safe passage over Highway 150 into the Bessemer Rec Center. We have sidewalks,



which provide safer walkways to school for our children. The partnerships with the church, community, schools, and city are stronger. Working with sponsors, we have toys, clothes, and food giveaways at Christmas, "Back to School" rallies, Valentine's Dates with our seniors, gas giveaways, and we provide turkeys and food giveaways as well as prepare and serve hot meals to our seniors at Thompson and Jess Lanier Manor for Thanksgiving's Day.

## WHAT FUTURE PLANS DO YOU HAVE FOR YOUR DISTRICT?

In District 7, there is still work to be done. I will continue to advocate to have dilapidated dwellings demolished, infrastructure updated, communities lit up and streets paved. We need more police presence to combat the crime and gun violence. We are working, District 7! Let's keep working! •

not only in the communities, but invest in the citizens as well. Bessemer has emerged as a powerhouse in western Jefferson County, and with dedicated city leaders, will continue to be a thriving, wonderful place to call home!

Information for District 4 was not provided. •

The city councilors have only scratched the surface on what Bessemer has to offer! A simple drive through each district reveals the rich history that is located in our own backyard. Companies all over the US are recognizing this and choosing to invest in Bessemer, which in turn, allows area elected officials to allocate funds to invest

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City of Bessemer Electric & Water Service



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# BESSEMER

## IS ON THE MOVE!

BY: TORAINE NORRIS, CITY OF BESSEMER



The future in the city of Bessemer continues to look bright in spite of a worldwide pandemic.

Consider these positive developments in 2021 when discussing Bessemer's future:

### JOB GROWTH

Bessemer continues to experience rapid industrial and economic expansion. Some 1,000 new jobs are expected in the Marvel City over the next few years thanks to companies such as Carvana, Lowe's, FedEx, and Amazon expanding operations into Bessemer. Carvana opened the doors on its \$40 million facility in the first quarter of 2021. Amazon, Lowe's, and FedEx all had facilities under construction in the third quarter of 2021. TSF Sportswear broke ground in that same quarter on a new facility in the city on Turin Drive. "The business-friendly climate in this city has propelled us forward," said Bessemer Mayor Kenneth Gulley. "We have emerged in Jefferson County as a can-do, blue-collar city. "Many of these new jobs are promising starting wages - and I want to emphasize starting wages - of \$15 an hour. This will help us lift the standard of living in Bessemer."



BESSEMER MAYOR KENNETH GULLEY

### HOUSING

As expected, the influx of industry and jobs has sparked a demand for new housing in Bessemer. Several developers have either announced or submitted plans to build new housing in the city. Habitat for Humanity of Greater Birmingham announced that it plans to build 125 new garden and patio homes along Hopewell Road. The homes will be part of a mixed-income community by Habitat. Some homes will be in Bessemer and others in unincorporated Jefferson County. "With all the development in that area, there's a need for housing," Patricia Burch, Executive Director for Habitat, told FOX6 News.

### DOWNTOWN REDEVELOPMENT

With job growth and housing demand rising, interest in Downtown Bessemer is rebounding. Milwaukee-based developer Scott Crawford, Inc. and partner Cardinal Capital purchased the former Bessemer City Hall in March 2021 and announced plans to convert it into a mixed-use development with 40 to 50 market rate rental units and ground floor commercial space. STRADA Professional Services LLC began work on an Opportunity Zone Prospectus for the city to attract more development in the downtown corridor. An Opportunity Zone is defined as a new alternative economic development program established by Congress in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017. The program is meant to foster private-sector investments in low-income rural and urban areas. Downtown Bessemer, portions of the Westlake community, and of the old Jonesboro community are part of the Opportunity Zone.

Bessemer officials reinstated the city's Downtown Redevelopment Authority and the Historic Commission

in 2021 to help propel redevelopment in Downtown and explore creation of historic neighborhoods in other parts of the city. With annual events such as the Bob Sykes BBQ and Blues Festival and the Central Alabama Caribbean Festival scheduled to return to Debardeleben Park in spring 2022, Downtown Bessemer is poised to be a focal point of the city's future and that of western Jefferson County.

### RECREATION AND QUALITY OF LIFE

The city plans to open the second and third phases of its Rail-Trail in 2021. Plans include expanding the trail into downtown Bessemer in future phases. The city has secured grant funding to connect the Rail-Trail to the Recreation Center via a pedestrian bridge across 14th Street, or Highway 150. The Bessemer Recreation Center, opened in 2016, boasts a membership of more than 10,000 strong and celebrated

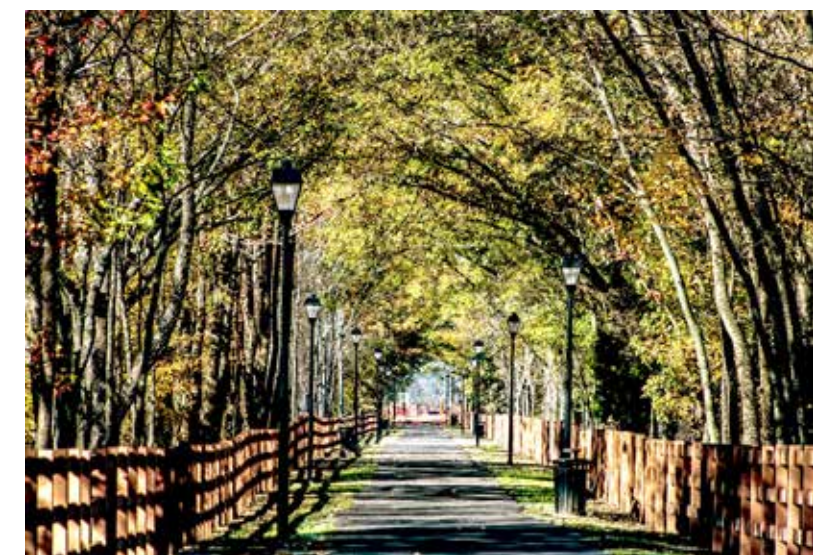


its fifth anniversary in 2021. Two new hotels are being constructed in the Academy Drive area, just in time for the advent of the World Games in neighboring Birmingham in 2022 and a future football slate



for the University of Alabama which will include home games with college football blue bloods such as Texas, Wisconsin, and Notre Dame.

Starbucks began construction on a free-standing shop on Academy Drive in the third quarter of 2021. Two new seafood restaurants also opened in the Academy Drive area in 2021. Mayor Gulley said Bessemer's momentum can be attributed to the hard work and dedication of



many in the community. The pandemic and uncertain times have not hindered the city's trajectory, the Mayor said. "One thing I am certain of is that Bessemer, Alabama has positioned itself to be at the forefront of this region in the 21st Century," the Mayor said. "This has been due to the hard work of my office, the city council, many of our business leaders and countless others who I do not have the time to name.

"Our best days remain ahead of us." •



# EARLY LEARNING

## in Bessemer City Schools

It's been two years since I took on the role of Superintendent of Bessemer City Schools, and the path has been amazing! I started midyear during a traditional school year and hit the grown running. Numerous plans, goals, and dreams were set for the school system, and we were off to a good start. Within a month and a half, the unthinkable hit us ... a world pandemic that changed the trajectory forever. Despite odds and no "playbook" on how to run a school or school district in a global pandemic, we persisted. Not only did Bessemer City Schools overcome the challenges created by the pandemic, but our academic data also shares another story, one of success. I often say, "don't ever tell me what we can't do in Besse-

mer. It is a matter of mindset." Our mindset is focused on growth and success in all avenues, and we are on the path to achieving both.

I am not one to procrastinate when it comes to the students of Bessemer City Schools. I believe we should assess our needs, develop a plan to reach them, and move forward in carrying those plans out. Our children depend, so we must give our best effort.

It's been a joy and blessing to serve as Superintendent and I look forward to many more years to come!

Below are a few highlights from the last two years:

- Developed a brand new intensive five-year Strategic Plan. Vision 2026: ReImagine Bessemer City Schools 2021-2026. A Strategic Plan for Bessemer City Schools.
- Engaged in several State reviews to monitor compliance matters: Office of Civil Rights, Accreditation Review, Compliance Monitoring Review, Financial Audit, and many others. Bessemer City Schools received stellar ratings on all.
- Mission #ReImagineBessemerCitySchools. This initiative aims to change the trajectory of how we internally and externally view Bessemer City Schools. We are mastering this goal through business partnerships, community non-profit-based organizations partnerships, various exposure opportunities for students (i.e., college visits, career fairs, mental health seminars), and numerous other innovative implementations we have added in the last two years.
- Amazon Future Engineers Program with Bessemer City Schools. This program offers possible paid career and college opportunities for our students through Amazon, Bessemer campus.
- Ensure that all students are provided with a Chromebook laptop device for instructional use while at school and at home. The school system also purchased mobile wifi hotspot devices for families in need.
- We staffed two mental health counselors and two social workers to provide services and resources for our students and families in need of various social and emotional services and resources. As well as additional fine arts teachers.



- We incorporated our monthly Employee of the Month program, P.R.I.D.E., where all staff members have the opportunity to nominate and vote on the employee that will represent the district for their dedication, innovation and stellar performance in their roles. This recognition has evolved into a partnership with America's First Credit Union, where they provide a special token to those individuals each month.
- Many other programs, initiatives, and efforts to show appreciation to our staff for their dedication to our school system during these challenging times.

Bessemer City Schools strives to be a beacon of light, hope and possibilities for the children we serve. Booker T. Washington once wrote, "Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life, as by the obstacles by which he has overcome." Learning from our past will help us blossom into the school system that others admire. With great leaders and employees, coupled with supportive board members, our school system will no longer be the hidden secret; we will SHINE!

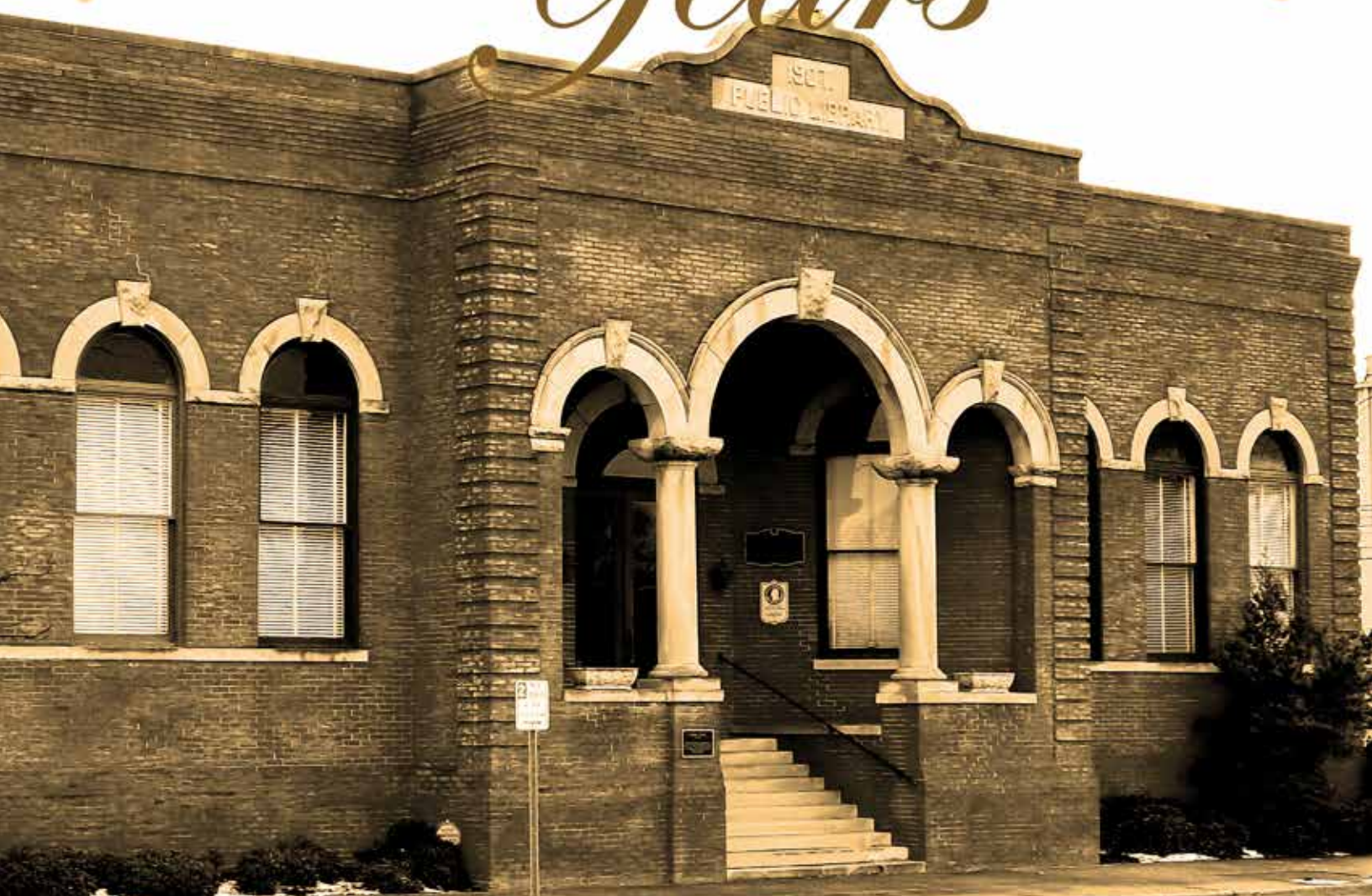
We look forward to continued partnerships with all and thank you for believing in Bessemer City Schools.

Thank you,

Dr. Autumm M. Jeter  
Superintendent •



# Celebrating 100 Years



As the Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce celebrates our 100th anniversary, we cannot overlook the other wonderful businesses in the city who have also stood the test of time and reached the momentous achievement of 100 years in business!

## Bessemer Coal, Iron, and Land Company

The name “Town Company” was appropriately used to describe the Bessemer Land and Improvement Company. Its promotional activities made it the guiding influence in early Bessemer history. Henry F. DeBardeleben and associates had built two furnaces in the area which he called Bessemer. Both were blown in the year 1888. In addition to these two were two at Robertstown, both put into operation



in 1890 and one, the little Bell furnace in Bessemer, which was also blown in the 1890. Coal from DeBardeleben’s Blue Creek Mine was coked in the company’s two hundred and seventy-five beehive ovens. On January 7, 1887, the Bessemer Land and Improvement Company held its first stockholder’s meeting. April 2, 1890, Henry DeBardeleben assumed the presidency of the company for the second time.

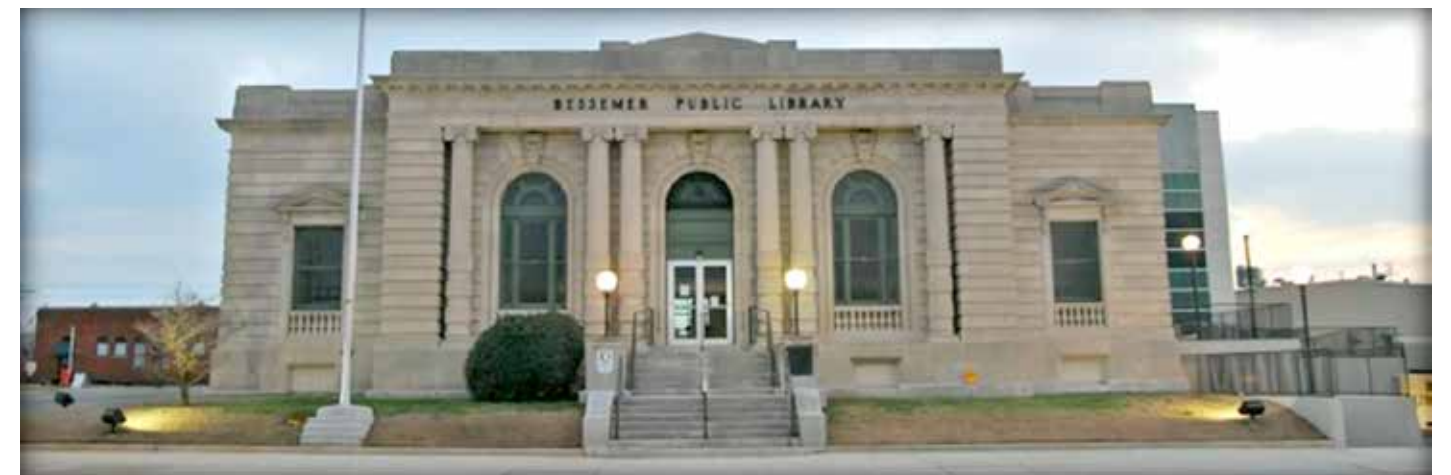
## Bessemer Public Library

The formation of a free public library was first organized in Dec. 1905 by a group of women who secured the donation of the site from Bessemer Coal and Land Company. They then lobbied for assistance from the city in seeking a grant from the Carnegie Foundation. It was established by a resolution of the Bessemer City Council as Bessemer Carnegie Library and opened its doors in September 1907 at 321 North 18th Street, a small brick structure at the corner of 18th Street and 4th Avenue. The City of Bessemer was given the Old Post Office building at 400 North 19th Street to use for the public library in 1965. After remodeling it in 1967, the library was renamed the Bessemer Public Library. The previous library charged a fee for removing materials. The pay library donated its 500 volumes to the new library when it opened.

In April 2000, the residents of the City of Bessemer passed an ad valorem tax referendum to fund the building of a new library. The library underwent a \$4.5 million expansion from 15,600 to 43,200 square feet. The Library was temporarily moved to 701 9th Avenue North in August 2001. It was in August 2008 that the library was able to return to its new state of the art, three-tier facility. A board of five trustees governs the Library. The Bessemer City Council appoints the trustees for four-terms. The terms should overlap so that at least one trustee is appointed or re-appointed each year. The regular meeting date for the Board is the third Thursday of each month. The Board conducts at least 6 meetings a year with a quorum of 3 or more trustees present. All meetings are open to the public.

## The Bright Star

In 1907, a small cafe with only a horseshoe-shaped bar opened its doors to the bustling community of Bessemer, Alabama. Outgrowing three locations, the Bright Star moved to its present site in 1914, and patrons were introduced to a new dining atmosphere. Ceiling fans,



tile floors, mirrored and marbled walls - most of which exist today - reflect the style of that era. Murals painted by an itinerant European artist are another interesting feature of the past. Major alterations and renovations of the premises and kitchen were completed in 1966, and the dining room was expanded in 1978 with the addition of the "1907" room. Because of its growing popularity as well as the need for additional banquet space, the final expansion of the Bright Star occurred in 1985 with the addition of the "Dixie" and the "Green" rooms.

The Bright Star's reputation has thrived because of special attention to two areas integral to the success of any restaurant - outstanding service and superior cuisine. Outstanding service is reflected in the consistent hard work of the two owners of the restaurant, Jim and Nick Koikos. On any given day, one or both of the owners will be on the premises overseeing the lunch and dinner shifts. Their hard work

and consistency, along with the leadership of Chef Ross Daidone, is reflected in the 90 member staff, whose average length of service exceeds 7 years. The Bright Star's dedication to superior cuisine is reflected in its commitment to use only the finest ingredients for each dish. Fresh seafood transported from the Gulf coast daily, the finest steaks available, and fresh vegetables and produce are customary on the luncheon and a la carte menus. Broiled Greek-style Snapper, Beef Tenderloin-Greek Style, and Broiled Chicken Greek Style are specialties of the House. Other signature dishes include combination Seafood Gumbo, Lobster and Crabmeat Au-Gratin, and the Broiled Seafood Platter.



For over 114 years, The Bright Star has entertained guests from throughout the Southeast. In 2011, The Bright Star received an award as an American Classic from The James Beard Society. In addition, CNN.com recognized The Bright Star as one of the best historic

restaurants in the United States. The Bright Star made MSN's list as one of America's 60 top Iconic Restaurants. The Bright Star has also been recognized as having the best Steak in Alabama by the Alabama Cattlemen's Association. These awards could not have been achieved without the hard work of our staff and the loyalty of our guests.

In 2019, Jimmy Koikos, an owner of the restaurant since 1968 passed away at the age of 82. His presence at the front door is sorely missed. The Bright Star's tradition of memorable meals is carried on by Jimmy's brother, Nick Koikos, Cousin Andreas Anastassakis, niece Stacey Cocoris Craig, GM Brett Collins and Operations Manager Sonya Twitty and all the staff of the restaurant. They look forward to hosting you soon.

### City of Bessemer

In 1886 iron and steel magnate Henry Fairfield DeBardeleben founded the City of Bessemer. DeBardeleben's dream was to make the City a steel center that would attract companies and people from all over the United States. He founded the Bessemer Land and Improvement Company to facilitate his vision. With \$2 million in starting capital, he built several blast furnaces for his Coal and Iron Company. In 1887 DeBardeleben bought 4,000 acres of land and marked off blocks for a new town along the rail lines of the Alabama Great Southern Railway. Henry DeBardeleben believed that the town's name should reflect an economy that was built on the iron ore and steel industry. He named the community "Bessemer" in honor of Sir Henry Bessemer who invented the open-hearth method of steel producing. In April of 1887 the first commercial lots were sold, and the town of Bessemer began to grow.

The dream of Henry DeBardeleben began to take shape and the town experienced a boomtown effect. Within only a few months the city's population reached a total of 1,000 citizens. In less than two years the population soared to 4,000. The city's growth was so phenomenal that it was nicknamed the "Marvel City". The 1880 census ranked Bessemer's population as the eighth largest in the state. It was predicted that the city would become the fourth highest by the 1990 census. In fact, the city did reach the fourth largest mark long before the predicted

date and it stayed there for quite some time. By June of 1887 the town of Bessemer saw the need for an established court. The first meeting of this court was held the last week of June with Justices McAdory and Jones presiding. The town also saw the need for a jail and, at the insistence of W.D. Mills, a framed building near the Rolling Mill was rented for this purpose. Due to the unsecured nature of building (with its single plank floors) a new building was rented at a cost of \$360 a year.

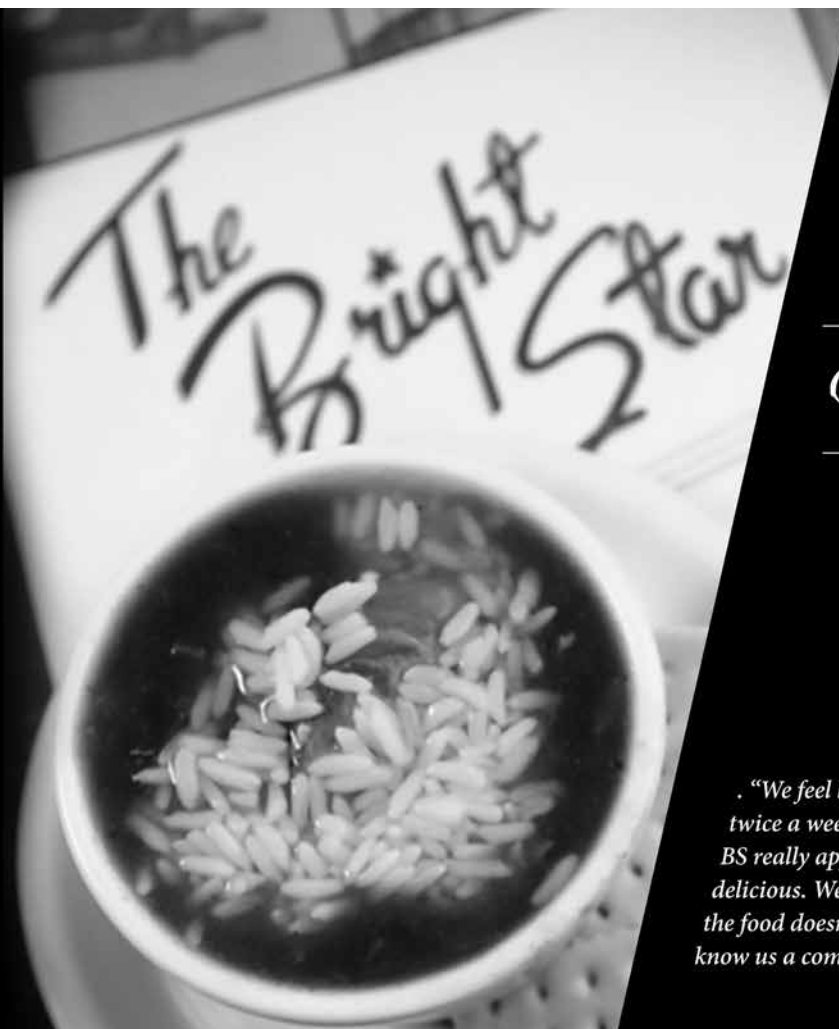
The town of Bessemer also began to see an increase of its middleclass families. These families produced the first political leaders of the town. R.M. McAdory was elected as mayor of Bessemer and eight councilmen were elected to assist him. These men voted to incorporate the City of Bessemer on September 9, 1887. The town of Bessemer had become a city. The city elected D.B. Stapp as its first town marshal by a vote of the town council during the city's first council meeting on September 13th of that same year. At the next council meeting three men were elected as policemen at a pay of \$50 per month. One of the first duties of the town marshal and his men was the inspection of privies once a week.



On April 17, 1889, the city council approved the city seal and an ordinance authorizing the sale of city bonds. The funds obtained through this sale allowed Bessemer to build its first city hall. The new building would include city offices, a courtroom, the city jail, the engine house for the soon to be created fire department, and a few markets. The building was

designed by the famed architect G. M. Torgenson and was to cost about \$16,000.00. The building, although incomplete, was dedicated on August 1, 1889. The building of a new center for a fire department meant that the city now needed to invest in fire equipment and an organized fire brigade. Citizens had been asking for better fire protection and they received it. Many men volunteered for the new fire department and on December 16, 1888, it received its first call. Ironically the city hall building that housed the fire department was destroyed by fire many years later. The present city hall facilities stand in its location.

This rapid growth inspired DeBardeleben into searching out new ways to hasten the community's growth. He purchased buildings that were used in the 1884 Cotton Exposition in New Orleans and had them shipped to Bessemer by rail. One of the structures, a three-story Victo-



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*"We feel like the Bright Star is an extension of our home. We eat there at least twice a week and sometimes more. We're greeted warmly and made to feel like the BS really appreciates our business. The food is outstanding - always high quality and delicious. We can't wait to see what the specials are. We been all over the country and the food doesn't compare. The staff stays and that really says something today. They know us a come by to say hello. It's a totally good experience."*

— David Johnson

rian building, named the Montezuma building and had been Mexico's exhibit in the fair, served as not only a hotel in Bessemer but also later as Montezuma University as well until it was later destroyed by fire. Montezuma University boasted the Birmingham area's first medical school. The Jamaica building was used as a part of the rolling mills. The social, cultural, and academic life of Bessemer flourished during its formative years. Schools, churches and civic organizations emerged with the population increase. A new library was constructed with funds from the famed industrialist Andrew Carnegie. Music and theater groups held regular performances from Birmingham while musicians like W. C. Handy, the "Memphis Blues" composer who worked at the U.S. Pipe Bessemer foundry early in his career, entertained with brass band sounds.

In 1898 City Attorney J. K. Trotter proposed the founding of a court of Inferior Jurisdiction in the city of Bessemer with jurisdiction similar to the Inferior Court in Birmingham. It took a while for this petition to come to fruition but in 1915 the City of Bessemer saw the construction of a county courthouse situated directly across from the City Hall. Bessemer now had the court facilities for all of the needs of the Bessemer Cut-off area.

The mining and steel-based economy attracted a great number of laborers to the city and by the 1920s Bessemer was the fourth largest city in Alabama. The City's reliance on the limited industry in the area caused the city to suffer during the recessions of 1893 and 1907. Unemployment rose and consumer purchases fell during these periods, but the recessions were short lived and each time the City rebounded with greater productivity and increased employment.

The recession of 1907 left the area's largest corporation, the Tennessee Coal, Iron, and Railroad Company, saddled with a \$5 million debt, which it was forced to alleviate through a stock sell to United States Steel. When the USS Company took over the steel operations of the TCI plant, company officials committed USS resources to the development of the Bessemer area. The TCI subsidiary of USS established a welfare program for sick and injured workers (including the formation of a medical clinic headed by Dr. Lloyd Noland, a physician instrumental in discovering the cause of the Yellow Fever virus which plagued Panama Canal workers), constructed houses for workers (many of which are still standing), planned and paved roads, installed drainage

and sewage systems, and built playgrounds and recreational areas. They even established their own school system, which won national praise for academic excellence (a salary subsidy from USS enabled the school system to successfully recruit college-educated teachers).

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### Legacy YMCA

The Legacy YMCA is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to put Christian principles into practice through programs that build a healthy spirit, mind, and body for all. Guided by its' core values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility, the Y is dedicated to giving people of all ages, backgrounds and walks of life the opportunity to reach their full potential with dignity. The Legacy Y envisions a future in which all people achieve health, gain confidence, make connections,



and feel secure at every stage of life. For more than a century, the Legacy YMCA has helped area young people to grow into healthy, thriving adults by offering supportive education and leadership programs, team sports and camps. The YMCA supports individual and community well-being. People of all ages, interests and skill levels can

find the fitness classes, family activities and the group interest they need to lead active, vibrant lives. The Y also collaborates with community leaders to bring healthy living within reach of all people. Through community programs, local outreach and global engagement, the Y provides support and inspires action in our community. Since 1920, the Legacy YMCA has been a positive light in the community.

### Simmons Sporting Goods

The Simmons family began their business in Bessemer around the time the city was established in 1887, according to Betty Simmons. Simmons family businesses have been on the corner of Second Avenue and 20th Street for four generations, beginning with PN Simmons, Ralph Simmons' father, who was co-owner of "Simmons and Buck" a dry goods and grocery store.

In the early 1900's, the Simmons family ran a clothing store on 20th street. In the 1940's, Ralph and Sam Simmons (cousins) opened Simmons Pawn Shop on the corner of Second Avenue and 20th Street. Upon his return from WWII in 1945, Ralph continued to purchase

merchandise and increase the inventory of the business. Ralph Simmons purchased Sam's interest in the pawn shop in 1951 and became the sole owner of the business. Ralph and Betty Simmons continued to grow the business over the next 30 years. Since Ralph was an avid fisherman and bird hunter, he began to sell fishing and hunting supplies within the pawn shop. Ralph and Betty had five children who all grew up in the business. In 1972, the name was officially changed to Simmons Sporting Goods and the pawn shop days were over. In 1982, Ralph Sr. retired and handed over the reins to his remaining sons, Clay, Barry, and Peter. After Barry's untimely death in 2006, Clay and Peter continued to run the family business.

Today, Simmons Sporting Goods continues the tradition of a "family business" with two generations of the Simmons Family working

together daily to maintain the values and customer service that has been at the core of their success. Through two world wars and economic hardships, businesses such as Simmons Sporting Goods have continued to be a mainstay in Bessemer's economy. Simmons Sport-



ing Goods has customers who travel from Mississippi, Georgia, Florida, and Tennessee many times during the month, making this not just a retail store, but a destination as well. Simmons Sporting Goods also has a national and international presence as the internet business has continued to grow. The Simmons family continues to be a vital

part of the history and ongoing success of the sporting goods industry, as well as the revitalization of Downtown Bessemer. The Simmons family continues with pride to work diligently to carry on the legacy that has been handed down from generation to generation. •

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# BESSEMER AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

## Decades of Celebration

### 1920's

1st Chamber of Commerce formed in Bessemer

Bessemer High School Completed

Pullman Standard Car Manufacturing Co. builds its first railroad plant

### 1930's

Chamber works to get a superhighway to Birmingham  
Chamber promotes Bessemer as the "Iron City"

US Highway 11 built to Birmingham; New City Hall build on 3rd Avenue

Bessemer opens the 1st lighted high school stadium in Alabama

Bessemer and Chamber celebrate city's 50-year Semi-Centennial

### 1940's

Chamber and City fathers work with draft board and Bessemer citizens

Mary Susan Bryant Bridge completed on 9th Avenue

Bessemer Electric and Water created to serve 11,000 customers

Chamber board sends letters to US senators urging end of coal strike

### 1950's

Street cars and tracks removed from downtown

Bessemer Junior High School opens

First Planning and Zoning Commission is appointed

Jess E. Lanier is elected Mayor of Bessemer

### 1960's

Bessemer and Chamber celebrate Diamond Jubilee (75 years)

Bessemer Memorial Hospital opens with 127 beds

Charles A. Long Award created in his honor

Bessemer State Technical College built (John Pelham Trade School)

Chamber moves to historic Carnegie Library at 321 18th Street North

### 1970's

Jess Lanier High School opens doors to more than 1,300 students

Bessemer Airport under construction in Greenwood

Memorial Hospital becomes Carraway Medical Center

Ed Porter elected Mayor and serves four terms

116 Chamber members and a budget of \$17,000

### 1980's

Bessemer Hall of History acquires Great Southern Railway Depot

Name changed to Bessemer - West Jefferson Co. Chamber

Bessemer Civic Center built with Chamber support

Bessemer changes to mayor/council form of government

Chamber promotes city's 100 Anniversary with Centennial Celebration

Ambassador program promotes Chamber through volunteers

### 1990's

Quitman Mitchell elected to first term as mayor

Mercedes-Benz plant locates in nearby Vance

Chamber completes Alabama Business Retention and Expansion survey

Vision South West Metro created to enhance regional human resources

Chamber celebrates 75th Diamond Anniversary

### 2000's

Corporate Sponsorship Program initiated

Continued growth in membership

Alabama Adventure (Alabama's Only Theme Park)

Watermark Place (Bessemer's Outlet Mall)

Chamber celebrates 85th year

Edward May elected to first term as mayor

### 2010's

Colonial Promenade Tannehill Mall opens at Exit 1 on Int. 459

New Bessemer City High School Opens

Kenneth Gulley elected to first term as mayor

Dollar General Distribution Center Opens 2012

New Bessemer City Hall facility Opens 2017

BACOC introduces "Taste of Bessemer and Business Expo"

### 2020's

Major business expansion (Amazon, Carvana, Lowe's, etc.)

Inaugural Marvel City Family Fun Fest 2021

BACOC hosts 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf "FORE" Progress Tournament

Bessemer Chamber celebrates 100 years of service

35<sup>th</sup> Edition of Bessemer Magazine is published

## SUPPORT BESSEMER CHAMBER MEMBERS!



### STAY IN BESSEMER...

Best Western Hotel & Suites  
Fairfield Inn & Suites  
Holiday Inn Express  
Quality Inn  
Red Roof Plus Inn & Suites

5041 Academy Lane, Bessemer  
4980 Academy Ct, Bessemer  
5001 Academy Lane, Bessemer  
5021 Academy Lane, Bessemer  
4985 Academy Court, Bessemer

205-481-1950  
205-277-1700  
205-424-2600  
205-428-3194  
205-771-9071

### SHOP IN BESSEMER...

Fourth Avenue Supermarket  
Fresh Value 98  
LA Arrangement & Event Décor  
Paisley Pig, LLC  
Pinnacle Motorsports  
Simmons Sporting Goods  
Torme Foods  
United Textiles

731 20th Street N, Bessemer  
700 19th Street N, Bessemer  
2301 9th Avenue N, Bessemer  
1904 2nd Avenue N, Bessemer  
5517 Academy Way, Bessemer  
2001 2nd Avenue N, Bessemer  
527 20th Street N, Bessemer  
1917 2nd Avenue N, Bessemer

205-424-6625  
205-425-8234  
205-253-3732  
205-900-2025  
205-428-6266  
205-425-4720  
205-428-7110  
205-428-6208

### DINE IN BESSEMER...

Back Porch Restaurant  
Bob Sykes Barbecue  
Bre's Restaurant & Catering LLC  
Bright Star Restaurant  
Gourmet Services - Mrs. Winner's  
Gourmet Services - Yazz's Catfish Cabin  
J Wings  
Kaylyn's Food For the Soul  
Marco's Pizza  
Snack Box (Food Truck)  
Sneaky Pete's  
Sonic of Bessemer  
Subway #3122  
Zatie's Southern Cuisine

1924 First Avenue N, Bessemer  
1724 9th Avenue N, Bessemer  
5204 Bessemer Super Hwy, Bessemer  
304 19th Street N, Bessemer  
1100 9th Avenue SW, Bessemer  
(Lawson State Community College)  
1011 9th Avenue SW, Bessemer  
306 18th Street N, Bessemer  
4933 Promenade Pkwy Ste 133, Bessemer  
2300 17th Avenue N, Bessemer  
400 18th Street N, Bessemer  
732 Academy Drive, Bessemer  
1518 9th Avenue N, Ste 120, Bessemer  
1805 Center Point Pkwy, Center Point

205-760-5035  
205-426-1400  
205-760-5731  
205-424-9444  
205-929-6318  
205-929-6318  
205-565-4555  
205-461-4344  
205-461-3450  
901-495-5506  
205-424-4036  
205-428-2002  
205-425-7827  
205-518-5559



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# CHAMBER APPRECIATION

# TOP 100

## MOST INFLUENTIAL

### HONORING THOSE WHO HELPED SHAPE OUR FOUNDATION!

Since 1922, hundreds of people have come through the Bessemer Chamber in some capacity. Whether it be as a chamber member, city official, employee, or volunteer, there are individuals who have truly left their mark on this chamber. As we celebrate the Centennial Anniversary, the chamber has compiled the names of individuals who have contributed to the longevity and success of the organization. These people are being recognized for their commitment, service, and support of the Bessemer Chamber! As we look back over the last century, we are optimistic that purposeful and devoted leaders and volunteers like these will continue to carry the Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce through its next 100 years!

#### 1. Ronald "Ronnie" Acker

Acker began volunteering with the Bessemer Chamber after spending 32 years in Alabama Power's marketing department. Bringing decades of experience with him, he served on the board of directors for several years before becoming chairman of the board in 2000. The very next year, Acker would accept the honor of becoming the chamber's



14th president in 2001. Throughout his time as president, Acker spearheaded several programs, including Bessemer Pride, in which he organized

chamber volunteers to assist the city's maintenance department to beautify Bessemer's roadways and entrances into the city. He was awarded the Charles A. Long award in 2014 and retired from the chamber the same year. Acker continues to support the Bessemer Chamber and attends chamber events years after his departure.

#### 2. Joe Adams



Adams volunteered with the Bessemer Chamber as the owner of ADCO Companies LTD for over 50 years. He

began his volunteer service on the board of directors in 2000 and was chosen to serve as chairman of the board in 2003.

#### 3. Dr. Cynthia Anthony

Dr. Anthony has more than 30 years of higher education experience and is presently the president of Lawson State Community College. In the past, she has served as interim vice chancellor for the Alabama Community College System and executive vice president and dean of students at Lawson State. Prior



to that, Anthony served at Bessemer State Technical College, which merged with Lawson State in 2005. During her career, Anthony has been an advocate for the Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce, with multiple terms on the chamber board of directors. She currently is the chamber's treasurer on the executive board of directors.

#### 4. Mitch Avery

Avery began volunteering with the chamber in 2017 while in an administrative position



with Spire, formerly known as Alagasco. Avery has served on the chamber's board of directors, moving his way to the executive committee as finance chairman and treasurer. Avery will lead the Bessemer Chamber as chairman of the board during its centennial celebration in 2022.

#### 5. Kay Baggett

Baggett retired from Bessemer City Schools, working in the central office. She volunteered



as an ambassador with the Bessemer Chamber for over 20 years. Baggett continues to advocate for the community where she lives, worships and serves, her hometown, Bessemer, Alabama.

#### 6. Dr. Michael Bailey



Bailey served as president of Bessemer State Technical College. Not only did he have a passion for Bessemer Tech, but you could also see his handprint on many programs, policies, and projects of the Bessemer

Area Chamber of Commerce. Bailey served on the board of directors many terms, leading him to chairman of the board in 1990. Bailey was instrumental in assisting the chamber revise the nomination process for the Charles A. Long Outstanding Civic Award.

#### 7. Sarah Belcher

Belcher worked as a nurse for many years before serving 20 years on the Bessemer City Council, District #3. Belcher has been a longtime member and supporter of the Bessemer Chamber for over 25 years. Upon her retirement from the Bessemer City Council, she dedicated a lot of her



time working as an ambassador for the Bessemer Chamber. Her enthusiasm and volunteer work as an ambassador has been instrumental in the success of numerous chamber events.

#### 8. Julie Bell

Bell has been servicing the Bessemer community with State Farm – Agent, Julie Bell, as well as lending a hand and her time to several



civic organizations in the area. She is a longtime member and sponsor of the Bessemer Chamber and serves on many boards in the Bessemer and Jefferson County area and civic organizations such as Bessemer Business and Professional Women.

#### 9. Bessemer Board of Trade

The Bessemer Board of Trade existed to promote cooperation between merchants and businesses in Bessemer, organized a chamber of commerce to promote roadways, agriculture, and business to the city on May 1, 1922, with Cecil N. Cowan as the first president.

#### 10. Vaughn Burrell

Burrell worked for Long Lewis Ford for many years before purchasing the business in 1986. He was very active in the community, serving



as president of various civic and charitable organizations. A proud supporter of the Bessemer Chamber, Burrell served many terms on the chamber's board of directors and led the chamber as chairman of the board in 1974. His dedication to serving the business community and the city of Bessemer earned him the Charles A. Long Civic Award in 1980.

#### 11. Jim Byram

Byram worked as the director of the City of Bessemer's Economic and Industrial Development Department and is credited with saving Bessemer's sinking economy by recruiting different businesses to the Bessemer area in the early 1980's. He served on the chamber's board of directors, bringing over the same qualities that made him successful with the city of Bessemer.

#### 12. Dr. Merdith M. Byram

Dr. Byram was an educator in the Bessemer City School System, starting as a science teacher and retiring as the Director of Pupil



Personnel. Her love for the Bessemer community was evident, as she was requested to spearhead the city of Bessemer's centennial celebration. Dr. Byram was a supportive member and served on the chamber's board of directors for multiple terms. Her devotion to education and the civic and business communities awarded Dr. Byram the Charles A. Long Civic Award in 2000.

13. Rev. Douglas Caddell

Douglas Caddell has been a well-known minister in the Bessemer area, presiding over Canaan Baptist Church for over 15 years. He



began his membership with the Bessemer Chamber in 2004, volunteering on the board of directors for several years.

Rev. Caddell has been an important leader within the chamber's Minister's Committee, regularly participating in the city of Bessemer's National Day of Prayer program and assisting the Bessemer Chamber with community outreach events and donation drives.

14. Dr. Reginald Calvert

Dr. Calvert is a minister in the Bessemer community, presiding as the pastor of New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church in Bessemer



for over 20 years. Calvert is an advocate for the Bessemer community, serving on several boards including the chamber's

board of directors. Dr. Calvert works diligently with the chamber's faith-based division and is the founder of the "Seek the Peace" Ministry, an organization of local ministers who lead peaceful prayer walks throughout the city of Bessemer.

15. The Chambers Family



The Chambers Family owns and operates Chambers Funeral Home and has been very active and supportive

not only in the city of Bessemer, but with the Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce. They partner with the chamber as a yearly sponsor, with

family member Bryonda Collins currently holding a seat on the chamber's board of directors.

16. Gene Cochran

Cochran volunteered with the Bessemer Chamber through longtime member Buffalo Rock.



He served on the board of directors, eventually becoming chairman of the board with the hopes of moving the chamber

ahead with electronic support and enhanced membership programs. During his time as chairman, he led unselfishly, and Buffalo Rock was a consistent sponsor for many chamber events.

17. LaTasha Cook Williams

LaTasha Cook-Williams has been an essential part of the Chamber's staff for 30 years. Beginning her career with the chamber at 16, she has worked every position in the office until



she was appointed the chamber's 15th president in 2014. Williams is credited for establishing numerous programs and events for the chamber such as

the current corporate sponsorship program, which provided the chamber members with a simplified way to financially support and sponsor yearly chamber events, as well as the Taste of Bessemer and Business Expo.

18. Al Cox

Cox retired from Bessemer State Technical College and was a proud supporter of the Bessemer Chamber of Commerce for many years. Cox served on the board of directors helping to implement many policies and procedures for the organization. Cox was very instrumental during the chamber of commerce's building renovations in 1992.

19. Alan Craig

Craig retired from Bessemer State Technical College and supported the Bessemer Chamber of Commerce



for many years. Craig also served on the board of directors helping to implement many policies and

procedures for the organization. Craig took a hands-on approach during the Chamber of Commerce building renovation in 1992.

20. The D'Alessandro Family

The D'Alessandro Family founded, and still owns, 4th Avenue Supermarket, a local grocery store and staple within the Bessemer area. 4th Avenue Supermarket was known for



a while as one of Bessemer's largest employers, providing hundreds of youth with their very first employment

opportunity. As a member and supporter with the chamber, Frank D'Alessandro Jr. served on the board of directors in the mid 1980's and devoted his time and resources to bettering the Bessemer community. His and the family's devotion to the city of Bessemer and its business community earned him the Charles A. Long Civic Award in 1999.

21. David Darby



Darby volunteered with the Bessemer Chamber while serving as the president of Bank Trust, bringing in over 35 years

of combined banking and commercial lending experience. He began serving on the chamber's board of directors in 2008. During his service on

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the board, David's humble nature and willingness to accept different roles and responsibilities made him an excellent candidate for chairman of the board, a role he assumed in 2010.

**22. Grover Dunn**

Dunn has worked in several different capacities throughout the Bessemer area, beginning with almost 30 years in the public school system before his election to the Bessemer City Council in 1990. It was during this time, Gro-



ver began serving on the chamber's board of directors. He went on to be appointed Jefferson County's Assistant Tax Collector in 2001, where he would spend a little over 20 years before retiring in 2021. He and Senator Dunn, continue to show their support through various chamber events and programs.

**23. Priscilla Dunn**

Senator Dunn has been an active member and supporter of the chamber for many years. Dunn has been a prominent lawmaker in the state of Alabama for over 25 years and is the



wife of Grover Dunn. Prior to her career in politics, she retired as an educator in the Bessemer City School System. She served as the Alabama State Representative in District 56 for 11 years before transitioning to the Alabama Senate District 19 in 2009, a position she held until 2021.

**24. Ora H. Foster**

Foster was a longtime chamber member through the Bessemer Board of Education



and volunteered with the chamber as an ambassador and board member. As a teacher in the city of Bessemer for 40 plus years, the chamber's yearly high school scholarship was named in her honor, not only recognizing scholastic achievements, but also the level of involvement in the community. Mrs. Foster was awarded Ambassador of the Year a record 5 times and received the Charles A. Long Civic Award in 1998.

**25. Connie Fuell**

Fuell began volunteering with the Bessemer Chamber under the advice of Jack White Industries CEO Jack White. Her enthusiasm



and natural networking abilities allowed her to not only enhance her business but promote the chamber and increase its membership in the process. Connie was awarded "Ambassador of the Year" 4 times. This led to Fuell transitioning to the board of directors, eventually becoming chairwoman in 2018.

**26. BK "Skipper" Goodwin III**

Goodwin is currently the chairman, CEO, and president of First Financial Bank, an organization that has been a staple within the community since



1936 with several locations in and around the Bessemer area. He has consistently supported chamber events and programs and has been a longtime supporter and member of the Bessemer Chamber of Commerce.

and volunteered with the chamber as an ambassador and board member. As a teacher in the city of Bessemer for 40 plus years, the chamber's yearly high school scholarship was named in her honor, not only recognizing scholastic achievements, but also the level of involvement in the community. Mrs. Foster was awarded Ambassador of the Year a record 5 times and received the Charles A. Long Civic Award in 1998.

**27. Arthur Green**

Green is the former district attorney of Jefferson County, Bessemer Division and has served over a decade representing and supporting the Bes-



semer community. Serving on many boards throughout the state of Alabama, Green was a chamber member and proud supporter. Green served a term on the chamber's board of directors in 2006.

**28. Ken Grimes, Jr.**



Grimes was hired by the Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce to assist with economic development in the city of Bessemer. Grimes worked to bridge the gap with many business leaders, later becoming the Bessemer Chamber's 13th president from 1996 to 2001.

**29. Kenneth Gulley**

Gulley began volunteering with the Bessemer Chamber in the mid 1990's under longtime chamber member Lawson State Com-



munity College. He served as an ambassador before moving to the board of directors in 1999. Gulley would go on to be the Bessemer Chamber's first African American chairman of the board in 2007. He concluded his volunteer service with the chamber ahead of his bid for election as mayor. He was elected in 2010 and is currently serving his third term as mayor of the city of Bessemer.

**30. Rev. Richard Hanna**

Rev. Hanna is the former pastor of First Presbyterian Church and advocate for the Bessemer community for many years. Hanna has continued his support of the Bessemer Chamber over the years, previously serving



on the board of directors in the Membership Committee and the founder of the Holy Week services in Bessemer. Hanna allowed the Bessemer Chamber to be housed in First Presbyterian church during the chamber's major renovations in 1992. Hanna was very supportive of the chamber during his term and continues his support as recently as lending his time and support to the chamber's Minister's Committee.

**31. Brenda Harris**

Harris worked over 12 years as the administrative assistant for former Mayor Quitman Mitchell.



Harris' love for the Bessemer area was displayed throughout her position as Mayor Mitchell's administrative assistant. Harris made sure to keep the Chamber of Commerce engaged in all city activities. Harris has been and continues to support the Bessemer Chamber.

**32. Chip Hill**

In 1991, Hill was hired as the manager of membership and public relations. Chip developed the idea of an organized group of volunteers to help promote a better understanding of the chamber's mission and purpose, the chamber's Ambassador's Program. He is also credited for the chamber's annual "Golf 'FORE' Progress" tournament. Both the Ambassador's Program and the golf tournament reached their 30th year in 2021!

**33. Don Holmes**

Holmes supported the Bessemer Chamber, serving on the board of directors and the chamber's Business Development Division. He was



respected for his "business expertise and honesty in his business dealing", making the chamber a great fit for him to volunteer his time. Holmes' dedication to the area and the chamber would eventually lead to him receiving the Charles A. Long Civic Award in 2002.

**34. Joni Holt**

Holt has been an active member and supporter of the Bessemer Chamber through



Holt Insurance for over 30 years. She began volunteering with the chamber as an ambassador, eventually serving on the board of directors. She was one of only a select few to have served two terms as chairwoman of the board in 1999 and 2016. Joni's dedication to volunteering with the chamber and serving the Bessemer community earned her the Charles A. Long Civic Award in 2012.

**35. Dr. Deborah Horn**



Dr. Horn supported and volunteered with the chamber through the Bessemer Board of Education. She was elected chairwoman of the board in 2009, with the goal of focusing on the educational needs in the area.

**36. Shirley Horn**

Horn was employed as a social worker/counselor with the Alabama State Department of Youth Services on Chalkville's campus. She was a dedicated volunteer with the cham-



ber, serving as an ambassador just shy of 10 years. In those 10 years, Horn recruited members and supporters for the Bessemer chamber. She was well-known and loved throughout her hometown Bessemer, Alabama. Horn dedication led to her being awarded the Ambassador of the Year award multiple times.

**37. Donald Jay Howton**

Howton, a lifelong resident of Bessemer, is a local interior designer. Owner of Jay Howton



and Associates, Howton served as an ambassador and worked as a consultant during the Bessemer Chamber's major building renovation in 1992 and many years following those renovations.

**38. Diane Hyche**

Hyche was a member of the Bessemer Rotary Club, Hall of History, Beta Sigma Phi So-



rarity along with many other civic organizations throughout the Bessemer Area. She was a proud member of the Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce. Due to her passion and love for the community, it led her to receive the Charles A. Long Award as an outstanding citizen in the city of Bessemer.

### 39. Carlton Jackson

Jackson is a captain with the city of Bessemer's Fire Department and owner of real estate company Building Areas of Excellence LLC. Jackson has been a member and supporter of the Bessemer Chamber and began serving on the chamber's board of directors in 2016. He made his way on to the board's executive committee and eventually became chairman of the board in 2021.



### 40. Charles King

King has been a member of the chamber through multiple businesses in the city of Bessemer. He continues to serve on the board of the directors and is one of few who has served as chairman of the board twice, in 2014 and 2020. Charles is a devoted, hardworking volunteer with the chamber and has been very instrumental in the success of dozens of chamber events over the years.



### 41. The Koikos Family

The Koikos family's restaurant, The Bright Star, has been a staple in the Bessemer community since opening in 1907. The chamber has counted on The Bright Star over the years to deliver their world-renowned Greek style cuisine for several chamber events, as well as monthly ambassadors' and board of director's meetings.



### 42. A.W. "Gus" Kuhn

Kuhn was an active member of the Bessemer Chamber from 1957 until 2003, volunteering on the board of directors and becoming chairman of the board in 1972. He received

the Charles A. Long Award for his long and faithful service to the Bessemer community.

### 43. Herman F. Lehman III



Lehman served two consecutive terms as chairman of the board in 1996 and 1997. Lehman was the former clerk for the City of Bessemer and one of the founding members of the Bessemer Historical Homeowner's Association.

### 44. Albert Lipscomb



Albert Lipscomb was a prominent attorney in the Bessemer area. He worked for the law firm Lipscomb & Lipscomb and as a municipal judge in neighboring cities of Lipscomb and Hueytown.

### 45. Bonnie Lipscomb

Bonnie Lipscomb volunteered with the Bessemer Chamber as a member of the board. Lipscomb was instrumental in capturing the essence of not only the city of Bessemer, but the Chamber's as well, documenting some of the chamber's most important moments. She is credited with the editing and publishing of several editions of the chamber's yearly Bessemer Magazine.



### 46. Charles A. Long Sr.



Charles A. Long, Sr. was a Bessemer business and civic leader, who became the Bessemer Chamber's Chairman of the

Board in 1948. His example of and commitment to serving the business community led to the creation of a yearly award in 1965, with Mr. Long receiving the inaugural award. The Charles A. Long Civic Award is presented to individuals who demonstrate the qualities of outstanding leadership and community service within the Bessemer area.

### 47. Judy Mathis



Mathis has been a dedicated chamber member through longtime member Moore Coal Company. She volunteered as a board member for many years, assisting and supporting the goals put in place during her time with the board of directors.

### 48. Pastor George M. Matthews II

Matthews is a minister in the Bessemer community, presiding as the senior pastor of New Life Interfaith Ministries. Pastor Matthews has been an active member and supporter of the Bessemer Chamber for many years and is involved in the chamber's Minister's Committee. He continues to support the chamber, the business community, and the city of Bessemer overall.



### 49. Jesse Matthews

Matthews has been a continuous member of the Bessemer Chamber during his time as Bessemer City Councilor of District 6 for over 25 years. He understands the significance of a strong chamber and supports not only chamber events, but also the chamber's agenda to promote and expand the business community.



50. Reggie Mays

Mays has been a member and supporter of the Bessemer Chamber as the owner of United Prosthetics and Orthotics. He served on board of directors



beginning in 2016, becoming chairman of the board in 2019. During his time as chairman of the board, Reggie's main goals

were to get members and potential members to understand the value of their affiliation with the Bessemer Chamber and stress the importance of his motto "Working Together, Works."

51. Duane McDonald

McDonald began volunteering on the chamber's board of directors in the late 1980's. He eventually became chairman of the board in 1991,



and president of the organization the very next year. McDonald served as the chamber's president during the chamber of

commerce's major building renovations in 1992. He was also one of the founders of the Bessemer Historical Homeowners Association.

52. Claire Mitchell

As the former First Lady of Bessemer, Mitchell is also hailed as a prominent beautician in the Bessemer area as well as a former school board member with the Bessemer's Board of Education. She



has volunteered and served as a faithful ambassador with the Bessemer Chamber for over 25 years. Mrs. Mitchell continues to devote her time to ensure the growth and professionalism of the chamber's Ambassador's Program and was awarded Ambassador of

the Year. She and her husband, former Bessemer Mayor Quitman Mitchell, are known for being respected leaders not only with the chamber, but throughout the city of Bessemer. Those qualities and more earned Mrs. Mitchell the Charles A. Long Civic Award in 2019.

53. Quitman Mitchell

Even before becoming Bessemer's first African American mayor, Mitchell was a true supporter of the Bessemer Chamber and the business community. He served on the chamber's board



of directors in the late 1980's, and during his time as a board member and mayor, he dedicated his time to attend events

and ribbon cuttings to show his support for the Bessemer Chamber and the business community. Mayor Mitchell's commitment to the community led to his nomination and acceptance of the Charles A. Long Civic Award in 2005.

54. James "Jim" Ed Mulkin

Mulkin volunteered with the Bessemer Chamber on the board of directors for many years. He served on multiple boards throughout the



Bessemer area beginning in the early 1990's, retiring after 28 years of service for First Financial Bank's board of direc-

tors in 2010. His contributions to the civic and business communities were recognized as he received the Charles A. Long Civic Award in 2018, an award his wife Jane received in 1991.

55. Jane Mulkin

Mulkin, the wife of James E. Mulkin, was a member and supporter of the Bessemer Chamber known for her friendliness and community spirit. Her goal in everything she did was to "get



everyone to work together, and to show all of the things that Bessemer has to offer"! Her dedication to the civic and

business community led to her receiving the Charles A. Long Civic Award in 1991.

56. Pam Nichols

Nichols represented Noland Health Services during her term on the chamber's board of directors. She co-directed Honor Flight, an organization



with the mission to take World War II veterans from Bessemer and the surrounding area to the WWII memorial in Washington

DC. Pam would go on to become chairwoman of the board in 2006. As chairwoman, Nichols did an excellent job helping the chamber survive a financial crisis after major funding cuts from the City and orchestrated informative election forums for candidates in the Bessemer area.

57. Mike Oakley



Oakley was a supporter and volunteer with the Bessemer Chamber through several organizations, beginning with his

time at the Western Star. Oakley volunteered through chamber member Alabama Power. He is currently the mayor of Centreville, Alabama.

58. Billy Parsons

Parsons has been a member and supporter of the chamber, serving on the chamber's board of directors for one term in 2010. He rotated on the executive committee and would become chairman of the board in 2013. As a longtime Bessemer



business owner, he understands and values the chamber's commitment of enhancing the business community. Parsons has

always been willing to support and/or sponsor chamber events, most times without wanting to be recognized or receive any credit.

59. Dr. Earl H. Pate, Jr.



Dr. Pate was a prominent dentist in the Bessemer for several decades. He was a strong supporter of the Besse-

mer community and served several terms on the chamber's board of directors.

60. Nelda Pate

Pate retired from AmSouth Bank and was a member and active volunteer with the Bessemer



Chamber. Pate was a member of several civic organizations throughout the Bessemer community. She served as an am-

bassador for over 25 years and was awarded the Charles A. Long Civic Award in 2011.

61. Bruce Patterson



Patterson served as the chamber's manager of membership and public relations in the mid 1980's. Mr. Patterson was respon-

sible for editing multiple Bessemer Magazine editions, creating the chamber's signature logo, which is still used today, and being the driving force be-

hind the revival of the City of Bessemer's Christmas parades, one of the largest in the state of Alabama.

62. Keith Pennington

Pennington is the CEO of Medical West Hospital and has volunteered with the Bessemer Chamber since 2008. He has sat on the cham-



ber's board of directors for multiple terms, later becoming chairman of the board in 2011. Pennington is commend-

ed for his strong leadership and is currently leading Medical West as they began construction of a brand-new hospital location in 2021.

63. Bessie Pippens

Pippens was a longtime member and supporter of the chamber while serving as the Bessemer City



Council's first elected African American councilwoman. Mrs. Pippens volunteered as a chamber ambassador, and because

of her dedication to serve the community, was awarded the Charles A. Long Civic Award in 1994.

64. Dr. Christopher Portante



Dr. Portante was a family physician, volunteering with the Bessemer Chamber beginning on the board of direc-

tors in the mid 1990's. Dr. Portante went on to become chairman of the board in 1998.

65. Troy Post

Post supported and volunteered with the Bessemer Chamber, serving on the chamber's board of directors. Having worked at the Bessemer Industrial De-



velopment Board, Post's enthusiasm about the business community's growth and success was evident during his time serving in

the chamber's Business Assistance Division.

66. Michael Roper

Roper is currently the chief of police in the city of Bessemer. Chief Roper is an advocate for Besse-



mer and the business community especially the Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce. Roper has served as a board member

and continues to advocate for and support chamber events as a member and police chief.

67. Minnie Roper

Roper, wife of Bessemer Police Chief Michael Roper, retired from Bessemer Utilities and



worked many years with Bessemer City Schools. Roper is an advocate for the Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce.

As an ambassador for more than 15 years, Roper continues to work tirelessly in recruiting members and supporters for the chamber.

68. Larry Russell



Russell's Russell & Company, LLC CPA has been a member of the Bessemer Chamber, as well as the chamber's

certified accountant for over 25 years. Russell & Co. has helped manage the chamber's fi-

nances impeccably during that time and supported chamber events as often as possible. Since his passing, his son Wes and Russell & Co. continue to serve the Bessemer Chamber and the Bessemer community.

**69. Nathaniel Rutledge**

Rutledge, Bessemer’s former Chief of Police, was a member and supporter of the Bessemer Chamber. As the chief with almost 30 years of law enforcement experience, Rutledge cared deeply about the communities and the people of Bessemer.

Rutledge and the Bessemer Police Department assisted the chamber in providing the manpower necessary to ensure the success and safety of several chamber events.

**70. A.B. Schwarzkopf**

Schwarzkopf was president of the Bessemer Chamber in 1969. During a board of directors meeting, it was Schwarzkopf who suggested that the Bessemer Chamber be renamed to the Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce. The idea was that the chamber was interested in progress not confined to Bessemer. A motion was made for steps to be taken to change the name; the motion was seconded and carried out.

**71. Syble R. Shoults**

Shoults was a hardworking, dedicated ambassador who served in every capacity possible. Shoults partnered with many civic organizations throughout the Bessemer community. Her volunteer service awarded her both the Ambassador of the Year and Charles A. Long Civic awards in 2000.



**72. Margaret Snider**

Snider worked at Loyle Seymour Jewelry, spearheaded the downtown Merchants Association, and was known for her performance with the Country Boy Eddie Morning Show. Snider served on the Bessemer Chamber’s



Board of Directors and assisted with leading the 1992 chamber building renovation while working diligently with the Community Development Committee. She is recognized for spearheading the revitalization of the City of Bessemer’s Christmas Parade with record numbers in 1989, earning Bessemer the reputation of Alabama’s largest Christmas Parade. Her volunteer work with not only the chamber, but other organizations within the city earned her the Charles A. Long Civic Award in 1997.

**73. Jon Staggs**



Staggs served on the chamber’s board of directors with long-time chamber member Alabama Power. As a dedicated supporter of the Bessemer Chamber, Mr. Staggs ultimately became chairman of the board in 2008.

**74. The Sykes Family**



The Sykes Family has volunteered for and supported the Chamber as members through their award-winning restaurant Bob Sykes for decades. Current owner Van Sykes served on the board of directors in the early 90’s. Bob Sykes has

sponsored as well as catered multiple chamber events throughout the years. Van Sykes’ commitment of service to not only the Bessemer Chamber, but the Bessemer community secured him the Charles A. Long Civic Award in 2010.

**75. Louise Tommie**



Tommie has been a supporter of the Bessemer Chamber for many years through her affiliation with the Bessemer Hall of History. Tommie continues to be a supporter throughout the Bessemer community.

**76. Hank Tyler**

Tyler, founder of Hank’s Ambulances and Henry H. Tyler Enterprises, volunteered on the chamber’s board of directors before becoming chairman of the board in 2002. His efforts with the



Bessemer Chamber and within the community earned him the Charles A. Long Civic Award in 2009. Tyler has many partnerships with businesses throughout the Bessemer community.

**77. W. Russell Tyner**



Tyner was a volunteer on the chamber’s board of the directors beginning in 1993. The very next year, he would go on to serve two consecutive terms as chairman of the board in 1994 and 1995.



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78. Anthony Underwood

Underwood is the founder and owner of Anthony Underwood Automotive, and has been a longtime supporter of the Bessemer Chamber, serving on the board of directors beginning in the late 1980's. He has owned multiple businesses in the Bessemer area. His tireless dedication to the city of Bessemer led to Mr. Underwood receiving the Charles A. Long Civic Award in 2006. Underwood continues to be a major supporter of his hometown, Bessemer, Alabama.

79. Thelma Vanderburg

Vanderburg, former branch manager of NBC Bank, was a longtime member of the Bessemer Chamber, serving on the board of directors in the late 1980's before becoming the chamber's first female to be named chairwoman of the board in 1992. During her year as chairwoman, Vanderburg successfully led the chamber through a major building renovation project.

80. Devron Veasley

Veasley currently serves as the Director of the Bessemer Business Incubation System and advocates for Bessemer and West Jefferson County. Veasley holds numerous national appointments. He has been a member and advocate for the Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce for many years, serving multiple terms on the Board of Directors.



81. Sammy Virciglio

Sammy Virciglio and his family-owned business, Food Giant, were members and major supporters of the Bessemer Chamber. The Virciglio family sponsored numerous chamber events and was always willing to help with whatever the chamber needed to ensure chamber events were successful.

82. Lula Walter

Walter retired from the city of Bessemer, working in the Building and Inspections Department. Walter worked tirelessly with the Bessemer Chamber as an Ambassador for over a decade and was recognized as the Bessemer Chamber Ambassador of the Year in 2004. Her passion for the community led her to serve on the Bessemer Public Library's board and many other boards and civic organizations in the Bessemer Area.

83. Dr. Perry Ward

Dr. Ward was a dedicated supporter and member of the Bessemer Chamber as the president of Lawson State Community College. During his time as president, the chamber was able to host many suc-



cessful events on the Bessemer campus and relied on Lawson State to support and sponsor dozens of other chamber related events. His dedication and willingness to serve earned him the Charles A. Long Civic Award in 2017.

84. Lynneice Washington

Washington is currently the district attorney in the Jefferson County, Bessemer Division. D.A. Washington's passion for the community is displayed throughout the Bessemer community. Washington is currently a sponsor and active member of the Bessemer Chamber of Commerce.

85. Jack White

White, owner and founder of Jack White Industries, was a major supporter and member of the Bessemer Chamber. His enthusiasm to see the Bessemer business community succeed was noticed by everyone around him. White volunteered with the board of directors and eventually became chairman of the board in 2005.

86. Jerry Yarbrough

Yarbrough is the director of Bessemer Utilities and has supported the Bessemer Chamber for over a decade. Yarbrough has served on the board of directors' multiple terms. Yarbrough continues as a sponsor and advocate for the Bessemer Chamber of Commerce.



Honorable Mentions:

- |                          |                    |                             |
|--------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Bud Bishop            | 5. Dr. Ethel Hall  | 10. The Paden Family        |
| 2. Johnny and Jane Cason | 6. Carl Harris     | 11. Larry and Carol Parsons |
| 3. Jerry Cherner         | 7. Bonnie Krippene | 12. Charles Trammell        |
| 4. Jason Dean            | 8. W.W. Ledbetter  | 13. Nelda Weaver            |
|                          | 9. Linda Nelson    | 14. Bill Wynn               |



# CONGRATULATIONS

## TO THE BESSEMER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ON CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF EMPOWERING BESSEMER.

LaTasha Williams IOM, President  
**The 2022 Board of Directors**  
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Chairman Elect - Antoinette Madison  
Immediate Past Chairman - Carlton Jackson  
Treasurer - Dr. Cynthia Anthony  
Finance Chairman - Robert Pollard

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# “CHAMBER Testimonials”

The membership of a chamber of commerce is the backbone of the organization. A strong membership is what keeps the doors to the chamber of commerce open. When businesses and/or business professionals become members of the Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce, it is the organization's goal to show members the value of being involved with the chamber and what active participation and partnership with the chamber could do for their business. This concept has been proven to be successful! If you are wondering why you should join, let's see what longtime members and volunteers have to say about their experience with the Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce:

## Connie Fuell, Dex Imaging



the community in order to sell office products, promote my business, and increase my sales and income. I joined and came to events, supported them, and handed out business cards.

What does it mean to be a member of a chamber of commerce? I really did not know what a chamber of commerce was when I was told by Jack White at White Industries to go sign up to become a member and get involved! I wanted a way to become involved and well-known in

I started to meet business people that I can still call my friends today. It was getting off to a great start! I was asked to become an ambassador to represent my company in 1999. As a volunteer to the Bessemer Chamber, I helped with events, which in turn, promoted me and the company; my business was starting to grow!

I left my previous job in 2013 to start a new opportunity with Dex Imaging. I knew I wanted to become a member and get back involved. I was nominated to the Bessemer Chamber's Board of Directors in 2014! I continued to work and promote business, and in 2018, I was sitting at the top as chairperson of the board! It was hard work but very rewarding. We had successful events and lots of good times. I have always said you only get out of the chamber, what you put into the chamber. I recommend every business join, come out to promote yourself and your products, and see the reward for yourself! I started out as a little dull rock that became a diamond stone; I would say a million dollar a year producer isn't so bad! GET INVOLVED TODAY!

## Reverend Douglas Caddell, Canaan Baptist Church

It has been a wonderful experience working with the Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce. I have been a member since 2004. In 2008, I had the opportunity to serve on the board of directors. My responsibilities included voting on by-laws, approving budgets, handling member re-



quests, making public appearances, chamber programs of work, and many other board actions and events.

Membership has afforded me the special privilege to work with a great group of people whose lives have enriched my own in so many ways. As a pastor, this platform has given me greater visibility and promoted further involvement in the faith-based community. Chamber sponsored events brought together local business owners, clergy, community leaders, and elected officials of whom I had the honor of meeting and working with some on initiatives to reach people, meet needs, and effect change for others.

## Mayor Kenneth Gulley, City of Bessemer

I would like to extend congratulations to the Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce on your 100th Anniversary. The chamber has done much to promote the businesses and market the city of Bessemer over the past 100 years. I personally commend you and am looking forward to continually working with the President and the Board of Directors for the betterment of our city.



As a previous ambassador, member of the board of directors, and past chairman of the board, I know the importance of having a strong relationship with your local chamber of commerce. Though we have had some challenging times, our chamber remains a steadfast part of our tremendous growth. Thank you for annually recognizing our first responders, promoting our city through the "Taste of Bessemer", our countless "Business After Hours" and all events that you do for this city. Again, I commend the leadership of this great organization as you continue to be a blessing to our great city. Bessemer is blessed to have you. Best wishes as you observe your 100th Anniversary.

## Commissioner James A. "Jimmie" Stephens, Jefferson County Commission District 3

I am proud to pen this article for my Bessemer Chamber of Commerce. I first joined the chamber in the mid 70's as I took over my fam-

ily business. It was one of the most rewarding decisions that I have made over the years. My membership has fostered many relationships with business owners and influential people in our Bessemer area.

Over the years, I have watched the chamber evolve into a diverse group of owners, managers, and key employees with the common goal to promote business relationships and pride in our area. As president of your county commission, I am proud to call Bessemer my lifelong home and take pride in my membership with the chamber. The relationships made over the years have given me the opportunity to continue to serve this great community. Thank you, Bessemer Chamber, from the bottom of my heart.

## Sarah Beasley, Retired

After graduating from the University of Alabama, I received my job in the city of Bessemer. Being new to Bessemer, I didn't know much about its rich history and culture. I thought it would be an



honorable and loyal thing to join the chamber to get involved and learn more about the city. I was honored when I was invited to become an ambassador to serve and support the city I love. Being involved in the chamber has given me a sense of civic pride and duty. I am interested in the preservation and growth of Bessemer. Being a chamber member and ambassador has allowed me to do just that in the city I have made my home for over 60 years.

Mildred Posey, Bessemer City Schools

As an educator, I feel that being a member of the Bessemer Chamber of Commerce is beneficial to me and my city. The Chamber serves as a bridge between the business world and the government. Both of these industries are very important to a local school and educator. Being a member of the chamber helps me to be in touch with all local professionals within my city. Being a member also helps me to meet people from all walks of life, enables me to network with educators and business professionals, gain direct contact with other professionals that could lead to unimaginable opportunities. Our chamber of commerce serves and give back to the community regularly. My membership with this organization is a partnership for me that is always there when needed. Meaningful life-long partnerships have and are still being developed via events sponsored by the Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce.



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## BESSEMER UTILITIES

The Bessemer Land and Improvement Company simultaneously founded the City of Bessemer and the water works. Its first board of directors officially presented the company to the community on January 7, 1887. It now operates as Bessemer Water Service and continues to flourish and establish itself firmly in support of the surrounding communities. There are approximately 543 miles of water mains and 1401 fire hydrants to provide fire protection. The system pumps approximately 9,000,000 gallons of water per day and serves 29,250 customers. To contact Bessemer Utilities, call 205.481.4333.



## HOLT INSURANCE

Joni Holt and her team of agents are dedicated to serving the community and providing superior customer service. In 2019 Holt Insurance Agency celebrated their 40th year of business in Bessemer and looks forward to continuing that service in the upcoming years. As a Trusted Choice Agency, Holt Insurance has access to multiple companies and strives to offer their clients competitive pricing, a broad choice of products, and unparalleled advocacy. Their six agents, who have over 100 years of combined experience, can help you with your insurance needs. To contact Joni Holt or her staff, call 205-424-8368 or visit them at [www.holt-insurance.com](http://www.holt-insurance.com).



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## LAWSON STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

There are two campuses of Lawson State Community College, located in Bessemer, Alabama and Birmingham, Alabama.

The college is proud of its ability to provide seamless administrative processes and educational support services for students and other constituents. As President, Dr. Perry Ward is committed to student success and excellence in teaching and learning. Through varied instructional modes and lifelong learning opportunities, the College prepares students for gainful employment, career advancement, college transfer, and workforce development. To contact Lawson State Community College, call 205.925.2515.



# Bessemer

AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

## 2022 CATEGORICAL MEMBERSHIP LISTING

Refer to Membership Directory for contact information

### ACCOUNTING

Business Enhancers LLC  
dba Fully Promoted  
205-490-6196  
Farr Tax Service  
205-426-5431  
Kellum, Wilson & Associates  
205-942-5424  
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

### ARCHITECT

BLOX / GA Studio  
205-933-9060

### ATTORNEY

Allums Welsch, PC  
205-426-7080  
Cloud, Willis & Ellis, LLC  
205-322-6060, 205-721-7272  
Harris Firm LLC  
205-565-0371  
Hunter Law Firm, PC  
205-565-7294, 205-542-5279  
Just in Time Legal Solutions, Inc.  
205-436-2846, 205-777-2717  
Killings & Poe LLC  
205-424-8703  
Law Offices of Merika Coleman, LLC  
205-800-7660, 205-276-4324  
Moore and Moore Law  
205-426-1111, 205-305-4793  
Paden & Paden, PC  
205-432-0270  
The Alexis Firm Group LLC  
205-690-0810

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

Benton Nissan of Bessemer  
205-428-6314, 205-979-5420  
First Class Auto Sales  
205-747-0895  
Long-Lewis Western Star  
205-428-0161  
McCormick's Barber Shop / Performance Automotive LLC  
205-368-1393

Millennium Automotives  
205-365-5278, 205-434-2796  
Premiere Chevrolet, Inc.  
205-424-4121

Town & Country Ford  
205-491-0000  
Wheeler Wrecker Service  
205-424-3200

### AWARDS / PLAQUES / TROPHIES

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America's 1st Federal Credit Union - McCalla  
205-477-9360  
BB & T Bank  
205-565-0268  
eCO Credit Union  
205-226-3944, 205-226-3945  
First Financial Bank  
205-428-8472  
Marvel City Federal Credit Union  
205-426-0578  
Piper Sandler  
205-790-2029  
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205-830-6760

### BARBER

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205-368-1393

### BASEBALL TEAM

Birmingham Barons  
205-988-3200

### BEVERAGES / SNACKS / COFFEE

Buffalo Rock - Pepsi Company  
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### BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS

Bessemer Business Incubation System  
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### CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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205-324-2100  
Graysville Chamber of Commerce  
205-674-6789  
Greater Gardendale Chamber  
205-631-9034  
Greater Irondale COC  
205-956-3104  
Homewood Chamber of Commerce  
205-871-5631  
Hoover Chamber of Commerce  
205-988-5672  
Hueytown Area Chamber of Commerce  
205-491-8039  
South Shelby Chamber of Commerce  
205-669-9075  
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Fountain of Life Church  
205-434-2374, 251-769-3518  
Greater Bethel Baptist Church  
205-424-7172  
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

Shady Grove Missionary Baptist Church  
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### CITY GOVERNMENT

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Medical West  
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Surgery South, LLC  
205-481-7485

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205-477-1501

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205-481-7470

UAB Callahan Eye Hospital Clinic  
205-325-8110

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Wallace Optometry Associates  
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Drainage

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205-324-2100

**EDUCATION**

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

Bessemer B. O. E. - Andrea Kirk-Cook  
205-426-8440

Bessemer B. O. E. - Catrina Williams  
205-901-4031, 205-432-3010

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

Bessemer B. O. E. -  
Claire Mitchell - Retired  
205-527-2356

Bessemer B. O. E. -  
Dr. Autumm Jeter, Superintendent  
205-432-3000

Bessemer B. O. E. - Edith Hunter  
205-552-4081, 205-422-3238

Bessemer B. O. E. -  
Education Association of Bessemer  
Barbara Dunham

Bessemer B. O. E. - Kimbley Gaston  
205-432-3000

Bessemer B. O. E. - Lakeshya George  
205-936-7406

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

Bessemer B. O. E. -  
Lois Merriweather - Retired  
205-425-6039, 205-230-2148

Bessemer B. O. E. - Mildred Posey  
Bessemer B. O. E. - Pat Stewart  
205-432-3029, 205-243-5856

Bessemer B. O. E. - Remeka Little  
205-602-2986

Bessemer B. O. E. - Vera Eades  
205-283-4978

Bessemer B. O. E. - Vicki Kirk-Maye  
205-451-3849

Heritage Christian Academy  
205-978-6001

Lawson State Community College  
205-925-2515

Lawson State Community College  
- Bessemer  
205-929-3505

Lawson State Community College -  
Kimberly Moore  
205-929-3420

Lawson State Community College -  
Roland Brown  
205-760-5067

**ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS**

Astro Electric Company, Inc.  
205-424-0060

Foster Electric LLC  
205-643-6563

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

**ENGINEERING / ENVIRONMENTAL  
/ FORESTRY SERVICES**

Engineering, Environmental &  
Forestry Service  
205-424-3737

**ENTERTAINMENT**

1 Time Entertainment Professional  
DJ & Lighting  
205-567-8828

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

TK Productions & Events LLC  
630-544-1402

**EVENT [PLANNER / RENTAL / CATERER]**

After Five Event Center  
205-260-9865

J Anthony Alexander  
205-413-3483

Partyology Event Planning  
205-386-5676

Xclusive Rental and Decor  
205-919-5564

**EYE CARE**

Bessemer Family Eye Care  
205-424-2733

**FINANCIAL ADVISOR**

Merrill Lynch  
205-903-8184

**FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Bessemer Fire Department -  
Chief McFarland  
205-915-6899, 205-260-9718

**FLORIST**

LA Arrangement and Event Decor  
205-253-3732, 205-563-4303

**FOOD TRUCK**

Snack Box  
901-495-5506

**FUNERAL HOME**

Chambers Funeral Home, Inc.  
205-425-5235

Faith Memorial Chapel Funeral Services  
205-425-8437

Johnson Memorial Funeral Directors  
205-425-2414

McCalla Memorial Funeral Home LLC  
205-477-4888

**GOLF COURSE**

Woodward Golf and Country Club  
205-424-5500, 205-428-0307

**GOVERNMENT - JUDGE**

Judge Thomas E. Thrash  
205-424-1818

**GOVERNMENT - MUNICIPAL COURT**

Bessemer Municipal Court -  
Maurice S. Muhammad  
205-425-2853

**GOVERNMENT [FEDERAL / STATE / CITY]**

Bessemer City Council - Jarvis Collier  
205-424-4060

Bessemer City Council - Ron Marshall  
205-531-8724

Bessemer Development Board  
205-481-2000

Bessemer Police Department - M. Roper  
205-481-4350

Bessemer Police Department - M. Wood  
205-281-1649

Bessemer Police Department - R. Harris  
205-281-1664

Bessemer Police Department - S. Woods  
205-266-1304, 205-428-9982

City of Bessemer - Angela Coleman  
205-424-4060

City of Bessemer - Brenda Harris  
205-643-6393

City of Bessemer - Building Department  
205-424-4060

City of Bessemer - Mayor's Office  
205-424-4060

Jefferson County Commission  
President Jimmie Stephens  
205-325-5555

Jefferson County Commissioner  
Sheila Tyson  
205-325-5074

Jefferson County Sheriff's Office  
205-325-5720

Jefferson County Sheriff's Office - Bessemer  
Adrian A. Dansby  
205-481-4160

Jefferson County Sheriff's Office - Bessemer  
Annquinetta S. Jackson  
205-243-4478, 205-249-2552

Jefferson County Sheriff's Office - Bessemer  
Cleveland Moore  
205-481-4210

Jefferson County Sheriff's Office - Bessemer  
John F. Weatherly Jr.  
205-427-8248, 205-854-6883

Jefferson County Sheriff's Office - Bessemer  
Arlander Stallworth  
205-481-8003, 205-422-1508


Lynnece O. Washington, Jefferson  
Co. D. A., Bessemer  
205-497-8610

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



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Blushing Body  
205-941-8106, 205-475-6256  
Brown Beauty Barber School  
205-253-3956

**HEATING & AIR**

AK Heating & Air Conditioning  
205-424-9620

**HOME DECOR**

United Textiles  
205-428-6208

**HOME HEALTH CARE / HOSPICE**

Comfort Care Home Health & Hospice  
205-451-3602  
Loving Care Home Health LLC  
205-434-3235

**HOTEL**

Best Western Plus  
205-481-1950  
Fairfield Inn & Suites  
205-277-1700  
Holiday Inn Express  
205-424-2600  
Quality Inn  
205-428-3194  
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

**INDIVIDUAL**

Earl Cochran  
Syreeta Wright-Mitchell  
205-396-5477  
Glenda Freeman  
205-720-6031, 205-602-8088  
Jaquetta Bryant  
205-440-7274  
Gloria Doyle  
205-747-9270  
Remeka Thompson  
205-475-4775  
Sadie Harris  
205-427-5997, 205-428-5997  
Jheri Hunter  
205-643-0588  
Deaunka LeBeauf Webster  
205-481-4610  
Scott Roebuck  
205-424-4090

Cliff Vasser  
205-424-0654, 205-966-5195  
Jack White  
205-266-5126  
Sharon Williams  
205-612-4173

**INSURANCE**

Allstate  
205-942-6280  
Holt Insurance Agency Inc.  
205-424-8368 ext 304  
205-531-7380  
Holt Insurance Agency Inc.  
205-424-8368, 205-283-9333  
Humana  
205-461-7986  
Julie Bell, Agent - State Farm Ins.  
205-424-3400  
State Farm -  
Stan White Insurance Agency Inc  
205-425-3280, 205-288-9705  
Viva Health  
205-516-4541

**INVESTIGATION & SECURITY**

NAPS Background Checks  
205-425-6277, 205-902-5143

**LANDSCAPING**

Charles Lawn Service  
205-461-6851  
D & K Lawncare LLC  
205-434-5494, 205-915-9181

**LIBRARY**

Bessemer Public Library  
205-428-7882

**LOGISTICS**

FedEx Ground  
659-235-6682

**MANUFACTURER -  
MODULAR BUILDINGS**

Modular Connections, LLC  
205-980-4565  
Tuff Shed  
205-536-9430

**MASONRY AND STONE  
SUBCONTRACTOR**

Masonry Arts, Inc.  
205-428-0780

**MINI STORAGE / TRUCK RENTAL**

Metro Mini Storage & Truck Rental  
205-425-5571

**NEWSPAPER**

Birmingham Times Media Group, LLC  
205-957-6864  
The Western Star  
205-424-7827

**NON PROFIT**

Alabama Education Association  
205-613-3304  
Alabama STEM Education  
205-910-7274, 205-436-2107

American Legion  
Worth Lewis Post 22  
205-760-5800

American Red Cross - Bessemer  
205-439-7801, 205-234-0945

Assistant Tax Assessor Office -  
Bessemer Division  
205-481-4125 x 1509

Bessemer Business &  
Professional Women  
205-962-2490

Bessemer Elks Lodge #721  
205-424-7301

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

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

Boy Scouts of America -  
Greater AL Council  
205-969-4290

Cahaba Medical Care Bessemer  
205-277-2358, 205-926-2992

Caring Men and Caring Women Inc.  
205-541-7144

Childrens of Alabama - Pediatrics West  
205-481-1886

City of Lipscomb  
205-428-6374, 205-519-8425

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

Dunbar Abrams Foundation  
205-426-8434

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

HR Ministries  
205-585-1476, 205-565-8493

Joe Beasley Memorial Foundation Inc  
205-616-3456

Legacy YMCA  
205-426-1211

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

Malik Temple #270  
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Nurturing Golden Hearts  
205-417-0053, 205-902-7910

Pinktopps Inc.  
205-566-8361

Real Men Don't Sag  
205-368-1994

Rock Mountain Lakes  
Landowners Assoc., Inc.  
205-424-1272

Shades Valley Elks Lodge #884  
205-966-4175

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

The Foundry Ministries  
205-432-1103, 205-428-8449  
The Phenomenal Women  
Foundation Inc  
205-862-6404, 205-425-9577

**NURSING HOME**

Diversicare of Bessemer  
205-425-5241  
Oak Trace Care & Rehab Center  
205-428-9383  
Terrace Oaks CRC  
205-428-3249

**ORNAMENTAL IRON**

Ensley Ornamental Iron Co., Inc.  
205-788-5682

**PACKAGING**

Manufacturers Packaging Services  
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205-523-6394  
Donna Ware Photography  
205-243-4542

**PIPE & SUPPLY**

Southland Pipe & Supply  
205-426-9764

**POLITICAL ORGANIZATION**

Concerned Citizens of Bessemer  
205-243-6557

**PRINTING**

Southern Nameplate & Graphics  
205-426-0181

**PROPANE SALES & SERVICES**

Ferrell Gas  
205-428-8191

**REAL ESTATE**

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

Gents Homes LLC  
205-481-0010

Keller Williams Realty Hoover  
205-822-2272

Matthews and Associates  
205-613-1110, 205-434-4639

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

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

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

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Bessemer Recreation Center  
205-425-0655

**RESTAURANT**

Bob Sykes Barbecue  
205-426-1400  
Bre's Restaurant and Catering LLC  
205-760-5731, 205-999-4790  
Bright Star Restaurant, The  
205-424-9444  
Gourmet Services - Mrs. Winner's  
@ Lawson State CC  
205-929-6318  
Gourmet Services-Yazz's Catfish  
Cabin @ Lawson State CC  
205-929-6318

J Wings  
205-565-4555

Kaylyn's Food for the Soul  
205-461-4344

Marco's Pizza  
205-461-3450, 205-349-9890

Sneaky Pete's  
205-424-4036

Sonic of Bessemer  
205-428-2002

Subway #3112  
205-425-7827

The Back Porch  
205-230-3395, 205-760-5035

Zatie's Southern Cuisine  
205-518-5559

**RESTORATION CLEANUP**

Servpro  
205-678-2224

**RETAIL**

Batteries plus  
205-587-1914  
Cell Phone Repair  
205-558-9355  
Fountain Building and Supply  
205-428-4173  
Paisley Pig, LLC  
205-900-2025  
Pinnacle Motorsports  
205-428-6266

**SERVICE / SHIPPING**

The UPS Store  
205-230-0088

**SPORTING GOODS**

Simmons Sporting Goods  
205-425-4720

**STAFFING**

A Nation Recruitment LLC  
205-914-3123  
Crown Services Inc  
502-693-1731, 205-875-0701  
This Generation Recruitment, LLC  
205-585-5869, 800-4056157

**STORAGE**

Second Attic Storage  
205-428-2101, 205-541-3746

**TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENCE PROGRAM**

Alabama STEM Education  
205-910-7274, 205-436-2107

**TOURISM**

Greater Birmingham Convention &  
Visitors Bureau  
205-458-8000

**TOWING**

Ronald's Sales and Service  
205-424-0471

**TRAVEL**

Travel With Tondry  
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**TREE SERVICE**

Craig's Quality Tree Service  
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**UTILITIES**

Alabama Power Company  
800-245-2244  
Bessemer Utilities - Director  
205-481-4333

Spire  
334-241-4264

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McAdory Veterinary Clinic  
205-424-7387

**WATER TREATMENT FACILITY**

Governmental Utility Services  
Corporation  
205-424-4060, 205-747-8035

**WEBSITE SERVICE**

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866-645-9235

**WELDING SUPPLIES**

Advanced Welding Supply  
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MANUFACTURER / NURSERY]**

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205-477-2620

Milo's Tea Company, Inc.  
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TotalScape Farms  
205-540-4653

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# Bessemer

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## 2022 MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

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Bessemer, AL 35020  
205-523-6394  
artisticvisionz1981@gmail.com

**1 Time Entertainment Professional**  
DJ & Lighting  
Mac McKisson  
PO Box 151  
Bessemer, AL 35021  
205-567-8828  
1timeentertain@gmail.com  
www.1timeentertainment.com

**A Nation Recruitment LLC**  
Markia Nation  
PO Box 141  
Birmingham, AL 35036  
205-914-3123  
anationrecruitment@gmail.com  
www.anationrecruitment.com

**ADCO Boiler Company**  
Taylor Adams; Courtney Richard  
3657 Pine Lane  
Bessemer, AL 35022  
205-428-2326  
(f) 205-428-2395  
tadams@adcoboiler.com;  
crichard@adcoboiler.com  
www.adcoboiler.com

**Advanced Welding Supply**  
Tim Myers; Gaynell Myers  
2231 19th Street North  
Bessemer, AL 35020  
205-481-1880  
(f) 205-481-1980  
advancedweldingsupply@gmail.com

**After Five Event Center**  
Derelya Webster-Harris  
1829 13th Avenue North  
Bessemer, AL 35020  
205-260-9865  
afppshop@yahoo.com

**AK Heating & Air Conditioning**  
Arlie Kimbrell  
PO Box 602  
McCalla, AL 35111  
205-424-9620  
akheat.air@gmail.com  
www.akheatandair.com

**Alabama Education Association**  
Emery Kidd  
505 20th Street N. Ste 130  
Birmingham, AL 35203  
205-613-3304  
(f) 205-320-0093  
emeryk@alaedu.org  
www.myaee.org

**Alabama Power Company**  
Antoinette Madison  
2901 Allison Bonnett Memorial Dr.  
Hueytown, AL 35023  
800-245-2244  
(f) 205-226-1209  
amadison@southernco.com  
www.alabamapower.com

**Alabama STEM Education**  
Juanita Graham; Lea Steele  
1324 4th Avenue N.  
Bessemer, AL 35020  
205-910-7274  
205-436-2107  
(f) 205-434-3680  
alabamastemeducation@gmail.com  
www.alabamastemeducation.org

**Alabama Technology Network**  
LaVada Varner; Cassandra Spencer  
Lawson State ACATT Bldg.  
3060 Wilson Road SW  
Birmingham, AL 35221  
205-929-2047  
lvarner@atn.org; cspencer@atn.org  
www.atn.org

**Allstate**  
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isaacephraim@allstate.com

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Bessemer, AL 35022  
205-761-5215  
sbblatt@amazon.com  
www.amazon.com

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205-760-5800  
jackie51@wildblue.net

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Annette Rowland  
700 Caldwell Trace  
Birmingham, AL 35242  
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205-234-0945  
(f) 205-439-7869  
annette.rowland@redcross.org  
www.redcross.org/alabama

**America's 1st Federal Credit Union - Bessemer**  
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Bessemer, AL 35020  
205-424-8542  
(f) 205-325-3989  
jenniferd@amfirst.org  
www.amfirst.org

**America's 1st Federal Credit Union - McCalla**  
Bonnie Norred  
4740 Eastern Valley Road  
McCalla, AL 35111  
205-477-9360  
(f) 205-325-3911  
bonnieno@amfirst.org  
www.amfirst.org

**Assistant Tax Assessor Office - Bessemer Division**  
Office Manager  
1801 Third Avenue N Room 209  
Bessemer, AL 35020  
205-481-4125 x 1509  
(f) 205-481-4128  
hendersonba@jccal.org

**Astro Electric Company, Inc.**  
Charles Roland Jones  
1127 19th Street N.  
Bessemer, AL 35020  
205-424-0060  
(f) 205-424-0072  
crolandj@bellsouth.net

**Batteries plus**  
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1400 9th Ave N  
Bessemer, AL 35020  
205-587-1914  
mfabusaleh@gmail.com

**BB & T Bank**  
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200 18th Street North  
Bessemer, AL 35020  
205-565-0268  
(f) 205-424-7672  
ysgarcia@bbandt.com  
www.bbt.com

**Behavior Health Group Bessemer Treatment Center**  
Maury Long; Sharie Millsap  
4204 Edmonton Drive  
Bessemer, AL 35022  
205-425-1200  
Maury.Long@bhgrecovery.com  
www.bhgrecovery.com

**Benton Nissan of Bessemer**  
Dale Benton; Saji Fazal; Sharon Farmer  
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Bessemer, AL 35022  
205-428-6314  
205-979-5420  
(f) 205-277-1842  
mreeves@bentonautogroup.com  
www.bentonnissanofbessemer.com

**Bessemer Airport Authority**  
Tim Wasyluka  
900 Mitchell Field Road  
Bessemer, AL 35022  
205-424-7234  
(f) 205-424-9949  
baa.board@bessemerairportauthority.com  
www.bessemerairportauthority.com

**Bessemer B. O. E. - Albert Soles - Retired**  
Albert Soles  
630 Melody Lane  
Bessemer, AL 35020  
205-936-0982  
solesalbert2@gmail.com

**Bessemer B. O. E. - Andrea Kirk-Cook**  
Andrea Kirk-Cook  
649 Elm Street SW  
Bessemer, AL 35022  
205-426-8440  
akirkcook@bessk12.org

**Bessemer B. O. E. - Catrina Williams**  
Catrina Williams  
1621 5th Avenue North  
Bessemer, AL 35020  
205-901-4031  
205-432-3010  
(f) 205-432-3083  
catrina@bessk12.org  
www.bessk12.org

**Bessemer B. O. E. - Claire LaQuita Benjamin**  
Claire LaQuita Benjamin  
4100 Rock Creek Circle  
Pleasant Grove, AL 35127  
205-317-5006  
asuhornet@aol.com

**Bessemer B. O. E. - Claire Mitchell - Retired**  
"Claire B Mitchell Quitman Mitchell"  
948 Posey Avenue  
Bessemer, AL 35022  
205-527-2356  
claire.mitchell@att.net

**Bessemer B. O. E. - Dr. Autumm Jeter, Superintendent**  
Autumm Jeter  
1621 Fifth Avenue N.  
Bessemer, AL 35020  
205-432-3000  
(f) 205-432-3085  
www.bessk12.org

**Bessemer B. O. E. - Edith Hunter**  
"Edith Hunter Kathrun Smith"  
1222 29th Street N.  
Bessemer, AL 35020  
205-552-4081  
205-422-3238  
teach0422@yahoo.com

**Bessemer B. O. E. - Education Association of Bessemer**  
Barbara Dunham  
PO Box 190124  
Birmingham, AL 35219  
badunham@bellsouth.net

**Bessemer B. O. E. - Lakeshya George**  
Lakeshya George  
710 Glenn Road  
Bessemer, AL 35022  
205-936-7406  
Lgeorge@bessk12.org

**Bessemer B. O. E. - Lee Jones**  
Lee Jones  
1516 Arlington Avenue  
Bessemer, AL 35020  
205-425-2623  
205-461-7690  
joneslee1024@gmail.com

**Bessemer B. O. E. - Lois Merriweather - Retired**  
Lois Watts-Merriweather  
2030 Arlington Avenue  
Bessemer, AL 35020  
205-425-6039  
205-230-2148  
lowame@yahoo.com

**Bessemer B. O. E. - Mildred Posey**  
Mildred Posey  
1124 Posey Avenue  
Bessemer, AL 35022

**Bessemer B. O. E. - Pat Stewart**  
Pat Stewart  
1621 5th Avenue North  
Bessemer, AL 35020  
205-432-3029  
205-243-5856  
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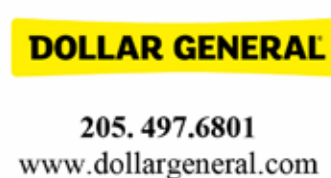
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