

# Bessemer

2023/Volume XIII

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A PUBLICATION OF THE BESSEMER AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### WELCOME

- 4 Staff And Board Of Directors
- 5 Letter From Chairwoman Of The Board
- 6 Community Contacts
- 7 Chamber Ambassadors
- 8 Elected Officials

### COMMUNITY

- 10 Bessemer...A Place To Call Home:  
Historic Homes, Home Ownership, Living  
In Bessemer And Bessemer Real Estate
- 28 Renters And Homeowners Insurance Needs
- 32 Bessemer Recreation Center
- 36 Bessemer City Schools
- 40 From The Pit To The Plate
- 42 2022 Year In Review
- 44 Stay, Shop And Dine

### PARTNER WITH US

- 45 Categorical Membership Directory
- 50 Membership Directory
- 60 2023 Corporate Sponsors

### WANT TO CONTRIBUTE

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 2023 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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BESSEMER  
MAGAZINE  
2023



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Chamber of Commerce



Message from the Chair,

I am truly honored to serve as your Chairwoman of the Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce for 2023. As I enter this new role, I look forward with heightened enthusiasm to continuing the progress and growth of the Bessemer Chamber.

The Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce represents a long-standing tradition of commitment, dedication, and service to its constituents. We serve as the cornerstone and connector to the business community, driving job and business growth. The Chamber also operates as a vehicle for connecting members with available resources such as networking and educational opportunities. Our goals for 2023 are to increase membership, improve member benefits, contribute to the community, and develop innovative possibilities and opportunities.

The Chamber will continue to employ the same level of determination and rigor for assisting businesses to thrive and prosper while partnering with our community constituents to build a better Bessemer. As we engage and exchange creative concepts and methods, we seek to promote a unified business community advocating for policies that will address any challenges that we face today, especially in our present economic environment. With a relentless focus on mission, vision, goals, and strategic implementation, we stand poised for the next phase of business expansion and economic development for our city. We work daily to honor our mission of promoting the economic well-being of regional businesses and representing the business community in economic, political, civic, educational and cultural development of the region.

These are exciting times for the Chamber! I invite you to join us as we make the connections to build a better, stronger, and more dynamic Bessemer. Thank you for your ongoing support as we look forward to a phenomenal 2023!

Yours in Service,  
Cynthia T. Anthony, Ed.D.  
2022 Chairwoman of the Board  
Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce



Cynthia T. Anthony, Ed.D.  
2023 Chairwoman 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:  
Bent Brook Golf.....428-9600  
Frank House Municipal .....424-9540  
Robert Trent Jones @ Oxmoor Valley .....942-1177  
Woodward Golf & Country Club.....424-5500

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Alabama Power Co. (Residential).....800-245-2244  
Ferrell Gas.....428-8191  
Spire.....800-292-4008

The Bessemer Area Chamber Of Commerce

# AMBASSADORS



Minne Roper, Ambassador Coordinator

Are A Group of Volunteers Who Serve As The Backbone Of The Bessemer Business Community.



Chamber ambassadors include: Tamala Briggins- Oak Crest Health & Wellness, Lori Chisem – Lawson State Community College, Barnard Montgomery – Merrill Lynch, Eric Crosby – ArtisticVisionz, Matt Douglas – Dot Edison, Connie Fuell – Dex Imaging, Akilih Haley – Lawson State Community College, Denise Jackson – New Jerusalem Baptist Church, Donna King – DK Lawncare, Daryl Owens, Minnie Roper – Retired, Dorian Waluyn - Lawson State community College, Anna Wooten – First Financial Bank

AMBASSADORS must be a member in good standing with the Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce and available to attend the monthly meeting which is held on the first Tuesday of each month. Ambassadors assist the board members and staff in carrying out the plans for events throughout the Bessemer area. For more information about the ambassador program call our office at (205) 425-3253.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT  
[www.bessemerchamber.com](http://www.bessemerchamber.com)







**Bessemer City Hall**  
 1700 Third Avenue N., Bessemer, AL 35020  
 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



Sarah Person  
 District 3



Chester Porter  
 District 2



Donna Thigpen  
 District 4



Ron Marshall  
 District 5



Carla Jackson  
 District 6



Cleophus King  
 District 7

*Bessemer City  
 Board of Education*

- District 1 – Anthony Williams
- District 2 – Terry Dawson
- District 3 – Renna' Soles Scott
- District 4 – Sam Morris
- District 5 – Margie Varner
- District 6 – Remeka Thompson
- District 7 – Lee Jones

1621 Fifth Avenue North, Bessemer  
 205-432-3000



*Area Elected Officials*

- Representative Ontario Tillman
- Senator Merika Coleman
- 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 Treas. Sherry McClain
- Jeff. Co. Circuit Clerk Karen Dunn
- Jeff. Co., Bess. Tax Assessor Charles Winston
- Jeff. Co., Bess. Tax Collector Eric Burks

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Graduate of UAB School of Medicine  
 Board Certified Internal Medicine

**Reid S. Christopher, MD**

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# BESSEMER



## IF YOU HAVE A LOVE FOR HISTORIC HOMES, THEN BESSEMER IS THE PLACE FOR YOU!

Bessemer has a plethora of history, specifically historic homes, within its city limits. By definition, a historic home is at least 50 years old. So that means any house built prior to 1970 meets the criteria to be categorized as a "historic home". But as some people might say, "the older, the better!" The architecture, designs and locations of these homes allow each one to tell its own story, drawing locals and visitors alike to tour homes through the Bessemer Historic Society. Let's take a look at 5 of the hundreds of historic homes right here in Bessemer, Alabama!

### ALSO IN THIS ARTICLE

HOME OWNERSHIP  
*Quentin T. Carter*

LIVING IN BESSEMER  
*Richard Hanna*

REAL ESTATE TIPS  
*Carlton Jackson*



# THE WILSON HOUSE

Lakewood Estates is Bessemer’s oldest planned community and is a historic neighborhood in that most of the homes fall in that category. The Wilson House, built in 1926, was the first home built in the newly established planned neighborhood of Lakewood Estates. The home is of the Tudor Revival style of architecture. Tudor architecture usually refers to buildings constructed between 1485 and 1560. Tudor Revival encompasses a variety of styles from later periods and there are several examples in the Lakewood Community.

The Wilson House has an area of nearly 4,500 square feet, and its exterior is clinker brick which adds to its charm. The



dark odd bricks are actually called “Tudor Clinker.” Either the builder or an early resident hammered a penny into the brick for future residents to wonder about.

The home’s most unique feature is the lighted starburst in the gable above the front porch, part of the original design of the home. Owners often turn them on during holidays or celebratory times, as in the picture. Guy Wilson was the head of the household when the house was first occupied, and he worked for J. C. Curry and Company, which started out as a feed store and later was a wholesale grocer.

Modifications over the years include changing the garage into a den and making an additional upstairs bedroom where the servant’s room was. The large combination den and kitchen compliments the smaller dining room which has been perfect for family celebrations.

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THE PERRY HOUSE

Another Tudor Revival home in Lakewood Estates is The Perry House, next door to the Wilson House.

This house is recognized for its stunning entryway, with the arched iron door and matching arched leaded glass window behind it.

Just inside guests are greeted by an antique French café lamp representing Liberty Leading the People. This home has large rooms, including a living room furnished with antique marble top tables and chairs. Several pair of Bohemian lustres are on display as well. The large den was originally an outdoor patio with an outdoor fireplace, unusual for the 1920's, according to Robin Wade who moved into the house when he was 11 years old in the 1940's.

A later owner built the brick wall and fence around the property which drastically changed the look of the neighborhood as one entered it. Here is a picture showing the Wilson House and the Perry House in the snow in the 1940's before the wall was built.



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DR. CYNTHIA T. ANTHONY, PRESIDENT



# THE SCOTT-VINES HOUSE

Other areas of our city have historic homes that are even older than the original homes in Lakewood Estates. One of the oldest homes in our city is The Scott-Vines House, also referred to as “the Castle” built by Bessemer attorney Pinkney Scott and completed in 1899. Pinkney represented the coal companies during his time in Bessemer. During a strike, an attempt was made on his life. The bullet hole can still be seen in the leaded glass and has been preserved to continue to tell his story to this day.

Known to be the most photographed Bessemer house, this brightly painted, beautiful Queen Anne Victorian home is located on Owen Avenue in the Jonesboro community. The



home features double galleries and a three story turret. The home has 14 rooms with 12 foot ceilings throughout. And boasts 32 chandeliers brought in from around the globe including the dining room chandelier purchased at auction that once hung in Birmingham’s Tutwiler hotel.

The immaculate grounds of the home feature tropical gardens that include miles of manicured hedges, fountains, and a multitude of exotic plants. Beautiful sabal palm trees towering to 25 feet surround the pool area and required 15 men to haul them through the garden gates. The owner hosts annual charity events raising over \$100,000 for local charities. The home has also been the location of weddings, receptions, and a feature film. Over 300 brides have had their bridal & engagement photographs taken in the home.

The late actor & Bessemer native Glenn Shadix was a great friend of the owner and enjoyed many evenings at the Castle including attendance at several charity events.



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# THE BRISTOW HOUSE

Bessemer's Southside District also shares some of Bessemer's oldest homes. The Bristow House is a Mediterranean-influenced bungalow on Fairfax Avenue and 19th Street. Built in 1926, this was the home and office of local pediatrician Dr. Tilly Bristow. Dr. Bristow lived in the house for many years along with his sister Margaret ("Mot") who was his nurse.

Built of orange-buff brick, the house has a hipped roof, broken by half-facade projections. These parapets reflect the irregular and informal roof forms of varying heights seen in Spanish Eclectic houses of the period. Red, Spanish cement tiles cover the roof.

The home is fronted by a generous terrace and 4 sets of French doors under transoms. Other notable details



include six-over-six windows, providing an abundance of natural lighting, a side-end exposed chimney set into a parapet, and a large arch with stucco and mosaic in the front terrace wall.

The interior boasts 9 foot ceilings, a kitchen with the original Geneva cabinetry, a large sunken parlor with a 12 foot ceiling that spans the width of the house allowing the French doors to open onto the terrace. Large decorative cutouts from the dining room allow a view into the parlor and allow air circulation throughout the house.

The Bristow house has seen a number of events such as wedding receptions and fundraising dinners. The house was also used as the setting for multiple short films.



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# THE JUDSON-MOODY HOUSE

The Judson-Moody House (ca 1887) is most commonly referred to as The Moody Mansion. It is said to be Jefferson county’s largest 19th century private home. With one of the state’s few formal ball-rooms in a private home, a music room, a library, and two staircases, it was constructed with just over 9000 square feet under the roof.

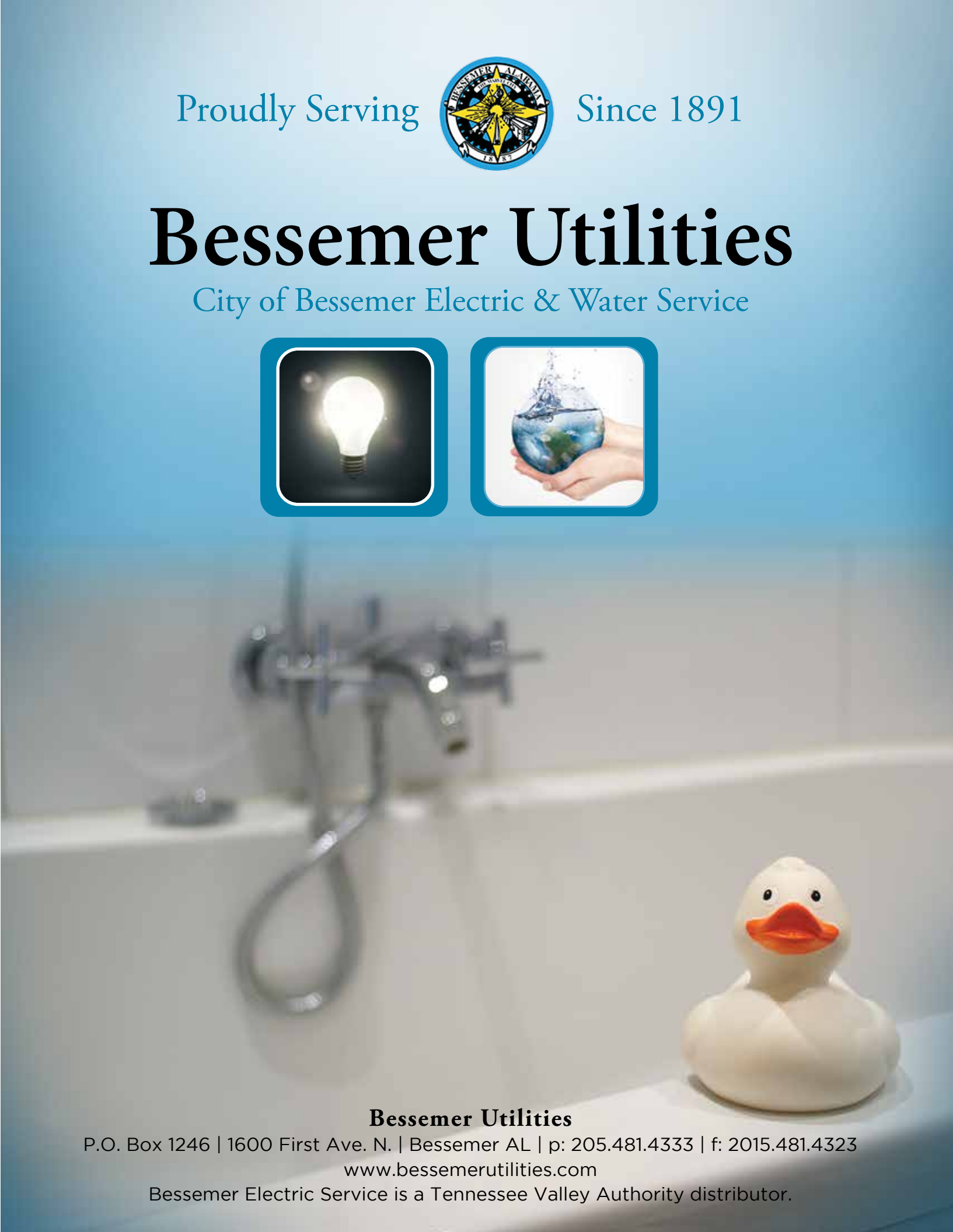
Notable occupants include Dr. L.A. Spencer, Bessemer’s first physician, William H. H. Judson, founder of Jefferson county’s first newspaper, Lula Judson Moody, a.k.a. Judy Brown, syndicated predecessor to Dear Abby, and Lee Moody, president of First National Bank and named Bessemer’s honorary mayor. The house has been the site for several movies and television series. It has also been investigated by numerous paranormal special-ist groups who have called the house “bustling with activity.” The current owners have hosted numerous charity events, weddings, and parties to share the house with the community. It is the backdrop for the now annual black-tie Christmas Gala that typically brings some 300 guests to benefit historic preservation.



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# Bessemer Utilities

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## Bessemer Utilities

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# Home Ownership

## "THE AMERICAN DREAM"

For years on end, Home Ownership has always been "The American Dream." The simple thought of being a homeowner has a nice ring to it. Unfortunately for some people, it's a dream that they fear will never come to pass. I have some encouraging news for anyone that may be reading this article. Home Ownership is obtainable and can be a realization for many Americans, especially those in the Bessemer area. Our area is filled with many opportunities to own a home for families eager to purchase a home.

There are a few terms that we must become familiar with as we start this obtainable journey to home ownership. The first term is Realtor. A Realtor is a person who acts as an agent for the sale and purchase of buildings and land, in particular a member of the National Association of Realtors. It's extremely important during this process to find a Realtor that you can trust. Your Realtor will act on your behalf at all transactions and will have your best interests at the forefront of all conversations and agreements. It's very important to be open and transparent with your Realtor so that they can make decisions to best meet your needs. All of my clients

can attest to the professionalism and high level of care that I provide.

The next term to know is Mortgage. Your mortgage also referred to as a mortgage loan, is an agreement between you (the borrower) and a mortgage lender to buy or refinance a home without having all the cash upfront. This agreement gives lenders the legal rights to foreclose on a property if you fail to meet the terms of your mortgage, most commonly by not repaying the money you've borrowed plus interest. A common rule of thumb is to not borrow more money on a home than you can reasonably repay. Most mortgages come in terms of either 15, 20, or 30 years to pay the loan off. The longer you take to pay the loan off, the cheaper the monthly payment will be.

A term to know is escrow. This is a legal arrangement in which a third party temporarily holds money or property until a particular condition has been met. It's used in real estate transactions to protect both the buyer and the seller throughout the home-buying process. Throughout the term of the mortgage, an escrow account will hold

funds for taxes and homeowner's insurance. The two primary purposes of escrow accounts are: To protect the buyer's good faith deposit so the money goes to the right party according to the conditions of the sale and to hold a homeowner's funds for property taxes and homeowners insurance.

As a homeowner, there are a vast array of resources available to you if you have any unplanned hardship. Your realtor can definitely assist you in locating the right resource for your situation. The resources range from loan modification by making your loan more affordable, to even making sure you have a knowledgeable mortgage lender that can even help you sell your home to avoid foreclosure. Your Realtor does more than just sell the house, they help you with making sound decisions regarding your property.

There are three primary questions one should ask themselves before buying a home: Can you afford the property? How long do you expect to stay at the property? Why are you looking to buy a property? These questions are important for the Realtor to know so that they can place affordability, stability, and peace of mind at the forefront of their search for your home. Many people take out mortgages that are way beyond their means and have mortgage payments that are more than what they can afford leaving them with a nice house, but the title of being house poor. A good Realtor and Mortgage Lender will help guide you through the process of determining what's affordable for your budget. As a good measure of finances, it's wise to have at least 3 months of your mortgage or living expenses saved in the bank. For some people that is not a reality, but that should be a goal to work toward. The 3 months can also cover any financial emergencies that may occur in life. You also have to check to see if this is a Forever Home. A Forever Home is a home that you plan to stay in for the remainder of your life. This home will be passed down to the next generation in your family. With Forever Homes, you can take your time and plan projects or modifications around your schedule.

As you begin your search to find your home, you must also have peace of mind. This

process can be overwhelming if you let it. Be patient, prepare, and be persistent in obtaining a home that you can be proud of, but also have peace of mind. Your peace of mind is the most important factor in the whole process. By establishing a great rapport with your Realtor and Mortgage Lender, you can craft a plan that will sustain your family and allow you to get the home of your dreams, comfortably.

There are many benefits to home ownership. The first benefit is that it is yours. The property you purchase is yours and all yours, granted you continue to make your payments on time and honor the commitments of your loan. Owning a home also entitles you to the ability to write off the interest payments of your house mortgage payments on your taxes yearly. Homeownership also allows you to build equity. Home equity is the value of your home less the mortgage payoff. Essentially the more money you pay down on your home allows you increase the equity in your home.

The term Good Credit goes hand in hand with home ownership. Due to recent changes in the market, home ownership can happen even if you have a challenging credit history. Some programs are available to help you succeed in home ownership. Your credit does play a major part in the lending portion of obtaining a loan for your home. You must make wise decisions regarding your credit and monitor your accounts to make sure they are accurate and up to date.

If you are looking to purchase a home, please don't overlook the Bessemer area. There are many communities in the area that are ideal for raising a family. As the city continues to grow, more and more businesses are entering the area. The increased revenue is helping the city thrive by making it more attractive for families to locate. The houses in the area are affordable and provide a great foundation for families to enjoy. Nestled right beside I-20, it is the ideal location to travel to surrounding cities.

All in all, I take great joy in being a Realtor in this area. I would love to assist you in taking the next step in your life by obtaining a home. Homeownership is possible and you can achieve this dream. My goal is to make lives Better one Home at a time.





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# LIVING IN BESSEMER

RICHARD HANNA

Richard Hanna and his wife Lisa moved to Bessemer, in June of 1986, for him to become the pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Downtown Bessemer. He was 30 years old and excited about his new church, a new calling and a new town! They moved to the Lakewood Estates community over 25 years ago where they were immediately made to feel welcome, both by the members of the church and those who worked in the Courthouse and the Downtown business community – and especially the Chamber of Commerce! In his 17 years as pastor of the church, he was so glad to be a part of the effort to bring the churches of the community together for Holy Week Services, community Thanksgiving services and blood drives. Hanna learned that the downtown business community, led by the Chamber of Commerce, was close and supportive of one another. With good fellow-



ship, they also were able to enjoy delicious meals at Alabama's oldest restaurant, the Bright Star, and the best BBQ in Alabama at Bob Sykes BBQ – as well as lots of other fine eating establishments!

Richard is proud to call Bessemer home for several reasons! "It is a town that welcomes newcomers with open arms. We have a wonderful Chamber, mayor and city council and some wonderful parks to enjoy, along with the Bessemer YMCA and the City Recreation Center." He's also thrilled that Alabama Splash Adventure is only 5 minutes from where he lives, as it is a wonderful place to spend many hot summer days. He also very much appreciates the services that the city provides for all who live here. "The Bessemer Historical Society is also a wonderful community of folks who are interested in buying and maintaining Bessemer's historic homes. They enjoy fellowship and other special events together".



Mr. Hanna believes that Bessemer is a friendly community that has provided all the amenities and services he and Lisa needed to bring up their children and now our grandchildren. He enjoys the great shopping opportunities at Tannehill Promenade and Downtown at Standard Furniture, Bargain Town and lots of other places. Lakewood is close to everything and it's a great location to call home. With Bessemer very close to McCalla, Hoover and Birmingham, the amenities of those communities are very easy to access for him and his family. Richard loves that Bessemer is an hour from the mountains and 4 hours from the prettiest beaches in the world. "Spring and Fall are beautiful; summer is great for growing tomatoes – and we get just enough winter to make it interesting – and to know we don't want any more winter!" Another service Richard is glad to have easy access to is Bessemer's own topnotch Hospital, UAB Medical West! Even though the hospital is relocating within Bessemer, it's still close enough to provide very important medical services that are vital to a healthy community. "I can get the medical care I need 10 minutes from where I live and as I get older that becomes more and more important!"

Richard's final thoughts: "I was born and raised overseas, the son of Presbyterian missionaries. In my first 30 years of life I've lived in Beirut, Lebanon, Mattoon, Illinois, several towns in Kentucky and upstate New York. But I have now lived in Bessemer for 36 years, more than half of my life. Having experienced life in lots of different places I've come to the conclusion that for all the reasons listed above, living in Bessemer is a wonderful experience – and we are proud to call it home!"



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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



# REAL ESTATE

CARLTON JACKSON, REALTOR, ABR\*  
BUILDING AREAS OF EXCELLENCE/ EDGE REALTY GROUP

Bessemer is a great, family-oriented location for potential home buyers to settle in, and these tips should help potential homeowners on how they can prepare to purchase their first home.

## 1. TELL ME ABOUT YOURSELF, YOUR REALTY COMPANY, AND YOUR COMPANY'S SERVICES/ WORK IN THE BESSEMER AREA

I was born and raised in the West End area of Birmingham, AL. In 1997 I joined the Bessemer Fire Department, which allowed me to discover and be apart of the true City of Bessemer. In 2004 I achieved my real estate license, because I had always been interested in real estate as far as investment opportunities and I could help others as well. Building Areas of Excellence, named after my grandmother's nickname (BAE) which is a part of the Edge Realty Group, purpose is to uphold the highest level of integrity while providing attentive, personalized, and diligent service to all of its clients. We create an environment of trust and confidence in the buying



and selling process which benefits our clients from his experienced negotiating on their behalf by Building Areas of Excellence one home at a time!

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

## 2. CAN YOU EXPLAIN THE CURRENT STATE OF THE HOUSING MARKET, AS WELL AS ANY INFORMATION ON TRENDS PREDICTING THE PROJECTED STATE OF THE MARKET FOR THE NEXT 3-5 YEARS, IF POSSIBLE?

Home trends in the Bessemer area are staying on the market around 45-65 days, with a current median home price of \$250,000. But regardless of these early signs of a slowing market, it remains a great opportunity for homebuyers. Home prices are rising due to an inconsistency between few Sellers and unlimited Buyers. The question that everyone is wondering is if the housing bubble will burst or not. My honest opinion, I believe our real estate market will be in good shape for years to come.

## 3. WHAT TIPS AND/OR STEPS WOULD YOU GIVE TO INDIVIDUALS LOOKING TO PURCHASE THEIR FIRST HOME?

- Start saving early and prepping your finances well in advance of applying for a home mortgage.
- Your credit score will determine whether you qualify for a mortgage and affect the interest rate banks and lenders will offer. So the better your credit, the better your rates.
- A variety of mortgages are available with varying down payment and eligibility requirements. Here are the main loans:

Conventional loans are not guaranteed by the government. Some conventional loans targeted at first-time buyers require as little as 3% down.

FHA loans are insured by the Federal Housing Administration and allow down payments as low as 3.5%.

USDA loans are guaranteed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. They are for rural home buyers and usually require no down payment.



VA loans are guaranteed by the Department of Veterans Affairs. They are for current and veteran military service members and usually require no down payment.

- A Good Real Estate Agent will diligently search the market for homes that meet your needs and guide you through every part of the negotiations and closing process. Get agent referrals from friends and other recent home buyers. When speaking with potential agents request references and ask how they plan to help you find a home?
- A lender may offer you a loan more than what is comfortably affordable, or you may feel pressure to spend outside your comfort zone to beat another buyer's offer. To avoid financial stress down the road, set a price range based on your budget, and then stick to it.

## 4. LIST AND/OR SUMMARIZE ANY RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR POTENTIAL FIRST-TIME HOME BUYERS.

AHFA Step Up Programme •

## MARVEL CITY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

INDIVIDUAL RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS (IRA)

CHECKING ACCOUNTS

CHRISTMAS CLUB ACCOUNTS

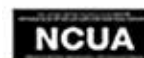
LOANS (PERSONAL, AUTO, RECREATIONAL)

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!

205-426-0578



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# HOW MUCH RENTERS INSURANCE SHOULD I BUY?

TIPS TO HELP CHOOSE ACCURATE, APPROPRIATE LIMITS FOR YOUR PERSONAL PROPERTY AND LIABILITY COVERAGE

BY JULIE BELL, STATE FARM AGENT

You've followed your rental guide and it's time to move in! Your furniture is in place, the utilities are hooked up, and your rental unit is starting to look like a home. Is renters insurance next on your to-do list? If you answered no, you're not alone. According to the Independent Insurance Adjusters & Brokers of America (IIABA), almost two-thirds of

residential lessees in the United States don't carry renters insurance.

Yet a renters policy is more important, accessible and affordable than you might think and in some cases, renters insurance is required by landlords. But renters are often unclear about what renters insurance is, what it covers and how much they need.

## WHAT DOES RENTERS INSURANCE COVER?

In short, renters insurance covers what you own. Most landlords' insurance covers only the building and damages due to negligence. Coverage for some of the most common causes of property damage and loss, such as theft, vandalism and fire, is entirely up to you. Without renters insurance, you may have to bear the financial burden of a loss on your own, including the cost of a hotel stay if you cannot live in your apartment while repairs are made.

## WANT TO PROTECT YOUR STUFF?

Most renters' belongings cost more than they think. In fact, the average person has over \$35,000 worth of belongings that are probably not covered by a landlord's policy. Take a moment to add up the approximate cost of your computer, television, stereo, furniture, jewelry and clothing. If a fire gutted your apartment tomorrow, would you have the cash to replace it all?

Renters insurance also covers much more than just your personal property. The average policy can include up to \$100,000 in liability coverage. That means in the event of a covered loss your insurer will help cover the costs if you're held responsible for injuring another person or damaging another person's property, including your landlords. Moreover, this coverage applies whether the incident occurred within your residence or elsewhere.

Be sure you are protected against the unexpected with renters insurance. Get a free quote now.

## HOW MUCH RENTERS INSURANCE DO I NEED?

Renters insurance is relatively inexpensive. According to the Independent Insurance Agents and Brokers of America, Inc. (IIABA), the average renters policy costs just \$12 a month for up to \$30,000 in personal property coverage. That's solid coverage for less than the cost of a few cups of coffee a week. Here are some tips to help you determine your insurance needs.

- Complete an inventory of your possessions. Personal property coverage is probably the main reason most purchase a renters policy. The coverage will reimburse you for covered damage, loss or theft of your personal possessions up to a certain dollar amount, so you'll want to make sure you get that amount right. Completing a home inventory is a good way to determine how much property coverage you need. This inventory lists your personal possessions, along with details about their age, purchase price or current value and other identifying information.
- Check with your insurance agent about discounts. Many insurers offer significant discounts if you buy more than one policy with their company. For renters, this usually means purchasing auto insurance with a renters policy, but life, business and other plans may also qualify.

- Choose the right deductible. A deductible is the amount of a covered loss or liability that you pay out of your own pocket. In other words, it's the amount "deducted" from any payout by your insurer. For example, if a fire causes \$1,500 in insured damage to your personal property and your deductible is \$500, then your insurer will pay you \$1,000.



JULIE BELL  
STATE FARM AGENT

Your renters insurance premiums will reflect the deductibles you agree to pay. Lower deductibles mean higher premiums; higher deductibles mean lower premiums. Keep in mind that an insurer will not reimburse you for a loss amount that is lower than the deductible. This means if your deductible is \$2,000 and you suffer \$1,750 in losses, then you are entirely responsible for those costs, even if the cause of the loss is covered by your policy.

When choosing a deductible, think carefully about the out-of-pocket costs that you are willing, and able, to pay. A disciplined saver may be able to offset the greater risk of a high deductible with cash reserves. Others, however, will have to

balance the benefit of a higher deductible against the risk of greater out-of-pocket expenses.

- Assess your liability. Your renters policy's liability coverage may protect you if someone injures themselves in your home. It may also protect you in case you or a family member causes damage to others' property. Some policies will pay for defense and court costs in addition to settlement costs. The typical renters insurance policy offers \$100,000 in liability coverage. For renters, this amount is often sufficient. However, if you entertain company frequently at your home or if your assets exceed that amount, you should consider an amount of insurance equal to at least the total value of your assets.
- Supplement coverage if necessary. Keep in mind that your policy will exclude certain perils (such as earthquake and flood losses), limit coverage on some items (such as computers, firearms, and silverware) and might not cover a business in your home. If you have special insurance needs, talk to your agent about extending limits or adding separate policies.

And finally, remember where your apartment is located will play an important role in determining your renters insurance rates. Prices will vary based on your state, city and neighborhood. Safer locations might mean lower rates, so renting in a low-crime area near a fire station might save you money. Your rates will also reflect the safety of the rental property itself. For example, an older, unrenovated building might have a higher risk of electrical and plumbing issues, and that can mean higher rates. Fortunately, steps as simple as installing smoke detectors and fire extinguishers in your apartment may mean real savings, even if you do rent an older property.












# INSURING YOUR HOME



Holt Insurance has been located in Bessemer since 1979. We are a locally owned independent Trusted Choice agent. What does this mean to you? Unlike captive agents, we have access to multiple insurance companies to find you the best coverage and competitive prices. Bottom line we can give you a choice of carriers. Our Agency has over 100 years of combined experience in our business. We only do insurance and our goal is to take care of our clients better than anyone.

## HERE ARE A FEW FACTS TO CONSIDER WHEN PURCHASING HOMEOWNERS INSURANCE:

-  Homeowners insurance will cover your home, contents, and other structures for physical damage.
-  It will also include personal liability coverage if a third party gets hurt on your premises. This coverage is specific to your actual location.
-  There are factors which determine pricing, such as, construction type, age of the dwelling, updates, ISO fire protection class (*Bessemer has the best rating available*), credit score and claim history.
-  There is no one rate that you pull off of a shelf that fits everyone. Your premium cost is as individual as you are.
-  If you have a mortgage on your home, then the mortgage company will require that you carry this important protection.
-  Most carriers have added coverage endorsements that broaden the standard policy and can be purchased for an additional premium. Buyers need to understand the options and decide if they want the additional extra coverage.
-  NO policy will cover everything.
-  ALL policies have limitations and exclusions in them. Try to get a basic understanding of what coverage is included in your policy.
-  Be a smart buyer and ask questions before you purchase coverage. It is TOO late to purchase the correct coverage after a claim has already happened.



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# BESSEMER

## HAS FOUND A PLACE IN BESSEMER'S HISTORIC GROWTH



Mayor Kenneth Gulley's election platform in 2010 included building the city's first Youth and Senior Recreation facility. The Bessemer City Council approved bond funding to construct the facility and Roosevelt Park was chosen as the location. The city purchased the former James A. Davis Middle School property from the Bessemer Board of Education and demolished the building in 2014 to make way for the new facility. The middle school was located in an area that is now occupied by baseball fields. The city hired architect Charles Williams to design the new facility. The Recreation Center and renovations to Roosevelt Park was priced at \$15 million. Argo Building Company was the construction contractor.

The city cut the ribbon on the facility in July 2016. The ceremony included a concert by the Temptations Review. "One of my proudest moments as Mayor is when we were able to construct our Youth and Senior Recreation facility. The city has not had city-sponsored recreation since 1968, when the Roosevelt Park swimming pool was concreted during integration. I am so proud that we as a Mayor and City Council were able to make the recreation facility a reality for the citizens of Bessemer.

I'm from the small town of Forkland (Alabama) and right across the bridge is the town of Demopolis. Demopolis has its own recreational facility. The town of Eutaw has its own recreational facility. The

# RECREATION

city of Midfield has its own recreational facility. I've always said a city the size of Bessemer deserved a recreational facility and I was so proud when we cut the ribbon on this facility back in 2016.

I want to thank Mr. Woodard and the staff at the Bessemer Recreation Center for the way they have maintained the facility. It is just as beautiful today as when we cut the ribbon back in July 2016."

### OPENING DAY

September 6, 2016, The Bessemer Recreation Center opens its doors to the Bessemer community, and never looked back. Today it is hard to image Bessemer without it. Over a short period of time, BRC have managed to weave them in to the fabric of this great city. Weather its bringing healthy food choices through partnerships with the Bessemer Farmers Market, or providing character building through our Championship Recreational Sport Leagues. We have thrived to provide enriching activities for people of all ages. We are now looking toward the future. As the world of recreational sports and technology continues to change, we plan to bring more opportunity for all to participate and enjoy.



### SUMMER PROGRAMS

Since 2016, we have offered Summer Camps for more than 500 campers each year. Community Daycares, Church Day Camps and local Organizations have utilized our facilities for swimming and basketball activities. Youth and Adult Softball leagues have taken advantage of our outdoor walking tracks, tennis and basketball courts. Alton Woodard, Director of Bessemer Parks and Recreation says, "These camps create a unique blend of enrichment which gives campers exposure to swimming, tennis, volleyball and other activities. Our Basketball Camps allow young men and women to sharpen their

skills while learning team building. These amenities offer Bessemer residents a sense of community pride and togetherness." Woodard continues, "There is a continued need for recreation and parks for everyone to enjoy. What we have learned is the importance of human interaction and the role it plays in having balance in your life. Everyone needs an opportunity to relieve the daily stress of our busy lives and recreation allows us to do this."

### FUN FOR ALL, ADAPTIVE ACTIVITIES

Participation in recreation, leisure and sports activities may be one of the few opportunities people with disabilities have to engage in community life beyond their immediate families. The right to participate in these activities is paramount. As with culture and art, people with disabilities may choose to participate in activities such as adaptive wheelchair basketball, adaptive Sk's and obstacle course challenges. The Bessemer Recreation Center has partnered with United Abilities and United Cerebral Palsy to provide those services for everyone. On September 10, 2022 we will host our Run, Walk, & Roll, to benefit our members with special abilities.

### THERE IS A CLASS FOR EVERYONE

You can inspire your mind and transform your body with classes and workouts taught by instructors devoted to making it the best hour of your day. Our classes offer community, energy, and motivation to create a transformative experience and help deliver fitness results. You can enjoy all your favorite workouts from, cardio and dance (Cycle, Step, Circuit fit etc.) to strength training, conditioning and yoga. All classes are thoughtfully designed to get and keep you moving towards you best self. Best of all, classes are included in your Plus Membership. However, our open fitness area provides a





variety of exercise machines Tread Mills, Arc Trainers and a dozen Cybex machines which are designed for each area of your body. If you are interested in getting started with you fitness goals, please contact our Fitness Coordinator, Tiffany Harris at 205-425-0655. With your participation we can insure the addition of even more activities in the future.

### SILVER BOOMERS

One thing is for certain, the BRC has one of the best Senior Program around. The Silver Boomers invite seniors of all ages to participate in the many activities and programs offered. Over the past 6 years, the Silver Boomers have created quite a reputation throughout the City of Bessemer. There is no limit to the creative plays and skits they perform to celebrate and commemorate special holidays and events. The Silver Boomers also represent Bessemer by participating in the Senior Master Games. The teams compete in categories like Billiards, Line Dance, Basketball, Swimming and many more. The Boomers host daily activities such as chair exercise classes, Arts & Crafts, Bingo, Senior Prom, Hawaiian Luaus, and trips. If you are over the age of 55, please contact Linda Vinson, Senior Center Director, to join the Silver Boomers.

### BACK TO BUSINESS

Membership numbers are almost back to the post pandemic levels. To date, we have 35,870 members with 9,170 members actively using the facility and an average of 256 guests each day. Of these active members, our youth population is active in one or more of our recreation sports leagues. This year, we had over 170 youth enrolled in our youth baseball league, and over 250 young men and women have registered for our youth Football league and Cheerleading squad. During the Fall our youth Basketball league could possibly register another 150-200 kids. Our youth sports have grown over the last 6 years. In Addition to numerous championship trophies, we have helped to build character and confidence within the youth who have participated in them. However, there is always room for family activities and we are right on track. The BRC hosted the 2019 Jazz in the Park series to a crowd of over 1000 attendees before the pandemic. This year, after a two year break, we are back. To date, we have hosted our first Jazz in the park event since reopening and have partnered with Bessemer Redevelopment Corporation to bring Movie in the Park and newly added Flicks & Float to our summer activities. This year, we plan on continuing our fall activities such as Blood Drives, Health Fairs, and our Fall festival. We look forward to seeing you at one or all of these events. Be sure to friend us on FACEBOOK at Bessemer Recreation Center and keep up with the latest activities, sports and events. •

# Be a part of SOMETHING GREAT!

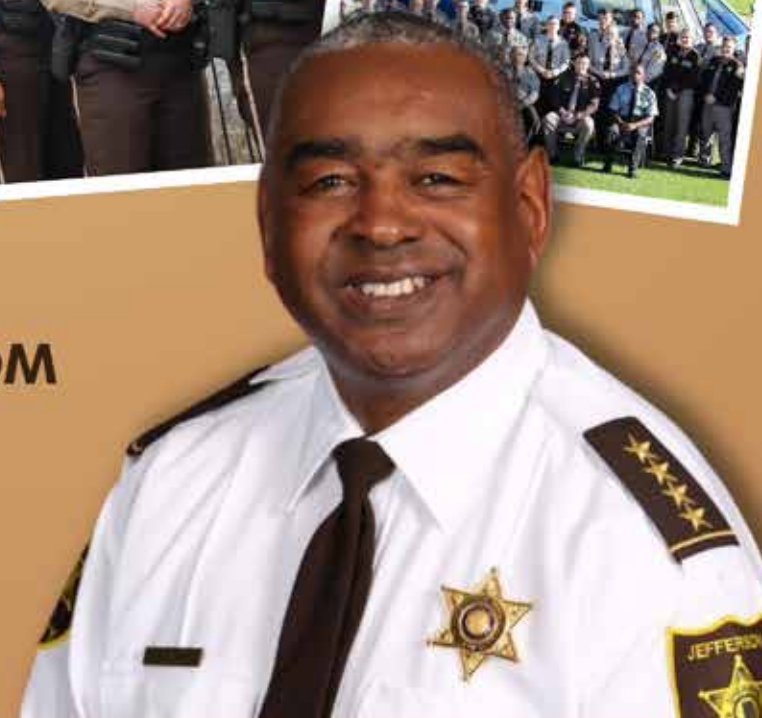


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1621 5th Avenue North • Bessemer, AL 35021 • 205-432-3000

I want to thank the Bessemer Board of Education Members for allowing me to serve as Superintendent for the last three years. We have made tremendous progress and gains in all areas of the school system. Listed is a snippet of what we have been able to accomplish together thus far. Many more accomplishments have been completed.

## # 1 ACCOMPLISHMENT

Successfully navigated Bessemer City Schools through the global pandemic without any major interruptions. No one in education, local, state, or national was prepared with a “playbook” to navigate school systems during the global pandemic. Even with those unknowns, we did not experience any major interruptions or negligence in the school system or academic program during that time. We successfully completed all aspects and requirements from the Alabama State Department of Education.

We ensured that the system had methods in place to minimize disruptions in areas that were identified as COVID-positive or exposed. We contracted with a profes-



sional cleaning service and ensured that PPE was distributed to needed areas in the school system.

## #2 ACCOMPLISHMENT

Development and implementation of a competitive salary schedule for employees.

Maintained an annual balanced budget with the CSFO.

## # 3 ACCOMPLISHMENT

Successfully passed ALL State and Federal Reviews without any major irregularities.

- Accreditation • OCR
- District or State Financial Audits/State Compliance Monitoring Financial Review
- State Compliance Monitoring • Others

## #4 ACCOMPLISHMENT

Successfully made sufficient academic progress in removing our elementary schools from the Governor’s lowest-performing schools (lowest 5% to 6% of schools in the state) based on growth data. Successfully making academic growth in completely removing Abrams Elementary School from the Alabama Accountability Act Schools Designation List (i.e. Failing Schools List).

# J.S. ABRAMS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

J.S. Abrams Elementary School is one of the five elementary schools within the Bessemer City Schools District. We service a diverse heterogeneous population of scholars, ranging from kindergarten to fifth grade. This year we expanded our population of scholars to include an OSR Pre-K unit and a SPED self-contained unit. We are a low-socio-economic status school with high expectations and stakeholders possessing a multiplicity of leadership qualities and skills. We embrace many extra-curricular activities including Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Mentoring programs, National Elementary Honor Society Chapter, and Peer Helpers. Panther Na-



tion definitely implements many other academic and social/emotional opportunities for student experiences.

Our motto is: “Cultivating Excellence through Academics, Attendance, Attitude, and Activities”. We hold ourselves and our scholars to high standards, as we strive to meet excellence daily. We celebrate our scholars on their accomplishments and growth toward their goals. J. S. Abrams Elementary has maintained steady academic, attitude/

behavioral, and attendance progression for the past few years. Our goal is to SUPPORT THE WHOLE CHILD in all aspects of his/her life as we encourage each child to find HIS/HER voice.

# CHARLES F. HARD ELEMENTARY

Charles F. Hard Elementary and Middle School, named for the second Mayor of Bessemer, was constructed in 1894. The original buildings were destroyed by fire in 1958 and replaced with four modern structures on its present thirteen-acre site in 1959. A new addition to the building was completed in 2014. In 1988, the Bessemer City School System underwent reconstruction and Hard’s entire campus became an elementary school with grades K-6th then K-5th. In recent years, two PreK classes have been added making it a learning institution for PreK-5th grade scholars.



The school’s vision is to empower scholars to believe, achieve and succeed. Its mission is to provide scholars with a safe and secure environment and learning opportunities that nurture the academic growth of the whole child in preparation for tomorrow’s world. The school’s overall goal is to meet scholars where they are and give them what they need—academically, culturally, socially and emotionally. This year’s school theme is To Infinity and Beyond: We L.E.A.D. (Love learning. Excel in all we do. Achieve goals together. Do what is right). BIG things are definitely happening at this elementary school on the hill.

# BESSEMER CITY MIDDLE SCHOOL

A successful middle school is “creating a community where all kids feel emotionally safe and free to learn, where they receive kindness, compassion, and caring from the teachers and each other.”

Bessemer City Middle School 2022-2023 school year is dedicated to a successful environment for our students. Bessemer City Middle’s aspiration is to create an inviting, supportive, and safe place, a joyful community that promotes in-depth learning and enhances students’ physical and emotional well-being. Our goal is to increase academic success and personal growth for all students.

We are excited for our newly renovated gymnasium!!!!

Emphasizing learning, as well as reestablishing a positive culture by committing to the “PURPLE TIGER WAY!”

#OneTeam,OneDream



# BESSEMER CITY HIGH SCHOOL

Bessemer City High School is excited to embark on a new school year. This upcoming school year BCS students will begin a new initiative where they will engage in meaningful and academically rigorous English Language Arts and Social Studies learning through an interdisciplinary design of curriculum and instruction. The curriculum is organized according to three core areas: (1) to develop personal goals (value of self), (2) connection to community (social and civic engagement), (3) and academically competitive (college readiness) experiences that also encourages students’ appreciation for the national, regional, state, and local community. Another key innovation for the curriculum is to encourage and develop a district-wide project based learning initiative. Students will be able to showcase their thematic projects at each grade level. Our theme for the 2022 - 2023 school year is “One Team, One Dream!”





# MEDICAL WEST IS A PROUD SUPPORTER OF THE BESSEMER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



At Medical West, our mission is to provide the highest quality of care in a patient-focused environment. Our 310-bed acute care hospital offers a wide range of diagnostic, surgical, medical and emergency services. Our services include a 21-bed Main Emergency Department, the state's first Freestanding Emergency Department, Intensive Care Unit, Women's Center, Telemetry Nursing Unit, Geriatric-Psychiatric Unit, Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility, Advanced Wound Center, Cardiac Rehabilitation and Surgical Services. Residents of Bessemer, McCalla, Tannehill, Vance, Hueytown and Hoover benefit from the convenience of Medical West Family and Internal Medicine Health Centers located in their neighborhoods.

MEDICAL WEST HOSPITAL | 995 9TH AVENUE SW | BESSEMER, AL 35022  
PHYSICIAN REFERRAL LINE: (205) 996-WEST | [WWW.MEDICALWESTHOSPITAL.ORG](http://WWW.MEDICALWESTHOSPITAL.ORG)

## IT'S EASY TO FIND A MEDICAL WEST HEALTH CENTER NEAR YOU.

At Medical West, family is everything. That's why we're committed to providing high quality health care in your neighborhoods, for your entire family. With multiple locations throughout West Jefferson County, it's easy to find a Medical West Health Center near you. Scan the QR Code below to learn more about the health centers and services offered at Medical West.







Birmingham, Alabama Bob Sykes Bar B Q Restaurant has been a staple in Birmingham, Alabama for decades and is celebrating its 65th anniversary with a new book called "From the Pit to the Plate" The Story of Bob Sykes Bar B Q is a story told by the Bob Sykes family of how Bob Sykes Bar B Q is much more than a beloved family business. It's a restaurant that honors a Southern culinary tradition of food, fire and hard work. An American business story on how the Bob Sykes family has kept the fire burning for 65 years and still smoking.

Three generations of the Sykes family has proudly served authentic southern barbecue that literally goes from the pit to the plate that brings diverse crowds of diners from the metro area, and all over the country, to Bessemer every day of the week except Sunday for award-winning barbecue; employing scores of folks in the community for some 30, 40 or even 50 years.

The late Bob and Maxine Sykes founded the restaurant and today their son Van runs the family business with the help of his

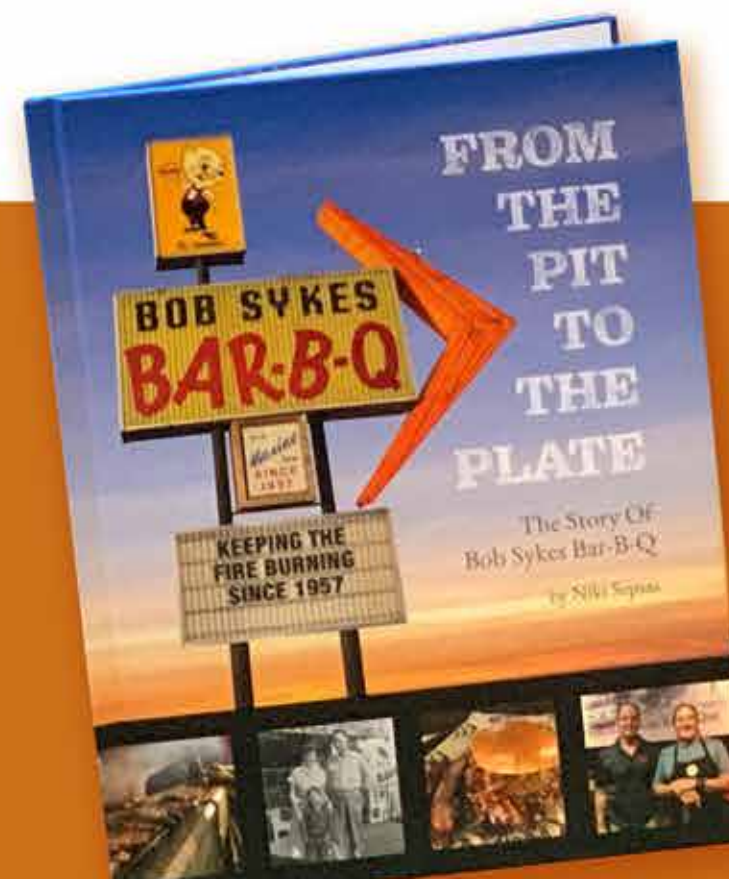
nephew, Jason Jewell. Times may have changed, but nothing has changed in the way Bob Sykes Bar B Q prepares and cooks their famous barbecue oven an open fire pit located in the center of the dining room for guests to watch.

Van Sykes describes what he does as straightforward: "God gives us everything we need to barbecue," he says. "We don't need any help with anything else. We have wood. We have a pig. We have smoke. We have ash. We have earth. A brick pit is refractory, its earth because the original pit was a pit in the ground. So, all those things are just God-given things. Really, we just have to stay out of the way of it and let it happen."



"My ultimate goal," Sykes writes in his book, "is for Bob Sykes Bar-B-Q to be remembered as one of those 'great' businesses. I can't think of any better way to honor my parents than for the business they worked so hard to establish will remain an important part of the business landscape of Bessemer. If it is, then I feel that I will have contributed in some way to their legacy."

**Bob Sykes Book can be purchased at the restaurant or on our website at: [www.bobsykes.com](http://www.bobsykes.com)**



***"Our highest calling is in serving the right food in the right way to each and every customer who enters our restaurant."***

**BOB SYKES BAR-B-Q**  
1724 9th Avenue North  
Bessemer, Alabama 35020  
205-426-1400  
Open Monday-Saturday  
Closed on Sundays

# FROM THE PIT TO THE PLATE

**BOB SYKES BAR-B-Q  
CELEBRATING 65 YEARS AND A NEW BOOK**





# 2022 YEAR IN REVIEW



**Main Photo:** Regional Paramedics Emergency Medical Services ribbon cutting ceremony

**1.** 2022 Doctor of the Year Award presented to Michael Burch by Medical West CEO Keith Pennington at the 100th Annual Meeting. **2.** Lawson State Community College President, Dr. Cynthia Anthony, awards the Administrative Professional of the Year Award to Rosiezler Hall. **3.** Chamber Sponsor, Holt Insurance, enjoying the atmosphere at "Business After Hours". **4.** 2021 Chairman Carlton Jackson passes the gavel to 2022 Chairman Mitch Avery at the Chamber annual meeting luncheon. **5.** The City of Bessemer unites for the annual National Day of Prayer program. **6.** Business and community leaders unite for prayer at the National Day of Prayer program. **7.** Mayor Kenneth Gulley recognizes the 3rd week of October as National Women's Business Week. **8.** Marvel City Family Fun Fest Car Show participants recognition **9.** Staff enjoying the atmosphere at the annual Marvel City Family Fun Fest. **10.** Skipper Goodwin received the Charles A. Long Outstanding Civic Award at the Chamber annual meeting. **11.** The annual Bessemer First Responders and Business Award recipients Stephen Parker, Jonathan Lee Brady and Jason Deramus **12.** 30th Annual Golf FORE Progress Tournament held at Frank House Municipal Golf Course **13.** Chamber member, Pastor Scott of Macedonia Baptist Church, is all ready for the annual City of Bessemer Christmas Parade. **14.** Seafood boil preparation at the Bessemer Chamber Annual Membership Appreciation "Business After Hours" **15.** Bessemer Police Officers are prepared to greet citizens at the annual Marvel City Family Fun Festival that is held in late September. **16.** Chamber Member Plush Bar and Grill are all set to welcome attendees to the annual Taste of Bessemer event at the Bessemer Civic Center. **17.** The Mayor, Chamber President and family are ready to participate in the City of Bessemer PINK and PURPLE Parade that is held annually in October in recognition of breast cancer and domestic violence.



SUPPORT BESSEMER CHAMBER MEMBERS!



STAY IN BESSEMER...

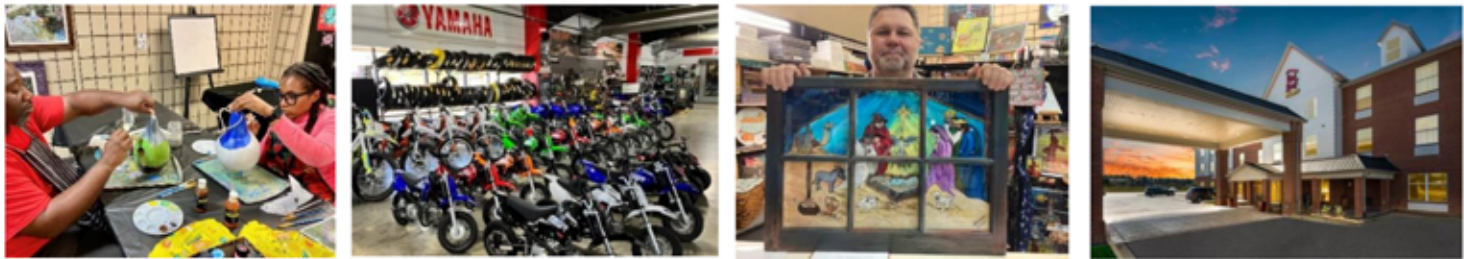
Best Western Hotel & Suites	5041 Academy Lane, Bessemer	205-481-1950
Red Roof Plus Inn & Suites	4985 Academy Court, Bessemer	205-771-9071

SHOP IN BESSEMER...

Fountain Building & Supply	731 20 <sup>th</sup> Street N, Bessemer	205-428-4173
Fresh Value	528 4 <sup>th</sup> Avenue N, Bessemer	205-424-6625
Fresh Value 98	700 19 <sup>th</sup> Street N, Bessemer	205-425-8234
Lisa's Fruit & Vegetable Basket	3428 9 <sup>th</sup> Avenue N, Bessemer	205-519-5287
Pinnacle Motorsports	5517 Academy Way, Bessemer	205-428-6266
Simmons Sporting Goods	2001 2 <sup>nd</sup> Avenue N, Bessemer	205-425-4720
The Christian Bookstore & More	618 19 <sup>th</sup> Street N, Bessemer	205-436-2333
The Good Art Company	230 19 <sup>th</sup> Street N, Bessemer	205-997-8284
Torme Foods	527 20 <sup>th</sup> Street N, Bessemer	205-428-7110
United Textiles	1917 2 <sup>nd</sup> Avenue N, Bessemer	205-428-6208

DINE IN BESSEMER...

Back Porch Restaurant	1924 First Avenue N, Bessemer	205-760-5035
Bob Sykes Barbecue	1724 9 <sup>th</sup> Avenue N, Bessemer	205-426-1400
Bright Star Restaurant	304 19 <sup>th</sup> Street N, Bessemer	205-424-9444
Marco's Pizza	4933 Promenade Pkwy Ste 133, Bessemer	205-461-3450
Plush Bar & Grill	4000 Bessemer Super Hwy, Bessemer	205-434-2305
Sneaky Pete's	400 18 <sup>th</sup> Street N, Bessemer	205-424-4036
Sonic of Bessemer	732 Academy Drive, Bessemer	205-428-2002
Subway #3122	1518 9 <sup>th</sup> Avenue N, Ste 120, Bessemer	205-425-7827
Taziki's Mediterranean Café	4859 Promenade Pkwy, Bessemer	205-213-8029



WWW.BESSEMERCHAMBER.COM \* VISIT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

Bessemer

AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
2023 CATEGORICAL MEMBERSHIP LISTING

Refer to Membership Directory for contact information

<b>ACCOUNTING</b> Kellum, Wilson & Associates 205-942-5424 Paragon Financial Services 205-426-5431 Russell & Company, LLC CPA 205-428-9064 The Principal & Associates CPA 205-542-9874 William Parsons CPA 205-424-1511	McCormick's Barber Shop / Performance Automotive LLC 205-368-1393 Swoop Down Towing LLC 205-965-9245 Town & Country Ford 205-491-0000 Wheeler Wrecker Service 205-424-3200	<b>BOILER COMPANIES</b> ADCO Boiler Company 205-428-2326	<b>CHURCH - NON-DENOMINATIONAL</b> Inheritance Church of Birmingham 360-513-1078
<b>AWARDS / PLAQUES / TROPHIES</b> American Pride Trophies & Awards 205-744-0421	<b>BAKERY</b> Dana's Cake Creations 205-540-7839	<b>BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS</b> Bessemer Business Incubation System 205-481-2101, 205-481-2000	<b>CIVIC CENTER / MEETING FACILITIES</b> City of Bessemer - Civic Center 205-424-7469
<b>AIRPORT</b> Bessemer Airport Authority 205-424-7234	<b>AMBULANCE SERVICE</b> Regional Paramedics (RAMS) 205-384-4310	<b>CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION</b> Community First Foundation, Incorporated 205-540-5395, 205-215-2021	<b>CLUB</b> Planet Fitness 205-774-6888
<b>ARCHITECT</b> BLOX / GA Studio 205-933-9060	<b>BANK / FINANCIAL SERVICES</b> Ala Trust Credit Union 205-581-8800, 800-264-8031 America's 1st Federal Credit Union - Bessemer 205-424-8542 America's 1st Federal Credit Union - McCalla 205-477-9360 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 Regions Bank 205-830-6760 Truist 205-565-0268	<b>CHARTER BUS SERVICE</b> New Generation Charters 205-424-6928	<b>COMMERCIAL WASTE REMOVAL / RECYCLING</b> Moore Coal Company, Inc. 205-424-2705
<b>ART</b> The Good Art Company 205-997-8284, 205-283-9520	<b>ASSET BUILDING &amp; MANAGEMENT</b> Grade A Asset Management 205-920-2018	<b>CHIROPRACTOR</b> McCalla Chiropractic & Massage 205-477-8305 Premier Chiropractic Center 205-519-4024	<b>CONSTRUCTION</b> Coston General Contractors, Inc. 205-481-1246
<b>ATTORNEY</b> Allums Welsch, PC 205-426-7080 Cloud, Willis & Ellis, LLC 205-322-6060, 205-721-7272 Hunter Law Firm, PC 205-565-7294, 205-542-5279 Killings & Poe LLC 205-424-8703 Law Offices of Merika Coleman, LLC 205-800-7660, 205-276-4324 The Alexis Firm Group LLC 205-690-0810 The Carmack Law Office 205-315-5333	<b>BARBER</b> McCormick's Barber Shop / Performance Automotive LLC 205-368-1393	<b>CHURCH</b> Bethel Baptist Church 205-428-8343 Canaan Baptist Church 205-428-5575 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 Sixth Avenue Beulah Baptist Church 205-923-1774 Sixth Avenue Beulah Baptist Church 205-426-0108 The Baptist Church at McAdory 205-477-8265 The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints 205-426-5257, 205-243-8020 Twenty First Street Baptist Church 205-424-7651	<b>COPIERS / PRINTERS</b> Dex Imaging 205-484-2561
<b>AUTOMOBILE [REPAIR / SALES / SERVICE / TOWING / TRUCKS]</b> Benton Nissan of Bessemer 205-428-6314, 205-979-5420 Chevrolet Bessemer 205-424-4121 First Class Auto Sales 205-747-0895	<b>BASEBALL TEAM</b> Birmingham Barons 205-988-3200	<b>DAYCARE</b> Busy Bee Child Care Center 205-425-9577 Just Like Home Day Care, Inc. 205-425-2097 Little Wyngz Preschool & Daycare 205-542-5263, 205-477-0300 Mt. Sinai Kiddie Kare 205-426-4555, 205-601-6957 Triumph the Church - Triumphant Child Care Center 205-424-6892, 205-229-5105	<b>DIGITAL MARKETING</b> Dotedison 205-260-0756, 205-332-3728
	<b>BEAUTY SALON</b> Brown Beauty Barber School 205-424-4247 Salon Lisa Brown LLC 205-477-1477	<b>DISTRIBUTION CENTER</b> Amazon.com Services LLC 205-761-5215	<b>DOCTOR / MEDICAL / PHYSICIANS / HOSPITAL / DENTAL / EYE</b> ArchWell Health 205-336-1535 Behavior Health Group Bessemer Treatment Center 205-425-1200 Bessemer Family Practice 205-481-8650 Foundry Dental Center 205-434-2031 Luma Dentistry 205-477-4242
	<b>BEVERAGES / SNACKS / COFFEE</b> Buffalo Rock - Pepsi Company 205-940-9799		



Medical West  
205-481-7000  
Surgery South, LLC  
205-481-7485  
Therapy South  
205-477-1501  
Thomas C. Pendleton, MD  
205-481-7470  
UAB Callahan Eye Hospital Clinic  
205-325-8110  
United Prosthetics & Orthotics  
205-588-8125  
Wallace Optometry Associates  
205-425-5182  
West Jefferson Internal Medicine PC  
205-426-0546

**DRAINAGE**

French Drains Pro  
205-244-1114

**DRUG SCREENING**

CAK Medical LLC  
205-585-7286

**DRUG STORE**

FMS Pharmacy  
205-424-3194  
Hinkle Pharmacy  
205-425-3039  
Weldon Pharmacy, Inc.  
205-491-2805

**EDUCATION**

Bessemer B. O. E. -  
Albert Soles - Retired  
205-936-0982  
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  
205-552-4081  
Bessemer B. O. E. - Mildred Posey  
Bessemer B. O. E. - Pat Stewart  
205-432-3029, 205-243-5856  
Bessemer B. O. E. - Remeka Thompson  
Bessemer B. O. E. - Sarah Bell Person  
205-426-0960, 205-243-3993  
Bessemer B. O. E. - Tonia Miller  
205-382-1622, 205-426-8134  
Bessemer B. O. E. - Vera Eades  
205-283-4978  
Heritage Christian Academy  
205-978-6001  
Lawson State Community College  
205-925-2515  
Lawson State  
Community College - Bessemer  
205-929-3505

**ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS**

Astro Electric Company, Inc.  
205-424-0060  
S & G Waldrop Electric, Inc.  
205-426-4168

**ENGINEERING / ENVIRONMENTAL /  
FORESTRY SERVICES**

Engineering, Environmental &  
Forestry Service  
205-424-3737

**ENTERTAINMENT**

Concreed Live Productions LLC  
205-259-0770  
Grade A Cafe and Lounge  
205-434-4847, 719-930-3164

**FINANCIAL ADVISOR**

Merrill Lynch  
205-903-8184

**FIRE DEPARTMENT**

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

**FUNERAL HOME**

Chambers Funeral Home, Inc.  
205-425-5235  
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 [FEDERAL / STATE / CITY]**

Bessemer City Council -  
Carla Foreman Jackson  
205-565-1281, 205-424-4060  
Bessemer City Council - Ron Marshall  
205-531-8724  
Bessemer Development Board  
205-481-2000  
Bessemer Police Department -  
Chief's office  
205-481-4350  
Bessemer Police Department - R. Harris  
205-281-1664  
City of Bessemer - Angela Coleman  
205-424-4060  
City of Bessemer - Building Department  
205-424-4060  
City of Bessemer - Mayor Kenneth Guley  
205-432-8263  
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  
John F. Weatherly Jr.  
205-427-8248, 205-854-6883

**HOME DECOR**

United Textiles  
205-428-6208

**HOME HEALTH CARE / HOSPICE**

Aveanna Home Health & Hospice  
205-644-4977

**HOTEL**

Best Western Plus  
205-481-1950  
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**

Arliscia Dial  
205-844-1133  
Glenda Freeman  
205-720-6031, 205-602-8088  
Sadie Harris  
205-427-5997, 205-428-5997  
Arnetria M. Hutchins  
205-317-0205  
Chester Porter  
205-612-4617  
Michelle Purse  
205-219-3626

**GROCERY STORE**

Fresh Value  
205-424-6625  
Fresh Value 98  
205-425-8234  
Torme Foods  
205-428-7110

**HEATING & AIR**

AK Heating & Air Conditioning  
205-424-9620

Scott Roebuck  
205-424-4090  
Ontario Tillman  
256-603-7794  
Jack White, Alycia White  
205-266-5126

**INSURANCE**

Holt Insurance Agency Inc.  
205-424-8368, 205-283-9333  
Holt Insurance Agency Inc.  
205-424-8368 ext 304  
205-531-7380  
Julie Bell, Agent - State Farm Ins.  
205-424-3400  
Viva Health  
205-516-4541

**INVESTIGATION & SECURITY**

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

**LANDSCAPING**

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

**MANUFACTURING - INDUSTRIAL**

J. M. Smucker

**MANUFACTURING -  
REFRIGERATION UNITS**

Southern CaseArts  
205-428-4800

**MASONRY AND STONE  
SUBCONTRACTOR**

Masonry Arts, Inc.  
205-428-0780

**MEDICAL**

CAK Medical LLC  
205-585-7286

**MUSEUM**

Bessemer Hall of History Museum  
205-426-1633

**NEWSPAPER**

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

**THE HANGAR BAR & GRILL**

**ATP**

**Bessemer Airport Authority**

**The Bessemer Municipal Airport - Bessemer's Gateway to the World**  
[www.BessemerAirportAuthority.com](http://www.BessemerAirportAuthority.com)

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**PELL CITY (205) 884-0000**



## NON PROFIT

1 Family Community Vision Inc.  
205-243-7996  
Alabama STEM Education  
205-910-7274, 205-436-2107  
American Red Cross - Bessemer  
205-439-7801, 205-234-0945  
Bessemer Business & Professional Women  
205-914-3124  
Bessemer Elks Lodge #721  
205-424-7301  
Bessemer Elks Lodge (P. E. R.)  
205-424-7301  
Bessemer Fire Union  
205-283-7774  
Bessemer Hall of History Museum  
205-426-1633  
Bessemer Redevelopment Corporation  
205-566-7770  
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, 205-277-2954  
Childrens of Alabama - Pediatrics West  
205-481-1886  
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  
Joe Beasley Memorial Foundation Inc  
205-616-3456  
Kiwanis Club of Bessemer  
205-747-9270  
Legacy YMCA  
205-426-1211  
Macedonia Baptist Church  
205-994-5180, 205-426-3340  
Malik Temple #270  
205-276-1277, 719-930-3164  
Nurturing Golden Hearts  
205-417-0053, 205-902-7910  
Pinktopps Inc.  
205-566-8361  
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 Grace Place  
205-519-5402, 205-281-0748  
The Phenomenal Women Foundation Inc  
205-862-6404, 205-425-9577

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

## NURSING HOME

Oak Crest Health and Wellness  
205-428-9383  
Ridgeway Rehabilitation and Senior Living  
205-428-3249

## ORNAMENTAL IRON

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

## PACKAGING

Manufacturers Packaging Services  
205-425-8242

## PHOTOGRAPHER

ArtisticVisionz  
205-354-4732

## PIPE &amp; SUPPLY

Southland Pipe & Supply  
205-426-9764

## PRESCHOOL

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

## PRINTING

Accentuate Graphix and Designs  
205-396-5477  
C & C Banners and Signs LLC  
205-586-5899, 205-436-2016  
Southern Nameplate & Graphics  
205-426-0181

## PRODUCE STAND

Lisa's Fruit and Vegetable Basket LLC  
205-519-5287

## REAL ESTATE

BetterLiving Realty powered by Barnes & Associates REALTORS  
256-337-1987  
Carlton Jackson, Realtor, ABR\* - Building Areas of Excellence  
205-296-7742  
Gents Homes LLC  
205-481-0010  
Keller Williams Realty Hoover  
205-822-2272  
Movement Realty LLC  
205-276-2274  
Pace Properties, LLC  
205-434-3511, 205-222-1551  
Paden Realty & Appraisals, Inc.  
205-424-3464  
Selena Colston, Realtor-EXP Realty, LLC  
205-607-2356  
Weaver Land & Realty, Inc.  
205-428-4139

## RECREATION CENTER

Bessemer Recreation Center  
205-425-0655

## RESTAURANT

Bob Sykes Barbecue  
205-426-1400  
Bright Star Restaurant, The  
205-424-9444  
Marco's Pizza  
205-461-3450, 205-349-9890  
Plush Bar and Grill  
205-434-2305, 205-789-5350  
Sneaky Pete's  
205-424-4036  
Sonic of Bessemer  
205-428-2002  
Subway #3112  
205-425-7827  
Taziki's Mediterranean Cafe  
205-213-8029  
The Back Porch  
205-230-3395, 205-760-5035

## RESTORATION CLEANUP

Servpro  
205-678-2224

## RETAIL

Batteries plus  
205-587-1914  
Fountain Building and Supply  
205-428-4173  
Impressed  
205-800-8801  
Pinnacle Motorsports  
205-428-6266  
The Christian Bookstore & More, LLC  
334-333-5181, 205-436-2333

## SERVICE / SHIPPING

The UPS Store  
205-230-0088

## SIGNAGE AND DIGITAL PRINTING

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

## SPORTING GOODS

Simmons Sporting Goods  
205-425-4720

## STAFFING

Crown Staffing  
502-693-1731, 205-203-2428

## STORAGE

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

## TECHNOLOGY

Visture Technologies  
205-235-2813

## TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENCE PROGRAM

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

## TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Cat Communication LLC  
205-381-5990

## TOURISM

Greater Birmingham Convention & Visitors Bureau  
205-458-8000

## TOWING

Swoop Down Towing LLC  
205-965-9245

## TREE SERVICE

Craig's Quality Tree Service  
205-744-2002

## UTILITIES

Alabama Power Company  
800-245-2244  
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