

COMMUNIQUE



JUNE 2022

Chamber Beings Its Centennial Membership Drive

The Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce continues to be a vital part of business growth in the city of Bessemer. We appreciate your consistent investment and partnership. We are continuing to provide avenues and opportunities that will enhance businesses in the city and West Jefferson County area. We are working on expanding our partnership by encouraging more local businesses to join the Bessemer Chamber of Commerce.

We need your help with our efforts! We have kicked off our 2022 Membership Drive campaign and would like for you to assist us as we look to gain “100 Members in 100 Days”. Reach out to your partners/associates and inform them on the value of being a member of the Bessemer Chamber!



Joining the chamber of commerce provides businesses with access to resources, discounts, and relationships that enable them to save money, market their products, and streamline their processes. From large companies to individual members of the Bessemer Chamber, each one brings their own benefits to the total organization. Whether your business is looking for Business 2 Business partners and sales, help with customer acquisition, or guidance on HR processes, a chamber of commerce can help!

Here are a few points for you to share with a prospective member:

- A chamber of commerce is an organization of business owners and entrepreneurs who promote the interests of their local business community.
- Chambers of commerce provide access to valuable resources, discounts, and relationships that help businesses save money and market their products.
- Joining a chamber of commerce can boost sales and significantly improve a local business' visibility and credibility.

A membership application can be found on page 7 and is also listed on the chamber website at www.bessemerchamber.com. Feel free to contact our office if you have any questions (205) 425-3253.



Lisa's Fruit & Vegetable Basket LLC

Lisa E. Benefield
3428 9th Avenue N., Bessemer, AL 35020
PH: (205) 519-5287
Email: urbanone63@gmail.com
*Produce Stand

Tennessee Valley Authority

Warren Hicks
307 Clinton Avenue, Ste. 300
Huntsville, AL 35801
PH1: (256) 430-4804
PH2: (256) 679-6355
Email: wphicks@tva.gov
Website: www.tva.gov
*Utilities

Regional Paramedics (RAMS)

Charles King
PO BOX 3147
Jasper, AL 35502
PH: (205) 384-4310
Fax: (205) 384-9758
Email: charles@rpsems.com
www.rpsems.com
*Ambulance Service

COMMUNITY NEWS

Jefferson County Residents Turn out for Gubernatorial Primary Election

On May 24th, 2022, residents across the state of Alabama had the opportunity to cast their ballots for state and county level positions. Jefferson County residents turned out to vote, with the following candidates either winning outright or heading to run-off elections this fall:

State Senate District 19: Merika Coleman (D)

***State Senate District 56 (D):**

Ontario Tillman

Tereshia Huffman

Jefferson County Sheriff: Sheriff Mark Pettway (D)

**Deputy District Attorney, 10th Judicial Circuit,
Bessemer Division:**

DA Lynneice Washington (D)

Bill Veitch (R)

**Circuit Court Judge, 10th Judicial Circuit,
Place 10:** Thomas E. Thrash (D)

***District Court Judge, Jefferson County, Place 10 (D):**

Kathy-Ann Alexis

Kerri Page Parker

Jefferson County Commission, District 2 (D):

Commissioner Sheila Tyson

Save the Dates!

JUNE 21ST, 2022

***State Primary Run Off Elections**

AUGUST 23RD, 2022

**City of Bessemer Elections
(Mayor and City Council)**

NOVEMBER 8TH, 2022

State General Elections

If you would like to register to vote, visit
<https://www.sos.alabama.gov/alabama-votes/voter/register-to-vote>.

Omar Chapman Named New Director Of Bessemer Public Library

By: *The CutOff News*

Omar Chapman is the new Director of the Bessemer Public Library. A native of Bessemer, AL, he has a passion for his hometown and the public library in which he patronized in his early years as a student. After graduating from McAdory High School, Omar earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering (BSEE) from Alabama A&M University. He began his career with the Bessemer Public Library in 2014 and has operated in many capacities to ensure the continued growth of the Bessemer Public Library. Omar believes that education is a key factor to developments in literacy and that libraries play a critical role in the educational process. "To be named Library Director of the Bessemer Public Library is truly a blessing and a culmination of the hard work I've put in over the years. I am honored to serve my community and I'm looking forward to the future of the library field. Thank you to those who have supported me throughout this journey. It's a marathon, not a race." says Chapman.



COMMUNITY NEWS

**A hot home and high energy bills can take away from summer fun.
Here are 10 tips to prepare your home for high summer temperatures!**

Service your AC unit

Air conditioning (AC) units work by moving air over fins or coils that contain refrigerant. When the coils or fins get dirty, the unit doesn't work as well and uses more energy. Whether you have a portable unit, central AC or a ductless/mini-split, get your system ready for summer by cleaning the filter, coils and fins. If you are tackling this yourself, always disconnect power to the unit. Central AC systems have two sets of coils: one inside and one outside. Both should be cleaned annually. If you hire a professional, they can check refrigerant levels during the process.

Seal your window AC unit

If you have a window or portable AC unit that vents through a window, seal the area between the window sashes. Water heater pipe insulation is a great way to seal this spot. It's available at your local hardware store and is easy to cut for a snug fit.

Thermostat settings

Keeping your thermostat at the highest comfortable temperature will save you money. If you aren't home during the day, increase your thermostat 8 to 10 degrees. There's no need to cool an empty house.

Keep your cool

Before heading to the thermostat, turn on a fan in the room you're in, change into lighter clothing and drink something cool. This may be enough to make you comfortable without spending more to cool your home. Finding the balance between comfort and savings is key.

Lock windows

After opening your windows at night or in the morning to let in fresh air, ensure your windows are closed and locked. This reduces gaps that allow air to flow through and cause drafts. If your locks don't form a tight fit, add weatherstripping. Most products are easy to install.

Weatherstripping and curtains

Covering and sealing windows may seem like a wintertime efficiency practice, yet these help in the summer, too. Windows are typically the least-insulated surface in a room. Add weatherstripping to form a tight seal and curtains you can close during the hottest times of the day to block out the sun.

Cook "al fresco"

Keep your home cool or your AC from working overtime by cooking outside. My grill has an extra burner on the side that lets me do stovetop cooking outside, too.

Add insulation

Even in the summer, adding insulation can keep your home more comfortable and save energy used by your air conditioning system. As a general rule, if you can see the joists in the floor of your attic, you need more insulation.

Turn off gas fireplaces

Reducing the amount of heat entering your home can keep it cooler, especially if you don't have AC. If you have a gas fireplace, your pilot light lets off a small amount of heat into the room. Consider turning it off during summer months.

Add shade outside

Several years ago, we planted a hedge on the south side of our home. I was surprised by how much cooler it made the house in the summertime. Planting trees and shrubs strategically around your home can shade the roof, walls and pavement, reducing heat radiation to your home. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, tree-shaded neighborhoods can be up to 6 degrees cooler in the daytime than treeless areas. Before buying a tree or shrub, check with your city or utility about free tree programs.



Applying a few of these ideas to your home will help keep you comfortable and provide summer energy savings!

BUSINESS NEWS



WELCOME TO BESSEMER

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



Bessemer Chamber Member Gents Homes LLC celebrated their newly renovated property with a ribbon cutting on Tuesday, May 10th, 2022. The property is located at 2716 8th Avenue North, Bessemer.



Bessemer Chamber Member Regional Paramedics (RAMS) celebrated with a ribbon cutting on Thursday, May 19th, 2022. They will be operating out of the Bessemer Municipal Airport.

Thank you to the following companies for continuing their membership with the Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce!

- Alabama STEM Education
- Bessemer Board of Education – Edith Hunter
- Bessemer Development Board
- Bessemer Public Library
- Busy Bee Child Care Center
- Cahaba Medical Care Bessemer
- Children's of Alabama- Pediatrics West
- City of Bessemer, Building Dept. – Tim Harmon
- Coston General Contractors, Inc.
- Dunbar Abrams Foundation

- Engineering, Environmental, & Forestry Service
- Farr Tax Service
- Greater Bethel Baptist Church
- Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, Bessemer – John Weatherly, Jr.
- Kellum, Wilson, & Associates
- Macedonia Baptist Church
- Modular Connections, LLC
- Mt. Sinai Kiddie Kare
- Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist Church
- New Generation Charters

- Nurturing Golden Hearts
- Piper Sandler
- Sixth Beulah Baptist Church – Verda Wells
- The Bright Star Restaurant
- The Housing Authority of the City of Bessemer
- The Principal & Associates CPA
- The Western Star
- TotalScape Farms
- United Textiles
- West Jefferson Internal Medicine PC

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Your Chamber Leadership Team



Mitch Avery
Spire
Chairman



Antoinette Madison
Alabama Power
Chairman-Elect



Carlton Jackson
Bessemer Fire Dept.
Finance Chairman/Past Chairman



Dr. Cynthia Anthony
Lawson State Community College
Treasurer



Micah Andrews
Foundry Ministries



Dr. Reginald Calvert
New Jerusalem Bapt. Church



Cortney Coleman
Bess. Housing Authority



Bryonda Collins
Chambers Funeral Home



Katie Dugas-Truss
Legacy YMCA



Dr. Autumm Jeter
Bessemer City Schools



Kem L. Marks
Just in Time Legal Solutions



Maj. Cleveland Moore
Jeff. Co. Sheriff's Office



Keith Pennington
Medical West



Sheriff Mark Pettway
Jeff. Co. Sheriff's Office



Noah Rocker
Fountain of Life Church



William Smith
Marco's Pizza – Bessemer



LaVada Varner
Alabama Technology Network



Devron Veasley
Bessemer Dev. Board

AMBASSADORS



Left to Right: Daryl Owens, Akilih Haley (Lawson State Community College), Connie Fuell (Dex Imaging), Anna Wooten (First Financial Bank), Cathy Ackerman (First Financial Bank), Minnie Roper (Retired), Claire Mitchell (Retired), Donna King (D & K Lawncare), Charles King (D & K Lawncare)

Not pictured: Tamala Briggins (Oak Trace Care & Rehabilitation), Denise Jackson (New Jerusalem Baptist Church), Lori Chisem (Lawson State Community College), Dorian Waluyn (Lawson State Community College)

Honorary Ambassador: Sarah Beasley (Joe Beasley Memorial Foundation), Sarah Belcher (Retired)

Ambassadors are the key resource in extending hospitality in the Bessemer area and are experienced in business, community, and promotional arenas.

An Ambassador must serve as an active public relations arm of the Chamber and be prepared to meet visitors, local businesses, and various forms of the media.

We encourage you join the ambassador program. The ambassadors meet on the 1st Tuesday of each month; meetings alternate every month between 8:30am and 12 pm at the Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce.

Embassadors

SPOTLIGHT



Dorian Waluyn

Lawson State Community College

1100 9th Avenue SW, Bessemer, AL 35022

PH: (205) 929-3416

Email: dwaluyn@lawsonstate.edu

Website: www.lawsonstate.edu

1. **Tell us about yourself and your company/profession.** I work at Lawson State Community College and have the pleasure of serving as the Director of Admissions and Enrollment Management. I have dedicated the better part of my career to helping and developing others through education.
2. **What is your favorite part about living and/or working in Bessemer?** My favorite part about working in Bessemer is the ability to connect with people from various walks of life.
3. **What motivates you to serve as an ambassador?** Helping and serving the community.
4. **Tell us about your experience serving with the Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce.** As an ambassador, I have the privilege to serve and work with business leaders from around the Bessemer community and participate and help plan some amazing events. I cherish the time I have spent as a chamber ambassador.
5. **What are some hobbies/personal interests you enjoy in your free time?** In my free time, I enjoy working with various non-profit organizations, being physically active, spending time with my family, and listening to jazz!

Are you a Bessemer Chamber member interested in sending a representative from your company to serve as an Ambassador? Contact the chamber today!



Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce Membership Subscription Contract

Company: _____

Contact Name & Title _____

Address: _____

Phone #1 _____ Phone #2 _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Web Address: _____

Business Category: _____ (View current category listing at www.bessemerchamber.com)

Please provide your online links: [For example: Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, YouTube, Urban Spoon, Yelp]

Give us a brief description of your company's business for your listing on our website

What year was your business established? _____

By signing this agreement you have committed to paying the Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce the appropriate amount for membership dues based on your classification and number of full time employees. This organization believes that you are best qualified to determine the value of your membership investment. As a guide, membership dues are determined by the listed chart.

Signature _____ Date: _____

# of Full Time Employees	Membership Investment
0-3	200.00
4-6	260.00
7-10	330.00
11-25	400.00
26-39	520.00
40 and up	600.00
Non Profits & Individuals	125.00
Financial Institutions	750.00
Utilities	1000.00
Associate Member (Only for employees of existing members)	75.00

Choose Billing Method: *All dues are paid once annually*

Dues Amount: \$ _____ per year

____ # of Full Time Employees ____ # of Part Time Employees

Indicate Today's Payment Method

____ Check ____ Cash ____ Invoice ____ Credit Card

Name / Company on Credit Card

CC # _____ Exp. Date _____

CVV # _____ CC Billing Zip Code _____

Debit/Credit Card payments can be processed by phone, mail or in person

205-425-3253

Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce at 321 18th St. N. Bessemer, AL 35020

ONCE YOU'RE AN ACTIVE MEMBER, PLEASE GO TO WWW.BESSEMERCHAMBER.COM TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING UNDER YOUR COMPANY'S LISTING:

JOB LISTINGS / BUSINESS PROMOTIONAL EVENTS / MEMBER TO MEMBER DISCOUNTS / COMPANY NEWS



Bring the entire family out for
THE CITY OF BESSEMER



**EVERYTHING
IS FREE TO THE
PUBLIC**

**Ice Cream
Watermelon
Nachos
Beverages
Patriotic Giveaways
& Much, Much More!**



CELEBRATION

**Meet and
Network
with our
elected
officials**



**COME ENJOY
ONE OF
ALABAMA'S
LARGEST
FIREWORK
SHOW
BEGINS AT
8:45PM**

FREE

**Community
Event**

SATURDAY JULY 2, 2022

6:30 UNTIL 9:00 PM



Bessemer City High School

4950 PREMIERE PARKWAY

BESSEMER, AL 35022



**For additional
information contact
The Bessemer Area
Chamber of
Commerce at
(205) 425-3253**

Diamond SPONSORSHIP \$10,000.00

100th Annual Meeting – Primary Seating of 8 and ½ page in program
Sponsor of Community Service Scholarship
29th Annual Bessemer Business Awards and First Responders Gala
- Primary Seating of 8 and 3 VIP passes or sponsor another chamber premiere event
2 page ad in the 2022 Bessemer Magazine
1 page Story in the 2022 Bessemer Magazine
Title Sponsor for the Golf Tournament or Membership Event
Plan a Business After Hours on your behalf (Not to exceed \$750)
Up to \$750 credit toward annual membership dues
6th Annual Taste of Bessemer Sponsor and 5 tickets
Marvel City Family Fun Fest Title Sponsor
Spotlight in Chamber Newsletter *The Communique*
4 Full page ads in Chamber's *Communique* throughout the year
Company Logo with website link on Chamber website
Logo recognition at all major events
Chamber listing for up to 3 company representatives
Sponsor for City of Bessemer Christmas Parade
- includes one entry in parade and listing on promotional materials
Pre/Post event advertising

Platinum SPONSORSHIP \$7,500.00

100th Annual Meeting - Table of 8
29th Annual Bessemer Business Awards and First Responders Gala
- Table of 8 and 1 VIP pass or sponsor another chamber event
1 full page ad in the 2022 Bessemer Magazine (preferred spot)
½ page story in the 2022 Bessemer Magazine
Sponsor for the Golf Tournament or Membership Event
Sponsor of a business after hours on your behalf (Not to exceed \$500)
Up to \$500 credit toward annual membership dues
6th Annual Taste of Bessemer Sponsor
Marvel City Family Fun Fest Title Sponsor
2 full page ads in Chamber's *Communique* throughout the year
Company Logo with website link on Chamber website
Chamber listing for up to 3 company representatives
Sponsor for City of Bessemer Christmas Parade
- includes one entry in parade and listing on promotional materials
Pre/Post event advertising

Gold SPONSORSHIP \$5,000.00

100th Annual Meeting - Table of 8
29th Annual Bessemer Business Awards and First Responders Gala
- Table of 8 or sponsor another chamber premiere event
1 full page ad in the 2022 Bessemer Magazine
Silver Sponsor for Golf "FORE" Progress
Plan a business after hours with other gold sponsors (Not to exceed \$250)
Up to \$200 credit toward annual membership dues
6th Annual Taste of Bessemer – 4 tickets
½ page ad in chamber *Communique*
Company Logo with website link on Chamber website
Chamber listing for up to 3 company representatives
Pre/Post event advertising

Silver SPONSORSHIP \$3,000.00

100th Annual Meeting - Table of 8
29th Annual Bessemer Business Awards & First Responders Gala – 2 tickets
1/6 page ad in 2022 Bessemer Magazine
Golf "FORE" Progress Golf Tournament
- Team of 4 and Name/Logo on all promotional material)
6th Annual Taste of Bessemer – 2 tickets
¼ page ad in Chamber *Communique* newsletter
Company Logo with website link on Chamber website
Chamber listing for up to 2 company representatives
Pre/Post event advertising

**Any events that are held but not listed will incur an additional cost.*

2022 Sponsorship Investment

SPONSORSHIP INVESTMENT FORM

Please complete the form below and mail to:

321 18th Street North, Bessemer, AL 3502
or fax to 205-425-4979

**Please email a JPG copy of your company logo to
mmilan1@bellsouth.net at this time.**

Company: _____

Contact (1) _____
(2) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

PH: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

ANNUAL INVESTMENT

Diamond _____ (\$10,000) Platinum _____ (\$7,500)

Gold _____ (\$5,000) Silver _____ (\$3,000)

Small Business Partner _____ (\$1,000)

APPROVED BY:

PRINT NAME AND JOB TITLE:

*Your signature indicates your agreement to pay the entire
amount owed. Balances not paid in full by July 15, 2022
will be turned over to a collection agency.*

CHOOSE METHOD OF PAYMENT

_____ Annual (January 2022)

_____ Semi Annual (January & July 2022)

Payment Options: _____ Check _____ Credit Card

CC# _____

Name on Card _____

Exp. Date _____ CVV# _____ Billing Zip _____

Small Business Partner SPONSORSHIP \$1,000.00

100th Annual Meeting (2 tickets) with option to upgrade
Business card ad in the 2022 Bessemer Magazine
Golf "FORE" Progress Golf Tournament – Hole Sponsorship
Business Card ad in one issue of the *Communique* newsletter
6th Annual Taste of Bessemer – 1 ticket
Chamber listing for up to 2 company representatives
Pre/Post event advertising

Bessemer

Area Chamber of Commerce

Chamber Member SPOTLIGHT

Your spotlight will be featured in the Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce Monthly Newsletter and on the Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce Facebook page. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions!

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THIS FORM, ONE PHOTO AND YOUR COMPANY LOGO, IF APPLICABLE, ASAP.

Company/Organization: _____

Address: _____

Hours of Operation: _____

Owner(s)/Contact Representative(s): _____

Phone (include fax number): _____

E-mail: _____

Website/Social Media: _____

PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

How did your business get started (Brief history)?

What products and/or services do you offer?

Why did you choose to open your business in the Bessemer area?

What is your favorite part about living and/or working in Bessemer?





TIDBIT TUESDAY

“TIDBIT TUESDAYS” IS A WEEKLY VIDEO HIGHLIGHTING BESSEMER AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MEMBERS AND THEIR SERVICES. THE PURPOSE OF THE WEEKLY VIDEOS IS TO EMPOWER AND INFORM VIEWERS ABOUT CHAMBER MEMBERS’ PRODUCTS AND SERVICES.

Options for Filming:

1. Record your video (no more than 2 minutes) on your cellular device and submit along with this form to Micole Dudley at bessemerchamber.memberserv@gmail.com.
2. Schedule on site filming, allowing chamber staff to come out and film for you. Contact chamber staff to schedule day and time.

Company: _____

Address: _____

Contact Name: _____

Contact Number: _____ Email address: _____

Quick History of Business: _____

Hours of Operation: _____

Summarized Tuesday Tidbit tips: (Keep in mind that your useful tip(s) needs to be relevant and tied to the product/service being promoted! See example on back.)

() Product OR () Service:

Please feel free to add additional pages if needed!

***“Tidbit Tuesdays”* is a product of the “BUY BESSEMER” Campaign sponsored by:**

Bessemer
Area Chamber of Commerce

2022 PLATINUM SPONSOR



2022 GOLD SPONSORS



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



2022 SILVER SPONSORS



DA Lynneice Washington

DOLLAR GENERAL



**the
FOUNDRY
Ministries**

2022 SMALL BUSINESS PARTNERS

America's First Federal Credit Union
Bessemer Elks Lodge #721
Chambers Funeral Home
Comfort Care Home Health & Hospice

Julie Bell, Agent – State Farm Ins.
Legacy YMCA
The Principal & Associates
William Parsons CPA