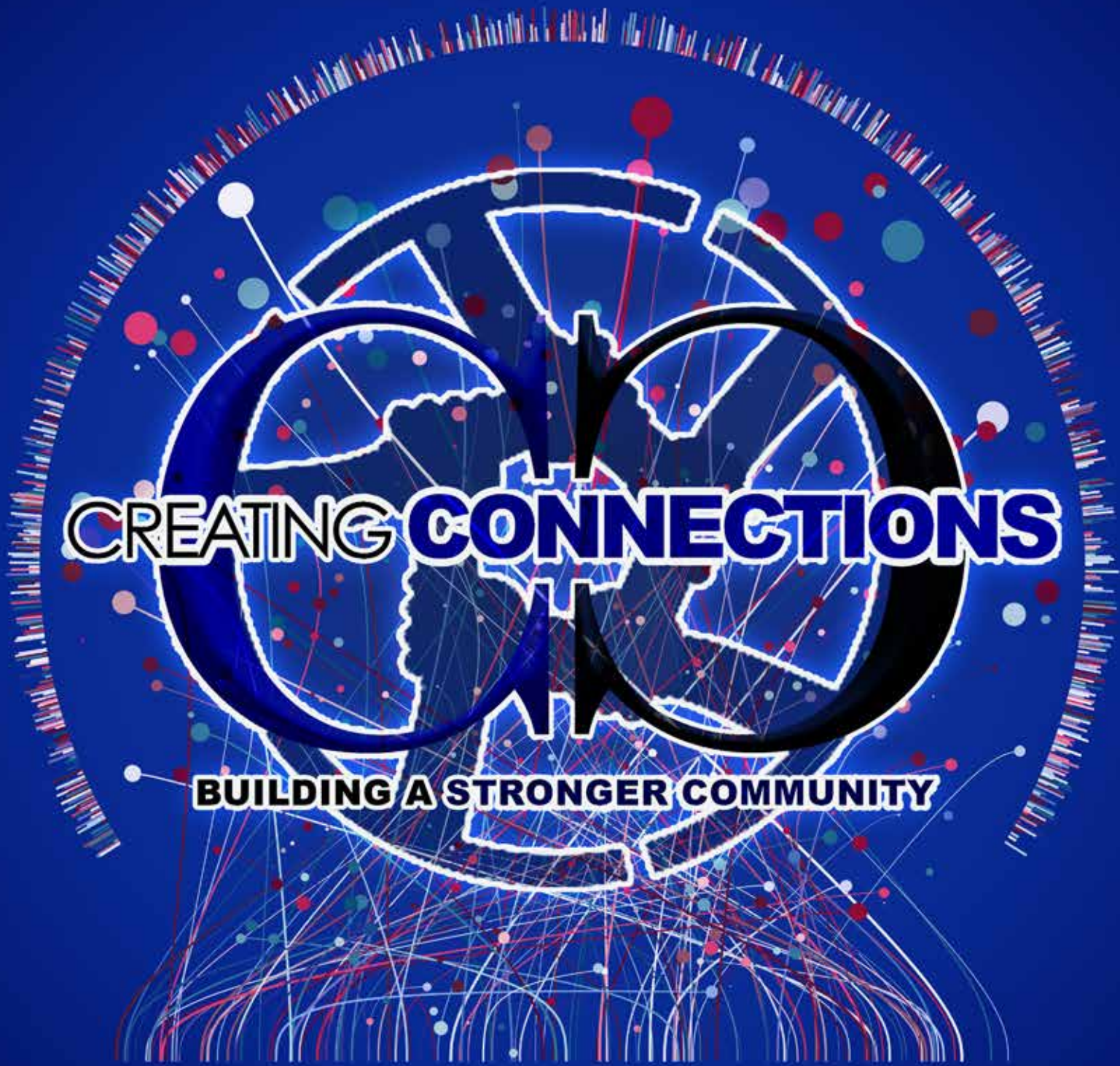
Bessemer

2023/ Volume XIII

Est. 1922



A Publication of the Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce

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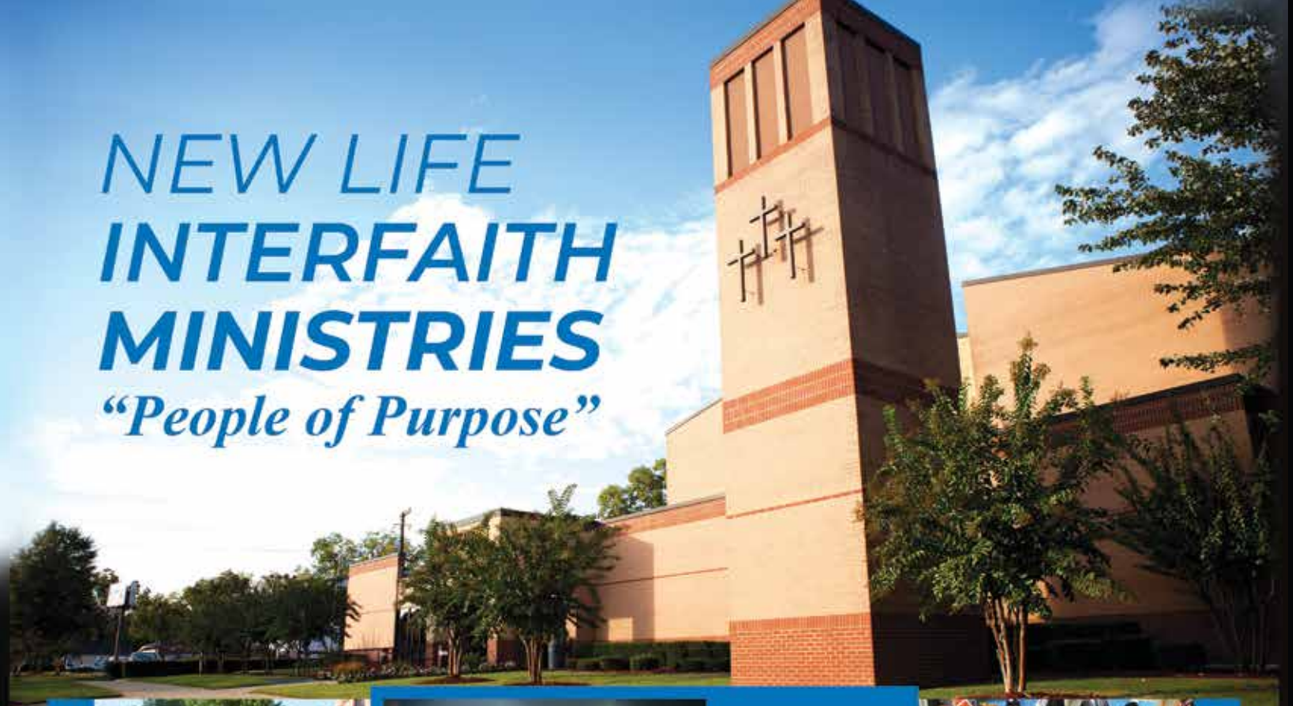

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

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

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J. M. Smucker

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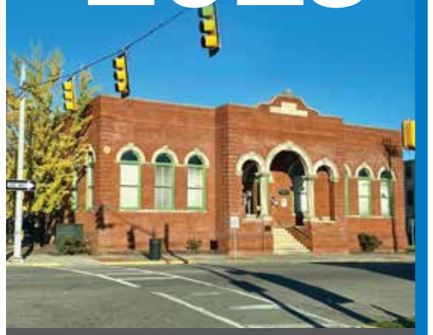
Fountain Life Church

Katie Truss
Legacy YMCA

Devron Veasley
Bessemer Business Incubation System

BESSEMER MAGAZINE 2023



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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.

Cynthia T. Anthony, Ed.D.
2023 Chairwoman of the Board

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

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

UTILITIES
Alabama Power Co. (Business). 888-430-5787
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

THE CITY OF BESSEMER

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

Chester Porter
District 2

Sarah Person
District 3

Ron Marshall
District 5

Carla Jackson
District 6

Cleophus King
District 7

Donna Thigpen
District 4

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

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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

WEST JEFFERSON INTERNAL MEDICINE

Wallace B. Purdy, MD

Graduate of UAB School of Medicine
Board Certified Internal Medicine

Reid S. Christopher, MD

Graduate of UAB School of Medicine
Board Certified Internal Medicine

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BESSEMER

A Place To Call HOME

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 lusters 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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THE SCOTT-VINES HOUSE

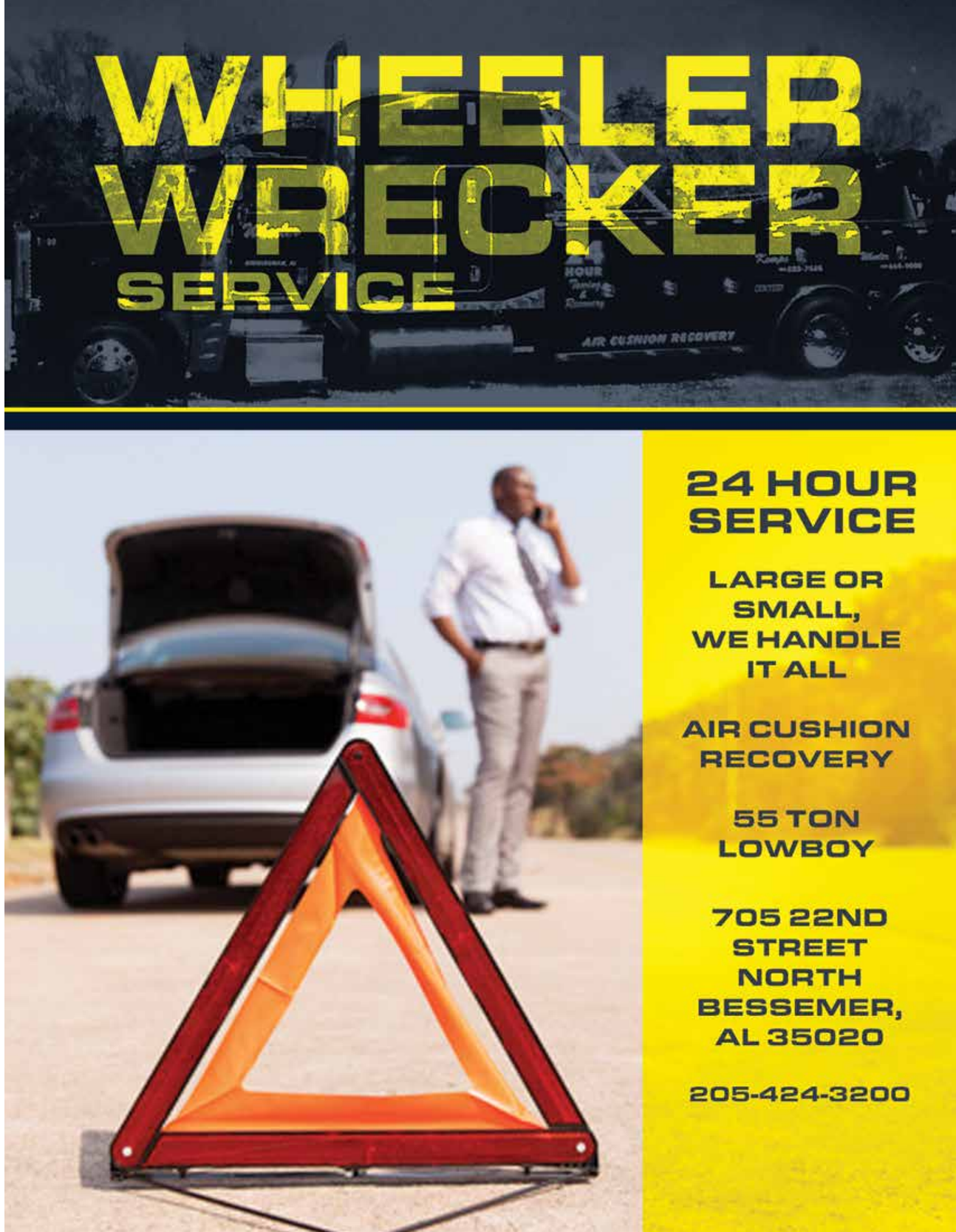
Other areas of our city have historic homes that are even older than the original homes in Lakewood Estates. One of the oldest homes in our city is The Scott-Vines House, also referred to as "the Castle" built by Bessemer attorney Pinkney Scott and completed in 1899. Pinkney represented the coal companies 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.



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 specialist 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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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.

LIVING IN BESSEMER

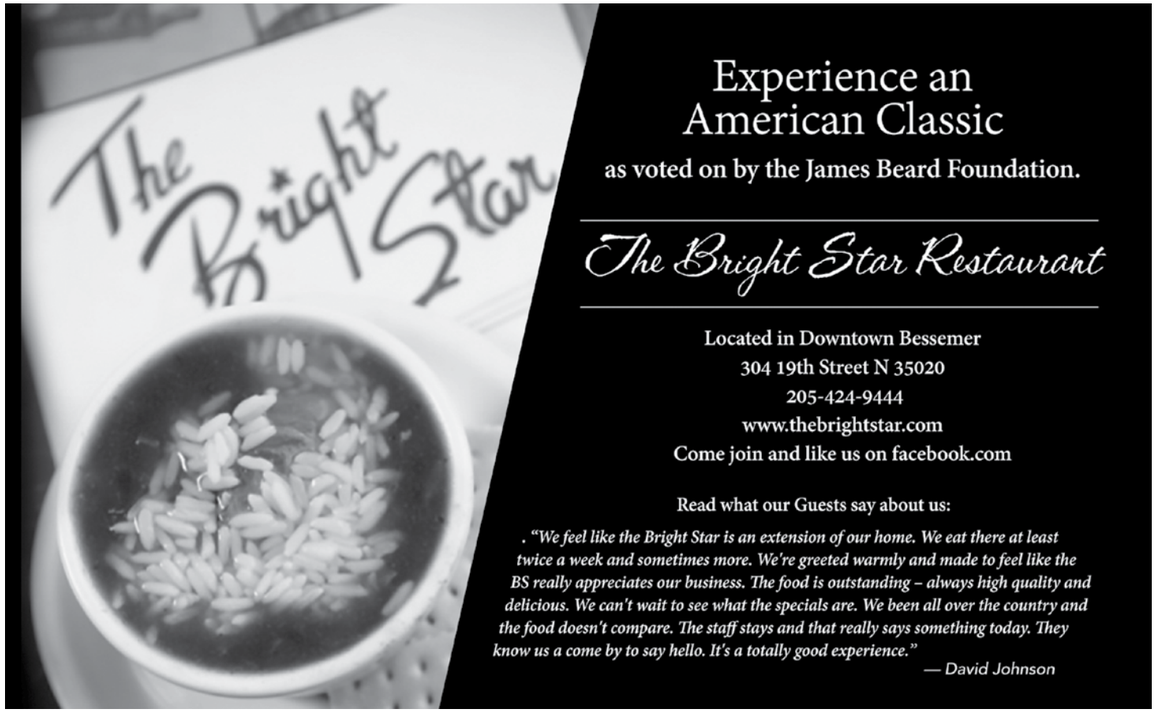
RICHARD HANNA

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 fellowship, 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!"



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

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 that 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

www.marvelcityfcu.com Established in 1959

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 landlord's. 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.**

HOLT Insurance Trusted Choice

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BESSEMER RECREATION

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 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 5k'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. •

SUPERINTENDENT, DR. AUTUMM M. JETER

BESSEMER CITY SCHOOLS
Teaching Effectively, Leading Successfully

Follow us:
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#OneTeamOneDream

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 professional 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 Nation 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

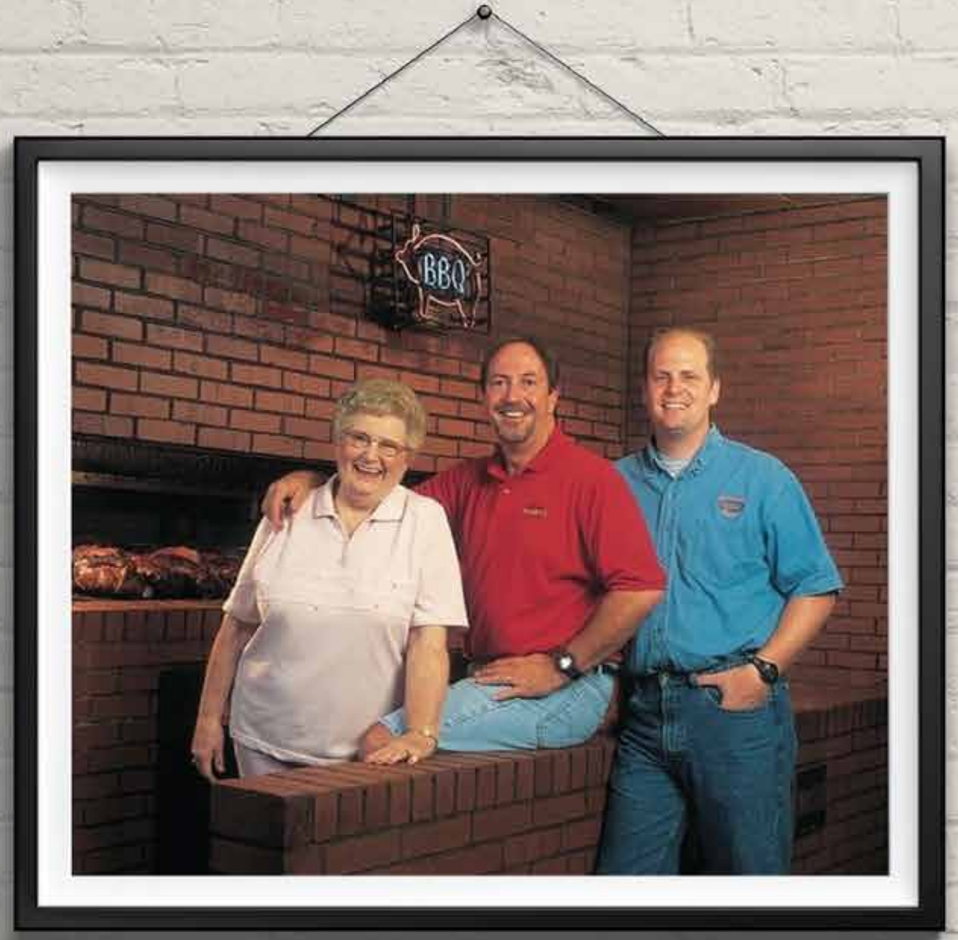
MEDICAL WEST
an affiliate of the UAB HEALTH SYSTEM

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

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.



FROM THE PIT TO THE PLATE

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

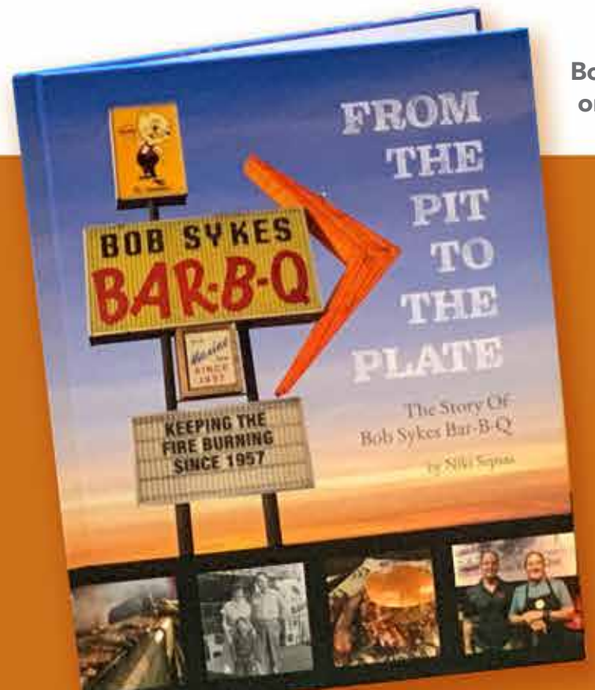
Birmingham, Alabama Bob Sykes Bar B Q Restaurant has been a staple in Birmingham, Alabama for decades and is celebrating its 65th anniversary with a new book called "From the Pit to the Plate" The Story of Bob Sykes Bar B Q is a story told by the Bob Sykes family of how Bob Sykes Bar B Q is much more 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

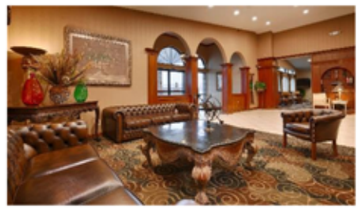
"Our highest calling is in serving the right food in the right way to each and every customer who enters our restaurant."

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

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

DINE IN BESSEMER...

Back Porch Restaurant	1924 First Avenue N, Bessemer	205-760-5035
Bob Sykes Barbecue	1724 9th Avenue N, Bessemer	205-426-1400
Bright Star Restaurant	304 19th 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 18th Street N, Bessemer	205-424-4036
Sonic of Bessemer	732 Academy Drive, Bessemer	205-428-2002
Subway #3122	1518 9th 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

ACCOUNTING
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

AIRPORT
Bessemer Airport Authority
205-424-7234

AMBULANCE SERVICE
Regional Paramedics (RAMS)
205-384-4310

ARCHITECT
BLOX / GA Studio
205-933-9060

ART
The Good Art Company
205-997-8284, 205-283-9520

ASSET BUILDING & MANAGEMENT
Grade A Asset Management
205-920-2018

ATTORNEY
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

AUTOMOBILE [REPAIR / SALES / SERVICE / TOWING / TRUCKS]
Benton Nissan of Bessemer
205-428-6314, 205-979-5420
Chevrolet Bessemer
205-424-4121
First Class Auto Sales
205-747-0895
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

AWARDS / PLAQUES / TROPHIES
American Pride Trophies & Awards
205-744-0421

BAKERY
Dana's Cake Creations
205-540-7839

BANK / FINANCIAL SERVICES
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

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

BASEBALL TEAM
Birmingham Barons
205-988-3200

BEAUTY SALON
Brown Beauty Barber School
205-424-4247
Salon Lisa Brown LLC
205-477-1477

BEVERAGES / SNACKS / COFFEE
Buffalo Rock - Pepsi Company
205-940-9799

BOILER COMPANIES
ADCO Boiler Company
205-428-2326

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS
Bessemer Business Incubation System
205-481-2101, 205-481-2000

CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION
Community First Foundation, Incorporated
205-540-5395, 205-215-2021

CHARTER BUS SERVICE
New Generation Charters
205-424-6928

CHIROPRACTOR
McCalla Chiropractic & Massage
205-477-8305
Premier Chiropractic Center
205-519-4024

CHURCH
Bethel Baptist Church
205-428-8343
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

CHURCH - NON-DENOMINATIONAL
Inheritance Church of Birmingham
360-513-1078

CIVIC CENTER / MEETING FACILITIES
City of Bessemer - Civic Center
205-424-7469

CLUB
Planet Fitness
205-774-6888

COMMERCIAL WASTE REMOVAL / RECYCLING
Moore Coal Company, Inc.
205-424-2705

CONSTRUCTION
Coston General Contractors, Inc.
205-481-1246

COPIERS / PRINTERS
Dex Imaging
205-484-2561

DAYCARE
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

DIGITAL MARKETING
Dotedison
205-260-0756, 205-332-3728

DISTRIBUTION CENTER
Amazon.com Services LLC
205-761-5215

DOCTOR / MEDICAL / PHYSICIANS / HOSPITAL / DENTAL / EYE
ArchWell Health
205-336-1535
Behavior Health Group Bessemer Treatment Center
205-425-1200
Bessemer Family Practice
205-481-8650
Foundry Dental Center
205-434-2031
Luma Dentistry
205-477-4242

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 Gulley
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

Jefferson County
Sheriff's Office - Bessemer
Arlander Stallworth
205-481-8003, 205-422-1508
Jefferson County
Sheriff's Office - Bessemer
Adrian A. Dansby
205-481-4160
Jefferson County
Sheriff's Office - Bessemer
Cleveland Moore
205-481-4210
Jefferson County Tax Assessor -
Bessemer Division
205-481-4125 x 1509
Sherry McClain,
Jefferson County Deputy Treasurer
205-481-4192
Lynneice O. Washington,
Jefferson Co DA, Bessemer
205-497-8610

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

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
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

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 & 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
Bessemer Utilities - Director
205-481-4333
Spire
205-326-8287
Tennessee Valley Authority
256-430-4804, 256-679-6355

VETERINARIAN
McAdory Veterinary Clinic
205-424-7387

WATER TREATMENT FACILITY
Governmental Utility Services Corporation
205-424-4060, 205-747-8035

WELDING SUPPLIES
Advanced Welding Supply
205-481-1880

WELLNESS CENTER
Purely Elevated Health & Wellness
205-585-4834

WHOLESALE [DISTRIBUTION / MANUFACTURER / NURSERY]
McKesson Corporation
205-477-2620

Milo's Tea Company, Inc.
205-424-4284
TotalScape Farms
205-540-4653

WINDOWS & DOORS
Builders Millwork LLC
205-425-0880

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
Alabama Technology Network
205-929-2047

MOORE COAL CO., INC.
MCC
WASTE REMOVAL & RECYCLING
205-424-2705
"Small enough for personal service ~ Large enough to meet your needs"
129 4th Street N.
Bessemer, AL 35020
(205) 424-2705
www.moorecoal.com

WILLIAM E. PARSONS, JR.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT
CPA | Member ASCPA
419 19TH STREET NORTH
BESSEMER, AL 35020
BILLYPA@BELLSOUTH.NET
PHONE (205) 424-1511
FAX (205) 424-6511
CELL (205) 601-1510

BESSEMER ELKS LODGE #721
MIKE THRASHER, TRUSTEE
1313 FOURTH AVENUE N.
BESSEMER, AL 35020
205.424.7301
BPOE721@BHAM.RR.COM

StateFarm
Julie Bell, Agent
1821 13th Avenue North
Bessemer, AL 35020-3246
Bus 205.424.3400 Fax 205.428.0515
www.juliebellagency.com
Visit us on Facebook
Providing Insurance and Financial Services

A. SCOTT ROEBUCK
ATTORNEY
PO BOX 1271
1722 2ND AVE. N.
BESSEMER, AL 35020
(205) 424-4090

Bessemer

AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

2023 MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

1 Family Community Vision Inc.
Roderick Adams
(f) 205-243-7996
1fcvinc@gmail.com
www.1famcv.org

Accentuate Graphix and Designs
Syreeta Mitchell
2100 Southbridge Pkwy Ste 650
Birmingham, AL 35209
205-396-5477
accentuategraphixanddesigns@yahoo.com

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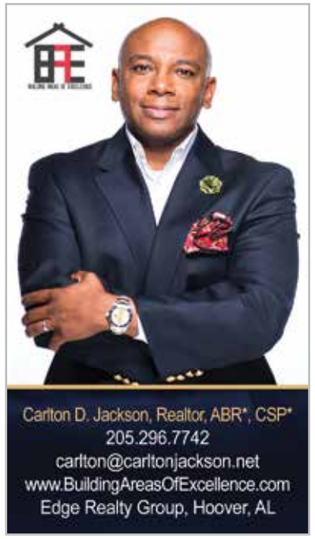

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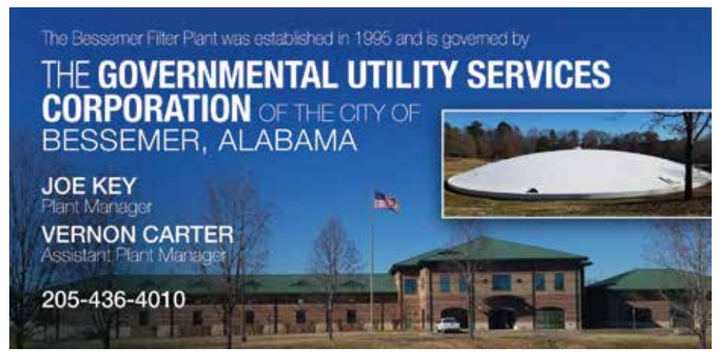

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