

The Chamber Perspectives online

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Fourteen Leaders Elected to Board of Directors

Following review and certification of ballots from the general membership by the Election Committee, seventeen business and civic leaders have been elected to the Board of Directors of The Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama.

Re-elected for their second three-year term were: **Roy Clem**, WVUA-TV, **Robert Kuhn**, Capstone Bank, and **Pam Smith**, The Trailer Store Plus.



Elected to first terms were (pictured L to R): **Alice Maxwell**, Advantage Realty Group; **Greg Leikvold**, BF Goodrich Mfg Company; **Jan Pruitt**, Kentuck; **Norman Crow**, DT & Freight; **Rex Veron**, Ward Scott Veron; and **Mark Crews**, Alabama Power Company. Also, **Bert Sims**, Way Ray Shelton & Company; **Jay Evans**, College Station Properties; **Ralph Ruggs**, Tuscaloosa Housing Authority; **Sam Addy**, UA Center for Business & Economic Research; and **Giovanni Gomez**, Jalapeño's are not pictured.

Directors officially take office on Jan 1, 2011 and will serve three-year terms. They will be presented at The Chamber's annual celebration event on Jan 21, 2011. The Chamber's Board of Directors has a total of 36 directors representing the general membership of the organization.

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Next Mixer Hosted by Capstone/Bryant Conference Center

Our next Chamber Connects mixer will be hosted by Hotel Capstone & Bryant Conference Center on Tues, Nov 9 from 5-7pm. This annual event kicks off the holiday season with decadent food, lavish décor and great networking. This year, as a special treat, there will be ballroom dancing by professionals! Plan now to come and bring a friend. All employees of Chamber member businesses are invited as well as prospective members.



Our October mixer was hosted by Midtown Village, where we enjoyed networking, great food by their restaurants as well as fabulous shopping!

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Register TODAY for Annual State of the Community Breakfast

The 8th annual State of the Community Breakfast will be presented by Ellis Architects and Regions Bank on Tues of next week, Nov 2 at 7:30am at Hotel Capstone in Tuscaloosa. Reports on the progress of our area and status of our local governments will be shared by City of Tuscaloosa Mayor **Walt Maddox**, City of Northport Mayor **Bobby Herndon** and Tuscaloosa County Commission Chairman **Hardy McCollum**. It's appropriate to hear about the progress and challenges of our community on Election Day. Over the past few years, this program has been well-received and informative. A continental breakfast will be provided. There's no cost to attend, but registration is required by calling 758.7588 by the end of the day today, Thurs, Oct 28.

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Get out and VOTE next Tuesday, Nov 3!

A significant sampling of members responded to our recent Election Day poll, just for fun, and indicated they'll vote this way:

1. If the election was held today for Governor of Alabama, I would favor...

Robert Bentley 82.52%

Ron Sparks 12.62%

undecided 4.85%

2. If the election was held today for Lt. Governor of Alabama, I would favor...

Jim Folsom, Jr 50%

Kay Ivey 34.16%

undecided 15.84%

3. If the election was held today for State Senator, I would favor...

Gerald Allen 50.76%

Phil Poole 34.52%

undecided 14.72%

4. If the election was held today for State Representative, I would favor...

Bill Poole 67.50%

Susan Hamill 18.50%

undecided 14%

5. If the election was held today for State Representative, I would favor...

Alan Harper 60.42%

undecided 28.65%

Frank Chandler 10.94%

6. If the referendum was held today in the City of Tuscaloosa to legalize sales of alcoholic beverages on Sunday, I would...

support it 71.84%

oppose it 22.82%

undecided 5.34%

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Civic Hall of Fame Nomination Process Closes Friday

The Tuscaloosa County Civic Hall of Fame will accept nominations for the 2010 class of honorees beginning today and ending on Oct 29 at noon. Coordinated and sponsored by The Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama, nominations can be made by anyone in the Tuscaloosa County community.

"The Civic Hall of Fame is designed to honor exceptional citizens who have made significant, long-term contributions to the overall development of Tuscaloosa County," stated Jerry Belk, Chairman of the Civic Hall of Fame Committee. "We are seeking to honor 'civic giants' that have made an impact on the quality, livability and economic progress of our community. Any organization, business, or individual citizen is encouraged to submit a nomination."

Nominations should be submitted on the official nomination form that is available at The Chamber office, located at 2200 University Boulevard, or online at www.tuscaloosachamber.com. For more info, call The Chamber at 758.7588.

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Deals on Fall Professional Training Offered

The last few classes of the year are as follows. Email tracy@tuscaloosachamber.com or call 391.0554, if interested.

Social Media Marketing Breakfast Series continues on Nov 9 from 7:30-9:30am at JMF in the new Bank of Tuscaloosa Plaza. Cost is only \$20 and a continental breakfast is included. Trainer is Donna Gilliland of MostTraining.

Technology Hands-On Training: Excel Intermediate is Nov 9 from 1-5pm at the Chamber office. Cost is \$69 and seating is limited so act now. Trainer is Donna Gilliland of MostTraining.

Excellent Customer Service Lunch N Learn is Nov 17 from 11am-1pm at Tuscaloosa Country Club. Cost is only \$30, which includes a delicious Southern-style lunch in a great setting. Trainer is Tim Lewis is TALA Professionals.

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Change the First Five Years & You Change Everything...

That was the message at a half-day business summit on early childhood investment on Oct 26 at the Hotel Capstone. Business leaders from across the west and central Alabama region joined together with health care leaders, educators and community leaders for the event.



Early childhood development investments pay positive dividends. More business leaders, economists and policymakers are beginning to understand that this is or should be an economic priority and are recognizing that, if we don't get child development and education right, it'll diminish our potential as a community and as a state with a positive record of growth.

Funded by a grant from the Alabama Partnership for Children, the summit was hosted and sponsored by The Chamber, Tuscaloosa's One

Place, United Way Success By Six, UA College of Human and Environmental Science, the Tuscaloosa City and County Schools and the Business Council of Alabama.

Program included panel discussions and presentations from some of Alabama's leaders in the areas of early childhood development, health care, community engagement and public policy: **Gail Piggott**, Executive Director of the Alabama Partnership for Children; **Billy Canary**, President and CEO of the Business Council of Alabama (pictured); Tuscaloosa Mayor **Walt Maddox**; **Bill Smith**, Chairman & CEO, Royal Cup Coffee and Chairman of the A+ Education Foundation; **Dr John Wheat** of the UA College of Community and Health Science; **Dr James Wiley**, President of the Alabama Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics; **Terri Sewell**, attorney and Democratic nominee for the 7th congressional district; **Annette Waters**, of the Center for Business and Economic Research at the UA, children's advocate **Marian Loftin**, and others.

Luncheon keynote speaker was **Rob Bradham**, Vice President of Public Strategies for the Greater Chattanooga Chamber of Commerce. He serves on the board for the Partnership for America's Economic Success, a group affiliated with the Pew Center on the States, which seeks to engage the business community in advocating for increased investments in quality pre-school programs.

The summit, which was patterned after last year's successful state summit, provided area business leaders and employers the opportunity to join with state and national experts to learn how investments today in children will pay huge dividends in the future for our communities and our state. For more info, visit www.smartstartalabama.org.

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Chamber Delegation Visits DC



The annual Washington Fly In, sponsored by The Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama, once again made an impact, presenting a number of issues, projects and needs to the members of Alabama's congressional delegation on behalf of business and the overall Tuscaloosa County community.

Held Sept 29 and 30, the 27-member team was led by 2010 Chamber Chairman **Claude Edwards**. Among the issues and projects that were put forth on the agenda included: funding for the McWrights Ferry road and the Martin Luther King Blvd/Jack Warner Parkway

extensions; Northport's Downtown East-West Corridor and Mitt Lary Road expansion and other transportation projects; funding for enhancements at the Tuscaloosa Regional Airport and other community projects; as well as a number of legislative policy positions, including The Chamber's policies related to health care reform, regulatory relief, environmental and energy issues.

The Chamber delegation included **Mayor Bobby Herndon** of Northport; **Dr Frank Costanzo**, Superintendent of the Tuscaloosa County Schools; **Dr Mark Heinrich**, President, Shelton State Community College; Tuscaloosa City Council members **Cynthia Almond** and **Bob Lundell**; Chamber President **Johnnie Aycock**; **Terry Waters**, Executive Director Elect of The Chamber; **Lin Moore**, Pritchett-Moore; **Mark Sullivan**, Bank of Tuscaloosa; **Fitzgerald Washington**, Buffalo Rock/Pepsi; **Tim Parker, III**, Parker Towing; **Roy Clem**, WVUA-TV; **Blake Madison**, Tanner & Guin; **Randy Skagen**, **Eric Larmore** and **John Guin**, of Nucor Steel; **Mark Crews** and **Joseph Brown** of Alabama Power; **Bryan Winter**, Lewis, Smyth & Winter; **Bill Poole**, Attorney; **Ron Davis**, Northport City Attorney; **Mike Ellis**, Ellis Architects; **John Fisher**, Attorney; **Jim Harrison III**, Harrison Galleries; **Chuck Turner**, Tennis Jackson Electric; **Ralph Ruggs** and **Willie Fort** of the Tuscaloosa Housing Authority; **Andreas Hackstedt** of ISE; and **Gene Guarisco**, Replays.

The Chamber delegation had a full schedule of meetings with all of the members of the Alabama Congressional delegation and their professional staffs, plus the annual congressional dinner and an appreciation luncheon for staff members. Chamber President Johnnie Aycock emphasized that "our 2010 Fly In to Washington was once again very effective, advocating key business positions on legislative issues, building positive relations with our elected leaders in Washington, and providing support for vital community and economic development projects for our area."

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Chamber Board Calls for Judicial Study Commission

In a unanimous vote of the board of directors, The Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama is calling for and establishing a judicial study commission. The adopted resolution "encourages, recommends and requests that a study commission be formed and implemented in partnership with the appropriate governmental, judicial, law enforcement and business leaders of Tuscaloosa County to study, evaluate and make recommendations concerning:

- Expansion and effective implementation and use of a drug court for Tuscaloosa County.
- Creation and effective implementation of a mental health court for Tuscaloosa County.
- Efforts by local governing bodies to address, fund and create a fifth circuit court judge for Tuscaloosa County are encouraged

and recommended for consideration.

- Evaluation of and recommendations for the community corrections division of Tuscaloosa County.
- Roy Clem, General Manager of WVUA-TV and Chamber Division Vice Chair for Governmental Affairs, was appointed to chair the study commission. Letters outlining the board actions have been sent to appropriate governmental officials.

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Save the Date: Memories & Dreams-A Celebration

Mark your calendars for a special Chamber Annual Meeting event on the evening of Jan 21 entitled Memories & Dreams-A Celebration, which will commemorate the retirement of our fearless leader and president, Johnnie Aycok.

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Celebration Planned for Winning Best Communities Award

Several Tuscaloosa County civic and community leaders traveled to Washington DC in Sept to receive the 100 Best Communities for Young People award. The county was notified of the honor after submitting an application to America's Promise Alliance (the Alliance), which is the nation's largest partnership organization dedicated to youth and children. Tuscaloosa County and the other winners spanning 37 states were recognized at a ceremony in front of the Washington Monument. Each of the winning communities was formally recognized with a designation on a map of the US, illustrating the geographic and demographic diversity of the winning 100 communities.



A celebration has been planned to mark the first win for Tuscaloosa County in this competition. It will take place Sat, Nov 20 from 11am-2pm at the old City Fest lot in downtown Tuscaloosa. This family friendly event will feature a formal presentation at noon along with performances by area schools, dance studios and activities for young children of all ages.

In addition Tuscaloosa County will receive two road signs identifying the city as one of 100 Best, as well as a trophy to be presented to local officials later this year. The 100 Best designation recognizes those communities that make youth a priority by implementing programs that help keep children in school and prepare them for college and the 21st century workforce. The entire 2010 list of 100 Best Communities for Young People and their accomplishments can be

found at www.americaspromise.org/100Best.

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2010 Northport Citizen of the Year Award Winners Announced



The 2010 Northport Citizen of the Year Banquet and awards program was held on the evening of October 5 at Five Points Baptist Church to honor those who have contributed to the betterment of Northport during the last year. Keynote speaker was **Alyce Spruell**, a member of the law firm

of Spruell & Powell, LLC, who was recently named president of the Alabama State Bar—the first woman to head the 132-year-old organization.

June Lambert, a retired teacher, was named 2010 Northport Citizen of the Year. Lambert was honored for her significant contributions in civic, social, religious, and community activities. Her various leadership capacities with Friends of Historic Northport, Shirley Place Advisory Board, Tuscaloosa County Character Council, Northport Baptist Church, and other groups has led to the growth of Northport, making it a better place to live.

The following awards were also given: **Wilford Dee Calhoun**, a history teacher at Collins-Riverside Middle School, was named Educator of the Year; **Clemmie Manley Thomas, Sr** was named Northport Heritage Pioneer of the Year; **Joseph Bell**, Assistant Fire Chief for the City of Northport, was named Public Safety Leader of the Year; **Robert Thomas**, owner of Thomas Cleaners, was named Business Leader of the Year; and **David Tennyson**, Youth Pastor at Northport Church of God, was named Religious Leader of the Year.

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Reservations Open for 2011-2012 Community Profile & Membership Directory



In these challenging times, continued exposure and networking of your business is critical. Advertising in your Chamber publication has great advantages--A national study recently conducted showed "consumers are 63% more likely to buy goods and services in the future from a company that they believe is a member of the local chamber" and "they are 44% more

likely to think favorably about the business". For more info, contact Ginger Nunley at 850.866.3385 or flmaplady@gmail.com.

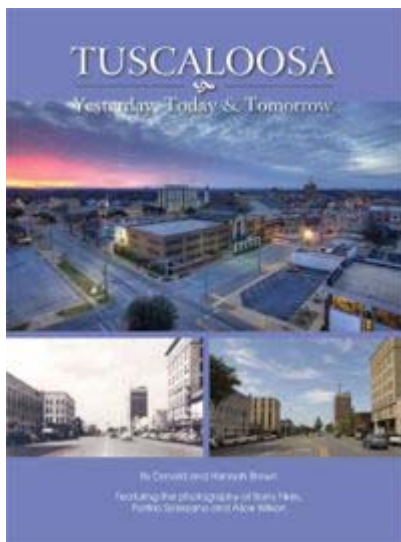
Benefits:

- Designed to promote and network your business to the entire West Alabama region and surrounding communities.
- All advertisers will receive a minimum of 3 FREE Internet hyperlinks to their business web site.
- Publication and all content links to the www.villageprofile.com, which receives over 2 million visits a month with reciprocal link on The Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama website.
- Only advertisers will be accessible 24/7 online via mobile cell phone at www.vpmobile.us.
- NEW for 2011-VP Smartphone App for both iPhone and Droid platforms.
- Very reasonable ad rates with FREE ad copy and design preparation available.
- Dedicated distribution of thousands of copies with all advertisers receiving complimentary publications.

The man who stops advertising to save money is like the man who stopped his clock to save time." Thomas Jefferson

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History Books are Here! Price Break for Members



Tuscaloosa: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow is well worth the wait. Contains historical photos paired with recent ones, showing just how much our community has changed over the years. Beautiful and fascinating, the book makes a great gift! Chamber members may purchase these at the Chamber office for \$39.95 (20% price break), plus tax. Cost to general public is \$49.95. Books will be distributed to local bookstores as well.

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FREE Bryant-Denny Stadium Wallpapers



Member photographer Barry Fikes is sharing great wallpapers of Bryant-Denny stadium

with all of us! [Click here](#) to get them. Prints are available as noted on the link (\$40 for 13x19s or \$60 for 17x22s). Call 553.7165 or email barry@fikespix.com for more info.

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Alston Place Partnership a New Concept



The Alston Place Partnership (APP) hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony for the shared office space on Sept 30th. Address is 601 Greensboro Ave, Ste 700 in Tuscaloosa (across from Shirt Shop). APP is a new concept of leasing office space; it offers a "membership" to use space and facilities. Caters to professionals like attorneys, CPAs, etc.

Good idea for out-of-towners working here for a short time, too. Call 242.7316 for more info.

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Belk Women's Store Revamped



Belk (in University Mall in Tuscaloosa) hosted a Grand Re-Opening event for its Women's Store complete with ribbon cutting ceremony on Oct 13. A crowd wrapped around the corner outside, waiting to see the beautiful renovation and receive gift cards, which were given to the first 200 customers. Belk

spent **\$4.2 million** on remodeling the store interior, plus a major expansion of the ladies shoe department and the addition of new and expanded lines of accessories, jewelry and cosmetics. Other highlights of the Women's Store renovation project include: Addition of a new Belk and Co Fine Jewelers shop and an expanded costume jewelry dept; Addition of Bobbi Brown cosmetics and Coach handbags; New

Estée Lauder, Clinique and Lancôme cosmetics bays and a new open sell area for fragrances and cosmetics treatment lines. Also, MAC cosmetics was moved from the Juniors Shop into the Women's Store, and the intimate apparel department has been relocated to the Belk Men's, Children's and Home store. For more info, call store manager Yvonda Jackson at 554.2400.

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Welcome, New Members!

The following joined since Sept 1.

Anne's Tiques
 The Sherwin-Williams Co
 Award Company of America
 Delectable Delights
 Phone Restore
 Konica Minolta Business Solutions
 Chef-N-Staff
 Edutech
 Gracefully Done
 Rural Metro Ambulance
 Carole & Terry Waters
 Triple Creek Design Studio
 Cruise One
 Hampton Inn & Suites
 National Tax Credit of Birmingham
 Southeastern Spine/Rehab @ Work
 Strategic Management Associates, LLC
 Black Warrior Outdoor
 Carpe Vino

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