

The Valley Weekly

"I am what time, circumstance, history, have made of me, certainly, but I am also, much more than that. So are we all."

- James Baldwin

FREE

Volume 2, No. 49

www.valleyweeklyllc.com

Friday, August 19, 2016

FMBC to Hold 136th Anniversary

Over the years, First Missionary Baptist Church (FMBC) has served at home and abroad as a testament to God's faithfulness. This year marks the 136th year in the church's history and a time to praise God for the journey--past, present and future.

On August 28, 2016, during the 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. worship services, FMBC

will worship together with the theme "Celebrating the Journey: Praising God for His Faithfulness -Yesterday, Today, and Forever."

The guest speaker will be Reverend Dr. Howard-John Wesley, pastor of the Alfred

Street Baptist Church in Alexandria, Va. Pastor Wesley is no stranger to

FMBC and many prayerfully anticipate his delivery

of God's Word at both services.

In continuance of the

celebration this month, FMBC looks forward to fellowship with church family, visitors and friends.

The public is invited to attend this special day. For information, call or e-mail: Courtney Thompson, (256) 655-6738, e-mail: cthom08@gmail.com, or Chasdity Perry, (256) 337-9998, e-mail: perry74.cp@gmail.com.



Local Cancer Organization's Summer Lights Gala Set

The American Cancer Society of Huntsville, Ala., will hold its Summer Lights Celebration on Saturday, August 20, 2016, at 5:30 p.m. at the Von Braun Center.

Whether individuals have recently been diagnosed, or their loved one have faced a cancer diagnosis, it is not easy news to process.

The Summer Lights Celebration Gala will recognize survivors as well as those throughout the Valley and beyond lost all too soon, as we continue the good fight against cancer.

Small Business Awards Event Sold Out

The Huntsville-Madison County Chamber of Commerce will hold its sold out 2016 Small Business Awards Celebration on August 30 from 6-9 p.m.

The activity will be held under the Saturn V at the Davidson Center for Space Exploration and will celebrate

small businesses and individuals that have helped grow and develop Huntsville into a much-loved community.

During the celebration, organizers will pay tribute to the early days of Huntsville with a black-tie

(optional), early-1960's theme.

Businesses and indi-



viduals in the following categories will be honored:

- Brewery of the Year
- Business/Professional Services Business of the Year
- Culinary Business of the Year
- Emerging Business of the Year

•Government Contracting-Business/Professional Service Business of the Year

- Government Contracting-Technology Business of the Year
- Medical Practice of the Year
- Nonprofit of the Year
- Retailer of the Year
- Service Business of the Year

- Technology Business of the Year
- Women-Owned Business of the Year
- Russell G. Brown Executive Leadership
- Young Professional of the Year



JUST MOVIN': Diversity Leadership Colloquium graduate Darryl Jackson, director of student financial aid at Alabama A&M University, is shown one early and rainy mid-August Saturday morning as he prepares for the incoming Class of 2020.

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Nelms Memorial Funeral Home
N. Ala. Center for Educational Excellence
Oakwood University Post Office
Phuket's in Providence
Pine Grove Missionary Baptist Church
Progress Bank - Madison
Progressive Union Missionary Baptist
Regency Retirement Village
Rocket City Barber Shop
Sam and Greg's Pizza
Sav-A-Lot
Sneed's Cleaners
St. Bartley PB Church
St. Luke Christian Church
Starbucks (Governors Drive, N. Parkway at Mastin Lake Road/University Drive)
Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church

The Hamm Consulting Group



Here are the top issues in Washington, D.C., this week:

1. The House and Senate are in recess until September 6.
2. President and Mrs. Obama are on vacation on Martha's Vineyard through Sunday, August 21.
3. Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz joined Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA) at a Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee field hearing in Seattle, WA to testify regarding federal capabilities to respond to energy-related emergencies, including impacts to critical energy infrastructure.
4. Last Thursday, Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Sylvia Burwell notified Congress that it intends to immediately reallocate \$81 million from its accounts to support continued anti-Zika efforts, including mosquito eradication and the development of a vaccine. HHS has already shifted \$347 million from its Ebola funds to fight Zika, while it waits for Congress to approve \$1.1 billion in additional funding. There have been more than 7,300 cases of Zika in the U.S., including 972 pregnant women, according to the Centers for Disease Control.
5. The Education Department released more information on a new pilot program that would let colleges and universities experiment with requiring additional loan counseling beyond what's already mandated by federal law. Department Undersecretary Ted Mitchell said that selected

institutions will help identify the most effective loan counseling practices and provide invaluable insights about how to prepare borrowers to manage and repay their student loans successfully.

6. Also last Thursday, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) issued the final rule establishing its safety oversight program for the nation's public transit systems, mandated in 2012's MAP-21 law ... FTA's Office of Transit Safety and Oversight will host webinars on Tuesday, August 30 from 2-3 p.m. ET and Thursday, September 1, from 3-4 p.m. ET to discuss the new rule.

City Council Meetings



Huntsville City Council Meetings City Council regular meetings are held in the City Council Chambers of the Municipal Building on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. City Council work sessions also held in the City Council Chambers of the Municipal Building on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 6 p.m.

For more information, call (256) 427-5011.

7. 2016 Presidential Watch. Donald Trump is in Youngstown, OH gave a speech at Youngstown State University on how he would defeat ISIS. He held a campaign rally in West Bend, Wis. (north of Milwaukee). Vice President Joe Biden joined Hillary Clinton on the campaign trail in Scranton, Pa. She gave a speech on tax fairness at John Marshall High School in Cleveland, Ohio. She will host a fundraiser in

Provincetown, Mass., with special guest Cher.

8. Last Saturday, when the U.S. won gold in the women's 4x100-meter medley relay event, the team of Kathleen Baker, Lilly King, Dana Vollmer and Simone Manuel earned the U.S. its 1,000th gold medal in Summer Olympics' history, more than double the next highest record holder - the Soviet Union's 473.

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Items for consideration for publication in The Valley Weekly should be submitted at least TWO weeks in advance to above address or by e-mail to info@valleyweeklyllc.com. Items do not necessarily reflect the views of The Valley Weekly, LLC.

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The Valley Weekly

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From the Editor

Ah ... Elections!

On July 26th, the Tennessee Valley Diversity Leadership Colloquium held a Candidates Forum at The Fellowship of Faith Church. The Forum was an opportunity to meet the candidates and hear their platforms for the upcoming municipal election on August 23rd. Thirteen candidates for Mayor, School Board and City Council participated. Informed voters should be knowledgeable about the candidates and the issues. Participating citizens will be able to make decisions without the outside factors and influences of those who have not lived, do not live and have no plan to live in our community. Therefore, as in every aspect of life and business, understanding the local issues, the platforms of each candidate and their relevant experience counts! One of the great things about experienced candidates is that informed citizens know where they stand. So, for those who have served their constituency with understanding and care, experience counts. To the contrary, for those who have served without regard for their constituents, experience really counts. For those who have not served and are self-driven, driven by outside influences or God-directed, your job is to insure that the voters are informed. This is a critical election for the future of our great City!

As with the case of the late Dr. James I. Dawson, he promoted a quality education for all children in Huntsville, "from every" school district. He embraced diversity and established a legacy of fighting for our children, especially for those who felt like they didn't have a voice. We need leaders who are independent of rhetoric and the art of persuasion. Media is important in framing political issues. We are often responsible for what is released to the public and what is left out. Additionally, Political Action Committees are created by individuals and politicians as a way to negotiate favors. Again, be informed.

Based on the information we were able to glean from the Forum, below is a list of candidates who participated in the DLC Forum, along with their platforms:

MAYOR: **Tommy Battle** (Running on a record of new project developments throughout Huntsville and job growth); **Ken Boyd** (Did not attend Forum); and **Jackie Reed** (Watchdog who believes attention to infrastructure and revitalization is preferable or equal to constant growth);

SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 1: **Laurie Bone McCaulley** (Experienced, focused on buildings and capital improvements); **Michelle Watkins** (Student-oriented, focused on parents, teachers and community empowerment); and **Mary L. "Jackie" Sawyer** (Did not participate in Forum).

SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 5: **Pamela Hill** (Children-oriented; increased communication, engagement and respect for children, parents and educators); and **Carlos Mathews** (Leadership through methodical assessment and careful weighing and determining of facts);

CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 1: **Robert Hewlett Jr.**, (Impact through power brokering); **Michelda Johnson** (New strategy for economic development and growth, linking vision with execution); **Devyn S. Keith** (New approaches to issues that engage younger citizens in the process); **Peter Proctor** (Development of thriving arts and culture community); and **Richard Showers, Sr.** (Experienced, servant leader, running on record of new development and jobs working with the Mayor and Council, specifically in north Huntsville).

CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 5: **Jacob Kristopher Anders** (Did not participate); **Thad Clarke** (Did not participate); **Will Culver** (Experienced, innovative, reserved and professional leadership, with record of new developments and jobs in the City and District 5); and **John Meredith** (Improve quality of life, impact through direct action).

So, there you have it. Get out and vote your convictions next Tuesday. This is the only way your voice can be heard and reflected in local decisions. We will see you at the polls next week ...



Dorothy

When you can't find a printed copy of The Valley Weekly around town, follow us on-line at www.valleyweeklyllc.com.

Lakeside UM Highlights Vocalists

**How Sweet the Sound:
Sacred Music in Concert**



Center; and Carnegie Hall. Derrick, after graduating from Lee High School, worked at Red Mountain Theater and Samford

University as a sound and lighting designer. Dr. Houze is experienced in conducting of all types, from instrumental, choral, sacred to the concert hall, for stage and screen.

The program included: Anthem - "Adoration" by F. Borowski; Gospel - "I Don't Feel No Ways Tired" arranged by Jacqueline Hairston; Hymn - "My Tribute" arranged by Andre Crouch; and "Let it Shine! Medley," a newly published arrangement by Byars and KnJoi.

- by Linda Burruss

Samantha "Manna" KnJoi, lyric soprano and Derrick Byars, piano & organ, both Huntsville natives and both graduates of Lee High School, along with Dr. Reginald M. House, guest conductor, and combined area choirs performed Friday, August 12, at Lakeside United Methodist Church. "Manna" has performed at the Tuscia Opera Festival in Viterbo, Italy; Lincoln Center with Opera Ebony of New York; New Jersey Performing Arts



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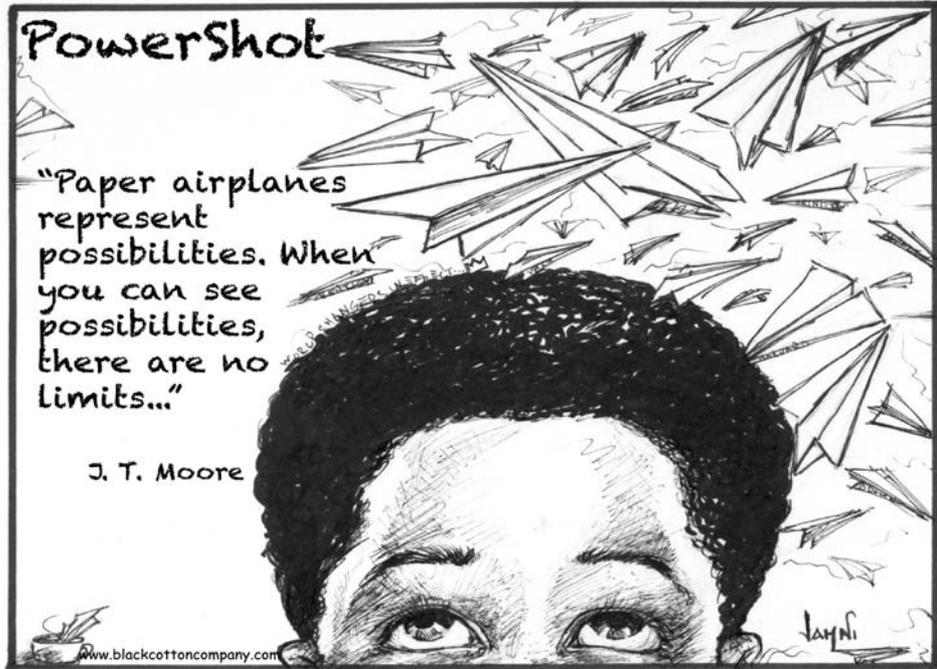
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**DISTRICT 1. IT'S OUR TIME!
VOTE FOR CHANGE ON AUGUST 23RD**



Michelda Johnson is an experienced community leader that has the right vision for north Huntsville. She represents a new leadership of cooperation that will champion the revitalization of north Huntsville. **IT'S OUR TIME.**

ON OUR SIDE



Michelda will fight to bring equality of city services to our neighborhoods and work with leadership to revitalize retail and business development in blighted areas. **IT'S TIME FOR OUR FAIR SHARE.**

FIXING OUR ROADS



Michelda will work to bring funding to resurface our roads not patch them. She will push the expansion of sidewalks, walking paths and bike trails. **IT'S TIME FOR OUR FAIR SHARE.**

PRIDE IN OUR COMMUNITY

Michelda believes our neighborhoods should be safe from crime and drugs. She will work to promote unity and respect with HPD and community. **IT'S TIME WE ARE SAFE IN OUR OWN HOMES.**

ON AUG 23RD VOTE MICHELDA JOHNSON
HUNTSVILLE CITY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 1
WWW.MICHELDAJOHNSON.COM



PAID FOR BY COMMITTEE TO ELECT MICHELDA JOHNSON FOR CITY COUNCIL, DISTRICT 1, P.O. BOX 11414, HUNTSVILLE, AL 35814



On This Day - Friday, August 19 - CHARLES BOLDEN - Astro-
naut, born in Columbia, S.C. A veteran of four space flights, he has
logged over 680 hours in space, and he is the first African American
to head to NASA on a permanent basis - BlackinTime.info



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Breakdown of Best Weight Loss Vegetables

It seems like with every bite of our favorite foods, we get further and further away from weight loss. These top five foods actually help shed off the midsection:

1. Cauliflower. According to experts, it's the fiber in cauliflower that's going to help you trim your

stomach fat. It also is low in calories.

2. Squash. There are two types of squash, summer squash and winter squash. Both offer specific advantages. Summer squash is good for weight loss because it is the lower of the two in calories.

3. Celery. Celery is what is known as a negative

calorie food. It contains less calories in terms of nutrition than it actually takes to digest. It is high in vitamin C, calcium and is best enjoyed raw.

4. Broccoli. When it comes to losing belly fat, non-starchy vegetables are superior to starchy vegetables like potatoes because non-starchy vegetables

have a lower energy density than starchy vegetables. Cooked broccoli has 0.3 calories per gram.

5. Cabbage. Cabbage does help with one crucial thing: bowel movements, getting rid of extra unwanted weight and waste.

Source: *BlackDoctor.org*

Concert to Feature Patti LaBelle

On the packed slate of the Von Braun Center this fall is a November 5 concert featuring longtime versatile vocalist Patti LaBelle.



"An Evening With Patti Labelle" has been scheduled for the Von Braun Center's Mark C. Smith Concert Hall, beginning at 8 p.m.

During spring commencement exercises in May 2007, Patti LaBelle was honored to receive an honorary doctorate from Alabama A&M University for her outstanding music career and civic accomplishments.

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Champion Game Plan for Life

You know, our thoughts and our words are extremely important. And, when we think about something long enough, we will eventually act on it. Where the mind goes, the man (or woman) will follow. Any thought that we have that doesn't agree with God's word is not from God. If we want to overcome evil thoughts, we

have to learn how to replace them with better ones. That's why we need to learn God's word so that we can use them when we are under attack spiritually. You see, the only way God's word can become your thoughts is to meditate on them until they become part of you ... Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters.



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Valley Deaths

- Funeral service for **Mrs. Patrice Harper** (b. 1970) will be announced at a later date.

- Funeral service for **Mr. Willie J. Higgins** (b. 1935) will be announced at a later date.

- Funeral service for **Mr. Sevin Kevin Vereen** (b. 1968) will be announced at a later date.

- Funeral service for **Ms. Ida Mae Drake** (b. 1952) was held Monday, August 15, at First Missionary Baptist Church with Elder Billy Jones officiating.

- Funeral service for **Mr. Paul Hill, Jr.**, (b. 1948) was held Saturday, August 13, at Little Indian Creek Church with Pastor Jerry Crutcher officiating.

- Funeral service for **Mr. Jesse Stewart** (b. 1927) was held Saturday, August 13, at the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with Dr. Theodis Acklin officiating.

- Nelms Memorial Funeral Home

Flipping Without Fear

The Olympics was last week and we were in for a treat! I love watching the gymnastics meet! It may be the cheerleader in me, but I enjoy watching all of the routines and tumbling. I must admit, gymnastics is way more strenuous than cheerleading. Tumbling and floor routines in both sports are not easy. However gymnastics goes a step further with bars and beams. I can do a few backflips, but definitely not on a 4" balance beam. I can't flip on anything other than the floor, so I know it takes another level of skills for those girls to perform these gymnastic routines. When you watch ladies such as Simone Biles, Gabby Douglas, Laurie Hernandez, Madison Kocian, and Aly Raisman who all competed at The Rio 2016 Olympics, you can't help but admire their talents. It takes some serious skills to compete at that level. There is an element of fearlessness that you must have when flipping and making gymnastics moves. I never will forget, when I flipped backwards for the first time, along with someone spotting me by standing there for support, I was told, "There is nothing to fear; it's all in your head." Next thing I knew, I had thrown



my head backwards into a flip. I fell all over the place, but I faced the fear and I was able to get back up and try it again. I kept practicing, and got better and better. All of a sudden, I was doing some of the most difficult tumbling moves!

Just like gymnastics, fearlessness is key when you are striving to be great at something. Fear is a state of mind, often blocking your true abilities, and the day you get over that hump, you've jumped over that first hurdle. Owning a business is like entering the unknown, you don't know if your idea is going to be successful or a failure, which can be fearful. However, you can't let the fear keep you from at least trying. Who knows, after you conquer that fear, you might discover an entrepreneurial skill within yourself worth perfecting.

Photo Cred: Simone Biles, www.chicagotribune.com

All the Best,
by Amoi Savage

A Good Read



by Jerome Saintjones

Lan Samantha Chang's "The Eve of the Spirit Festival"

Another engaging story from massive "Best American Short Stories" series. Told from the point of view of the younger daughter of a Chinese American widower, the story touches on the intricacies of assimilation and how grief can transform itself into misdirected bitterness and anger.

The father is a lab instructor aiming for professorship who, perhaps too late, realizes he will never move up. The older daughter—who he loves, favors and sees a continuation of his wife within—despises her father and what she views as his feeble and embarrassing attempts to belong to those who don't want him. Never able to shake blaming him

for choosing his religion over American medicine to save his wife, the "first daughter" leaves for Berkeley and independence. The overlooked but faithful, younger daughter stays close to her father and attends nearby Columbia.

"Baba" is a caterpillar trying to transform into a bee, against a culture and destiny that are as beautiful on their own terms. The father suffers a massive stroke from which he does not recover. Culture notwithstanding, no man can serve two masters. Worse than being, culturally, a man without a country, the father also becomes a man without a family. If later generations gain anything from the ones that preceded them, perhaps hidden away in that gift is the realization that something has to be given away or sacrificed for the next.

Conservatory Hosts Monthly Jazz Session

The Valley Conservatory will be hosting its' monthly Jazz Jam Session Sunday, August 28, from 5-8 p.m. at the Valley Conservatory studio located 5650 Sander-son St., Ste. B, in Huntsville. The session will feature The Devere Trio and other local jazz artists playing standard jazz tunes and more.

The public is invited to bring their instruments and jam or just come and listen to great music. There is an admission fee of \$5.

The event is sponsored in part by Elite Creations Catering, Total Transformation Training, and Sara Edelman, AdvoCare Independent Distributor. Information at valleyconservatory.com or (256) 534-3131.



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Local Artist Embraces Pokemon

By now, almost everyone is playing Pokémon Go. The ones that aren't seem to be taking advantage of all the buzz it's getting.

Since its release, local bars, restaurants and museums are hosting events that encourage players to congregate at their establishments. Last month, the popular app, Yelp, added a filter that enabled people to find eateries near Poke stops, designated areas that players can visit to catch rare Pokémon and collect special items.

Created by Niantic Labs, Go is the first augmented reality (AR) game for the Pokémon franchise, granting players the ability to catch their favorite pocket monsters in the real world. Fans can now find Pikachu and Squirtles anywhere from their bedroom to the local park.

Peter Lucker, a graffiti artist who goes by the name Float, is one of the many small business owners to use the hype of the game to his advantage. For the past few weeks, he has been hiding small Pokémon-themed pins around areas like Big Spring Park, where people are known to play Go.

Each pin has a business card attached to the back. While the items are free, the intention is to generate future sales and create a name for himself.

Float got the concept from "Free Art Friday", an art-gifting movement in Atlanta, in which artists would scatter their products across the city for fans to find. Clues would be distributed by their respective social media accounts.



While Go might be in its prime, Float said his marketing technique is not just based on the hype. In actuality, he likes to create products that cater to not only his customers, but himself. In the past, the artist has done work to coincide with the Transformers and Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles films, respectively. The same applies to Pokémon.

"I'm a fan of all these things," Float explained. "It's not just jumping on a bandwagon. I am playing Pokémon. I am walking around the city, finding Pokémon. It's not just about what's hot and what's not. It's all about finding a way to market your audience and this is my audience."

With almost half of the pins already distributed,

Float said that he has gained a client or two, and that he plans on releasing more pins in the future. The next batch will have select pins that can be redeemed for custom art work. In the end, the graffiti artist dreams of something bigger and beyond the popular game.

"I would love to make direct sales," Float stated. "I would for someone to come up to me and say 'I found your pin, and I won a commission, but I also want someone a year and a half from now to see me at an art show or comic book convention and be, like 'you're the guy that did the pins. I've enjoyed it and I've followed and you and I even got to find one' and let's see what you're doing these days. That's the idea."

*Story by Reggie Allen
Image courtesy of Float*

Calendar of Events

August 19

Food Truck Street Festival
Sponsor: Jerry Damson
Honda Acura
Downtown Huntsville
Lumberyard Parking Lot
108 Cleveland Avenue
5-9 p.m.

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity
Vegas Night
Von Braun Center East Hall
(\$30 advance; \$40)
Contacts: Rick Suttle, (256) 655-6709, or Gerald Vines at (256) 682-1071

August 19-21

Saved in the City Conference
Free General Admission
Von Braun Center
www.savedinthecityconference.com

August 23

Municipal Elections

August 25

Deadline to Register for

Diversity Leadership Colloquium
(Class VI)
Contact: info@diversity-leadershipcolloquium.com or (256) 536-9717

August 28

Valley Conservatory Jam Session
5-8 p.m.

September 6

Fall Diversity Leadership Colloquium Begins

September 10

North Alabama Health and Wellness Fair

September 11-December 11

Exhibition
"Contemporary Art & Superhero Action"
Huntsville Museum of Art

September 16

Food Truck Street Festival
Sponsor: Jerry Damson
Honda Acura

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Councilman Richard D. Showers, Sr.

Working for You in District 1

As we approach another election date, it is with pleasure that I thank you for your loyal support of me as your district representative and voice on the city council. As many of you know, it has not been easy to accomplish all that we have achieved thus far: from job creation and economic development, to educational enhancements, public safety, facility upgrades, roads and a myriad of other areas.

Yet--by God's grace and your support--together, we have been able to accomplish many life-changing goals. Thousands of good-paying jobs have been provided for the citizens of District One. These include opportunities within The City of Huntsville, Huntsville Utilities, Toyota, Remington, Polaris, Redstone Arsenal, NASA, Wal-Mart and many other corporations and businesses that have launched in our great city and district.

In particular, District One has seen phenomenal growth in economic development since you first elected me as your representative. Among the numerous new businesses in our district are the following: The Toyota Corporation, Wal-Mart Super Center, Wal-Mart Neighborhood Store, Staples, Costco, RFCU, Wells Fargo Bank, BB&T Bank, Walgreens, CVS, Lowes, Home Depot, Gander Mountain, At Home, Dollar Tree, Big Lots, Farmers Furniture, Tractor Supply, Citi-Trends, O'Reilly's Auto Parts, Advance Auto Parts, AutoZone Auto Parts, Firestone, Express Oil & Lube (#1, #2 and #3), and Cato Fashions, to name a few.

Many restaurants have also added flare to our district including: Starbucks (#1 and #2), Dunkin Donuts, Burger King, McDonald's (#1 and #2), Dairy Queen, Popeye's, Joe Mug's, Pizza Hut, Chow King Restaurant, Bojangles, Wendy's, Captain D's, Long John Silver, Sonics, Applebee's, Royal Rose Restaurant, Zaxby's and Five Guys.

Surely, we cannot forget our local businesses and attractions, such as: Premier Dental, Inspiring Smiles Dental, Across the Pond Nursery, Madison Wholesale and Strip Mall, \$1.2 million in upgrades to The Dr. Richard Showers Recreation Center, The Palladium Event Center, Reliable Towing and Automotive, Robin Rents Equipment Rentals and Sales, North Huntsville Fire Station, North Huntsville Police Precinct, Double Bubble Car Wash, Woody Anderson Ford expansion, J.D Byrider Automotive Center, and support of Alabama A&M University football, the Louis Crews Classic and Stadium, as well as many other large, medium and small businesses.

As we continue growing, we look forward to the establishment of: a Kroger Superstore at the Oakwood location, the founding and completion of a hotel on North Parkway, the completion of the Mastin Lake overpass, the completion of the Northern Bypass, the establishment of new businesses in the Northwest Industrial Park, the naming of a street in honor of Dr. Joseph Lowery, the completion and opening of the renovated Council High School (a \$2 million commitment), the continuance of street repaving in District One, the establishment and enhancement of new and existing parks, and \$2 million already committed for North Huntsville Public Library.

As I continue to work hard to enhance the quality of life for our great city, it is my commitment to you, the citizens of District One, to make sure that we continue to receive our fair share of investments that this city makes toward the current and future growth of Huntsville. I am your "voice", and you have a seat at the table as long as I am your councilman. I am eager to continue to be your servant as I ask for your vote again on August 23, 2016.



- Councilman Richard Showers, Sr.