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grow larger every year.

The same sense of community occurs mid-summer on the 4th of July when downtown Homewood takes on the feel of a large front porch, as hundreds take in the fantastic view of fireworks atop Red Mountain.

One Homewood business plays a large part in organizing the Mercedes Marathon. The route winds through our streets, with many of our residents participating.

One new popular events was the "Mustang Cruise In" held in August where car enthusiasts from across the country displayed their cars and answered questions from a large group of admirers.

Organizations Bind Us Together

Homewood has many numerous organizations that serve to improve our city. Our Scouting Troops continue to develop creative projects to improve and enhance our environment. Our churches are a part of our everyday lives, keeping us grounded in our beliefs within this community.

Our nationally recognized Police Department is active within our community, maintaining a high level of involvement with the residents of Homewood. The Citizen's Police Academy, along with its Alumni Association, offer citizens the opportunity to interact with Homewood police staff while learning about law enforcement. Assisting the Police Department in community activities is a strong part of this association, as witnessed in our innagural 911 Remembrance Ceremony this past September. We are home to the Lakeshore Foundation, which is now one of only four Olympic and Paralympic

training facilities in the United States.

Our Homewood Chamber of Commerce continues to expand its membership by providing business related networking and social events. Monthly membership luncheons, coffee & contacts and after-hour gatherings are well attended as are special events such as "Yo-Yo Day," our first attempt at obtaining Guinness Book of World Record status. The Chamber also launched the Homewood Gift Card in its continued effort to promote "Shop Homewood First."

The Exceptional Foundation continues to serve Homewood by meeting the social and recreational needs of mentally and/or physically challenged individuals. This past year marked the completion of a major addition to their current facility to meet a growing demand for their services.

The Assistance League continues to grow and remains actively involved in its "Operation School Bell," an effort that provides new clothing, shoes and personal grooming products to children from families in extreme need.

In closing, I maintain that the City of Homewood is in an excellent state. Its residents, business community, and employees share a sense of pride for the city and its accomplishments. It is evident that this sense of community does not come from brick and mortar, but from the hearts and minds of the people who live and work in Homewood.

Our School Board Earns an A+

The Homewood Chamber of Commerce joins the Homewood City Schools in recognizing school board members who dedicate their time to oversee that the school system remains focused on raising academic achievements and ensuring our schools "empower every student to reach his or her unique potential." The City of Homewood is fortunate to have five individuals who are committed to serve the community and uphold the mission of the school system.

Please join the Homewood Chamber of Commerce in saying "thank you" to our school board members: R. Scott Williams, Bruce Limbaugh, Patti Atkinson, Loretta Jackson, and Dr. Jim Williams.

Each of our school board members is appointed by the Homewood City Council to serve on the board for a term of five years. R. Scott Williams was selected to the Homewood School Board in 2003 and serves as the board's president this year. Limbaugh, previous board president, was chosen to serve as this year's vice president, and he joined the board in 2002. Atkinson joined the board in 2004, and Dr. Jim Williams started his term in 2005. The board's newest member, Loretta Jackson, began her term in 2006.

School board members for the most part are laymen, not educators. Their main role is to give the community a voice in the oversight of the school system. Since the schools are known for their commitment to excellence and exceptional student learning, the school board members must be leaders who reflect our community's values on education.



Front row left to right: Dr. Jodi Newton, R. Scott Williams
Back row left to right: Bruce Limbaugh, Patti Atkinson, Loretta Jackson, Dr. Jim Williams

There is no community with a higher level of expectation for its schools than Homewood, and the community is highly involved in the schools. The school board members work to ensure that our schools will continue to grow in excellence. Homewood is fortunate to have a school board that represents the community's high standards.

The board members provide direction through strategic planning and policy setting. They set high standards, provide optimal learning environments for teachers and students, review and support staffing to meet students' needs, set budgets to give teachers resources, and overall act as the voice of our community.

Throughout January, communities celebrated Alabama's 14th annual School Board Member Recognition Month to acknowledge board members for their dedication and energy put into the schools. Their contribution is a year-round commitment, and deep appreciation is extended to them always.

Thanks, Homewood School Board, for a job well done!

The City of Homewood

Mayor:

Barry R. McCulley

City Council:

President
Ginger Busby

Ward I/Place 1
Anthony R. Smith

Ward I/Place 2
Thomas Hamner, Jr.

Ward II/Place 1
Allyn Krall

Ward II/Place 2
Joe Falconer

Ward III/Place 1
J.J. Bischoff

Ward III/Place 2
Scott McBrayer

Ward IV/Place 1
Sam Brasseale

Ward IV/Place 2
David Hooks

Ward V/Place 1
Jackie Langlow

Ward V/Place 2
Allan Trippe

City Clerk:

Linda J. Cook

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Homewood Chamber of Commerce

Executive Committee:

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Rilla Foley

Executive Vice President
Jason Nabors

Treasurer
Adam Stoffregen

Secretary
Wayne Thomason

VP Governmental Affairs
Paul DeMarco

Immediate Past President
Susan Moon

Board of Directors:

Jim Ford
Ben Franklin
John Krontiras
Dr. Jodi Newton
Phillip Poole
Meg Roebuck
Dee Tipps
Trey Whitt

Chamber Staff:

Executive Director
Lori Leonard

Volunteer
Margaret McCain

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