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New Face, Same Great Client Service: Martinson & Beason Gets A Facelift



Martinson & Beason recently underwent a “facelift” to help update our offices and give it a fresh new look. A new look was not the only motivating force behind the changes. The team at Martinson &

Beason wanted to better serve their clients with new technology in their two new conference rooms equipped with teleconferencing capabilities and presentations. In addition, they totally renovated the restrooms, lobby and painted throughout the entire office. Clients will now also be greeted by a new sign bearing the new Martinson & Beason logo.



M&B is a full service law firm that has attorneys who specialize in the following areas:

- Serious Personal Injury
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trick or
treaters from
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Church of
Huntsville**



**Doug Martinson
on the Huntsville
Library Board**

Our own Doug Martinson was appointed to the Huntsville Madison County Library Board over two years ago and is currently serving as Vice Chairman of the Board.. The Board oversees the 12 branch library in Madison County.

Redstone Federal Credit Union recently donated \$2.5m to do build libraries in South Huntsville, North Huntsville and Madison. The local libraries have the highest circula on in Alabama and the highest per capita number of library cards in the state.

To learn more about these future plans visit the Huntsville Madison County Public Library website at www.hmcpl.org.

Aging and Driving

Driving a vehicle in the United States is directly correlated to an individual’s freedom and independence. For most people the convenience of driving a vehicle is a part of what connects us with the rest of our communities. It allows for us to move around freely as a means for social interaction, appointments, runs to the grocery store as well as getting to and from work. Yet, as our population continues to age more and more senior drivers are on the road. When drivers increase in age they become more susceptible to injury and being involved in a motor vehicle accident. Where do we draw the line to allow seniors to maintain their independence while keeping our loved ones safe from harm?

Time has its way of catching up with all of us affecting us both mentally and physically ultimately putting older drivers at a greater risk of harming themselves and/or others. In order to be an effective and safe driver your physical skills have to be in check. One’s vision, hearing, reaction time, and even strength and flexibility are at risk of dissipating with age. For instance, drivers over the age of 60 have more difficulty perceiving depth and speed because they require 10 times the light to see as a 19 year old; and 90% of older drivers who fail high speed reaction test pass these test if these test when the speed is reduced by 10 mph. Mental changes are also apart of aging and senior drivers are at higher risk of delays in processing time, judgment, and concentration. Multitasking diminishes with age causing senior to draw away their focus from driving and onto less important tasks.

However, this is not to say that there are not other driving age groups that are at risk of being an unsafe driver, but it is important to recognize that age does increase the likelihood of being in a motor accident by 17 times. Everyone reaches the point where driving is no longer safe for yourself and for others on the road. Some safety tips are to

ride with the senior and see if they are having any issues, ask their doctor if they are ok to drive, make sure the seat and mirrors in the car adjusted properly, and to drive in the daytime and non-peak hours. Alternatives to driving include using public transportation, car pools, or ride sharing companies such as local cab companies, Uber and Lyft. Driving retirement comes for all of us and the best way to be prepared is to plan ahead with convenient alternatives to driving.



**Martinson and Beason, PC
has partnered with the
Land Trust of North Alabama, Inc.**

to provide a one year Land Trust membership for any closing held at our office. You can check out the Land Trust at: www.landtrustnal.org

The Land Trust of North Alabama, formed in 1987, is a nationally accredited land trust with land preservation, stewardship, environmental education, and outreach as its mission. Located in Huntsville, Alabama, they are the state’s oldest land trust and are dedicated to preserving land, water, and wildlife habitat for recreation, health, education, and conservation – including protection of endangered species. The Land Trust currently owns and manages close to 6,200 acres of preserved land in five counties within their ten-county service area. In addition to providing areas for environmental protection and research, the nature preserves offer over 60 miles of public trails and recreation opportunities for residents and visitors alike. Land Trust trails, open from dawn until dusk, are free to the public to enjoy via hiking, biking, birdwatching, horseback riding, and picnicking.



GUIDE TO CAR SAFETY FEATURES

The most important thing you can do to protect your life is to buckle your seatbelt. Safety belts save lives on their own and many of the more advanced safety features, such as forward-collision warning and automatic emergency braking can help you avoid accidents.

Don't overlook safety features when comparing different models. Antilock brakes and electronic stability control, for instance, are very desirable. Here's a rundown of some basic safety gear.

AIRBAGS

Front airbags have been standard on all new cars since 1998 and light trucks since 1999. Most vehicles had them even before then. Crash sensors connected to an onboard computer detect a frontal collision and trigger the bags.

ANTILOCK BRAKES (ABS)

Before antilock brakes came along, it was all too easy to lock up the wheels (stop them from turning) during hard braking. Sliding the front tires makes it impossible to steer, particularly on slippery surfaces. ABS prevents this from happening by using sensors at each wheel and a computer that maximizes braking action at each individual wheel to prevent lock-up. ABS allows the driver to retain steering control while braking, so that the car can be maneuvered around an obstacle, if necessary.

ELECTRONIC STABILITY CONTROL

Electronic stability control (ESC) takes traction control a step further. This system helps keep the vehicle on its intended path during a turn, to avoid sliding or skidding. If the car drifts outside the driver's intended path, the stability-control system momentarily brakes one or more wheels and, depending on the system, reduces engine power to pull the car back on course.

ESC is especially helpful with tall, top-heavy vehicles like sport-utilities and pickups, where it can also help keep the vehicle out of situations where it could roll over.

BRAKE ASSIST

Brake assist detects when a driver initiates a panic stop (as opposed to ordinary gradual stops) and applies the brakes to maximum force. In conjunction with anti-lock brakes, the system enables threshold braking without locking up the wheels.

FORWARD-COLLISION WARNING (FCW)

Forward-collision warning uses cameras, radar or laser (or some combination thereof) to scan for cars ahead and alert the driver if they are approaching a vehicle in their lane too fast and a crash is imminent. Most systems alert the driver with some sort of visual and or audible signal to a potential crash, allowing time for you to react.

AUTOMATIC EMERGENCY BRAKING (AEB)

These systems add to the benefits of forward-collision warning. AEB will sense a potential collision and if you don't react in time, the car will initiate automatic braking.

BLIND-SPOT WARNING (BSW)

Using radar or cameras, this system illuminates a light or icon in or adjacent to the outside mirrors to warn that another vehicle is lurking in the lane beside, possibly hidden in your car's blind spot.

REAR CROSS-TRAFFIC ALERT

These systems sense traffic that may cross your path as you reverse, which can be helpful when you are backing out of a parking space or driveway.

LANE-DEPARTURE WARNING (LDW)

This alerts you if you steer your car out of its lane without the turn signals activated. Using a camera or lasers to monitor lane markers, the LDW may sound a chime, blink a dashboard telltale, and/or vibrate the steering wheel or seat.

LANE-KEEPING ASSIST (LKA)

In addition to sensing when you leave your lane, this technology will introduce a mild steering input to put you back into your lane.

BACKUP CAMERA

This camera-based assistance system is activated when the vehicle is placed in reverse. Mostly used as a parking aid by providing a bumper-level view, a backup camera can also assist with spotting a child or pedestrian concealed in the blind zone immediately behind the vehicle.

PARKING ASSIST SYSTEMS

These are sensors embedded in the front, rear, or both bumpers that alert you—at parking speeds—that light poles, walls, shrubbery and other obstacles are getting close.

AUTOMATIC HIGH BEAMS

This function automatically switches from low to high beam and back again, for improved nighttime visibility as conditions warrant.

TELEMATICS

Combining cellular telephone and Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) technology, several major automakers are offering an automated service that provides a high level of security and convenience. These systems allow the driver to communicate with a central dispatch center at the touch of a button.



Client's Bill of Rights

Lawyers will tell you that it is impossible to offer a guarantee in the legal business. **WRONG!** We say that law firm clients should settle for nothing less! Remember, your attorney works for you – not the other way around.

At Martinson & Beason we believe we can promise our clients quality service with personal attention. We believe that as our client you are entitled to have the:

1. Right to loyalty to you and your cause.
2. Right to be updated regularly and in a timely manner as to the progress of your case.
3. Right to our respect.
4. Right to expect competence from our firm and all who work here.
5. Right to know the truth about your case.
6. Right to prompt attention from us.
7. Right to have your legal rights and options explained in plain English without legal mumbo jumbo.
8. Right to a fair written fee agreement with our firm.
9. Right to a fair fee for the work we do.
10. Right to make the ultimate decision on your case.



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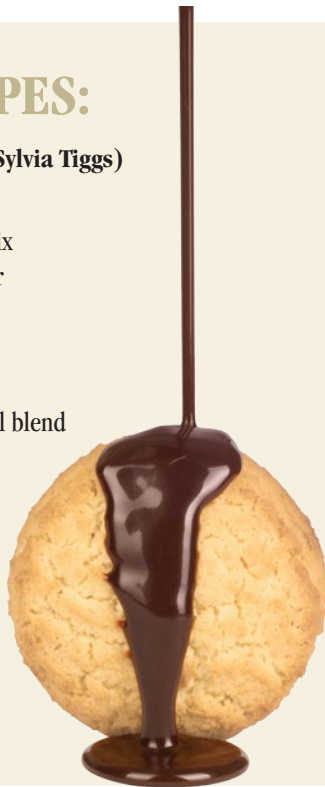
EASY SUGAR COOKIES (Sylvia Tiggs)

Ingredients:

- 1 box Duncan Hines yellow cake mix
- 1 stick of (soften not melted) butter
- 1 egg
- 1 tsp. of vanilla extract

Directions:

1. Preheat oven at 400. In a large bowl blend all ingredients
2. Use a spoon to drop cookie dough onto ungreased cookie sheet.
3. Bake for 8-12 minutes until light to golden brown.
4. Let cookies cool for 2 minutes before removing from the pan.
5. (yummy plain or decorated)



FAVORITE PASTA SALAD (Janet Matthews)

Ingredients:

- 16 ounces penne or rotini whole wheat or multi-grain pasta
- Assorted vegetables as desired: chopped white onions, red onion, diced red, yellow, orange and green bell peppers, sliced black olives;
- 8 ounces zesty Italian salad dressing;
- 3-4 ounces of pepperoni slices quartered or pepperoni minis;
- 1/4 cup McCormick® Perfect Pinch® Salad Supreme Seasoning.

Directions:

1. Cook pasta as directed on package. Rinse under cold water; drain well.
2. Place pasta and vegetables in large bowl. Add dressing and Seasoning; toss gently to coat. Cover.
3. Refrigerate at least 4 hours or until ready to serve. Toss before serving and add additional salad dressing as desired.
4. Shredded parmesan cheese is a great add on when serving.
5. Keeps very well refrigerated in a sealed container and easy to divide or multiple recipe as needed.

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BBB Rating: A+



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