

C H A M B E R

CONNECTIONS

WHAT'S INSIDE

July 2015

Creating Successful Leaders For Our Community

Foundation Holds Leadership Graduations

The Dothan Area Chamber Foundation recently held graduation ceremonies for the organization's Leadership Dothan and Youth Leadership Dothan-Houston County programs. Each class had over 30 graduates this year that are ready to head out into the community to serve as leaders.

A successful education and strong leadership base are essential to the economic vitality and quality of life in

The Leadership Dothan Class XXXIII had 34 total graduates and held its graduation ceremony Thursday, June 4, at the Dothan Country Club. The evening event included Blake Daughtry, from The Daughtry Group, providing course highlights followed by a great PowerPoint presentation created by Wiregrass Technologies, LLC filled with pictures from throughout the year. Closing remarks were provided by Lori Lewis, Leadership Dothan Steering Committee chair.

As part of the programs, both classes are required to complete a community-based project or fundraising effort to help improve their community. For their service project, Youth Leadership chose to do volunteer work for Wiregrass Habitat for Humanity.

Leadership Dothan had two projects. The first was to sell tickets for JonJam 2015 and help with setup and work the event. The proceeds from JonJam help fund the R.E.A.L. Project (Refurbished Equipment Assisting Lives), which is a central place for people to bring any used medical equipment for people with disabilities



The graduation banquet for Youth Leadership Dothan-Houston County Class XXIII was recently held at Wiregrass Rehabilitation Center Inc.'s Sterling Events Services Rotary Hall. The class had 44 graduates.

every community, and these programs serve as important leadership resources. These two annual programs help to raise a participant's awareness of the local issues and increase their understanding of different perspectives, while at the same time encouraging them to become involved in solving the challenges facing their community.

The Youth Leadership Dothan-Houston County program is a seven-month training program that prepares high school juniors for leadership, involvement and participation in the future of the Wiregrass region.

The program's goal is to interest students in civic and volunteer activities, encourage them to recognize their potential and assist them in identifying their special skills and talents.

Youth Leadership Dothan-Houston County Class XXIII had 44 high school juniors from 12 area schools in Houston County graduate. The ceremony took place at Wiregrass Rehabilitation Center Inc.'s Sterling Events Services Rotary Hall Wednesday, May 13. Jeff Coleman, Coleman Worldwide Moving and past-chairman of the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce, served as the guest speaker.

During the ceremony, Katherine Carothers, a junior at Providence Christian School, provided attendees with a wonderful overview of the year's highlights from visiting the local area hospitals during Health Care Day, to visiting the Dothan Police and Fire departments during Public Safety Day.



Leadership Dothan Class XXXIII held its graduation ceremony at the Dothan Country Club. The class had 34 graduates.

of all ages. The equipment is then refurbished and the items are loaned out on a first come, first serve basis which ultimately improves their quality of life and helps them live more independent lives.

The second project was focused on raising funds to help purchase resources and therapeutic equipment for Kelly Springs Elementary School's Autism classroom. The class, along with the Jon Lee Foundation, was able to donate a total of \$2,925.

Both the Youth Leadership and Leadership Dothan classes can be proud of the work and all they accomplished during their year. These classes learned the importance of working together as a team in order to be great leaders.

Plans are currently being put in place for the 2015-2016 programs. If you would like more information about future classes, contact Linda Kelley, program coordinator and director of community development, at (334) 792-5138 or lkelly@dothan.com.

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Quote of the Month

“Lead and inspire people. Don't try to manage and manipulate people. Inventories can be managed but people must be led.”

— Ross Perot

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Dothan, AL 36303
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Tower Loan of Dothan

Brad Strazi
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P.O. Box 8215
Dothan, AL 36304
Ph: (601) 896-8523
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Justin April
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25-29 Years

American Advertising
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Brian-Holloway Floorcoverings
Inc.
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Weatherford, LLP
First Baptist Church
The Chimney Sweeps, LLC
Town of Columbia

20-24 Years

Antique Attic
Avadian Credit Union
Dothan Area Convention and
Visitors Bureau
Dr. Steven H. Stokes
Pioneer Telephone Directories
Corp.
Ward-Bell Communications Inc.

15-19 Years

American Classifieds
BLP Mobile Paints
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HEALTHSOUTH
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The Dothan Service League
The House of Ruth Inc.
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Wiregrass Children's Home
Wiregrass Habitat for Humanity
Inc.
Wiregrass Human Resource
Management

10-14 Years

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Container Service Corp.
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Village Furniture Galleries
Wiregrass Courier, LLC

5-9 Years

Barlovento, LLC
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Whatley Darty Real Estate

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Glover Funeral Home Inc.
Gulf Coast Dermatology
Lafayette Automotive of Dothan
Playmaker Embroidery, LLC
Premier Entertainment Group,
LLC
Service Management Systems
Superior Income Group, LLC



Thank you!

*Your membership is an investment in
the future of your business and the economic
progress of the Wiregrass area.*



Events *July* Calendar

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

- 2** ▶ **Ribbon Cutting: Tower Loan of Dothan – 10:30 a.m.**
Location: 3123 Ross Clark Circle, Suite 2
- 3** ▶ **Independence Day Holiday – Chamber Closed**
- 7** ▶ **Ambassador and Diplomat Committee Meeting – 9 a.m.**
Location: 102 Jamestown Blvd. (Chamber)
- Ribbon Cutting: Dothan-Houston County Rotary Club – 1 p.m.**
Location: 200 S. Cherokee St. (Dothan Country Club)
- 9** ▶ **Seminar: Social Media Boot Camp – 8:30 a.m.**
Location: 102 Jamestown Blvd. (Chamber)
*Pre-registration required (334) 792-5138. See page 10 for more information.
- 13** ▶ **Ribbon Cutting: Tedaka Hill's Salon Studio – 2 p.m.**
Location: 3246 Montgomery Highway, Suite 200
- 14** ▶ **Troy University Small Business Counseling – 9 a.m. to noon**
Location: 102 Jamestown Blvd. (Chamber)
*Pre-registration required (334) 792-5138.
- Ribbon Cutting: Wiregrass Local – 10:30 a.m.**
Location: 102 Jamestown Blvd. (Chamber)
- Dothan Area Young Professionals' Business Brews – 5:15 p.m.**
Location: 1481 Westgate Parkway, Suite 1 (The Cellar)
- 15** ▶ **Board of Directors' Meeting – 8:15 a.m.**
Location: 700 Columbia Highway (Swedish Match Cigars Inc)
- 16** ▶ **Ribbon Cutting: New Leaders in Fertility and Endocrinology -10:30 a.m.**
Location: 108 Medical Drive
- 23** ▶ **Seminar: Time Management – 8:30 a.m.**
Location: 102 Jamestown Blvd. (Chamber)
*Pre-registration required (334) 792-5138. See page 10 for more information.
- Ribbon Cutting: McPherson Oil Products – 4 p.m.**
Location: 1230 Headland Ave.

Save The Date! General Membership Luncheon

Wiregrass Church • Aug. 25, 2015, noon



Rep. Martha Roby

Rep. Martha Roby will be the guest speaker at the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce's General Membership Luncheon scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 25, at 11:30 a.m. at Wiregrass Church.

Tickets are \$15 for Chamber members or \$150 for a reserved table (seats eight). Reservations are required by Thursday, Aug. 20, at noon and may be made by calling (334) 792-5138.

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Ambassadors & Diplomats Team Of The Month

Excellence In Action



Congratulations to the Ambassador and Diplomat Team of the Month "Excellence In Action" for claiming this month's title. Pictured (seated l-r) are **Anna Tankersley**, Kelly Services Inc.; **Brittan Jones**, The Computer Doctor; **Amy Balkcom**, Covenant Hospice; (standing) **Chris Bailey**, Courtyard by Marriott; **Rona Miller**, Holloway Credit Solutions, LLC; **Jennifer Ford**, Ford Finders Employment Service; and **Shawn Wittenborn**, Mingleddorff's Distributors.

Thank you to all our Ambassadors and Diplomats who serve as the eyes and ears for the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce. It is their dedication and support that assist your local Chamber in meeting its goals.

Be sure to check out next month's *Chamber Connections* to see who will claim the title.

Star Of The Month



Hunter Green
Todd and Sons

Chamber Backs Level Playing Field for Community-Based Businesses

The Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce has added its name of support to the Remote Transaction Parity Act of 2015. This bill restores a level playing field to local businesses by recognizing and addressing the collection of online sales tax must be based on destination sourcing.

This approach is necessary to solve the key problem of price disparity at the point of purchase that is unfairly impacting community-based businesses. Destination sourcing ensures that residents will continue to pay the sales tax of the state in which they reside, rather than to some state they have no

affiliation with and which might carry a higher sales tax rate than their home state does.

Destination sourcing is also essential because it will provide for smoothest integration into current sales and use tax collection processes, allowing merchants to utilize a multitude of compliance software options already in existence.

As America's marketplace continues to advance into a multi-channel arena, this legislation is needed to restore that level playing field, thereby allowing our businesses to deliver new goods and services to customers now and into the future.

Chamber, Grow Dothan And City Officials Visit Dunbarton

Officials from the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce, Grow Dothan and City of Dothan visited Dothan's Dunbarton Corp. Thursday, June 4, 2015.

Dunbarton Corp. manufactures three building product lines: Rediframe Prefinished Door Frames,

Slimfold Closet Systems and Achiever Entry Systems.

Thank you to the Dunbarton team for the great information and talking time out of their busy schedules.



Officials from the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce, Grow Dothan and City of Dothan recently visited Dothan's Dunbarton Corp. Pictured (left picture) are DACC President Matt Parker, DACC Chairman-Elect Forrest Register (Register Realty Co. Inc.), Dunbarton President Chris Chiles, DACC Chair Hope Johnson (Friend Bank), and DACC Executive Director Dean Mitchell. Pictured (center) is Dunbarton Sr. Vice President Bill Teomans providing the tour to the group.

Officials Welcome Redmile To Dothan

Officials from the City of Dothan, Houston County and Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce recently held a luncheon in honor of Marcel Leclerc, Michelin North America's current Dothan plant manager, and also to welcome Terry Redmile as the new incoming plant manager.

Leclerc will be relocating to a Michelin plant in his native Canada. The Dothan Area Chamber has greatly enjoyed its positive working relationship with Leclerc and wishes him all the best on his new endeavors. He has been a tremendous asset to the Dothan plant and will be greatly missed.



Pictured (l-r) are Houston County Commission Chairman Mark Culver, DACC President Matt Parker, Michelin Dothan Plant Manager Marcel Leclerc, Dothan City Manager Mike West, Michelin Dothan's new Plant Manager Terry Redmile, Dothan Utilities Director Billy Mayes, DACC Chair Hope Johnson, Michelin's Phillip Kelley and DACC Executive Director Dean Mitchell.



Dothan MSA Lowest In State ACCRA Cost Living Index First Quarter 2015

Among the 265 urban areas that participated in the first quarter 2015 ACCRA Cost of Living Index, the Dothan area came in at 86.7 for its total index. This index represents that the overall cost of living for Dothan is 13.3 percent below the national average.

When compared to the other nine Alabama urban areas that participated in the 2015 first quarter Index, the Dothan area was the lowest cost area in the state. Our area also reported the lowest in Miscellaneous Goods and Services (86.8%).

ACCRA Cost of Living Index (COLI) First Quarter 2015 National Average for 265 Urban Areas = 100		
Five Most Expensive Urban Areas		
Ranking	Urban Areas	COL Index
1	Manhattan, N.Y.	223.7
2	Honolulu, Hawaii	190.4
3	Brooklyn, N.Y.	175.3
4	San Francisco, Calif.	173.2
5	Truckee-Neva County-Calif.	157.5
Five Least Expensive Alabama Cities		
Ranking	Urban Areas	COL Index
1	Dothan, Ala.	86.7
2	Anniston-Calhoun County, Ala.	87.2
3	Decatur-Hartselle, Ala.	88.1
4	Florence, Ala.	90.4
5	Birmingham, Ala.	91.7

The ACCRA Cost of Living Index measures regional differences in the cost of consumer goods and services, excluding taxes and non-consumer expenditures, for professional and managerial households in the top income quintile. It is based on more than 90,000 prices covering 60 different items for which prices are collected quarterly by chambers of commerce, economic development organizations and university applied economic centers in each participating urban area. Small differences should not be interpreted as showing a measurable difference.

The composite index is based on six component categories -Housing, Utilities, Grocery Items, Transportation, Health Care and Miscellaneous Goods and Services.

What Does Breakfast Cost?

Each quarter, C2ER collects more than 90,000 prices from communities across the US for the Cost of Living Index. With food prices a big part of the national media attention, D2ER decided to once again feature those communities with the most and least expensive food costs as measured by the grocery item index number. C2ER collects data on 26 items from a variety of surrogate categories to represent the grocery item component of the index. Dothan's Grocery Items index was 102.1.

ACCRA Cost of Living Index (COLI) First Quarter 2015 National Average for 265 Urban Areas = 100		
Alabama Grocery Items by Index Number		
Ranking	Urban Areas	Index
1	Anniston-Calhoun County, Ala.	94.2
2	Florence, Ala.	94.4
3	Huntsville, Ala.	94.5
4	Decatur-Hartselle & Huntsville, Ala.	96.4
5	Montgomery, Ala.	98.4
6	Auburn & Mobile, Ala.	102.9
7	Dothan, Ala.	102.1
8	Birmingham, Ala.	102.2
9	Mobile, Ala.	102.6

Consolidation Of Alabama's Workforce Development System



Steve Turkoski,
Project Manager

House Bill 554 is now an "enrolled bill" waiting for Governor Robert Bentley's signature. An enrolled bill has passed both houses with identical verbiage. This bill, when it becomes an Act, will consolidate all workforce development activities, with the exception of the Community College System, which recently was reorganized and moved from the purview of the state Board

of Education to the Board of Trustees of the Community College System, into the Department of Commerce. The Department of Commerce will have two divisions; the Business Development Division and the Workforce Development Division.

Whereas, we used to have two channels for workforce development with federal programs being managed by the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs, with the advice and direction of the state and local workforce investment boards, and state programs being managed by post-secondary education, with advice and recommendations provided by the ten regional workforce development councils, all programs now fall under the Department of Commerce. The verbiage from the bill, moving these responsibilities to the Department of Commerce follows:

Division 1. Workforce Programs.

All of the workforce programs administered by the Department of Economic and Community Affairs before the effective date of the act adding this section shall be transferred to the Department of Commerce and administered by the Workforce Development Division of the Department of Commerce including, but not limited to, programs administered through the federal Workforce Investment Act, Alabama Career Centers, Incumbent Worker Training Program,

On-the-Job Training Program, Individual Training Account, Rapid Response Team, youth programs, eligible training provider list, Mentor Alabama, the Alabama Community Partnership for Recovery and Reentry, National Emergency Grant-Occupational Skills Training for Dislocated Workers, and the Alabama Disability Employment Initiative.

Division 2. Workforce Investment.

The administration of Workforce Investment Board and Local Workforce Investment Boards administered by the Department of Economic and Community Affairs before the effective date of the act adding this section is transferred to the Workforce Development Division of the Department of Commerce and, on the effective date of the act adding this section, the boards shall be administered through the Workforce Development Division of the department.

Division 3. Alabama Industrial Development Training Institute

Alabama Industrial Development Training (AIDT) was moved to the Department of Commerce two years ago and this new law does not change their status.

Division 4. Alabama Workforce Council

The Alabama Workforce Council is hereby created as an appointed group of state business and industry senior managers continued in existence as a part of the Workforce Development Division of the Department of Commerce. The council is responsible for advising and supporting the Chancellor of the Alabama Community College System, and the Superintendent of the Alabama Department of Education, and the Council of College and University Presidents. The Alabama Workforce Council will serve as an advisory body in formulating policies, developing innovative educational workforce programming, and discussing issues critical to the workforce development needs in the State of Alabama. Furthermore, the council will promote, coordinate, and collaborate across

prekindergarten-12, two-year colleges, four-year universities, and business and industry.

Division 5 Regional Workforce Development Councils

The Regional Workforce Development Councils are hereby established as an appointed group of state business and industry senior managers. The Regional Workforce Development Councils shall be appointed from no less than six and no more than 10 regions. The Deputy Secretary of the Workforce Development Division of the Department of Commerce and the Chancellor of the Alabama Community College System shall jointly promulgate rules related to the establishment and governance of these councils. The Deputy Secretary of the Workforce Development Division of the Department of Commerce shall follow the operating guidelines previously adopted by the Workforce Development Division of the Alabama Community College System (WDD/ACCS). The Regional Workforce Development Councils shall provide a direct link to the workforce needs of business and industry at the local level. The councils shall be business-driven and business-led and work with their member counties and shall develop a regional strategic plan and comprehensive workforce development system that supports local economic and job development activities. (b) The Regional Workforce Development Councils shall make funding recommendations for grant applications submitted, based on the documented needs of the region as identified in their strategic plans. (c) Each council shall meet at least quarterly, but may meet more frequently upon the call of the chair.

This new alignment and consolidation should provide for better communication between and among the various agencies brought together under the Department of Commerce as well as more efficient use of resources.

Fort Rucker Job Fair

July 15 • 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Over 200 businesses will be at the 12th annual Fort Rucker Area Job Fair to be held Wednesday, July 15, from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. at Enterprise High School, 1801 Boll Weevil Circle. Job seekers will have the opportunity to meet representatives from government contractors, employment agencies, the federal government and local companies.

Applicants should bring at copies of their resume and be dressed ready to interview - no shorts or flip flops. Many job opportunities will be available. There is no fee to attend.

Several workshops will also be conducted prior to the Job fair that include résumé writing, interviewing skills and personal branding.

For more information, contact Soldier for Life Transition Assistance at (334) 255-2558 or Army Community Service at (334) 255-2594. Proper identification, car registration and proof of insurance are required to enter Fort Rucker.

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*For more information, visit WhyNotTheBest.org.

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Congratulations

Youth Leadership Dothan-Houston County & Leadership Dothan Classes 2015 Graduates

Youth Leadership Dothan-Houston County Class XXIII

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| Zachary Bellingrath
Wicksburg High School | Conner Folger
Providence Christian School | Alex Reynolds
Northview High School |
| Jacob Bohannon
Northview High School | Bethany Haley
Providence Christian School | Abby Short
Northside Methodist Academy |
| Jake Bossert
Ashford Academy | Mary Grant Hall
Houston Academy | Matthew Shumate
Ashford Academy |
| Diamond Branch
Cottonwood High School | Sydney Jones
Emmanuel Christian School | Jordan Sims
Emmanuel Christian School |
| Allison Bush
Wicksburg High School | Kate Kinney
Houston Academy | Jaci Skipper
Rehobeth High School |
| Kiera Carey
Dothan High School | Aaron Kirkland
Houston Academy | Ashley Sluss
Northview High School |
| Katherine Carothers
Providence Christian School | Mercedes Madrid
Wicksburg High School | Emily Spivey
Dothan High School |
| Caitlyn Carter
Houston Academy | Brenly McCulloch
Northview High School | Matthew Still
Providence Christian School |
| Caitlyn Chaney
Ashford High School | Hunter Miller
Wicksburg High School | Shellie Strickland
Wicksburg High School |
| Catherine Collier
Providence Christian School | Hanna Morrison
Providence Christian School | Benjamin Tatum
Providence Christian School |
| Cannon Culver
Northview High School | Nathan Parker
Houston County High School | Brandon Thomas
Northview High School |
| Bryce Daughtry
Northview High School | Jianyuan (Jeremy) Peng
Cottonwood High School | Kemeya Walker
Dothan High School |
| Sofia De Faria
Houston Academy | Andrew Quattlebaum
Northside Methodist Academy | Spence Whittaker
Providence Christian School |
| Tanner Dillard
Providence Christian School | Dalton Reese
Houston Academy | Han Zhang
Northview High School |
| Jazmyn Donovan
Houston Academy | | |
| Devon Dye
Northview High School | | <i>Economic Development Day</i> |

Leadership Dothan Class XXXIII

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| Joseph Brackins
Army Aviation Center
Federal Credit Union | Scott Faulk
SERVPRO of Dothan | Tammie Potter
India's Tiny Tots Child Development Center |
| Ryan Brown
Dothan Awning and Exteriors | Charles Flowers
Coleman World Group | Raleigh Price
Seay, Seay and Litchfield Architects |
| Justin Bryant
Flowers Hospital | Keith Gaster
Dothan Fire Department | Leslie Reeder
Wallace Community College |
| Kathy Buntin
Wallace Community College | Bobby Hodgdon
Southern Nuclear, Farley Nuclear Station | Karla Sirhan
Coleman World Group |
| Laura Burnett
Burnett Valuation Services | Emily Jernigan
MidSouth Bank | Corie Turner
Five Star Credit Union |
| Hayden Camp
Dothan Education Foundation | Hannah Johnson
Wallace Community College | Jackie Walker
Human Resource Development Corp. |
| Robert Cannon
Don Harrison Allstate | Corey Kirkland
Alabama Department of Public Health | Carrie Wilson
Wells Fargo Bank, NA |
| Eddie Clifton
HEALTHSOUTH Rehabilitation Hospital | Brenyn Martin
Merrill Lynch Wealth Management | Cari Zhang
Southeast Alabama Medical Center |
| Ben Coale
Playmaker Screen Printing and Embroidery | Dean Mitchell
Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce | |
| Peppi Cooper
Southern Nuclear, Farley Nuclear Plant | Richie Morton
Wiregrass Church | |
| Catrina Copeland
Individual Sponsorship | Dawn Norton
MidSouth Bank | |
| Wes Crowley
Personnel Resources | Steven Patten
Michelin North America Inc. | |
| Blake Daughtry
The Daughtry Group | | |
| Steve Duebelt
Southeast Alabama Gas District | | |



Health Care Day



Closing Retreat



Public Safety Day



Habitat For Humanity Service Project



Education Day



Closing Retreat



Closing Retreat



Diversity Workshop



Education Day



Public Safety Day



Economic Development Day



Health Care Day



Public Safety Day

Upcoming Member Events

Celebrate Recovery

Every Friday • 6 p.m.

Harvest Church. This is a biblical 12-step program for anyone struggling with life's hurts, hang-ups or habits. The program is free and all are welcome. Optional dinner starts at 6 p.m.; free to first-time guests. For those with children, age specific children's program available. For more information, call Harvest at (334) 702-6555 or email celebraterecovery@harvestdothan.com. "You can't heal a wound by saying it's not there!"

Carmike Cinemas' Weekend "Kidtoon"

Every Weekend • Times Vary

Dothan Pavilion. Carmike Cinemas will play a special "Kidtoon" every weekend for only \$5. For more information, contact the local theatre at (334) 836-0813 or visit www.carmike.com for show times. Some locations will be able to have a special showing on Tuesday mornings for schools and daycares to take advantage of Carmike's Stimulus Tuesdays.

Poplar Head Farmers Market

Every Saturday • 8 a.m. - noon

Corner of Main and St. Andrews streets. Sponsored by The Downtown Group of Dothan, this open air market features fresh locally grown vegetables, fruit, flowers, herbs, prepared foods, etc. For more information, visit www.poplarheadfarmersmarket.com.

Freedom Fest

July 2 • 4-10 p.m.

Festival Fields, Fort Rucker. Freedom Fest is the premier event for Fort Rucker. Hosted by the Commanding General and open to the public, spectators will enjoy great food, music and the area's largest fireworks display. Prohibited items include glass containers, coolers, backpacks and pets. For more information, call (334) 255-1749. A gate access pass is required to enter Fort Rucker and no passes will be given out on event day. For more information, call (334) 255-1749.

1st Saturday Family Day

July 4 • 10:30 a.m.

Wiregrass Museum of Art & Conference Center. This is a program that provides entertainment for the whole family. Children and their families can enjoy a different fun-filled activity each month. The program is free and open to children of all ages who are accompanied by an adult. For more information, contact the Museum at (334) 794-3871 or visit www.wiregrassmuseum.org.

Music By Moonlight

July 9 • 7:30 p.m.

Landmark Park. Pack a picnic supper, bring the family and friends and enjoy an evening of great music under the stars on the Gazebo lawn. Free admission. For more information, call (334) 794-3452 or visit www.landmarkpark.com.

Art After Hours

July 16 • 5:30 p.m.

Wiregrass Museum of Art and Conference Center. WMA's quarterly event will mark the opening of summer exhibitions Real Lives: Observations and Reflections by Dale Kennington and metalworks by Athens, GA-based artist Barbara Mann. Cost: members free; non-members \$5. For more information, call (334) 7894- 3871 or visit www.wirgrassmuseum.org.

Foster Fest

July 17 • 6 p.m.

Foster Street Downtown Dothan. Hosted by The Downtown Group, this is a free, pet-friendly event showcasing downtown Dothan, the local arts, crafts and music scene, downtown businesses and classic cars. For more information, contact The Downtown Group at (334) 793-3097 or visit. www.thedowngroup.com.

Have an upcoming event planned?

Send your event information to mmckean@dothan.com

Chamber Nominations And Elections Committee Announces Proposed New Board Members

2015-2016 Term

At the June 2015 Board of Directors meeting, the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce's Nominations and Elections Committee, chaired by Bob Woodall, immediate-past chairman, presented to the board a proposed slate of nine candidates who will each serve three-year terms on the Board of Directors, replacing those whose regular terms expire this fall. The nominated candidates are:

Susan Anderson

Eagle Eye Outfitters Inc.

David (Mit) Kirkland

Scenic Cable Network and Production

Ronnie Dean

Southeast Alabama Medical Center

Jim Loftin

Coleman Worldwide Moving

Vince Edge

Johnston, Hinesley, Flowers, Clenney and Turner

Pam Miles

Exchange Center for Child Abuse Prevention

Precious Freeman

George Washington Carver Interpretive Museum

Suzanne Woods

Flowers Hospital

Brad Kimbro

Wiregrass Electric Cooperative

The general membership is hereby notified that additional names of candidates for director can be nominated by petition, bearing the genuine signatures of at least 5 percent of all qualified voting members of the Chamber, using a separate petition for each nominee. Candidates nominated must have been submitted to the Committee for consideration prior to the June 12, 5 p.m. deadline. Such petition must be filed with the Nominations and Elections Committee no later than 5 p.m., July 13, 2015. If no petition is filed, the nominations shall be closed and the nominated slate declared elected by the Board of Directors at the July 15 meeting. In the event a petition is filed, the Nominations and Elections Committee will be responsible for conducting an election in accordance with the Chamber By-Laws.

Food Bank Celebrates 25 Years

The Wiregrass Area United Way Food Bank is celebrating 25 years. A nonprofit hunger-relief organization, it was founded in July 1990 by Frank Martin Jr. and Tommy Ricketts.

The Food Bank began in a small warehouse off Starling Road and operated under the umbrella of the Wiregrass United Way before moving to its current location at 382 Twitchell Road. Cassie Ramsey donated the land for the current 22,000 square-foot warehouse and offices, and the Food Bank has almost doubled in size from the original 12,000 square-foot warehouse and operates as an independent nonprofit organization.

The original Food Bank operated with only a single cargo van, while the current fleet includes two cargo vans, two 24-foot refrigerated box trucks and one 53-foot refrigerated tractor trailer.

Like many Food Banks, the Wiregrass Area United Way Food Bank is affiliated with Feeding America, the national Food Bank network. Through Feeding America, food that otherwise might have ended up in landfills is rescued from corporate sources and distributed to those in need. Besides receiving food through Feeding America, the Food Bank relies heavily on community food collection efforts, USDA commodities and private donations.

The Wiregrass Area United Way Food Bank distributes food through more than 200 other non-profit organizations spread throughout Houston, Henry, Dale, Coffee, Geneva, and Barbour counties.

Two direct feeding programs call the Food Bank home. The Brown Bag program receives funding through sponsorships, operates with volunteers and provides supplemental groceries to senior citizens in need. The Backpack program started with seed money from the Walmart Foundation and is maintained by sponsorships and volunteerism from the community. The program provides food for the weekend to children in need.

To help support the Food Bank's mission of "feeding the needy from the heart," call (334) 794-9775 or visit the Food Bank at 382 Twitchell Road or www.wiregrassfoodbank.com.

BBVA Promotes Brown And Condrey



*John Brown,
Senior Vice President*

BBVA Compass announced recently that Commercial Relationship Manager John Brown has been promoted to senior vice president and that Heidi Condrey has been named the new business banking officer for the southeast Alabama market.



*Heidi Condrey,
Business Banking
Officer*

Brown has been with BBVA Compass for two years and oversees and develops the bank's largest relationships in the market. He has been in the industry for 17 years, with most of his experience in commercial banking. Condrey will oversee the bank's small business relationships. She has spent the majority of her 15-year banking career in small business and private banking.

"There is no one more deserving of these positions than John and Heidi," said southeast Alabama Market President Jeff Williams. "John consistently surpasses client expectations, is always an advocate for what is in the client's best interest, and integrity is of utmost importance to him. Heidi has a reputation of being client centered and extremely knowledgeable, and she is someone with a very high degree of character."

Brown holds a bachelor's degree from Auburn University and is on the board of the Dothan Rotary Club. Condrey holds a bachelor's degree from Troy University and serves as the treasurer of the Dothan-Houston County Rotary Club.

McKenzie Receives National Award



Andrew McKenzie

Mighty Auto Parts of Dothan is pleased to announce that Andrew McKenzie was awarded the National Service Representative of the Year award at the company's national business meeting held recently in Monterrey, Mexico.

"We are excited to have Andrew as part of our team in Dothan. It's his attitude to do whatever it takes for his accounts that has placed him above his competitors for this award," said Rob Gilbreath, Dothan general manager.

Mighty Auto Parts also invites the community to join them for a day of product demonstrations and

training seminars during its upcoming Open House being held Wednesday, July 22, from 8:15 a.m. until 5 p.m., and again Thursday, July 23, from 8:15 a.m. until 4 p.m.

During the Open House event, Mighty Auto parts will offer several different types of seminars. There will be sales training seminars that include: 15 Ways to Grow Profits in 2015, Vehicle Inspections and Front Counter Sales Tips; and services seminars that include: TPMS, tire repair and product demos for diesel/gas F.I., and TPMS tools.

For a detailed seminar schedule, or for more information about the Open House, contact Gilbreath at (334) 677-2672. Mighty Auto Parts is located at 203 Vulcan Way in Dothan.

Burnett Receives Certification License



*Laura Burnett,
Appraiser*

Burnett Valuation Services, LLC announces Laura Burnett has recently received a General Certification License from the Alabama Real Estate Appraisers Board. As a general certified appraiser, she is qualified to appraise a wide range of property types including office, industrial, retail, agricultural, multi-family residential and other properties.

Burnett Valuation Services is a full-service, commercial appraisal firm accepting private, financial and legal clients. Burnett Valuation has been serving the Dothan/Wiregrass area for over 30 years.

Burnett Valuation typically accepts jobs located in Houston, Henry, Dale, Coffee, Geneva, Barbour and Pike Counties. Laura Burnett also has experience appraising commercial properties in the Birmingham metropolitan area.

Laura Burnett joined her father, Gene Burnett, SRA, at Burnett Valuation Services after her college graduation in 2008. She also worked for The Paulk Group in Birmingham from 2011-2012. She is a candidate for the MAI Designation with the Appraisal Institute, a global professional association of real estate appraisers.

She looks forward to serving the Wiregrass and continuing to pursue the MAI Designation to further her credentials in the appraisal field.



SEACT To Hold Auditions

Southeast Alabama Community Theatre will hold auditions July 26-28 for children 18 years of age or younger for its all-kids production of Shrek The Musical Jr. Everyone's favorite ogre is back in the hilarious stage spectacle based on the Oscar-winning smash hit film.

Adapted for young performers and featuring a host of over-the-top roles, there's a part for everyone in this dazzling adventure story. Part romance and part twisted fairy tale, Shrek JR. is an irreverently fun show for the whole family.

In a faraway kingdom, the green ogre Shrek finds his swamp invaded by banished fairytale misfits, runaways who've been cast off by Lord Farquaad. When Shrek sets off with a wise-cracking donkey to confront Farquaad, he's handed a task - if he rescues feisty Princess Fiona from the Dragon-guarded tower, his swamp will be returned to him. But, a fairy tale wouldn't be complete without unexpected twists and turns along the way.

Visit www.seact.com for more information and registration. SEACT will present Shrek Jr. on the Dothan Opera House stage Sept. 15-19.

WITH STROKE, TIME LOST IS BRAIN LOST.



SAMC IS THE REGION'S GOLD STANDARD FOR STROKE CARE.

PROVIDING PATIENTS THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF ADVANCED STROKE CARE.

SAMC is the region's first hospital to earn the prestigious Gold Plus Stroke Award from the American Heart Association and American Stroke Association.

From the area's first responders to SAMC's highly trained stroke team of physicians, nurses and clinical team members, patients receive the latest stroke care available.

This means a coordinated and quicker response time, which in turn means less damage caused by the stroke.



SOUTHEAST ALABAMA MEDICAL CENTER



A Rating Service of The Delta Group

Top 10% in nation for patient safety

1108 Ross Clark Circle
Dothan, Alabama 36301
334-793-8111 samc.org

TerHark Named Vice President Of Physician Operations



Linda TerHark,
Vice President
of Physician
Operations

Flowers Hospital is pleased to announce that Linda TerHark has been appointed vice president of physician operations, where she will be responsible for the management of Flowers Hospital's physician office practices.

Within her 31 years of physician office management, TerHark has held several positions including: chief operating officer for Southern Orthopedic Specialists, chief administrative officer for Pinnacle Orthopedics and executive director of OrthoAtlanta Surgery Centers. TerHark is a member of Medical Group

Management Association and a Certified Medical Practice Executive.

"As Flowers Hospital continues to grow, we recognized the need for oversight of our physician practices, and desired to do so with a seasoned, knowledgeable individual," said Suzanne Woods, president/CEO. "We welcome Linda and are thrilled to add her skill set and experience to our team."

Flowers Hospital has served the health care needs of the Wiregrass for over 60 years. The facility is not only an important resource for the Dothan community, it also serves as a major tertiary referral center for the tri-state area of south Alabama, southwest Georgia and northwest Florida.

For more information, visit www.flowershospital.com.

Wesley Manor Crowns New Queen

The new Mrs. Wesley Manor Peggy Key was truly excited to be chosen as this year's queen. It was even more exciting to have her family present when she was announced as the new Mrs. Wesley Manor.

Bingo is Key's favorite activity and she is an avid Bama fan who watches every football game, if possible. During football season, she can be seen in all of her Alabama attire.

The annual pageant is part of National Nursing Home Week and this year's "Bring on the Fiesta" theme centered on celebrating quality of life with resident-centered activities.

The goal in long-term nursing care is to always provide person-centered care in a harmonious, caring environment. Today's nursing home is person-centered for health, personal care and spiritual enrichment.

Wesley Manor celebrates life, values relationships and embraces teamwork. For more information, call (334) 792-0921.



Wesley Manor resident Peggy Key is named the new Mrs. Wesley Manor.

Hall Of Fame Tickets Now On Sale

The Business Hall of Fame's 2015 Banquet and Induction Ceremony will take place Thursday, Aug. 27, at Wiregrass Church. Tickets for the event are now on sale through the Dothan area Chamber of Commerce and are \$50 per person or \$750 for a reserved table, which seats eight.

The 2015 Laureates are James F. Coleman, Coleman Worldwide Moving; John F. Downs, Qualico Steel Co.

Inc.; John H. Edge, Flowers Hospital; and Michael D. Schmitz, Mike Schmitz Automotive Group.

Get your tickets now as the event usually sells out each year. Also, be sure to check out next month's newsletter for more detailed information about the banquet and the 2015 laureates.

Hope to see you there!

Lee To Lead Local Nonprofit



Rep. Paul Lee,
District 86

The Board of Directors of Wiregrass Rehabilitation Center Inc. recently announced that Paul Lee will lead the local nonprofit as executive director after Jack Sasser retires as president after nearly 19 years of service.

"Paul is a strong, innovative, hardworking, dedicated individual with 36 years of manufacturing management and leadership experience. He is passionate about

economic development and serving others," said WRC Board Chairman Anthony McCallister.

As executive director, Lee will be responsible with growing and enforcing the vision of the organization, supervising staff, creating and implementing a strategic plan that will ensure sustainability and good management of WRC's resources.

Lee, who currently serves as Alabama Representative House District 86, ended his 30-year tenure with Sony Magnetic Products Inc. as senior production specialist in 2010 when the Dothan-based plant closed.

Wiregrass Surgical Associates Perform In Top 5 Percent

Wiregrass Surgical Associates is proud to announce that the robotically-trained general surgeons at its facility are performing in the top 5 percent of the nation for da Vinci surgery. The surgeons include Dr. Steve Fendley, Dr. Scott Robbins, Dr. Brad Marker and Dr. Emily Cannon.

Within the next few weeks, WSA will become, with the support of Flowers Hospital, only the second facility in Alabama to bring the benefits of the new da Vinci Xi Surgical Robotic System to patients. Upon arrival, these physicians will perform several different procedures on the Xi including colorectal cancer and hernia repair cases.

"The use of robotic-assisted surgeries continues to grow at a rapid pace, and we are at the forefront of that growth," said Dr. Fendley. "We are pleased to offer the Wiregrass and surrounding areas the benefits of

the newest robotic system as part of our continued efforts to deliver significant surgical advancements to our patients.

Gary Guthart, Intuitive Surgical president and CEO, noted that the da Vinci Xi system's new design means that complex surgery can be performed without repositioning, an innovation long sought by surgeons who perform complex procedures. The feature reduces time under anesthesia and provides surgeons with improved access.

The da Vinci Xi surgical system has a 3D-HD vision system and mechanical wrists that bend and rotate like a human wrist so surgeons can make small and precise movements while performing operations.

For more information, call Wiregrass Surgical Associates at (334) 793-1534 or visit www.wiregrasssurgical.com.



YOUR CHAMBER

Reminder Verification Forms Due

In preparation for the upcoming production of the Dothan Area Chamber's 2016 Membership Directory and Business Guide, Chamber members began receiving their membership verification forms May 1.

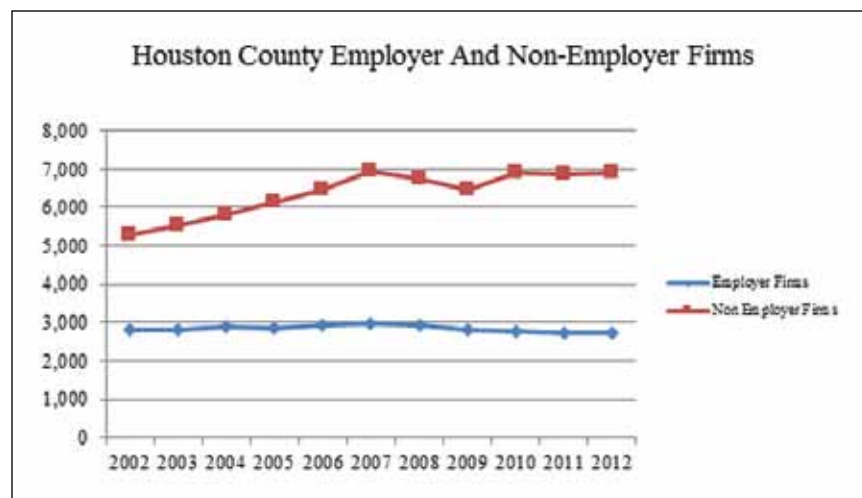
As a reminder, if you have not already submitted your verification form, please do so either by mailing or faxing the completed form back to the Chamber at P.O. Box 638, Dothan, AL 36302 or (334) 794-4796.

Thank you!

Houston County Business Pattern Characteristics

Each year the U.S. Census Bureau updates its County Business Pattern website. It's an inventory of all businesses with employees within a county, metropolitan statistical area, or a state. The data is always two years behind and the most current data available until mid-year is for 2012.

The data is provided by North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) code and in addition to the inventory of establishments, it lists the classification of establishments by size in brackets ranging for "1 to 4" to "1,000 and over."



There are 20 major sectors represented by the first two digits of the NAICS code, which expands to six digits for specific establishment types within sectors.

- 11 Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing
- 21 Mining, Quarrying and Oil and Gas Extraction
- 22 Utilities
- 23 Construction
- 31 Manufacturing
- 42 Wholesale Trade
- 44 Retail Trade
- 48 Transportation and Warehousing
- 51 Information
- 52 Finance and Insurance
- 53 Real Estate and Rental and Leasing
- 54 Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services
- 55 Management of Companies and Enterprises
- 56 Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services
- 61 Educational Services
- 62 Health Care and Social Assistance
- 71 Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation
- 72 Accommodation and Food Services
- 81 Other Services, except Public Administration
- 99 Industries not Classified

In the interest of seeing what business pattern changes occurred in Houston County between 2007 and 2012, the data for 2007 and 2012 was compared. This is what it showed:

- Of the 20 major sectors, Finance and Insurance had the largest growth followed by "Accommodation and Food Service."
- The largest sub-sector gain was "Securities and commodity contracts intermediation and brokerage" with an increase of 15 establishments.
- Establishments providing "Food service and drinking places" increased by 14 and "Services for the elderly and persons with disabilities" increased by 13.
- The sectors showing the greatest decline in number of establishments were Professional, Scientific, and technical services, Manufacturing, Retail Trade and Construction
- The major sectors with the highest number of establishments with 1-4 employees were Real Estate Rental and Leasing – 74 percent; Professional, Technical and Scientific Services - 65.7 percent; and Finance and Insurance – 60 percent.

Mark Your Calendar For These Small Business Seminars

Social Media Boot Camp

Dothan Area Chamber

July 9 • 8:30 a.m.

Facebook and Twitter and Instagram ... oh my! Let's face it, social media can be extremely confusing. Figuring out which platforms are best for your organization, how many posts to put out per day and which times of the day to post are just a few of the complexities of social media marketing.

If you're confused about it, you're not alone and you won't want to miss this workshop – Social Media Boot Camp. Presented by Precious Freeman, BFC Management, this workshop will help your team get up to speed on all things social media. Participants will learn the ins and outs of the top platforms and which ones are worth your investment of both time and money.

Come prepared to conquer the science of social media and BYOLT - Bring Your Own Laptop/Tablet.

A free workshop, pre-registration is required by Tuesday, July 7, at noon. To reserve your seat, call Susan at (334) 792-5138.

Time Management

Dothan Area Chamber

July 23 • 8:30 a.m.

The two major keys to time management are understanding where your time is spent and focusing your efforts on issues with higher levels of importance.

Time escapes minute by minute and hour by hour. Nothing you do will stop or rewind the clock or calendar. We all have the same amount of time in a day - 1,440 minutes. There are no short-cuts to managing ourselves more effectively. The key is to invest your time in the most productive way, not only for the sake of your company, but for your own peace of mind.

Presented by David Balmer, from Emerald Coast Dale Carnegie Training, in this seminar you will start by discovering where your time gets spent giving you a clear picture of where time gets lost giving you the best indications of where improvements can be made.

Participants will review specific tools and approaches that help people stay on target, reduce procrastination and get results in the areas over which you can take more control.

A free workshop, pre-registration is required by Tuesday, July 21, at noon. To register, call Susan at (334) 792-5138.

Small Business Tips

Repeat this word throughout the day

Saying "done" out loud as you finish tasks can make you more productive, says psychologist Leslie Sherlin. Acknowledging that you've completed a task causes a neurochemical shift in the brain and releases serotonin, helping you to gain confidence as you take on your next task. Read more: www.fastcompany.com/3044546/work-smart/why-saying-this-four-letter-word-can-transform-your-productivity. (Source: Fast Company online, Leslie Sherlin, "Why Saying This Four-Letter Word Can Transform Your Productivity," April 6, 2015)

How to make a business stand out on Google

Local businesses should be focused on getting into Google's search results, writes Margot da Cunha, who offers four strategies to help stand out. Manage your company's Google My Business page, and use call-only campaigns to attract more customers, da Cunha writes. Read more: www.wordstream.com/blog/ws/2015/04/06/local-business-marketing. (Source: The Wordstream Blog, Margo da Cunha, "4 Ways Local Businesses Can Get More Out of Google," April 6, 2015)

Two Great Publications, One Great Idea!

Ad Sales Campaign Currently Underway



You want to reach new residents and the business community. They want to know how to find you. The best way to achieve both goals is to advertise in the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce's 2016 *Dothan's Official Welcome Guide* and the 2016 *Membership Directory & Business Guide*.

The Dothan Area Chamber and Print Services Inc., the Chamber member awarded this project, have begun the ad sales campaign for these 2016 publications. Chamber members (primary contact and/or advertising agent) recently began receiving the Chamber's project introduction letter, verification form(s) and a "Reserve Your Space" brochure.

Print Services will be contacting members about the advertising opportunities and has a media kit available online at www.psiprinter.com.

The *Welcome Guide* and *Membership Directory & Business Guide* will be mailed to Chamber members in late January 2016. High visibility through great distribution has been the key to the *Welcome Guide's* success. Increased usage of the *Membership Directory* is a direct result of its convenience to find fellow business members to promote our business-to-business relationships. Don't miss out on these important publications! Your company will benefit greatly by reaching all who look to the Dothan Area Chamber for information about Dothan businesses in 2016.

Distribution of the *Welcome Guide* (10,000) includes economic development prospects, new residents, prospective retirees and relocation families requesting information through the Chamber, 14 Chamber member apartment complexes for new residents, 20 Chamber member hotels/motels in-room distribution and the Dothan Utilities and Wiregrass Electric Authority offices to all new service customers. Great web exposure is another avenue of distribution for the 2016 *Welcome Guide*. The publication will be on the following websites: The City of Dothan, Houston County, Dothan Convention and Visitors Bureau, Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce and Print Services Inc.

For more information about this opportunity, please contact:



(334) 702-4063

(334) 712-6532 Fax

www.psiprinter.com

Ambassador Committee

A P P L I C A T I O N

2015-2016

**Are you good at promoting
your belief in the Chamber?**

**Do you enjoy people
and networking?**

**Is your business interested in
connecting with the community?**

**Then you may have what it takes
to be a Chamber Ambassador
or Diplomat.**

The Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce Ambassador and Diplomat Committees are gearing up for its 2015-2016 fiscal year, and are looking for a few good volunteers who enjoy teamwork and meeting people. The program year runs October-September and the committees meet the first Tuesday of each month at 9 a.m. at the Chamber office.

Serving as an Ambassador or Diplomat allows you to become more involved in your business community. This results in increased networking opportunities, enhanced visibility of your business and numerous opportunities to market and promote your products and services.

If you are interested in serving as an Ambassador or Diplomat for the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce please complete and return the application. The commitment is for one year.

The Chamber has 50 Ambassador positions available for the 2015-2016 year and will accept applications until Aug. 7, 2015, or until all positions are filled.

Returning Ambassadors/Diplomats must also re-apply for the 2015-2016 year.

For more information, contact the Director of Membership, LaRhonda Robinson, at (334) 792-5138 or e-mail lrobinson@dothan.com.

(To be a Diplomat you must have been an Ambassador for three consecutive years.)

Name: _____

Business Name: _____

Title or Position: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Circle One: AMBASSADOR DIPLOMAT

July 2015

THIS ISSUE:

Foundation Holds Leadership Graduations

Chamber Backs Level Playing Field For Community-Based Businesses

Consolidation Of Alabama's Workforce Development

Chamber Proposes New Board Members

Food Bank Celebrates 25 Years

McKenzie Receives National Award

Hall of Fame Tickets Now On Sale

Houston County Business Pattern Characteristics

Ambassador And Diplomat Committee Application

DOTHAN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Creating Successful LEADERS



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turn to the experts

ECONOMIC INDICATORS	
	<p>Labor Force for the Dothan MSA for April: 61,936 in 2014; 62,625 in 2015 58,043 in 2014; 59,246 in 2015 Employed</p>
	<p>Unemployment for the Dothan MSA for April: 6.3% in 2013; 5.4% in 2014</p>
	<p>Residential Building Permits for the City of Dothan for April: 14 issued (\$3.64 million) in 2014; 11 issued (\$3.51 million) in 2015</p>
	<p>Home Sales in Dothan for April: 83 sold in 2014; 117 sold in 2015</p>
	<p>Enplanements for Dothan Regional Airport for April: 4,662 in 2014; 3,947 in 2015</p>
	<p>Houston County & Dothan Sales and Use Tax Collections (\$) for April: \$1,462,886 in 2014; \$1,625,554 in 2015 (County) \$4,865,006 in 2014; \$5,462,992 in 2015 (City)</p>

Editor's Note: Sources for this information vary; call the Chamber for details. Data as of 6/09/15. Visit www.dothan.com for the most current information.