Chamber Connections

Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce

January 2025

DOTHAN POISED FOR GROWTH IN

Dothan Positioned For Additional Industrial Growth In 2025
Page 4

Dothan Warehouse Announces Expansion
Page 12

Now Accepting Small Business Person Of The Year Nominations
Page 15

What's Inside

January 2025

2 Events Calendar
3 Ribbon Cuttings
4 Cover Story
5 Business Spotlight
6 Member Highlight
7 Business Briefs
12 Grow Dothan
13 Workforce Development
14 Small Business Development

Also In This Issue

9 Flowers Hospital Earns An "A" Hospital Safety Award
9 Crossing At Big Creek Plans Music Festival
11 Kelley Seed Expands Its Reach
13 Southeast Alabama Works Building A Stronger Labor Force

Happy New Year!

www.dothan.com
(334) 792-5138

CCAA 2020 - 2025 ACEC ALABAMA ACCREDITED CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

EventsCalendar

January

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	

1 **New Year's Day – Chamber Closed**

7 **Ambassadors and Diplomats Committee Meeting – 9 a.m.**
Location: 102 Jamestown Blvd. (Chamber)

8 **Youth Leadership Dothan-Houston County Education and Innovation Day – 7:45 a.m.**
Location: 102 Jamestown Blvd. (Chamber)

LEADS Group 2 Bimonthly Meeting – 8 a.m.
Location: 102 Jamestown Blvd. (Chamber)

14 **Eggs & Issues Alabama Update – 8 a.m.**
Location: 795 Ross Clark Circle (Wiregrass Rehabilitation Center Inc.'s Sterling Event Services Rotary Hall)
*See page 8 for more information.

15 **LEADS Group 1 Bimonthly Meeting – 8 a.m.**
Location: 102 Jamestown Blvd. (Chamber)

Board of Directors' Meeting – 8:15 a.m.
Location: 102 Jamestown Blvd. (Chamber)

16 **Leadership Dothan Government and Transportation Day – 7:45 a.m.**
Location: 126 N. St. Andres St. (Dothan Civic Cetner)

20 **Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday – Chamber Closed**

22 **LEADS Group 2 Bimonthly Meeting – 8 a.m.**
Location: 1740 S. Oates St. (Ray's Restaurant)

23 **Wiregrass Professional Series: State of City of Dothan and Houston County – 7:30 a.m.**
Location: 102 Jamestown Blvd., (Chamber)
*See page 10 for more information.

Wiregrass Women's Networking Lunch – 11:30 a.m.
Location: 3826 Montgomery Highway, (Full Moon Bar-B-Que)
*See page 14 for more information.

Ribbon Cutting: Aventa Specialized Women's Care – 11:30 a.m.
Location: 202 Westside Drive

28 **Ribbon Cutting: Five Horizons Health Services – 2 p.m.**
Location:1865 Honeysuckle Road, Suite 3

The Garden on Windy Hill
216 State Highway 123 South, Suite 3
Newton, AL 363452
Lily Adams
(334) 791-3674
www.thegardenonwindyhill.com
FLORISTS

Hasienda Azul Mexican Grill & Bar III
3835 W. Main St., Suite 5
Dothan, AL 36305
Cristian Creepo
(334) 446-4094
RESTAURANTS

Landmark Park Planetarium
430 Landmark Drive
Dothan, AL 36303
David Jay
(334) 794-3452
www.landmarkparkdothan.com
NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

NEW**NAME**
VITAS (formally Covenant Care)
1435 W. Main St.
Dothan, AL 36301
Lori Furr
(334) 794-7847
www.vitas.com
HOSPICE

NEW**OWNERSHIP**
Dothan Pure Barre
2620 Montgomery Highway, Suite7
Dothan, AL 36303
Pattti Rushingo
(334) 446-6512
www.purebarre.com/location/dothan-al
SPORTS & RECREATION

RE**LOCATION**
Alabama Baptist Children's Homes & Family Ministries
325 Ross Clark Circle
Dothan, AL 36303
Kim McGainey
(334) 677-7856
www.alabamachild.org
NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

RE**LOCATION**
Evergreen Creative Company
180 N. Foster St., Suite 2
Dothan, AL 36303
Joshua Bane
(334) 232-9911
www.evergreencreative.co
PHOTGRAPHERS / VIDEOGRAPFERS

Schedule A Ribbon Cutting!

Are you a new Chamber member? Has your business expanded or relocated? Are you breaking ground for a new facility? If you answered yes to any of these questions, you may want to schedule a Chamber Ribbon Cutting or Goundbreaking event.

These events take place weekly on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Chamber staff will work with you to choose the date and time that best fits your schedule. Your event will be included in the Calendar of Events section of the *Chamber Connections* and your picture will also be featured in the newsletter after the event.

For more information or to book an event, contact Kendretta Thornton, membership coordinator, at (334) 792-5138 or **kthornton@dothan.com**.

Dothan Positioned For Additional Industrial Growth In 2025

The Dothan area is poised for more growth moving into the year 2025 by securing additional Industrial Park property and infrastructure sites. With the state of Alabama being one that is highly attractive for potential industrial investment, state and local leaders have been working hard to add more industrial property to the market to continue to open opportunities.

Through Gov. Kay Ivey, the Alabama Department of Commerce, Economic Development Partnership of Alabama, Alabama legislature, local city and county governments, efforts to gain strategic sites for communities across the state have created economic developers with resources to grow their area. Through the Growing Alabama Tax Credit Program, where businesses can contribute to this program and get a tax credit, they can help local economic development entities secure financial resources to build infrastructure to ready industrial property for development.

"Speed to market is critical in today's business climate, so having shovel-ready sites is key to attracting new investment in our area," said Matt Parker, Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce president.

The Napier Field Industrial Park is a great example of how this property owned by the Industrial Development Board of the City of Dothan was able to use these funds to add road, water, sewer and drainage improvements to ready this 80-acre site for development, leveraged with Covid funding from the Houston County Commission, city of Dothan and Alabama Power Co.'s support.

The Sam Houston Industrial Site was developed with these funds as well thanks to the Wiregrass Electric Cooperative partnership to secure a new Speculative Building, Southern Root Nut Co. and Federal Express Distribution Center.

The state's SEED program which participates with local communities to purchase new strategic sites was utilized to secure funding along with the city of Dothan and Houston County Commission to purchase the Westgate Super Site property which is 446 acres. This site is served with water, sewer, natural gas, rail from CSX and electricity to position the area with a major site in the state to secure a significant project for the area.

"Our area is poised with the addition of these properties and we are optimist about 2025 and beyond to secure major industrial investment in our market and really cannot thank the state of Alabama, city of Dothan, Houston County, our utility partners and the Industrial Development Board of the City of Dothan for their continued support to put us on the map for new investment in our market," echoed Grow Dothan Co-Chairs Mike Schmitz and Bob Woodall.

Colton Cureton, DACC's vice president of economic development, added, "Available industrial property is a constant challenge, and these sites will provide us ample capacity in the future, but we are always looking for sites to add to our arsenal as once you develop these sites you are on to the next one, so it is constant. South 231 at the Houston County Distribution Park, Covid dollars were used to boost water improvements to grow this corridor as well, so proud of the strategic focus to develop our infrastructure to grow our market."

Napier Field Industrial Park construction of water, sewer, road and drainage improvements.

Westgate Super Industrial Site looking north to south.

Celebrating Milestone Membership Anniversaries

50 Years and More

For over 105 years the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce has been "meeting the challenge" and "shaping the future." However, all that we have accomplished, could not have been done without you … our Chamber members. It is because of you that the business community is what it is today and in recognition of this, the DACC over the next few months will be recognizing those members who are celebrating milestone membership anniversaries in 2025. What you provide to the area, is a testament to why Dothan is well known as a great place to live, work and play. Thank you for your membership, support and dedication over the years.

Slingluff United Insurance - 96
McDaniel & Associates, PC - 85
Hudson Office Supply Inc. - 83
Mayer Electric Supply - 79
Todd & Sons - 66
Powell Brewton - 65
Davis Oil Co. - 63
Tom West Co. - 62
W.P. Shealy Advertising Inc. - 61
AAA Cooper Transportation - 57
AALOS at Dothan Brace Shop - 57
Barge Design Solutions - 57
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama - 57
Buffalo Rock Pepsi - 57
Coca - Cola Bottling Company United Inc. - 57
City of Dothan - 57
Dothan Animal Hospital - 57
Dothan Eagle - 57
Dothan Powersports - 57
Flowers Hospital - 57
John Glanton - 57
Century 21 James Grant Realty - 57
Hardwick, Hause, Segrest & Walding - 57
Hathcock Roofing & Remodeling Co. - 57
Higgins Electric Inc. - 57
Hollis & Spann Contractors - 57
Houston County Commission - 57
Houston County Farmers Federation - 57
Lee, Livingston, Lee & Nichols, PC - 57
Mike Schmitz Automotive Group - 57
Northcutt Drug Co. - 57
Poly, Inc. - 57
Ramsey, Baxley & McDougle - 57
Regions Bank - 57
Smith's Inc. of Dothan - 57
Solomon Motor Co. Inc. - 57
Southeast Gas - 57
Southern Clinic, PC - 57
Swedish Match Cigars - 57
Twitchell Corporation - 57
Whatley Supply Co. - 57
WTVY - TV Gray Television Inc. - 57
APAC - Alabama - 57
Dothan Hardware and Supply Co. Inc. - 57
Dothan Glass Co. - 57
Radiology Associates of Dothan, PC - 56
Register Realty Co. Inc. - 56
Bob Woodall Air Care - 55
McDonald's of Dothan - 54
MidSouth Bank - 54
PeoplesSouth Bank - 54
WOW! - 54
Alfred Saliba Corp. - 53
E.E. Bentley Insulation - 53
Home Oil Company Inc./Hobo Pantry Food Stores - 53
Morris Realty Co. - 53
Dunbarton Corp. - 52
Palmer Electric Construction Co. - 52
Southern Bone and Joint Specialists - 52
Bondy's Ford Inc. - 52
TriState Graphics - 51
Allied Motion - 50
Southeastern Oral - Maxillofacial & Facial Cosmetic Surgery Center, PA - 50
Bevis, Eberhart, Browning, Walker & Stewart - 50
Dothan Awning and Exteriors - 50

Business Spotlight Presenting Sponsor

OMNI Marketing Group

NEW YEAR, NEW ME

Welcome to the January edition of Member Highlight, where the dawn of a new year brings the promise of fresh beginnings and opportunities for personal and professional growth. In this issue, we lean into the theme of "New Year, New Me," highlighting businesses that play an important role in the transformative journey ahead. From enhancing your well-being with chiropractic care and dermatology services, to elevating your living space through home improvement, our featured businesses spanning automobile detailing, counseling, cleaning and more are here to support your resolutions and aspirations. As we start on this journey of self-improvement and discovery, let this be your guide to the diverse and essential services available in the Dothan area. Embrace the possibilities that the new year holds and join us in celebrating the local businesses dedicated to helping you become the best version of yourself in 2025.

Action Buick GMC
Advantage Resourcing
Aire Counseling & Consulting Services, LLC
Alabama Nail Co.
America's Car-Mart of Dothan
Auto Expo Inc.
Bondy's Ford Inc.
Bondy's Nissan Inc.
Bondy's South
CarMax
Carnes Chiropractic & Wellness Center
Change My Mind Consulting, LLC
Coffman International Inc.
Cypress & Myrtle Hair & Salon
Deanco Auction & Real Estate Co. Inc.
Dermatology Specialists of Alabama
Diamond Auto Detailing
Dothan Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram
Dothan Kia
Dothan Volkswagen
Elevate Medical, LLC
Everly Nail Spa
Express Employment Professionals
Fast Stop Laundromat
Ford Finders Employment Services, LLC
Four Star Freightliner
GRIFOLS
Hathcock Plumbing & Electric Company, Inc./ Roto Rooter
HoneyDo Handyman Services, LLC
HRS Group, LLC - Dr. John Haymore
Jesse's Barber Shop, LLC
The Joint Chiropractic
KB Spa - Beauty and Wellness
Laurel Oaks Behavioral Health Center
Luxe Esthetic Studio
Madison Conner Alterations & Design
Manpower
MAU Workforce Solutions
J.C. McCleod, MD Psychiatric, PLLC
Mike Schmitz Automotive Group
Milestones Psychology & Therapy (Graceland Drive)
Milestones Psychology & Therapy (Westside Drive)
Oxi Fresh
Panache Hair Studio
Performance Carpet Cleaning & Restoration
Personnel Resources
The Pink Alternative, LLC
PRemployer Inc.
ReBath
Rituals Day Spa
Royalty Salon, LLC
Samson's Sin Barbershop
SERVPRO of Dothan
SIA Dermatology
Jim Skinner Honda
Solomon Motor Co. Inc.
SpectraCare Health Systems Inc.
SunBelt Auto Pros, LLC
SunSouth John Deere
Suseve Professional Cleaning, LLC
Toyota of Dothan
Tractor & Equipment Co.
Veterans Cleaning Solutions
Village Cleaners
Waxing The City
Truck Central of Dothan dba Western Star of Dothan
Wiregrass Window and Door

Look for this feature each month highlighting different themes.

New**Members**

Clip and add these to your Membership Directory.

Art in Public Places
Holly Myers
1837-3 W. Main St.
P.O. Box 91
Dothan, AL 36302-0091
(334) 237-1555
www.artinpublicplaces.art
NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATIONS

Five Horizons Health Services
Emily Hall
1865 Honeysuckle Road, Suite 3
Dothan, AL 36305
(334) 673-0494
www.fivehorizons.org
NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATIONS

Level Up Coaching, LLC
Andrew Hurst
Dothan, AL 36301
(334) 790-8841
BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL
SERVICES

McFadden Nature Center
Trina Davis
5846 River Road (Physical)
5540 River Road
Donalsonville, GA 39845
(229) 999-3355
www.mcfaddennature center.org
NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATIONS

Renewing**Members**

40 To 49 YEARS
Terminix Service
Dothan Pediatric Dentistry

30-39 YEARS
Eye Center South
Basketcase Café and Catering

25-29 YEARS
Foundations Dental Group
City of Slocomb
Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Showcase Properties

20-24 YEARS
Fairway Independent Mortgage Corp.

15-19 YEARS
S.A. Jones Construction
Evans Automotive Service
Crowder Orthodontics
Henry County Health & Rehabilitation Facility

10-14 YEARS
Glass Doctor of Dothan
Dothan Kia
Magnolia Preserve, LLC
Buffalo Wild Wings
Lan Darty Real Estate & Development

5-9 YEARS
Southeast Alabama Community Action Partnership
Ford Finders Employment Services, LLC
Cobb, Boyd, White & Cobb
Glasstream Powerboats, LLC
Kiddie Care Learning Center
Celebration At Jones Crossing
Vector Security
Edward Jones - Brandon Apida, Financial Advisor
Redmon Pest Solutions
Seay, Seay & Litchfield, PC
The Ark
Aventa Specialized Women's Care

1-4 YEARS
The Bryan Lee Group, LLC
Wiregrass Home Team
Advanced Product Solutions Inc.
Advantage Resourcing
BPODash
Change My Mind Consulting, LLC
Eleson Tanton Consulting Inc.
Waldo's Chicken and Beer
Silver Star Automotive

Ambassadors**&Diplomats**

Star Of The Month

Sherri Winingham
Bryant's Outdoor Equipment

The Star of the Month is awarded to the DACC Ambassador or Diplomat who has achieved the most points during the month for attending Chamber events, performing renewal calls, recruiting new members and delivering new member packets.

Leah McClenny
Larry Blumberg & Associates (LBA Properties)
Residence Inn by Marriot

The Ambassador and Diplomat Spotlight of the Month is awarded to the DACC Ambassador or Diplomat who has received the most nominations from their peers for going above and beyond the general duties as an Ambassador/Diplomat during the month.

WIREGRASS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
A PowerSouth Energy Cooperative

PLATINUM SPONSORS:
Alabama Education Association
Coleman Worldwide Moving
The Crossing at Big Creek

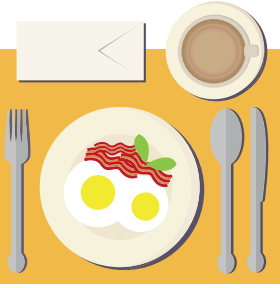
Eggs & Issues

A WIREGRASS BUSINESS FORUM

You're Invited

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14
8 A.M. • WRC

State Representatives for Dothan, Houston County, and surrounding counties will discuss local issues, bills being presented before the state legislature, along with other important local and state issues.



INDIVIDUAL TICKETS: $35
RESERVE A TABLE: $475

TO PURCHASE TICKETS:
Contact Alicia
aetheredge@dothan.com
334.792.5138

DOTHAN
DOTHAN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

You're Invited

STATE OF FORT NOVOSEL

Thursday, February 13

WRC | 8:00 - 9:30 AM | BREAKFAST SERVED
INDIVIDUAL TICKETS | $40 TABLE OF EIGHT | $475
Contact Alicia Etheredge at aetheredge@dothan.com for tickets

Maj. Gen. Clair A. Gill, Commanding General, USAACE and Fort Novosel will present a yearly update on local issues, direction and initiatives of Fort Novosel.

DOTHAN
DOTHAN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

PRESENTING SPONSOR
MIKE SCHMITZ AUTOMOTIVE GROUP

GOLD SPONSOR
ALL IN CREDIT UNION

SAVE THE *date*

DOTHAN
Business Hall *of* Fame

TUESDAY, APRIL 15
DOTHAN CIVIC CENTER

Honoring our 2025 Inductees

Alan Clark
DSI Security Services

Matt Parker
Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce

David Parsons
ParsonsGroup, LLC

DOTHAN
ALABAMA
DOTHAN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Flowers Hospital Earns An 'A' Hospital Safety Grade

Flowers Hospital earned an "A" Hospital Safety Grade from The Leapfrog Group, an independent national nonprofit watchdog focused on patient safety. Leapfrog assigns an "A," "B," "C," "D" or "F" grade to general hospitals across the country based on over 30 performance measures reflecting errors, accidents, injuries and infections, as well as the systems hospitals have in place to prevent them.

"We are proud to be recognized with this award as it serves as a testament of the commitment of our staff and physicians to providing safe, quality care to our patients," said Jeff Brannon, Flowers Hospital CEO. "We consider it a privilege to care for the Wiregrass, and we will continue to keep safe patient care as our top priority."

"Achieving an 'A' Hospital Safety Grade is a significant accomplishment for Flowers Hospital," said Leah Binder, The Leapfrog Group president/CEO. "It reflects enormous dedication to your patients and their families, and your whole community should be proud. I extend my congratulations to Flowers Hospital, its leadership, clinicians, staff and volunteers for their tireless efforts to put patients first."

The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade stands as the only hospital ratings program focused solely on preventable medical errors, infections and injuries that kill more than 500 patients a day in the United States. This program is peer-reviewed, fully transparent and free to the public. Grades are updated twice annually, in the fall and spring.

To explore Flowers Hospital's full grade details and to find valuable tips for staying safe in the hospital, visit **www.hospitalsafetygrade.org**.

Flowers Hospital has served the healthcare needs of the Wiregrass for more than 70 years. The facility is an important resource for the Dothan community, and it also serves as a major, 235-bed tertiary referral center for the tristate area of south Alabama, southwest Georgia and northwest Florida. By combining responsible personnel of approximately 1,500 employees, modern equipment and supplies, effective management, sophisticated support services, up-to-date professional education programs and a staff of more than 300 exceptional physicians, Flowers Hospital is able to assure patients of quality healthcare.

For more information, contact Emily Darnell, director of marketing, at (334) 794-5000, ext. 8575, **edarnell@flowershospital.com** or visit **www.flowershospital.com**.

Crossing At Big Creek Plans Music Festival

The Crossing at Big Creek is thrilled to announce the inaugural Breakout at Big Creek Music Fest, a two-day music festival that will take place Friday-Saturday, April 4-5, 2025.

This exciting event will be held at Big Creek Amphitheater and will showcase some of the hottest up-and-coming country artists. On Friday, April 4, attendees can look forward to a lineup featuring headliner Wyatt Flores, and performances by Jackson Dean, Giovannie & the Hired Guns, and Sadie Bass. The following day, Saturday, April 5, will be headlined by Kameron Marlowe, with additional acts including Dyland Marlowe, Pecos & The Rooftops, Bayker Blankenship, and Hannah McFarland.

Tickets for the two-day festival are now on sale and are $45 for the full event. For more information, or to purchase tickets, visit **www.bigcreekamphitheater.com**.

Slingluff United Insurance Announces Addition Of New Partners

Ben Slingluff and Slingluff United Insurance are excited to announce the addition of two new partners within the agency, Myron Williams and Steve Thompson. This partnership enhances the agency's commitment to serving the insurance needs of the Wiregrass.

Established in 1928, Slingluff United Insurance stands as one of the oldest independent agencies in the area, a testament to its enduring legacy and dedication to the community.

Williams' and Thompson's partnership highlights the importance of the agency's perpetuation strategy and ensures continuity of exceptional service for Slingluff United's clients. With a mission to provide a broad and comprehensive array of personal and business insurance products, the agency remains steadfast in its commitment to serving southeast Alabama and beyond.

The addition of these partners emphasizes Slingluff United's dedication to growth and innovation in the insurance industry, ensuring that clients receive the quality coverage and service they deserve.

For more information, contact Ben Slingluff at (334) 792-5101, **ben@slingluffunited.com** or visit **www.slingluffunited.com**.

Steve Thompson, Ben Slingluff and Myron Williams

WIREGRASS PROFESSIONAL SERIES

HEAR FROM ALABAMA'S TOP INDUSTRY LEADERS

AT DOTHAN CHAMBER | 7:30 - 9AM | LIGHT BREAKFAST SERVED

INDIVIDUAL SESSION TICKETS | $60
Contact Alicia Etheredge at aetheredge@dothan.com for tickets

January 23, 2025

STATE OF CITY/COUNTY

Mark Saliba | Mayor, City of Dothan
Brandon Shoupe | Chairman, Houston County Commission

EVENT SPONSOR | VISIT DOTHAN

Wiregrass WEALTH MANAGEMENT

DOTHAN ALABAMA
DOTHAN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Kelly Seed Expands Its Reach

Kelly Seed Co., LLC is thrilled to share the exciting news that the company has officially acquired Dillon Seed Co. Inc., located in Dillon, South Carolina. The merger is a significant leap forward for the company as it aims to strengthen its position as a leader in the industry.

Kelly Seed is eager to enhance its services for its valued customers in the region and continue expanding the company's reach into the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic markets.

Kelly Seed can't wait to welcome the talented team from Dillon Seed, whose expertise and local knowledge will be an incredible asset. Moreover, Kelly Seed sends a warm greeting to all Dillon Seed customers and are excited to have them join the Kelly Seed Family as it continues to fulfill all of their seed needs with unparalleled customer service.

For more information, contact Kelly Seed Co. at (334) 588-3821, **info@kellyseed.com** or visit on Facebook at **https://link.edgepilot.com/s/948e5700/427n2KIEZ0iTCXLk5gu0ug?u=http://www.kellyseed.com/**.

JTWM Surpasses $2 Billion In Assets

Jackson Thornton Wealth Management announced that it surpassed $2 billion in assets under management in recent weeks.

JTWM was named to the 2024 Wealth Magnets list by Accounting Today, has been named to the CNBC Top 100 Financial Advisors list for several years, and is a frequent thought leader and contributor to state and national publications.

"We're thrilled that 2024 has been such a dynamic year for Jackson Thornton Wealth Management," commented Shaw Pritchett, a financial advisor and president of JTWM. "In addition to this AUM milestone, we're celebrating our 25th anniversary, a new office in Auburn and a new name/brand. We have a lot for which to be grateful and we certainly give much of the credit to our clients who have placed their trust in us for 25 years."

With more than $2 billion in assets under management, JTWM (a subsidiary of Jackson Thornton CPAs & Consultants) has been providing wealth management services to clients throughout the country since 1999. The firm, with offices in Montgomery, Auburn and Dothan, Alabama, offers wealth management, retirement planning, employer-sponsored benefit plans and consulting services in addition to collaborative tax and estate planning.

For more information, contact Cindy Scott, chief marketing officer, at (334) 240-3641, **cindy.scott@jacksonthornton.com** or visit **www.jacksonthornton.com**.

DSI Security Wins Outstanding Security Performance Award

DSI Security Services is proud to announce it has been awarded the prestigious Outstanding Security Performance award for Outstanding Contract Security Company (Guarding). This distinguished award recognizes and celebrates excellence within the security industry and acknowledges companies that demonstrate exceptional service and dedication to quality.

The OSPA is a globally recognized award for top-tier performance in the security industry. DSI received this prestigious honor for its outstanding performance, reflecting its reliability and commitment to clients.

"We are incredibly honored to receive this year's Outstanding Security Performance award," said Eddie Sorrells, DSI Security Services president. "This recognition is a testament to the entire DSI team's hard work, dedication and excellence. It reinforces our commitment to delivering top-tier security solutions and maintaining the highest industry standards. Together, we will continue to push boundaries and raise the bar for what is possible in the security industry."

The OSPAs are awarded in 16 countries and collaborate with leading security associations and groups worldwide. The U.S. OSPAs were developed with support from ASIS International, the world's largest association for security management professionals. For more information, visit **us.theospas.com**.

DSI President Eddie Sorrells (center) accepts DSI Security Services Outstanding Security Performance award at a celebration reception at GSX (Global Security Exchange) in Orlando.

YourChamber

Are You A New Chamber Member?

As a return on your investment as a Chamber member, you are entitled to one business card ad within 90 days in the Chamber's monthly newsletter, *Chamber Connections*.

Spotlight your business and boost its exposure! For more information, contact Melia McKean at (334) 792-5138 or **melia@dothan.com**.

Dothan Warehouse Announces Expansion

50 new Jobs, $5.2 Million Investment

Dothan Warehouse announced their $5.2 million expansion in December. The project will provide 40,000 square feet of space to store products needing temperature levels at 35 degrees and 80,0000 square feet of capability at 63 degrees, totaling 120,000 square feet of space. At full capability, the project will also add an additional 50 employees.

"We have been focused, monitoring market conditions and determined there is more demand for temperature controlled fulfillment space and we are very excited to continue to grow. We expect to be shipping 500,000 parcel shipments out per month by the end of 2026," stated Turner Jones, Dothan Warehouse president. "This project will give us 10,000 pallet positions of capacity and allow us to continue to focus on commodities in the area of food, health and beauty products, medical and nutraceutical. This expansion will give us the ability for copacking capabilities and we will be at BRC food grade. The British Retail Consortium Global Standard for Food Safety is an internationally recognized standard for food safety, quality and traceability. The BRCGS certification program is used by suppliers in over 100 countries, so this is another key standard we will have with this project."

"Dothan Warehouse's expansion is a shining example of how Alabama businesses are stepping up to meet the demands of a changing marketplace," stated Gov. Kay Ivey. "This investment in temperature-controlled storage not only strengthens Alabama's logistics capabilities, but also adds quality jobs for our hardworking citizens in Dothan and beyond. I commend Dothan Warehouse for its commitment to excellence, and I look forward to seeing the positive impact this project will have on our state's economy."

"Dothan Warehouse's decision to expand here in Alabama underscores the strategic advantages we offer for logistics and supply chain operations," said Secretary Ellen McNair, Alabama Department of Commerce. "Through partnerships and programs aimed at fostering growth, we're enabling companies like Dothan Warehouse to innovate, expand and thrive. This project's focus on food safety and temperature-controlled logistics positions Alabama as a leader in the sector, and we're proud to support initiatives that bring new jobs and investment into our communities."

Mayor Mark Saliba, city of Dothan, and Chairman Brandon Shoupe, Houston County Commission, jointly stated, "We appreciate Dothan Warehouse's continued investment in our market area and we are really excited to expand capabilities in temperature controlled storage in our market. With so many activities in our economic development efforts and innovation efforts with HudsonAlpha and Bio Alabama with Ag-Tech, Food, and medical and nutraceutical, this continues building our foundation to support future initiatives."

Other partners to assist on this development include the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce's Grow Dothan, a private/public partnership for economic development, the City of Dothan Industrial Development Board, Dothan Utilities, State Legislative delegation and the Alabama Municipal Electric Authority.

Headquartered in Dothan, Alabama, Dothan Warehouse is your premier third-party logistics (3PL) partner specializing in BRC certified ambient, temperature-controlled and refrigerated warehousing storage, B2B distribution, and ecommerce fulfillment solutions.

For more information contact Colton Cureton, DACC's vice president of economic development, at **ccureton@dothan.com**.

Dothan Warehouse announced their $5.2 million expansion in December.

SOUTHEAST ALABAMA WORKS!

Southeast AlabamaWorks: Building A Stronger Labor Force Through Workforce Development Initiatives

Katie Thomas, Executive Director

In today's ever-changing economic landscape, workforce development has become a critical pillar for regional growth and sustainability. Southeast AlabamaWorks, a leader in this field, is dedicated to addressing workforce challenges in the 10-county Southeast Alabama region. With innovative programs and collaborative efforts, the organization is making significant strides in boosting labor force participation rates and preparing a skilled workforce to meet the demands of industries across the region.

Southeast AlabamaWorks focuses on bridging the gap between job seekers and employers. Its initiatives are carefully designed to connect individuals with meaningful employment opportunities while addressing the unique needs of local industries. From education and training programs to immersive career experiences, Southeast AlabamaWorks is ensuring the region's workforce is equipped to thrive in a competitive economy.

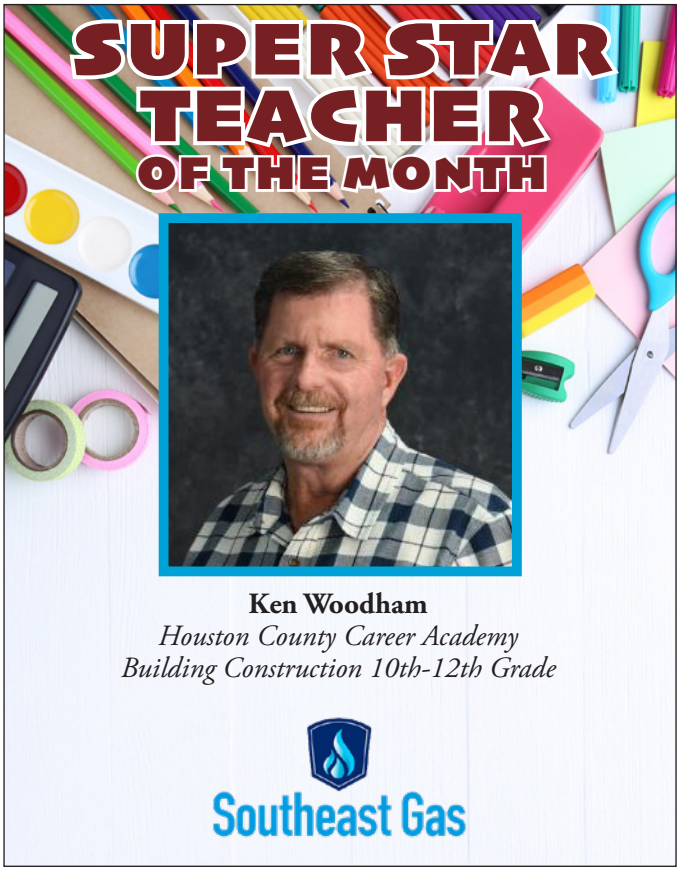
One of Southeast AlabamaWorks' flagship programs is the annual Southeast Worlds of Work (WOW) career experience. This event introduces 10th-grade students to a wide array of careers through interactive exhibits and hands-on demonstrations. By engaging students early, Southeast WOW ignites interest in high-demand fields such as advanced manufacturing, healthcare, information technology, and aviation.

The immersive nature of Southeast WOW allows students to envision themselves in these roles, sparking career aspirations that align with regional workforce needs. By targeting high school students, this initiative plays a pivotal role in preparing the next generation for the workforce while addressing future labor shortages.

Collaboration is at the heart of Southeast AlabamaWorks' success. The organization works closely with local businesses, educational institutions, and government agencies to develop targeted workforce solutions. Additionally, Southeast AlabamaWorks collaborates with community colleges and other schools to create accessible pathways to certification and degree programs. These efforts not only prepare individuals for high-demand jobs but also help employers find qualified candidates, reducing the skills gap.

Southeast AlabamaWorks recognizes that increasing labor force participation involves addressing barriers that keep individuals from entering the workforce. Initiatives such as soft skills training, transportation assistance, and childcare support ensure that job seekers can overcome obstacles to employment. By focusing on holistic solutions, the organization empowers individuals to achieve economic independence.

Southeast AlabamaWorks is more than a workforce development organization—it is a catalyst for regional transformation. Its commitment to innovation, collaboration, and community impact is building a stronger labor force and a more vibrant economy. As the organization continues to expand its initiatives, Southeast Alabama is poised to achieve even greater success in workforce participation and economic development.



DOTHAN
ALABAMA

DOTHAN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Did You Know That Your Chamber ...

Constantly Communicates About You?
As a Chamber member and a vital part of the business community, you are represented every day when the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce responds to inquiries about our region and the services it offers.

Voices Your Political Concerns?
We ask members what they think about particular taxation and legislation issues, and we make their views known to government officials.

Functions as Your Research Department?
There's a wealth of up-to-date statistical information available to you as a Chamber member, information we have compiled to help you have in-depth knowledge of your market and make better business decisions.

Provides Continuing Business Education?
The professional workshops and seminars provided through the Chamber include sessions on a wide variety of topics that can be put to immediate and practical use in your business.

Sells Your Potential Customers on Coming Here?
Through our marketing programs and responses to inquiries, the Chamber continually promotes the Dothan area as a preferred destination for relocation, tourist activities, sports events, recreation, shopping, health care services, meetings and conventions.

Provides Numerous Networking Opportunities?
Regularly scheduled Chamber get-togethers offer the opportunity to meet and get to know other business owners and managers in the community, often resulting in new ideas, new supply sources and new sales leads.

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SPOTLIGHT ON BUSINESS

The Heart of DOTHAN

2025 Spotlight on Business Celebrates the Heart of our Community - our **Small Businesses!**

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

3-7 PM

DOTHAN CIVIC CENTER

BOOTH COST $450

Contact Alicia to Reserve a Booth: aetheredge@dothan.com

Booth Space Available until **SOLD OUT**

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2025 Small Business Person of the Year Award Nominations

The Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce has been presenting the Small Business Person of the Year award to deserving outstanding business owners since 1987. Agnes Simpson of WOOF Radio was the Chamber's first Small Business Person of the Year award recipient. This prestigious recognition is awarded annually to an individual owner of a local small business (1-25 employees). The candidate must show growth or sustainability of their business, have strong employee relations, show commitment to social responsibility and exemplify strong community involvement. Although the candidates will be judged in all of these areas, they do not have to excel in every area to win.

Do you know a small business owner with a success story and who is making a contribution to the local community and the economy? If so, nominate them. The Chamber will accept nominations for the 2025 Small Business Person of the Year from Jan. 6 to March 7, 2025. The winner will be announced in May at the Small Business Week General Membership Luncheon.

Each nominee must meet the following criteria:

- Employ between one and 25 people.
- Be the founder, partner or owner of the business.
- Business must be a member in good standing of the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce.
- Have been an active Chamber member for at least three continuous years.
- Business must have been operating in the Dothan area for a minimum of three years.
- Business must exhibit growth and longevity, involvement in community development, innovative practices, and success in the face of adversity.
- Adhere to ethical business practices.
- Candidate can not have won award within the past 10 years.

To nominate a small business person, fill out the information below. *(Please type or print)*

Name of Nominee: _____

Company: _____

Nominated By: _____

Your Phone Number or Email Address: _____

_____

Why this individual deserves recognition: *(For additional comments, attach an additional sheet.)* _____

_____

_____

_____

Return this form to:
Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce
Attn: Alicia Etheredge
P.O. Box 638 • Dothan, AL 36302 • Fax: (334) 794-4796
Or email Alicia at **aetheredge@dothan.com**

Nominations are due by March 7, 2025, 12 p.m.
Thank you for your nomination!

Small Business Person of the Year Nomination Form

Chamber
Connections

A Publication of the
Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce
January 2025
Vol. 52, No. 4 (USPS 700-660)
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Chamber Connections is published monthly (USPS 700-660) for the members of the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce, 102 Jamestown Blvd., Dothan, AL 36301. Subscription rate is $24 annually. Postmaster: Send address changes to Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 638, Dothan, AL 36302. Periodicals postage is paid at Dothan, AL and additional mailing office.

ECONOMIC INDICATORS FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

DOTHAN ALABAMA
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		2023	2024
↑	Labor Force For The Dothan MSA:	67,785 65,928 (Employed)	68,886 66,663 (Employed)
↑	Unemployment For The Dothan MSA:	2.7%	3.2%
	Residential Building Permits For The City Of Dothan:	14 Issued ($6.48 Million)	Unavailable
↑	Home Sales in Dothan:	143 Sold	144 Sold
↓	Enplanements For Dothan Regional Airport:	3,300	3,261
↓	Houston County & Dothan Sales And Use Tax Collections ($):	$2,076,789 (County) $7,853,717 (City)	$2,040,544 (County) $7,732,038 (City)

Editor's Note: Sources for this information vary; call the Chamber for details. Data as of 12/07/24. Visit www.dothan.com for the most current information.

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