Chamber Connections

Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce

April 2025

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Your Cover Photo

Your cover photo features Dothan's Westgate Super Site. For more information, see page 4.

www.dothan.com
(334) 792-5138

Alabama Chambers
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ASSOCIATION OF ALABAMA
2025 PROUD MEMBER

EventsCalendar

April

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			

1 **Government Affairs Committee Meeting – 8 a.m.**
Location: 102 Jamestown Blvd. (Chamber)

Ambassador and Diplomat Committee Monthly Meeting – 9 a.m.
Location: 102 Jamestown Blvd. (Chamber)

Ribbon Cutting: Aventa Specialized Women's Care Expansion – Noon
Location: 2202 Westside Drive

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

5 **Dothan Area Young Professionals Aces for the Arts – 6-10 p.m.**
Location: 170 N. Foster St. (The Grand)
*See page 7 for more information.

6 **Youth Leadership Dothan-Houston County Car Wash Fundraiser – 2:30-4 p.m.**
Location: 617 Westgate Parkway (Westgate Church of Christ)
*See page 13 for more information.

8 **26th Annual Community-Wide Prayer Breakfast – 7:30 a.m.**
Location: 126 N. St. Andrews St. (Dothan Civic Center)
*See page 8 for more information.

Total Resource Campaign IMPACT Campaign Closes – 5 p.m.

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

Ribbon Cutting: Fun Zone Skate Center Peanut Unveiling – 10:30 a.m.
Location: 465 Westgate Parkway

10 **Ribbon Cutting: Mt. Moriah Farms – 10:30 a.m.**
Location: 102 Jamestown Blvd. (Chamber)

14 **Ribbon Cutting: Time Youth Dothan – 10:30 a.m.**
Location: 442 S. Oates St.

15 **13th Annual Dothan Business Hall of Fame Banquet and Induction Ceremony – 5:30 p.m.**
Location: 126 N. St. Andrews St. (Dothan Civic Center)
*See page 7 for more information

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

Ribbon Cutting: Wiregrass Wound and Amputation Prevention Center Relocation – 11 a.m.
Location: 2967 Ross Clark Circle

17 **Leadership Dothan Health Care Day – 7:45 a.m.**
Location: 102 Jamestown Blvd. (Chamber)

18 **Good Friday - Chamber Closed**

21 **Ribbon Cutting: Alfred Saliba Family Services Center Expansion and 30th Anniversary Celebration – 11 a.m.**
Location: 301 W Lafayette St.

23 **Youth Leadership Dothan-Houston County Public Safety Day – 7:45 a.m.**
Location: 100 Public Safety Way (Wiregrass Public Safety Center)

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

DAYP Eats – 11:30 a.m.
Location: 103 Apple Ave., Suite 2 (Rock-N-Roll Sushi)
*See page 14 for more information

24 **Entrepreneurship Council Seminar: Web Design: Using AI and Templates, What You Need to Know – 5:30 p.m.**
Location: 102 Jamestown Blvd. (Chamber)
*See page 14 for more information

25 **Wiregrass Women's Networking Lunch – 11:30 a.m.**
Location: 3108 Ross Clark Circle, Suite 4 (Red Elephant Pizza & Grill)
*See page 14 for more information.

29 **Ribbon Cutting: Stone Martin Builders Magnolia Trace Community – 11 a.m.**
Location: 127 Laurel Branch Drive

30 **Military Affairs Committee Meeting – 8:30 a.m.**
Location: 102 Jamestown Blvd. (Chamber)

Ribbon Cutting: PWC Message Center 40th Anniversary and Peanut Unveiling – 11 a.m.
Location: 4929 U.S. Highway 84 East

EXPANSION
Wiregrass Area Food Bank
382 Twitchell Road
Dothan, AL 36303
Davd Hanks
(334) 794-9775
www.wiregrassfoodbank.com
NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

GRANDOPENING
Sen. Katie Britt's Dothan Office
Dothan Courthouse and Federal Building
100 Troy St., Suite 101
Dothan, AL 36301
(334) 500-4097
www.britt.senate.gov
GOVERNMENT OFFICES & AGENCIES

Stone Martin Builders
Chase Ridge New Phase
3120 Frederick Road, Suite E
Opelika, AL 36801
Alisa Anthony
(334) 742-8050
www.stonemartinbuilders.com
CONSTRUCTION – COMMERCIAL

RENOVATION
Landmark Park Waddell House
420 Landmark Park Drive
Dothan, AL 36303
David Jay
(334) 794-3452
www.landmarkparkdothan.com
NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Happy Easter!

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 Mary Reed at (334) 792-5138 or **membership@dothan.com**.

THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD OF THE CITY OF DOTHAN

Industrial Development Board Receives SEEDS Grant

The state of Alabama continues to make strategic investments in economic development through its Site Evaluation and Economic Development Strategy program. One of the most recent beneficiaries of this initiative is The Industrial Development Board of The City of Dothan, which has been awarded a SEEDS grant totaling $117,832. These funds will be directed toward essential due diligence efforts at the Westgate Super Site, a prime location for future industrial development in Dothan, Alabama.

The Westgate Super Site, spanning an impressive 446 acres, holds immense potential for attracting a major employer to the region. However, before it can become a competitive site for business expansion, necessary preparatory work must be completed. This is where the SEEDS grant plays a pivotal role. The funds will be utilized for site readiness evaluations, environmental assessments and infrastructure planning -- critical steps to ensure the site meets the requirements of potential investors and businesses.

The significance of this grant is further underscored by the commitment of the City of Dothan Commission, which has provided $91,892 in local matching funds to support the initiative. This additional financial backing reflects the Commission's recognition of the Westgate Super Site's potential as a catalyst for economic growth. By partnering with the SEEDS program, local officials are demonstrating a proactive approach to economic development and job creation.

Economic development site readiness is a key factor in attracting businesses to a region. In today's competitive market, companies seeking to expand or relocate prioritize sites that are prepped and primed for development. A well-prepared site reduces risks, expedites project timelines and enhances a location's attractiveness to prospective employers. The City of Dothan Commission fully understands this dynamic and has committed resources to ensure the Westgate Super Site becomes an appealing option for industrial investment.

The SEEDS program, managed by the Alabama Department of Commerce, aims to assist communities in preparing industrial sites for economic development opportunities. By investing in infrastructure improvements, site assessments and feasibility studies, SEEDS helps municipalities across Alabama remain competitive in securing business investments. The program has been instrumental in advancing numerous projects statewide, strengthening Alabama's position as a prime location for industry and innovation.

For Dothan, securing the SEEDS grant aligns with broader economic development goals. The Westgate Super Site is strategically positioned to become a major employment hub, attracting businesses that can bring high-quality jobs and economic benefits to the region. The site's size, accessibility and infrastructure potential make it an ideal location for manufacturing, logistics, and technology-driven industries.

The collaboration between the state of Alabama and local stakeholders exemplifies a strategic approach to economic growth. By leveraging both state and local funding, Dothan is taking a significant step toward enhancing its appeal to investors. The due diligence work funded by the SEEDS grant and local contributions will ensure that the Westgate Super Site meets the necessary standards for site certification, a crucial factor for businesses evaluating locations.

Looking ahead, the successful completion of this due diligence phase could position the Westgate Super Site as a game-changer for Dothan's economic landscape. A well-developed site can attract major employers, stimulate local businesses and enhance the overall quality of life for residents. With the SEEDS grant and local support in place, Dothan is on a path toward securing long-term economic prosperity.

The investment in the Westgate Super Site demonstrates a clear commitment to job creation, business expansion and regional growth. As Dothan moves forward with this initiative, the city is solidifying its role as a competitive player in Alabama's economic development efforts. The SEEDS program continues to serve as a critical tool in fostering economic opportunities, ensuring that communities like Dothan are well-positioned for success in the evolving business landscape.

For more information, contact Colton Cureton, the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce's vice president of economic development, at (334) 685-7036 or **ccureton@dothan.com**.

Celebrating Milestone Membership Anniversaries

20 - 29 Years

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 past few months has been 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.

29 Years
Children's of Alabama
LongHorn Steakhouse
Southeast Alabama Child Advocacy Center
Southeast Alabama Community Theatre

28 Years
Courtyard by Marriott
Signs Etcetera Inc.
Southeast Alabama Regional Planning & Development Commission
Vaughn-Blumberg Services

27 Years
Alfred Saliba Family Services Center
City of Slocomb
Dauphin Dentistry
Dothan Education Foundation
Dr. Arthur Moore
Exchange Center for Child Abuse Prevention
Ridgecrest Baptist Church
Southern Alabama Regional Council on Aging (SARCOA)
The House of Ruth Inc.
The JOY FM 94.3, 96.1 Wiregrass, 93.5 River Region, 101.7 Florida Panhandle

26 Years
334 Prevention Project
AFLAC - Jo Ann Kirkland
Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Showcase Properties
Blankenship Contracting Inc.
Bondy's South
Dale Carnegie Emerald Coast
Dothan Farms
Econo Lodge
Highlands Trail Apartments
Kiwanis Club of Dothan
Micro Support Services Inc.
Northstar Engineering Services
Oncology Supply
Performance Carpet Cleaning & Restoration
Podiatry Health Center
Print Services Inc.
Providence Christian School
Southeast Alabama Dance Co.
Southeast Health Westgate Clinic
Storage Master
The Mobile Attic
The Salvation Army
Ward Wilson Memory Hill Funeral Home
Wiregrass Human Resource Management Association

25 Years
Cook's Pest Control
Eastern Technologies
Hall Housing Investments Inc.
Hara Financial Services, LLC
Houston County Health Department
Junior League of the Wiregrass
PRemployer Inc.
RealTime, LLC
Southern Heritage Funeral Home & Crematory
Tractor & Equipment Co.
Wiregrass Habitat for Humanity Inc.

24 Years
All In Credit Union
CapSouth Wealth Management
Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC
Fairway Independent Mortgage Corp.
Four Star Freightliner
Southeastern Pediatric Associates, PA
Sweetwater Apartments
Jim Whaley Tires Inc.
Wiregrass Area Food Bank

23 Years
Alabama Technology Network
BMI Storage, LLC
City of Midland City
Comfort Systems USA
Dothan OBGYN, Inc.
Dothan Pilcher Ambulance Service
Evergreen Presbyterian Church
Fort Novosel Family & MWR
Harris Security Systems Inc.
Jackson Thornton Wealth Management, LLC
Toyota of Dothan
Westgate Christian School

22 Years
Adams Beverages Inc.
Alabama Power Co. Appliance Center
Chick-fil-A at Ross Clark Circle
Circle City Glass Co. Inc.
Construction Partners Inc.
Deanco Auction & Real Estate Co. Inc.
Digestive Health Specialists of the Southeast
Estrogenica Health 360
Harrison-Cannon Allstate Insurance
McGhee, Jim
Prim & Mendheim, LLC
Women's Center at Southeast Health
Zaxby's

21 Years
CDG Inc
Doctors Center Pharmacy
Edward Jones - Les Pinckard, Financial Advisor
Harvest Church
jsmithdesign
LifeSouth Community Blood Centers
Noland Hospital Dothan
S & S Development Co., LLP
Summerford Pallet Co. Inc.
Temple Emanu-el
Village Furniture Galleries

20 Years
All In Credit Union (S. Park Ave.)
All In Credit Union (Woodburn Ave.)
Blue Plate (West)
Cornerstone Church
The Cultural Arts Center
Hampton Inn & Suites by Hilton
Hanson, Norma
Huskey & Barron, PLLC
Lewis Construction, LLC
MRS BPO, LLC
S.A. Jones Construction
SERVPRO of Dothan
Tabor Pest Control
Wiregrass Foundation

Business Spotlight Presenting Sponsor

OMNI Marketing Group

New**Members**

Clip and add these to your Membership Directory.

Bart M Boothe, LLC
Bart Boothe
206 N. Lena St.
P.O. Box 7001
Dothan, AL 36302-7001
(334) 897-3413
www.bartboothelaw.com
ATTORNEYS / LEGAL

Breakthrough Coatings: Colored Epoxies
Ryan Lucas
917 Tate Drive, Suite 3
Dothan, AL-36301
(774) 392-2758
www.coloredepoxies.com
FLOORING

Country Financial - Casey Wilemon Agency
Casey Wilemon
248 N. Foster St., Suite 5
Dothan, AL 36303
(334) 648-4110
https://agents.countryfinancial.com/usa/al/dothan/casey-wilemon
INSURANCE

HL Marketing Group, LLC
Haydyn Livingston
3246 Montgomery Highway, Suite 109
Dothan, AL 36303
(334) 790-7820
MARKETING

KC Kreative Catering
Kim Carroll
4640 S. State Highway 109
Slocomb, AL 36375-4574
(334) 701-1019
FOOD TRUCKS / RESTAURANTS

Knox Media Group Inc.
Moshiu Knox
285 N. Forster St., Suite 710
Dothan, AL 36303
(334) 458-0008
www.knoxmediagroupinc.org
NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

PuroClean Of Santa Rosa Beach
Dean Varner
130 Dandelion Court
Dothan, AL 36305
(334) 232-0009
www.puroclean.com/santa-rosa-beach-al
CLEANING & RESTORATION

Quick Labs Inc.
Matt Howard
2944 Ross Clark Circle
Dothan, AL-36301
(334) 780-1104
Fax: (844) 211-1887
www.quicklabsalabama.com
MEDICAL SERVICES & SUPPLIES

Wiregrass Archaeological Consulting
Justin Stickler
158 N. Foster St.
Dothan, AL 36303
(334) 685-3354
www.wiregrassarch.com
SURVEYORS

Renewing**Members**

60 To 69 YEARS
Tom West Co.

50-59 YEARS
AALOS at Dothan Brace Shop
Alfred Saliba Corp.
Dothan Animal Hospital
Dothan Hardware and Supply Co. Inc.
Palmer Electric Construction Co.
Swedish Match Cigars
WOW!

40-49 YEARS
Alabama Power Co.
Burnett Valuation Services, LLC
Carriage House Apartments
Coldwell Banker - Alfred Saliba Realty
Southeastern Performance Apparel
Troy University
Women's Health Care of Dothan, PC

30-39 YEARS
Anesthesia Consultants Medical Group, PC
DANCO Industrial Contractors Inc.
Highland Oaks Golf Course
Nantze Springs Inc.
Southeast Cardiology Clinic Inc.
Synovus

25-29 YEARS
AFLAC - Jo Ann Kirkland
Exchange Center for Child Abuse Prevention
Southern Heritage Funeral Home & Crematory

20-24 YEARS
Construction Partners Inc.
Davis Direct
Noland Hospital Dothan
SERVPRO of Dothan

15-19 YEARS
Apaxx Inc.
Carnes Chiropractic & Wellness Center
Houston Printing Co. Inc.
Praestare Engineering Inc.
Red Elephant Pizza & Grill
Southeast Alabama Association of Realtors
U.S. Coupling & Accessories Inc.
Weichert Realtors, JBR Legacy Group
Wiregrass Construction Co. Inc.

10-14 YEARS
ATC Group Inc.
C Spire
Greater Grace Baptist Church

5-9 YEARS
Comcast Business
DoubleTree by Hilton
Great Southern Wood Preserving Inc.
Keller Williams Realty Southeast Alabama
Liddon Furniture
MaTex Hose, LLC
Nailen Jr., C. Charles
Nailen, Kay G.
Remax Traditions
Republic Finance
Scrubs 101 Uniform Boutique, LLC
The Ark
Vision Center South

1-4 YEARS
Alfa Insurance - Mills & Rice Agency
Caution Glass, LLC
Embers Corporate Apparel, LLC
Express Oil Change & Tire Engineers
Hines Chapel AME Church

Ambassadors**&Diplomats**

Star Of The Month

Blake Seymour
Edward Jones - Brandon Apida, Financial Adviser

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.

Pam Barnes
Marketing Navii

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.

Chamber Presents JROTC Cadet Leadership Awards

During its regular quarterly meeting, the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce's Board of Directors honored five local area high school JROTC cadets for their outstanding leadership and performance during the current 2024-2025 school year.

Cadet of the Year Leadership awards were presented to:

- **Carroll High School - Army JROTC**
  Cadet 1st Lt. Adyah Newsome
  Program Commander: (Ret.) Lt. Col. Luk Slinker
- **Daleville High School – Army JROTC**
  Cadet Command Sgt. Emma Lafferty
  Program Commander: Chief Warrant Officer 4 Nathaniel Barley
- **Dothan High School – Army JROTC**
  Cadet Lt. Col. Shyla Brown
  Program Commander: (Ret.) Sgt. Maj. Tracy Adams
- **Houston County Career Academy – Army JROTC**
  Cadet Capt. Elizabeth Barrios
  Program Commander: (Ret.} Lt. Col. John Tatum
- **Rehobeth High School – Navy JROTC**
  Cadet Lt. Cmdr. Jazmine Coyt
  Program Commander: Gunnery Sgt. Ronald Morgan

During the presentations, the commanders had the opportunity to talk about the student's involvement in the JROTC program and the cadets talked about their future plans. Currently, the Dothan Area Chamber is the only area chamber that holds such an activity each year.

The Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce's Board of Directors presented Cadet of the Year Leadership awards to five local area high school JROTC cadets. Receiving the awards (pictured front row l-r) are Rehobeth High School – Navy JROTC Cadet Lt. Cmdr. Jazmine Coyt, Daleville High School - Army JROTC Cadet Command Sgt. Emma Lafferty, Dothan High School - Army JROTC Cadet Lt. Col. Shyla Brown, Carroll High School - Army JROTC Cadet 1st Lt. Adyah Newsome and Houston County Career Academy - Army JROTC Cadet Capt. Elizabeth Barrios.

FUMC Announces April's Lenten Lunch Series

First United Methodist Church invites readers to join the church every Wednesday during Lent for its Lenten Lunch series from noon until 1 p.m.

FUMC is excited to welcome area pastors who will share the Word of God and lead attendees in holy reflection. Each week, you will be served a delicious hot lunch while hearing an inspiring message from a local faith leader.

The April dates are:

- April 2: Dr. Olivia Poole, St. Luke UMC, Enterprise
- April 9: Paul Thompson, Calvary Baptist Church; and
- April 16: John Coleman, Church of the Nativity.

This is a wonderful opportunity to come together in fellowship, enjoy a hearty meal and be spiritually nourished by the preaching of God's Word. Bring your friends, family and neighbors to be part of this special Lenten tradition.

There is no charge for the meal, but donations are welcome to help cover costs. For more information, contact FUMC at (334) 793-3555 or visit **www.fumcdothan.org**.

26th ANNUAL COMMUNITY-WIDE PRAYER BREAKFAST

Guest Speaker
Patti Yancey
Liberty Learning Foundation, Inc. CEO/Founder

APRIL 8, 2025
DOTHAN CIVIC CENTER
7:30 AM

$35 Individual / $350 Reserved Table (seats 8)
For Tickets, please contact Alicia Etheredge at aetheredge@dothan.com or (334) 792-5138.

Dothan Civic Center Bag Policy: Only clear bags (max 12" x 12" x 6") and clutch purses (max 6.5" x 4.5") allowed. No backpacks or drawstring bags; diaper bags allowed but must be clear; and medical bags allowed with size restrictions (12" x 12" x 6" max), subject to inspection.

Dothan Civic Center Bag Checks and Security Screening Policy: All guests are subject to bag checks and security screening upon entry.

Juneteenth Celebration Booths Now Available

The Tri-State Expo Juneteenth Affairs Inc. invites vendors and nonprofit organizations of all nationalities to participate in its annual Juneteenth Celebration and Business Expo Monday, June 7, at 11 a.m. at the Dothan Civic Center as it kicks off Freedom Month and celebrates this historic occasion.

This year's theme, "Unearthing the River Region: A Love for all Things Multicultural in Alabama," celebrates the rich tapestry of cultures in our state. Vendors are encouraged to create inviting and celebratory vendor booths that reflect this theme.

The costs for vendor spaces are $75 for for-profit vendors (reservations available for $25), $100 for food trucks (per space) and free for nonprofit organizations (no monetary solicitation allowed). Each space includes one table, two chairs, logo display on Dothan Civic Center screens and access to the sponsored vendor hospitality snack area. Vendor spaces will be available for reservation until sold out or May 1, 2025.

Vendors in the city of Dothan must have a business license on display the day of the event. For individuals outside of Dothan, Alabama, the city ordinance now requires you to have a $50 special event license. No worries, your vendor fee will be used to cover the special event license for all out of town, out of state vendors, so you won't have an additional expense.

To reserve your book space, visit **www.juneteenthdothanal.com/copy-of-vendors-form-check**. Or for more information, contact Leah Gunn, board president, at **tseja.leahgunn@gmail.com** or visit **www.juneteenthdothanal.com**.

JACKSON THORNTON
Certified Public Accountants & Consultants

Jackson Thornton Named To Best Tax & Accounting Firms List

Jackson Thornton, a certified public accounting and consulting firm headquartered in Montgomery, Alabama, is pleased to announce that it was named as one of America's Best Tax & Accounting Firms for 2025 by *USA Today*.

USA Today and market research company Statista partnered to create the list, which considered 3,500 survey responses from peers and clients. In total, only 100 companies were awarded the title of America's Most Recommended Tax Firms 2025 and 100 companies were awarded the title of America's Most Recommended Accounting Firm 2025.

"This is a direct testament to the level of service that we provide to our clients," remarked John Fendley, Jackson Thornton president/CEO. "We always strive to be the best and it's nice to be recognized by a national publication. We thank our team for their efforts that resulted in this recognition."

Jackson Thornton has enjoyed recognition in numerous surveys over the years, including its current rank among the nation's Top 200 accounting firms by Accounting Today magazine and as one of Forbes magazine's Best Tax and Accounting Firms.

Founded in 1919, Jackson Thornton has more than 200 professionals and associates in five offices located throughout Alabama. In addition to accounting services, the firm offers wealth management, strategic planning, business consulting services, technology consulting and specialized industry services.

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

THE CROSSING AT BIG CREEK

Breakout At Big Creek

The Crossing at Big Creek presents Breakout at Big Creek Friday and Saturday, April 4-5. The two-day musical festival includes performances by Wyatt Flores, Kameron Marlowe, Jackson Dean, Dylan Marlowe, Giavannie & The Hired Guns, Pecos & The Rooftops, Sadie Bass, Bayher Blankenship, Jared Harden, Hannah McFarland and Riley Anderson.

An all-ages show, the two-day ticket prices start at Lawn - $45 + tax/fees (chairs allowed); Preferred Viewing - $85 + tax/fees (chairs allowed); and Preferred PIT - $195 + tax/fees (NO chairs allowed).

To purchase tickets, or for more information, visit **www.thecorssingbigcreek.com**.

Art in Public Places

#SaveTheDate

Loop Music And Arts Festival

Art in Public Places will host the fourth annual Loop Music and Arts Festival with co-sponsors by the Dothan Civic Center and Opera House and Live at the Opera in downtown Dothan Friday and Saturday, April 11-12, from 4-8 p.m. each day. The Wiregrass's most vibrant two-day arts celebration features live music and visual arts.

Excitingly, this year brings an increase in $2,100 in artist awards, including a Best of Show Award ($500), two Awards of Distinction ($350 each) and five Merit Awards ($150 each).

Events include:

- Live Music: WHO: Atlanta Funk Society, Grits & Greens, Los Locos, DJ Veale, All Those Flashing Lights, MECO, Grassroots, Los Locos, & Ashley's Music Studio;
- Artistic Extravaganza: Immerse yourself in a showcase of over 43 exhibiting visual artists and three artist groups (Artfolk, The Luminaries and Play in the Clay Studio) along S. Foster Street and W. Crawford Street. There will also be artist demonstrations by ceramist Charlie Mabry, fiber artist Amanda Hamrick and poet Casey Roberts;
- Art Outside: Art in Public Places will launch a new outdoor installation series at the Festival. An outdoor art installation by artist Nicole Hemmerly will hang around Dothan's downtown; and
- Mural Tours: As the Mural City, the 2025 Loop Festival will feature self-guided and scheduled guided riding tours of our beautiful downtown murals for free plus storytelling about those murals at the festival.

Admission is free and open to everyone. However, if you want to experience the festival like never before, then you will want to be part of the enhanced Patron Program, which features Loop Loot (real money for art), exclusive festival hospitality at Blue Moon Café, free meals and libations, early bird shopping, designated parking, patron lanyards and ribbons for your favorite artists.

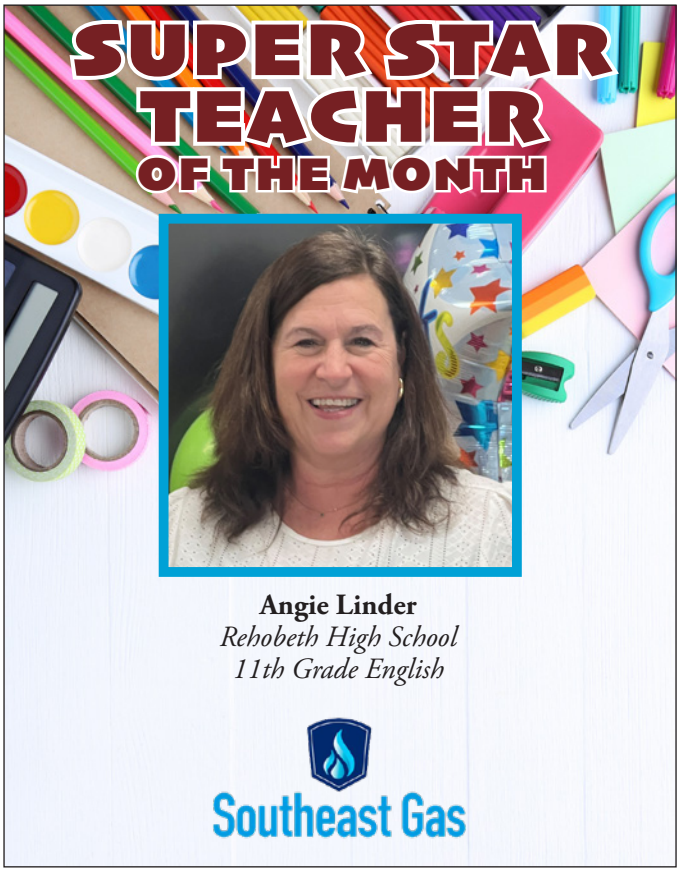
For more information, contact Holly Meyers at (334) 237-1555, **director@artinpublicplaces.art** or visit **www.artinpublicplaces.art**.

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*.

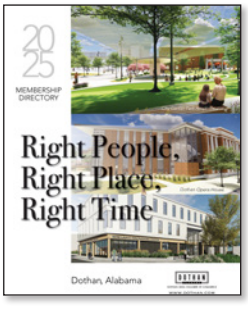
Spotlight your business and boost its exposure! For more information, contact Melia McKean at (334) 792-5138 or **melia@dothan.com**.



YourChamber

Need Additional Copies?

Welcome Guide and Membership Directory Still Available



In February, Chamber members received the *2025 Welcome Guide* and the *2025 Membership Directory and Business Guide*. If needed, additional copies for a company's Chamber representatives are still available at the Chamber office.

The *Welcome Guide* provides a comprehensive overview of the community including demographic and quality of life information. The *Membership Directory and Business Guide* offers a complete listing of our members in good standing as of November 25, 2024.

If your business should need additional copies of either publication, please contact Melia McKean, director of communications, at (334) 792-5138 or **melia@dothan.com**.

Eagle Eye Distributes Over $32,000 To Local Nonprofits

Eagle Eye Outfitters is proud to announce the results of its Change for Good initiative, a community-driven program designed to empower customers to make a direct impact on six local nonprofits: Dare to Hope, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Love in Action, The Ark, Wired Ministries and Wiregrass Hope Group. Launched in July 2024 as part of the company's 25th anniversary celebration, the initiative has fostered a culture of giving that continues to strengthen the Wiregrass community.

Through Change for Good, customers have the opportunity to round up their purchases at checkout, with 100 percent of the donated funds directed to the selected nonprofits. Eagle Eye Outfitters matches every dollar contributed, effectively doubling the generosity of those who choose to participate.

Between July and December 2024, customer donations totaled $16,249.45. With the matching contribution from Eagle Eye Outfitters, the total impact reached an impressive $32,498.90, providing each nonprofit with $5,416.49 to further their mission-driven work.

"We are continually amazed by the generosity of our customers and the power of working together to create meaningful change," said Mark Anderson, Eagle Eye Outfitters owner and CEO. "Our Change for Good initiative proves that even small contributions can make a big difference in our community."

Eagle Eye Outfitters remains steadfast in its commitment to giving back, ensuring that the six selected organizations will continue to benefit throughout 2025. In 2026, a new group of six nonprofits will be chosen, with applications opening in Fall 2025 for organizations interested in being considered.

For more information about Change for Good and Eagle Eye Outfitters' ongoing community efforts, visit **www.hopeagleeye.com/change-for-good**.

Through its Change for Good initiative, Eagle Eye Outfitters donated over $32,498 to six local nonprofits. Pictured (l-r) are Mike Phares, Fellowship of Christian Athletes field representative; Albert Williams, Fellowship of Christian Athletes executive director; Mark Anderson, Eagle Eye Outfitters owner; Susan Anderson, Wiregrass Hope Group executive director; Jeff Peacock, The Ark Dothan executive director; Trey Gibson, Wired Ministries; Chase Faulk, Wired Ministries executive director; Martha Tuck, Love in Action International Ministries; Ken Tuck, Love in Action International Ministries president; Gia Hughes, Dare to Hope executive director; and Morgan Blankenship, Dare to Hope.

Alabama's Sixth Crisis Center Opens

SpectraCare Crisis Care Center in Dothan

Gov. Kay Ivey joined the Alabama Department of Mental Health and SpectraCare Health Systems for an exclusive look at the state's newest Crisis Center with a ribbon cutting reception and tour. Serving 20 counties across central Alabama, the SpectraCare Crisis Care Center in Dothan is designed to support individuals facing a mental health or substance use crisis and is an integral part of the Alabama's Crisis System of Care.

Gov. Ivey said, "The opening of the SpectraCare Crisis Center marks another major step forward in strengthening mental health care in Alabama. With six crisis centers now in place statewide, I am proud of our commitment to expanding access to care and saving lives. I am glad to celebrate this important step forward and know the SpectraCare Crisis Center will have a lasting impact on central Alabama."

Since 2020, Gov. Ivey and the Alabama Legislature have invested in the establishment of Crisis Centers across the state. The Crisis Centers, which are open 24/7, 365 days a year, have increased access to care, saved lives and assisted thousands in beginning their journey of recovery. Over the last four years, more than 16,000 Alabamians have visited the Crisis Centers, receiving care for a mental health, substance use or suicidal crisis.

"The SpectraCare Crisis Center is such an important addition to the Alabama Crisis System of Care," said Kimberly Boswell, Alabama Department of Mental Health commissioner. "The life-saving combination of services at SpectraCare will contribute to improving lives of Alabamians in the region."

Under the leadership of Melissa Kirkland, SpectraCare Health Systems CEO, the facility will include 15 temporary observation beds with a 23-hour maximum length of stay and 12 extended observation beds, accommodating individuals for one to seven days.

Once patients are stabilized, the Crisis Center team work directly with community partners and hospitals to coordinate appropriate aftercare services.

"The opening of SpectraCare's Crisis Center has been a vision of our Board of Directors and Executive Team for decades. We appreciate the commitment and tireless dedication of Gov. Ivey, Commissioner Boswell and our state and community leadership have made to improve mental health care in our region. No doubt, the full continuum of Crisis Services offered inside this facility will offer early intervention, treatment and recovery for individuals and families in our communities," said Kirkland.

For more information, visit **www.spectracare.org**.

Dothan Continues To Shine In 2024 Annual Average COLI

The Dothan Area Cost of living index average for 2024 indicated the area is 12.7 percent below the national average in overall costs. This index developed by the Council for Community and Economic Research produces the Cost of Living Index to provide a useful and accurate measure for living cost differences among urban areas throughout the United States. Various items are priced during each quarter and weighed assigned to relative costs based on government survey data on expenditures patterns for profession and executive households. All items are priced in each place at a specified time and according to standardized specifications.

The Cost of Living Index measures relative price levels for consumer goods and services in participating areas. The average for all participating places, both metropolitan and non-metropolitan, equals 100, and each participant's index is read as a percentage of the average for all places. The index does not measure inflation nor does it include the state and local taxes due to the multiplicity of state and local taxes, taxing jurisdictions, and assessment procedures, it is not feasible to calculate local tax burdens reliably.

The overall composite index is broken down in six categories, these being grocery items (15.29 percent), housing (28.36 percent), utilities (8.38 percent), transportation (8.80 percent), health care (4.70 percent), and miscellaneous goods and services (34.47 percent). With that said, the Dothan market comes out with the following breakdown per category:

- Groceries – 96.5 percent;
- Housing – 66.9 percent;
- Utilities – 79.9 percent;
- Transportation – 90.0 percent;
- Health Care – 95.0 percent; and
- Miscellaneous Goods and Services – 100.0 percent.

Remembering that a score of 100 in the category is the national average, the Dothan area comes out very strong with below national average costs in groceries at 3.5 percent, housing 30.1 percent, utilities 20.1 percent, transportation 10 percent, and heath care 5 percent. The only cost category where Dothan is not below the national average is in miscellaneous goods and services, being right at the national average.

"This index is an important tool when we are working on recruiting new companies, working on employee relocations and employee attraction, because it is a standardized quantified and consistent data tool to compare apples to apples with the true cost picture of the U.S. market. This data is further proof that our area is a great and affordable area to live and grow our area and we appreciate the long time partnership we have had with C2ER to participate in the index," said Matt Parker, Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce president.

Bringing Learning To Life!

New Greenhouse Provides Experiential Learning Experience

Oftentimes, teachers at Dothan City Schools develop creative teaching strategies to allow students to understand concepts in fun and memorable ways. A project underway at Carver School for Mathematics, Science and Technology takes learning to a whole new level with an area that provides imaginative learning.

What started as an idea grew into a much larger vision when Chris Payne, Carver MST principal, planted the seeds that he knew one day would bring about more success for the school. In 2021, with the help of the Auburn Extension Service, the school implemented a garden area. Its success led to the start of the school's garden program.

A research garden soon took shape, and, with more help from the Auburn Extension Service, the school built a chicken coop just behind the school. The idea of developing an embryology project at Carver MST became a reality. From there, more parts of this larger vision came together, including a picnic area for the students, outdoor raised bed expansion and a field garden. Payne had another idea to add to the overall garden ecosystem: a greenhouse.

That greenhouse was recently constructed adjacent to the school campus. The greenhouse is eight feet wide, nine feet tall and 20 feet long. It serves as a dedicated area where students can study plant growth, contributing to hands-on learning with planting, nurturing, and observing various vegetation.

A grant through the Wiregrass RC&D Council provided funding for Carver MST's greenhouse project. The experiential experience presents students with a "living classroom," allowing teachers to integrate learning opportunities.

"The greenhouse is really part of a massive expansion we're wanting to do here at the school," explained Payne. "It's a school-wide project, not just one particular class or not a particular grade level – it's everybody!"

The greenhouse is another way that teachers can increase STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education at Carver MST. In addition, the project provides the school with potential community involvement by implementing gardening activities.

"Students at Carver MST continue to thrive, and these types of projects contribute to that success," said Dr. Dennis Coe, Dothan City Schools superintendent. "The greenhouse will not only give students a new perspective on planting, but we hope it will also spark an interest in a potential career down the line for these students related to conservation, horticulture, or agriculture."

For more information, contact David Baxley, public relations officer, at (334) 793.1397, ext. 236203, **david.baxley@dothan.k12.al.us** or visit **www.dothan.k12.al.us**.

Carver School for Mathematics, Science and Technology greenhouse (photo courtesy of Dothan City Schools).

Energy Southeast Announces 2025 Scholarship Winners

Thirty-two high school seniors will enroll in a four-year college/university, community college and/or vocational school in Alabama this year with help from Energy Southeast and its member cities/utilities through the 2025 Energy Southeast Scholarship Program.

Each of the 32 scholarship recipients will receive a $2,500 scholarship for a total of $80,000 awarded in this year's program. Energy Southeast received 98 scholarship applications in the 2025 program.

Since 1992, Energy Southeast and its members have provided over $3.5 million in scholarships to the graduating high school seniors who receive their electric service from Energy Southeast members.

To be eligible for the Energy Southeast scholarships, a student's family must receive electric service from an Energy Southeast member city electric utility and the student must attend an Alabama college/university or vocational school.

"We take our role as a good corporate citizen seriously," said Fred D. Clark Jr., Energy Southeast president/CEO. "That's why we, along with our members, support education initiatives, like the Energy Southeast Scholarship Program, that contribute to making our state economically competitive. We congratulate this year's scholarship winners."

This year's Energy Southeast Scholarship Program recipients from Dothan include:

- Mackensie Brooke Anderson, Providence Christian School;
- Bennett Claire Armstrong, Providence Christian School;
- Daniel J. Simmons, Ridgecrest Christian School; and
- Rider Lachlan Wylly, Dothan High School.

For more information, contact Lisa Miller, external affairs manager, at (334) 387-3501, **lmiller@amea.com** or visit **www.engergysoutheast.com**.

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LEADERSHIP DOTHAN

Applications Now Being Accepted

Deadline: June 13, 2025

The Dothan Area Chamber Foundation is now accepting applications for Leadership Dothan Class 44. The nine-month program focuses on community resources, education, quality of life, political arenas, health and human services and public safety. Local professional conduct lectures, participate and panel discussions, simulations, and tours to educate program participants about our community.

The program year begins in September and concludes in May. The two-day Opening Retreat will be held Sept. 17 and 18, 2025, and attendance is mandatory. Participants meet one day per month, usually the third Thursday, for nine hours starting in October.

Participation in Leadership Dothan is open to any person 25 years or older living or working in Houston County. The Steering Committee reviews applications solicited from all walks of community life to select a class of interested, motivated, and concerned individuals who have a desire to offer their time and talents to improving their community. One of the foundation's goals is to select emerging leaders and systematically inform, challenge, and educate participants about our community opportunities and needs.

The application will be available Thursday, April 24, on the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce's website **www.dothan.com** and the submission deadline is Friday, June 13. Approximately 35 to 40 people will have the opportunity to participate in Leadership Dothan each year. Tuition is $1,000 (Chamber members) and $1,500 (non-members) for each participant. The tuition covers the Opening Retreat, meals, program materials and transportation.

For additional information contact Jessica Steltenpohl at (334) 792-5138 or **jessicas@dothan.com**.

Either mail, fax or email completed applications to:

Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce
Attn: Jessica Steltenpohl
P.O. Box 638, Dothan, AL 36302
Fax: (334) 794-4796
jessicas@dothan.com

Applications are due by Monday, June 13, 2025

Chamber
Connections

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ECONOMIC INDICATORS FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY

DOTHAN ALABAMA
DOTHAN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

		2023	2024
↑	Labor Force For The Dothan MSA:	67,244 65,033	67,982 65,581
↑	Unemployment For The Dothan MSA:	3.3%	3.5%
↑	Residential Building Permits For The City Of Dothan:	9 Issued ($2.89 Million)	14 Issued ($5.92 Million)
↓	Home Sales in Dothan:	117 Sold	109 Sold
↑	Enplanements For Dothan Regional Airport:	2,858	3,304
↑	Houston County & Dothan Sales And Use Tax Collections ($):	$2,232,298 (County) $8,690,888 (City)	$2,432,875 (County) $9,282,475 (City)

Editor's Note: Sources for this information vary; call the Chamber for details. Data as of 3/12/25. Visit www.dothan.com for the most current information.

DOTHAN ALABAMA
DOTHAN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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