

C H A M B E R

Connections

Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce

February 2016

A photograph of two men in business suits standing in front of an American flag. The man on the left is white with glasses, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and a red and white striped tie. The man on the right is Black with glasses, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and a patterned tie. They are both looking towards the camera. The background shows a portion of a building with classical architectural features like columns and arches.

TEAMWORK: PLANNING AHEAD *For The Future*

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Working To Advance DEVELOPMENT, PROMOTE GROWTH

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Workforce
DEVELOPMENT
Beyond The Public Sector

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Your Cover Photo



Your cover photo features Alabama Rep. Paul Lee, 86th District, and the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce's Governmental Affairs Council Chairman Delvick J. McKay

www.dothan.com
(334) 792-5138



Events Calendar

February

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					

- 2** ▶ **25th Annual Spotlight On Business Trade Show – 3-7 p.m.**
Location: 126 N. St. Andrews St. (Dothan Civic Center)
*See page 15 for more information.
- 3** ▶ **Military Affairs Committee Meeting and JROTC Awards – 9:30 a.m.**
Location: 102 Jamestown Blvd. (Chamber)
- 4** ▶ **Ribbon Cutting: Dothan Mattress Outlet, LLC – 11 a.m.**
Location: 1505 Hartford Highway
- 5** ▶ **Ribbon Cutting: GEICO – 10 a.m.**
Location: 4177 Montgomery Highway, Suite 4
- 9** ▶ **Ambassador and Diplomat Committee Meeting – 9 a.m.**
Location: 102 Jamestown Blvd. (Chamber)

Troy University Small Business Counseling – 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Location: 102 Jamestown Blvd. (Chamber)
*Pre-registration required (334) 792-5138.
- Ribbon Cutting: Enlivity Total Solutions, LLC – 1 p.m.**
Location: 102 Jamestown Blvd. (Chamber)
- 10** ▶ **Youth Leadership Dothan-Houston County Local and State Government Day – 7:45 a.m.**
Location: 102 Jamestown Blvd. (Chamber)

Ribbon Cutting: Wiregrass Retired & Senior Volunteer Program – 10:30 a.m.
Location: 3201 Montgomery Highway, Suite 9
- 11** ▶ **General Membership Luncheon – Noon**
Location: 795 Ross Clark Circle (Wiregrass Rehabilitation Center Inc.'s Sterling Event Services Rotary Hall)
*Please see page 6 for more information. Reservations required: (334) 792-5138

Dothan Area Young Professionals Business Brews – 5:15 p.m.
Location: 5540 W. Main St., Suite 9 (McLeod's Publick House)
- 15** ▶ **President's Day – Chamber Closed**
- 17** ▶ **Board of Directors' Meeting – 8:15 a.m.**
Location: 102 Jamestown Blvd. (Chamber)

Ribbon Cutting: Garner Technologies, LLC – 2 p.m.
Location: 2237 S. Oates St.
- 18** ▶ **Leadership Dothan Health Care Day – 7:45 a.m.**
Location: 102 Jamestown Blvd. (Chamber)

Ribbon Cutting: Martin Environmental Services Inc. Remodel – 11 a.m.
Location: 419 Eastland Road
- 23** ▶ **Ribbon Cutting: Mary Kay Cosmetics (Pam Bennett) – 10:30 a.m.**
Location: 376 Westgate Parkway

Ribbon Cutting: Mary Kay Cosmetics (Jennifer Ham) – 10:30 a.m.
Location: 376 Westgate Parkway
- 24** ▶ **Ribbon Cutting: Bright Key Academic Dream Room – 10 a.m.**
Location: 900 Sixth Ave. (Grandview Elementary School)

Ribbon Cutting: Earnie's Snowballs – 10:30 a.m.
Location: 3104 Ross Clark Circle

**The Bridges,
A Counseling Place**
2898 Horace Shepard Drive
Dothan, AL 36303
Kelly Turner
(334) 699-1540
COUNSELING &
BEHAVIORAL SERVICES



Circle City Florist
1550-7 Westgate Parkway
Dothan, AL 36303
Melanie Hadley
(334) 792-7686
FLORISTS



Glacial Cryotherapy
205 Graceland Drive,
Suite 4
Dothan, AL 36305
Ashley Enfinger
(334) 699-1559
CRYOTHERAPY



**SpectraCare
Health Systems
Inc. (Children's
Outpatient)**
440 Honeysuckle Road
Dothan, AL 36305
Melissa Kirkland
MENTAL HEALTH
SERVICES



**Wint Smith State
Farm Insurance**
2191 E. Main St., Suite 2
Dothan, AL 36301
Wint Smith
(334) 446-0308
INSURANCE &
INVESTMENTS



**RELOCATION:
Covenant Care**
1512 W. Main St.
Dothan, AL 36301
Elizabeth Schlein
(334) 794-7847
HOSPICE



Clip and add these to your
Membership Directory.

E + Me
Chelsea Haisten
131 N. Foster St., Suite 2
(Dothan)
77 North Court Square
Troy, AL 36081
Ph: (334) 770-0274
CHILDREN'S CLOTHING &
ACCESSORIES - RETAIL

Sport Clips Haircuts
Mark Mendoza
5031 Montgomery Highway
(Dothan)
4277 Murfreesboro Road
Franklin, TN 37067
Ph: (334) 984-0244
Fax: (866) 311-3026
HAIR SALON

Earnie's Snowballs
Earnie Faulk
3104 Ross Clark Circle
(Physical)
2905 Heritage Drive
Dothan, AL 36303
Ph: (334) 685-5787
RESTAURANTS

FASTSIGNS of Dothan
Shane Jeter
3160 W. Main St., Suite 6
Dothan, AL 36305
Ph: (334) 790-6074
SIGNS

30 Or More Years
Alabama Power Co.
Bill E. Mullen, CPA
Flowers Insurance Agency,
LLC
Harts & Flowers
Jackson Thornton
King's Appliances Inc.
Shoney's
Wal-Mart SuperCenter #604

10-14 Years
Denton Road Mini-Storage,
LLC
Dothanbydesign.com
OSM Services, Inc. dba
ONE Source Management

1 to 4 Years
Amedisys Home Health
Care
Atlantic and Southern
Equipment
Chicken Salad Chick
Collier, Jack
Excel Dothan, LLC
Fort Rucker - Wiregrass
AUSA
Hughes Supply
ImmunoTek Bio Centers,
LLC
Norman Coaching, LLC
Raymond James
Stephanie W. Brookins, CPA
The Norton Firm
Winco, LLC dba Bojangles'

25-29 Years
Wiregrass Warehouse Inc.

20-24 Years
Women's Medical Center

15-19 Years
Fort Rucker Morale, Welfare
and Recreation
Print Services Inc.
Town of Midland City

5-9 Years
Dothan Networking
Alliance
Healthy You Inc.
KBC Butcher's Block and
Market
KPD Brands, LLC dba
Auntie Anne's
Whittaker Marketing
Wiregrass Spay/Neuter
Alliance
Zonta Club of Dothan

Teamwork:

Planning Ahead For The Future

By Delvick J. McKay
Governmental Affairs Council Chairman

One of the priorities of the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce is to advocate for you our members and your issues in Washington D.C. and Montgomery that will improve and help make the Wiregrass' business climate more competitive.

The goal of the DACC's Governmental Affairs Council is to sustain and strengthen the Wiregrass region's business policies and military foundation. One of the committee's that falls under the council is the Legislative Affairs Committee chaired by Bob Hendrix, Dothan Area Convention & Visitors Bureau.

The committee's objective is to influence the legislative process to the benefit of the region and to facilitate member involvement in governmental affairs. The actions of the committee include:

- To develop a state and local legislative agenda;
- To monitor issues and legislation at the federal, state and local levels in order to make policy and position recommendations to the Chamber's Board of Directors on key issues impacting Dothan area businesses; and
- To maintain communication with the legislative delegation and encourage their participation at monthly legislative affairs meetings.

Maintaining a healthy relationship with our elected officials on all levels help to solidify a strategic advantage for business in our community. It is important for business owners to understand how legislation and policy impacts their business operations and staying in tune with those changes will allow our businesses to make timely adjustments as needed.

It is critical that our policy makers know the concerns we have, and I encourage our business owners to fully engage with our elected officials on their positions and points of view. This not only increases the climate for new businesses and the support for existing businesses to remain a priority, but also enhances our relationship with elected officials and other stakeholders who are extremely important to the growth and sustainability of the Dothan and Wiregrass community.

Representatives Donnie Chesteen (87th District), Steve Clouse (93rd District), Dexter Grimsley (85th District), Paul Lee (86th District) and Senators Bill Beasley (28th District) and Harri Anne Smith (29th District) have been key leaders and partners in many important business, budget, education and economic development programs that help make our community strong. We have a great team of leaders, and we appreciate each and every one of them.

Rep. Paul Lee and our legislative delegation have been instrumental in passing economic development and job creation legislation throughout their tenures in the legislature. In 2012, Lee sponsored and secured passage of the Aviation and Aerospace Economic Incentives Bill which



Alabama Rep. Paul Lee, 86th District, and Delvick McKay, the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce's Governmental Affairs Council chairman, discuss the legislature's upcoming 2016 Session.

provides for a special tax incentive allowing Alabama to target aircraft manufacturers and aircraft parts manufacturers. This legislation was key to Commercial Jet's arrival in Dothan, bringing with it hundreds of jobs and millions of dollars of new investment in the community.

Historically, Alabama has been able to do a great deal in terms of incentives when recruiting new industries to the state. However, hands have been tied when it comes to assisting existing industry and businesses. In 2015, Lee helped change that with passage of the Alabama Reinvestment and Abatements Act which provides tax abatements and worker training for existing industries for capital reinvestment projects. This bill also provided opportunities for local governments to expand their abatements for up to 20 years with approval of their city council or county commission.

The Alabama Legislature will begin its 2016 session Tuesday, Feb. 2. I encourage you to join us as we host our local Wiregrass representatives and senators for legislative update meetings here at the Dothan Chamber of Commerce. The meetings begin at 7:30 a.m. and the scheduled meetings for this session are:

- Monday, Feb. 8;
- Monday, Mar. 14;
- Monday, April 11; and
- Monday, May 9.

From taxes to small business issues, to economic development to health care, to transportation and others, there will be a myriad of issues discussed and debated that could have an effect on you and your business. Mark your calendar to join us and let your voice be heard.

Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce 2016 State Legislative Agenda

- Maintain funding for workforce development training programs for new and existing industries.
- Continue and strengthen the regional and state workforce development councils.
- Strengthen adult education programs to ensure that more adults will earn a GED for those who do not complete high school.
- Ensure that education and job training programs available to Alabama students result in nationally recognized credentials relevant to job opportunities.
- Continue to support strong economic development incentives that enhances state and local empowerment to assist with new and existing business and monitor any efforts to change recently passed incentives.
- Monitor options to increase revenue for local and state road systems to generate economic growth and improve quality of life.
- Make permanent the MRO aviation tax incentive which is scheduled to expire in 2022.
- Support the Alabama Community College system initiative to provide supplemental salaries to instructors in high-wage, high-demand fields of study to aid in recruitment and retention of these personnel.
- Continue to support funding for Alabama First Class Pre-K programs and initiatives that are critical to school success and lifelong learning.



Your Alabama Legislators

Alabama House of Representatives:



Rep. Donnie Chesteen,
R-87th District
(Geneva, Houston)
(334) 242-7742 Montgomery
(334) 684-2196 Geneva



Rep. Dexter Grimsley,
D-85th District
(Henry, Houston)
(334) 242-7740 Montgomery
(334) 889-0602 Newville



Rep. Steve Clouse,
R-93rd District
(Dale, Houston)
(334) 242-7717 Montgomery
(334) 774-7384 Ozark



Rep. Paul Lee,
R-86th District (Houston)
(334) 242-7675 Montgomery
(334) 792-9682 Dothan

Alabama State Senate:



Sen. Billy Beasley,
D-28th District
(Barbour, Bullock, Henry, Lee, Macon, Russell)
(334) 242-7868 Montgomery
(334) 775-3291 Clayton



Sen. Harri Anne Smith,
I-29th District
(Dale, Geneva, Houston)
(334) 242-7879 Montgomery

Team Of The Month

Ultra Impact



Congratulations to the Ambassador and Diplomat Team of the Month "Ultra Impact" for claiming this month's title. Pictured (seated l-r) are **Adrienne Hall**, Hilton Garden Inn; **Tara Ryals**, Troy University; **Kristy Trusty**, "Dothan Eagle"; (standing) **Chris Bailey**, Residence Inn by Marriot; **Adam Saucer**, Mass Mutual; **Brittan Jones**, The Computer Doctor; **Stacey Brackin**, Wiregrass Rehabilitation Center Inc.; and **Rob Heffner**, Flowers Insurance. Not pictured is **Pat Evens**, Evans Automotive Service.

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



Joseph Brackins
*Army Aviation Center
 Federal Credit Union*

Save The Dates!

General Membership Luncheon

*Wiregrass Rehabilitation Center Inc.'s
 Sterling Event Services Rotary Hall
 Feb. 11, 2016 • noon*



*Ag Commissioner
 John McMillan*

Alabama's Agriculture Commissioner John McMillan will be our guest speaker at the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce's February 2016 General Membership Luncheon Thursday, Feb. 11, at noon at Wiregrass Rehabilitation Center Inc.'s Sterling Event Services Rotary Hall.

Tickets for the luncheon are \$15 for Chamber members or \$150 for a reserved table (seats eight). Reservations are required by noon Friday, Feb. 5, and may be made by calling LaRhonda Robinson at (334) 792-5138 or emailing lrobinson@dothan.com.

Sponsored by:



The Network Exchange

*Landmark Park's Stokes Activity Barn
 March 10 • 4-6 p.m.*

Join the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce for its second quarter Network Exchange Thursday, March 10, from 4-6 p.m. at Landmark Park's Stoke's Activity Barn. Take some time after work to enjoy some great hor d'oeuvres and refreshments while networking with your fellow chamber members. Remember to bring your business cards!



Houston County
Spirit of Service

Spirit Of Service 2016
April 23, 2016

The 27th Annual Spirit of Service Day will be held Saturday, April 23. The kick off Spirit of Service Day will be on Houston County Gives Day, Friday, April 22.

For more information, contact Linda Kelley, director of community development, at lkelly@dothan.com or call (334) 792-5138.

Empty Bowls Dothan Set For Feb. 6

Empty Bowls Dothan, which helps support hunger relief in the Wiregrass, will be held at The Cultural Arts Center from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 6. For \$10 each, attendees will receive a bowl of their choice and a meal of soup, bread and water. All funds raised from the sale of the bowls will go to the Wiregrass Area United Way Food Bank.

The majority of the bowl-making sessions are held at The Cultural Arts Center to showcase what a valuable community resource the center is and to offer the community "hands on" access to its benefits. Every bowl that sells provides enough food to feed a family of four for a week.

The CAC houses Empty Bowls Dothan and the event's art show and silent auction. Proceeds from the art show and silent auction benefit The Cultural Arts Center.



The project's founding potter, Lynn Koning, offers pottery classes at the CAC and a variety of other arts classes are also offered. To sign up your group for a bowl-making or glazing session, call Koning at (334) 983-4804. The project needs bowl makers and no experience is required.

During your session, a representative will meet with your group, explain the Empty Bowls project and assist participants in hand-building pottery bowls to be donated for the February event. For all workshops, the materials will be provided at no cost to the group thanks to Five Star Credit Union, Empty Bowls Dothan's presenting sponsor.

To get the latest news on the project, visit the Empty Bowls Dothan's Facebook page www.facebook.com/emptybowlsdothan or www.wiregrassfoodbank.com.



Covenant Hospice Launches New Brand, Announces Expansion In Services

For more than 30 years Covenant Hospice has been providing end-of-life care to northwest Florida and south Alabama. Now, the nonprofit organization is announcing its intention to expand services into new areas that will offer more care choices beyond traditional hospice services.

In addition to establishing and announcing Covenant Care, a family of integrated health care services, Covenant also launched a new brand and logo.

"Ultimately our focus is on helping more patients achieve greater quality of life, to extend our expertise in compassionate care beyond hospice services alone and allow patients access to Covenant's unparalleled team of caregivers sooner than before," explained Jeff Mislevy, Covenant's president and chief executive officer.

With the addition of new, innovative programs and services comes the public launch of Covenant Care, which encompasses a suite of complementary care options that include hospice, palliative, home care, Alzheimer's services and specialized programs for children and families.

Covenant Hospice serves more than 6,000 patients and their families annually and is dedicated to providing comprehensive, compassionate services to patients and their loved ones, as they face the challenges of a serious illness. In addition to the traditional medical care delivered to patients, special programs such as spiritual care, children's support, volunteer services and bereavement care extend to the entire family and community at large.

For more information about Covenant Hospice, contact the Dothan office at (334) 794-7847 or visit www.choosecovenant.org.

YOUR CHAMBER

Did You Notice?

The *Chamber Connections* has a new magazine-style format. We hope you will enjoy the new look and if you have any suggestions for improvement, contact the editor at (334) 792-5138 or email mmckean@dothan.com.

WITH STROKE, TIME LOST IS BRAIN LOST.

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.

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

PROVIDING PATIENTS THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF ADVANCED STROKE CARE.



SOUTHEAST ALABAMA MEDICAL CENTER

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



Top 10% in nation for patient safety



CAC Prepares For Blue Ribbon Campaign

The Southeast Alabama Child Advocacy Center is preparing for the 22nd annual Blue Ribbon Campaign to be held during April, Child Abuse Prevention Month.

The CAC exists to minimize trauma for local child abuse victims and serves over 700 child sexual and physical abuse victims each year by offering specialized help in the form of therapy, interviews, court support, follow up and more.

The Blue Ribbon Campaign is an effort to raise awareness about the severity of child abuse and is used to help raise funds for the CAC.

You can order your special 2016 "Blue Ribbon Friday for Kids" T-shirts and be the voice for children. A free Blue Ribbon/CAC yard sign will be given to orders with 20 shirts or more, and deliveries can be made for orders of more than \$200.

To ensure correct size, place your preorders for shirts by Feb. 19. For sponsorship opportunities and order forms, visit www.southeastcac.org or call (334) 671-1779.

<p>HOME HELPERS Making Life Easier</p>	<p>Woods Culpepper Director of Operations</p>
	<p>Phone: (334) 673-3921 Cell: (334) 796-4973 culpepper.woods@yahoo.com www.HomeHelpers.org</p>
<p>Office 175 Bellmond Drive, Suite 4 Dothan, AL 36305</p>	<p>Mailing P.O. Box 991 Dothan, AL 36302</p>

Graceful Beginnings Wins Couples' Choice Award

Graceful Beginnings is proud to announce it was a winner of the WeddingWire's prestigious Couples' Choice Awards 2016 for wedding planning in Dothan.

The award recognizes the top five percent of wedding professionals in the WeddingWire network who demonstrate excellence in quality, service, responsiveness and professionalism. The esteemed awards are given to the top local wedding vendors in more than 20 service categories, from wedding venues to wedding florists, based on their professional achievements from the previous year.



While many industry award winners are selected by the host organization, the WeddingWire Couples' Choice Awards winners are determined solely based on reviews from real newlyweds and their experiences working with Graceful Beginnings.

As a Couples' Choice Awards winner, Graceful Beginnings is highlighted within the WeddingWire Network, which is comprised of more than 400,000 wedding professionals globally.

Owner Gaye Choat is proud to be one of the top wedding planners in Dothan in the WeddingWire Network. "We would like to thank our past clients for taking the time to review our business on WeddingWire. We value all of our clients and truly appreciate the positive feedback that helped us earn the WeddingWire Couples' Choice Awards 2016 and 2015."

For more information about Graceful Beginnings, call Choat at (678) 644-7892, visit www.graceful-beginnings.com or the WeddingWire Storefront www.weddingwire.com/biz/graceful-beginnings-llc-dothan/d6aca3f3b4475ef6.html.

SEACT Presents Hairspray

You can't stop the beat in Southeast Alabama Community Theatre's big and bold musical about one girl's inspiring dream to dance. SEACT will present Hairspray at the Dothan Opera House stage Mar. 8-12.

Hairspray is a family-friendly musical piled bouffant high with laughter, romance and deliriously tuneful songs.

It's 1962 in Baltimore, and the lovable plus-size teen Tracy Turnblad has only one desire - to dance on the popular Corny Collins

Show. When her dream comes true, Tracy is transformed from social outcast to sudden star. She must use her newfound power to dethrone the reigning Teen Queen, win the affections of heartthrob Link Larkin and integrate a TV network, all without denting her 'do.

Tickets go on sale Feb. 22 through the Dothan Civic Center Box Office.

For more information, contact SEACT at (334) 794-0400 or visit www.seact.com.



SAMC's NICU Exceeds Volume Expectations

The patient volume in the Southeast Alabama Medical Center's recently opened Neonatal Intensive Care Unit has already exceeded projected demand. Since entering service Oct. 1, the unit has hosted 36 babies.

In addition, the unit has already begun receiving transfer patients from other hospitals in the region. In the first part of January, there were three sets of twins housed in the NICU.

SAMC is now also offering pediatric hospitalist services. In December, SAMC along with Sheridan Healthcare implemented a pediatric hospitalist program. Because of

their sole focus on providing medical care to hospitalized children, pediatric hospitalists have a great deal of experience in meeting the unique aspects of patients' needs during their stay.

SAMC's pediatric hospitalists will offer a consistent level of care, reacting quickly to patients' needs as they arise during their stay in the hospital. Dr. Ronald Flaster is medical director of SAMC's pediatric hospitalist service.

For more information, contact SAMC Media Coordinator Steve Pearce at (334) 793-8107 or via email at spearce@samc.org.

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!"

1st Saturday Family Day

Feb. 6 • 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.

Folk Arts Weekend

Feb. 20-21

Landmark Park. Participants will be introduced to a variety of folk crafts and skills and can choose a different topic of interest for each session. Topics range in variety and may include chair caning, nature painting, Blacksmithing, beginning dulcimer, canning and hearth cooking. There are two sessions on Saturday and one session on Sunday. Sessions last for up to three hours. Prices vary depending on supplies: \$20-\$30. To register or for additional information, call (334) 794-3452 or visit www.landmarkparkdothan.com.

28th Annual Travel Extravaganza

Feb. 24 • 11 a.m.

The Landing. Come check out some amazing discounts and vacation destinations for all travelers. From day trips to week-long trips, you'll find it here. Enter for a chance to win door prizes provided by the vendors. Admission is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Fort Rucker's MWR Central at (334) 255-2997. Valid ID, vehicle registration and proof of insurance are required to enter Fort Rucker.



Girls Inc. To Host Father Daughter Banquet

Girls Inc. of Dothan will host their annual Father Daughter Banquet Thursday, Feb. 11, at 6 p.m. at the Dothan Civic Center. This popular event is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the special relationship between daughters and fathers or other favorite male role models.

The evening features a seated catered dinner by Outback Steakhouse, music, dancing, photographs and a gift bag for each attendee. Reservations are required and are \$125 per couple and \$45 for each additional daughter. After Feb. 1, reservations are \$150 per couple and \$70 each additional daughter.

All proceeds from this event benefit Girls Inc. in fulfilling their mission of inspiring girls in the Wiregrass area to be strong, smart and bold.

To make your reservation or for more information, call Girls Inc. at (334) 793-2321.



Exchange Center To Host Mardi Gras Ball

Feb. 6 • 7 p.m.


The Exchange Center for Child Abuse Prevention will host its Sixth Annual Mardi Gras Charity Ball at The Grand on Foster Saturday, Feb. 6, at 7 p.m.

The evening will feature the incredible music by the band Legacy inside, a DJ in the Courtyard, delicious food and a silent auction. HopeLine from Verizon will also be helping the community by collecting no longer used cell phones and turning them into support for domestic violence victims and survivors, so remember to bring those old cell phones.

The dress is formal attire (suit/tie, cocktail dress) or Mardi Gras costumes, which are encouraged.

Tickets are \$50 and all proceeds benefit the organization's mission to prevent child abuse in the Wiregrass.

To purchase your ticket or for more information, contact the Exchange Center at (334) 671-1966 or visit www.exchangeap.org.



Wesley Manor

Retirement Community

You Are Cordially Invited
to the

GROUNDBREAKING CELEBRATION

A Celebration of Wesley Manor's Physical and Cultural Transformation

on


Friday, February 12, 2016

to be held at

Wesley Manor

718 Honeysuckle Road
Dothan, AL 36305

Light Refreshments Will Be Served



718 Honeysuckle Rd. • Dothan, AL 36305 • P (334) 792-0921 • F (334) 793-9527
Part of Methodist Homes of Alabama & Northwest Florida • www.methodisthomes.org



PRIM • MENDHEIM
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Prim And Mendheim Obtain Certification

Prim and Mendheim, LLC are pleased to announce that the firm has obtained certification through Secure Title Solutions, LLC as being fully compliant in all material respects with the American Land Title Association Best Practices.

The certification examination procedures performed by STS tested whether Prim and Mendheim had adequate controls in place to mitigate the risk of consumer harm, which included the requirements of the CFPB guidance on third-party management.

Procedures executed included the following ALTA Best Practices:

- 1) Licensing;
- 2) Escrow Accounting Procedures;
- 3) Privacy and Information Security;
- 4) Settlement Procedures;
- 5) Title Policy Production & Delivery;
- 6) Professional Liability Insurance Coverage; and
- 7) Consumer Complaints.

For more information, contact Hannah Mendheim at (334) 671-9555.



334.792.4006
christy@naomiandolive.com
www.naomiandolive.com
facebook.com/naomiandolive

140 North Foster Street
Dothan, AL 36303

NAOMI & OLIVE
TOWNES OF TOWNS
Christy Keyton
Keeper of the Nest



Natalie Jackson
Facility Manager - Dothan, AL

Cell: 334-405-1917
Bus: 334-803-8953
Bus: 334-803-8952
njackson@retif.com

534 Cowarts Rd., Dothan, AL 36303

Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, Louisiana
www.retif.com

SunSouth John Deere To Hold Open House

SunSouth John Deere invites everyone to its Open House being held Saturday, Mar. 12, from 10 a.m. until noon.

Activities include a fried catfish buffet, kid's inflatables and some wonderful antique cars and tractors on display. Door prizes will also be given away every 15 minutes and a grand prize of a utility vehicle.

With 21 convenient locations in Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi, SunSouth aspires

to provide customers with access to the right equipment and top notch service with qualified and certified staff. SunSouth is integrity, quality, commitment and innovation. Its motto is "To provide the best service under the sun."

For more information, contact Dothan Store Manager DeWayne Williams at (800) 794-0691.

SunSouth John Deere is located at 168 Ross Clark Circle, Dothan.



The Bridges Announces New Location

The Bridges, A Counseling Place announces its new location at 2898 Horace Shepard Drive in Dothan. The Bridges is a private practice that provides intensive, community-based therapy to children and families in six counties: Barbour, Coffee, Dale, Geneva, Henry and Houston.

The Bridges supports communities with a continuum of care designed to help youth and families in need to preserve families providing hope, quality service, integrity and collaborative care.

The staff consist of licensed psychologist, licensed and associate professional counselors, master's level clinicians and behavioral specialist. Their focus is social skills training,

behavioral modification, emotional wellness, life management, anger management, removing emotional obstacles and relationship building in the home and school environments.

The Bridges implement experiential, progressive therapy with a nontraditional, community-based approach building bridges within the family and community. They promote mental health awareness and an understanding that operates on a continuum through therapeutic excellence, cultural awareness and community partnership.

For additional information, contact The Bridges at (334) 699-1540 or visit www.thebridgescounseling.com.



Faster.

Less waiting where it matters most – our emergency room.

In a medical emergency, every minute matters. So, at Flowers Hospital, you'll find faster care in the emergency room. We work diligently to have you initially seen by a medical professional* in 30 minutes – or less. And, with a team of dedicated medical specialists, we can provide a lot more care, if you need it.

The 30-Minutes-Or-Less E.R. Service Pledge – only at Flowers Hospital.



Flowers Hospital
FlowersHospital.com

*Medical professionals may include physicians, physician assistants and nurse practitioners.

The Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce invites area businesses to join and receive valuable benefits for their business.

CORE BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP INCLUDE:

Networking

Who you know does make a difference! Make important business contacts at Chamber seminars, Spotlight on Business Trade Show, quarterly membership meetings and The Network Exchange.

Small Business Development

Representatives from the Small Business Development Center of Troy University are available the second Tuesday of each month for free and confidential small business counseling sessions at the Chamber. You must make appointments through the Chamber.

Publicity

Publicity and heightened name recognition through print, Internet and event exposure.

Benefits and Discounts

Save money on supplies, travel, hotels, landscaping, appliances and more through the Chamber's Member-To-Member Discount Program.

Information

Everything you need to know about the Dothan area - population, wages, cost of living, taxes, labor force, economic development, recreation, business trends, business listings and much more can be found at the Chamber and on our website www.dothan.com

Learning Opportunities

Throughout the year the Chamber hosts seminars of interest to small business owners, entrepreneurs and nonprofit organizations. The informative programs are conducted for a nominal fee and include a meal.

Referrals

On a daily basis, the Chamber receives dozens of requests for recommendations on goods and services to be purchased in the Dothan-Houston County area. We refer these newcomers, tourists, area residents and businesses to Chamber members only.

Business and Technology Expo

Attend the Chamber's annual Spotlight on Business Trade Show, Dothan's only business-to-business trade show. Booth space is available only to members of the Chamber.

Advertising Opportunities

Need advertising that is targeted, effective and affordable? The Chamber Connections, Membership Directory and Business Guide, Welcome Guide and Chamber website offer powerful advertising choices to reach businesses and consumers.

Mailing Labels

Membership mailing labels are available in several different formats for a nominal fee.

Government Advocacy

The Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce serves as an advocate on issues important to local business by monitoring local, state and federal legislation.

Credibility

Demonstrate your commitment to the community by becoming a part of the vision and strategies of the largest, strongest and most active business organization in the Dothan area - the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce.

Community Improvement Projects

Building existing business, recruiting new jobs and marketing the Wiregrass area are three ways the Chamber works to strengthen our economy. With over 950 members, the Chamber is committed to the sustained growth and prosperity of the region.

WebSite

Take advantage of the "Members Only" link on the Chamber's website where members can link their website to the Chamber's, learn about member-to-member discounts, access small business development links, area demographics and more.

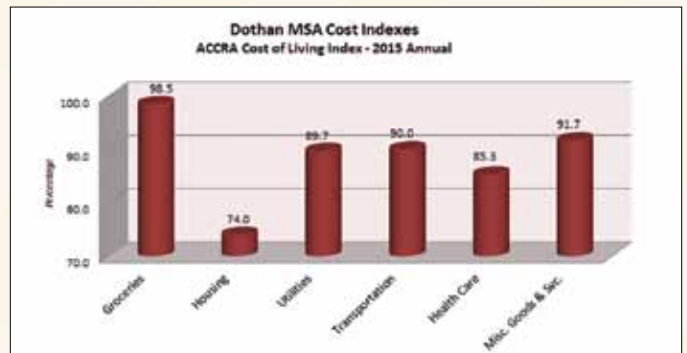
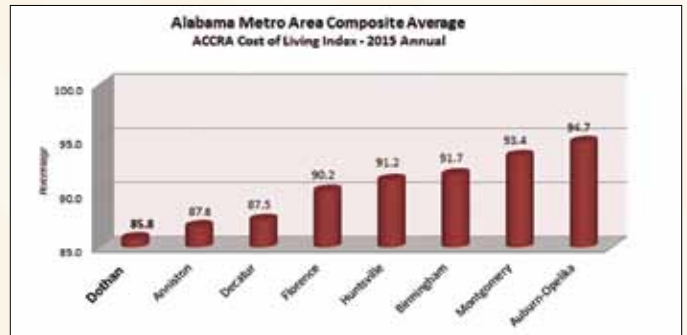
Dothan Annual MSA Lowest In State, Below National Average

ACCRA 2015 Annual Cost-Of-Living Index

The Council for Community and Economic Research 2015 Annual Cost of Living Index, released in January 2016, indicates the Dothan Metropolitan Statistical Area registered a composite index of 85.8.

With the national composite of 100, Dothan is 14.2 percent below the national average. Within the state, eight urban areas reported for the survey, with the highest composite index being Auburn at 94.7 percent. As well as having the lowest composite index in the state, Dothan also had the lowest Utilities index at 89.7.

Dothan is consistently one of the lowest cost-of-living locations in Alabama. The composite index is derived from the weighted values of Groceries, Housing, Utilities, Transportation, Health Care, and Miscellaneous Goods and Services. The Cost of Living index does not consider local or state tax rates, which are some of the lowest in the country.



Music & Miracles Radiothon Set For Feb. 10-11 In Dothan

The annual Music & Miracles Radiothon, benefitting patients at Children's of Alabama, will broadcast live from Wal-Mart SuperCenter #2534, 3300 S. Oates St., Dothan, Feb. 10 and 11, from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day.

The public is invited to participate in the radiothon by tuning in to WTUV-FM 95.5 during the broadcast or by visiting Wal-Mart during the event. Families also are invited to Wal-Mart to share their own Children's stories.

The Music & Miracles Radiothon has raised more than \$1 million for Alabama's ill and injured children. To make a pledge, listeners can call the Children's Miracle Network Hospitals Hotline, sponsored by CenturyLink, at (334) 793-HELP or make an online donation at www.give.childrensal.org/dothanradiothon.

For more information, visit www.childrensal.org or www.955wtvy.com.

Working To Advance Workforce Development, Promote Growth

The Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce welcomes Judy Graham from the Alabama Department of Commerce to its office. Graham, who is the Regional Workforce Council liaison for Regions 3, 6, 9 and 10, will be working out of the Chamber office 1-2 days a week.

One of the Chamber's goals in the organization's Strategic Plan is to develop a seamless education and workforce system by supporting workforce development initiatives and helping businesses with their workforce needs. To help meet this goal, the DACC has a Workforce Development Task Force and a dedicated staff person, Steve Turkoski, who serves on the Region 10 Workforce Council.

What is a Regional Workforce Council? Established in 2015 by the Alabama state legislature via Act No 2015-450, the Regional Workforce Councils:

- Are business-driven and business-led initiatives whose mission is to leverage strategic partnerships to recruit, develop and retrain employees to fill the workforce gaps;
- Maintains a regional strategic plan to support the Accelerate Alabama economic development plan;
- Establishes a feedback loop for critical WFD information to the Alabama Workforce Council; and
- Monitors business and industry satisfaction

with federal and state funded projects, and are the change agent if not satisfied.

You may also be asking, "What is the value of a Regional Workforce Council?" The council:

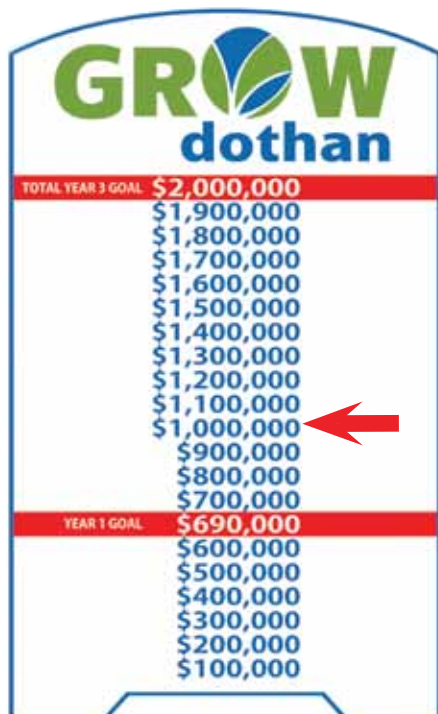
- Creates a collaborative atmosphere of workforce partners for business and industry, postsecondary, K-12, department of labor, career centers, nonprofits, economic developers and local municipal governments;
- Provides rapid response to short-term training and job placement needs of Alabama business and industry;
- Provides long-term solutions for closing skills gaps - by listening to local business and industry leaders and delivering solutions;
- Ensures high quality training services are provided in the region;
- Ensures federal and state fiscal resources are wisely allocated for workforce development activities;
- A skilled workforce equals an improved bottom line for businesses - increases production, reduces layoffs and precipitates job creation through expansion; and
- Makes Alabama more attractive for

industry recruitment.

If you would like more information about the Chamber's workforce development initiatives or that of the Region 10 Workforce Council, contact Turkoski at (334) 792-5138, sturkoski@dothan.com or Graham at (251) 510-1518, jgraham@aidt.edu.



The Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce welcomes Judy Graham, Regional Workforce Council liaison for Regions 3, 6, 9 and 10, to its office.



Shelby Provides Legislative Update

The Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce held its January General Membership Breakfast the first week of January. Over 220 Chamber members attended the event to hear guest speaker Sen. Richard Shelby.

During his remarks, Shelby provided an update on the Wiregrass area's legislative activity and issues facing the 2016 Session. He also took time to answer several questions from the audience.

A special thank you to Sen. Shelby and his staff for taking time out of their busy schedules to address the membership.



Grow Dothan Team Meets, Receives Updates

The Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce's Grow Dothan team members met mid-January for its monthly meeting.

During the meeting, DACC Executive Director Dean Mitchell and President Matt Parker provided updates to the group on workforce development and economic development activities.

If you would like more information about Grow Dothan, give the DACC call at (334) 792-5138.



Workforce Development Beyond The Public Sector



Steve Turkoski,
Project Manager

The public workforce development system is in place for two reasons, to foster economic development through development of a talented labor pool, and to increase skill levels of individuals in order to increase their earning potential.

Often the factor limiting the growth or expansion of a company is the availability of a trained workforce. To help solve this problem, we have federal and state workforce development programs. The federal programs require means testing, so they are not for everyone and can therefore be viewed as social service programs. Their purpose is to improve the earning power of the individual so they can attain self-sufficiency.

Programs that do not require means testing are available to anyone, but the programs that are funded must have a nexus with the identified needs of the business community. So, in essence, we have worker-oriented programs and job-oriented programs. The O*Net graphic model helps visualize this concept.

The Saliba Center Boot Camp program, as well as the Jobs Task Force Job Readiness program, and the Community College Ready-To-Work program are worker-oriented, while the programs promoted and supported by the regional workforce council are job-oriented and must be supported by the strategic plan, which must support the regional economic development plan.

There is another element of workforce development that is often overlooked or ignored, and that is company workforce development.

Launching a Company Workforce Development Program

Before you can launch a workforce development program at your company, you'll need to outline your goals. You can start by thinking about the key skills and training needed in your industry. You should consider:

- The types of workers that you employ.
- How the skill set needed in your industry might change in the next five years.
- What skills your employees tend to lack when you hire them.
- The overall satisfaction and confidence of your employees.

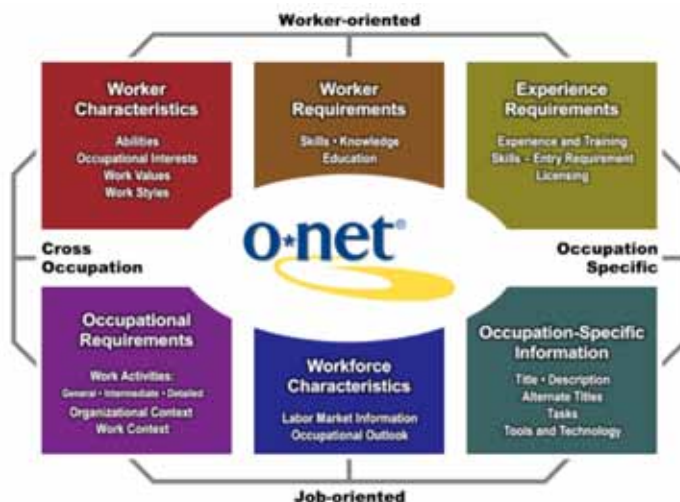
Once you've determined the basics about your workforce, you can start thinking about the specific types of training that will most benefit your company. Determine your top ongoing training priorities and look for a workforce development partner who can support you as you pursue them.

It's also essential to be flexible when planning your program. You'll need to make sure that both time and funding are available for those who participate in the program. After all, many employees won't be able or willing to pay for extended training on their own, and you can't expect employees to use their vacation time to attend courses. Create clear, consistent policies to ensure that employees benefit from workforce training and that your enterprise doesn't suffer from budget or workforce shortages.

Launching a workforce training program will only benefit your company if you continuously evaluate the program and evolve to meet new challenges in your industry. Make sure to track key employment metrics both before and after launching the program. Keep an eye on turnover, productivity and overall employee satisfaction. These metrics should improve over time as your training program becomes a bigger part of your company's culture.

It's also important to keep an eye on the changing training demands in your industry. As new training requirements arise, modify your development program so that employees can gain the skills needed to succeed in your industry.

Once you have a company plan, do not hesitate to contact Wallace Community College and the Region 10 Workforce Council to see how they can help.



WANTED: VOLUNTEERS

WHO: YOU!
WHAT: Wiregrass WORKS - A CAREER FAIR FOR WIREGRASS AREA 8TH GRADERS (EXPECTING 4,500+ STUDENTS)
WHEN: FEB. 24 AND 25, 2016, 7 A.M. - 4 P.M. (PART OR WHOLE DAYS ARE OK!)
WHERE: NATIONAL PEANUT FESTIVAL FAIR GROUNDS IN DOTHAN, AL
WHY: CREATE AWARENESS ABOUT EXCITING AREA HIGH-DEMAND, HIGH-WAGE CAREERS

COVERAGE AREAS: HOSPITALITY, LOGISTICS, GREETERS, ESCORTS, AND DISTRIBUTION
STUDENTS: BARBOUR, COFFEE, COVINGTON, CRENSHAW, DALE, GENEVA, HENRY, HOUSTON, AND PIKE COUNTIES
PERKS: VOLUNTEER T-SHIRT, REFRESHMENTS, FUN, AND LUNCH
ORGANIZER: Wiregrass WORKS WIREGRASS DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF ALABAMA, REGION 10, INC. DBA Wiregrass WORKS
CONTACT: PLEASE CONTACT AMANDA HARDY, (334) 333-6868 AHARDY@HENRYSCHOOLS.ORG, TO SIGN-UP



For sponsorship opportunities or other questions, contact

Bart Liddon, General Wiregrass WORKS Event Co-Chair
(334) 596-9500

Michael H. (Mike) Tew, President of Workforce Development Council of Alabama, Region 10, Inc.
(334) 790-3260



Reducing Risks Of Fraud And Corruption: Creating An Ethical Culture

Troy University Dothan will present the seminar “Reducing Risks of Fraud and Corruption: Creating An Ethical Culture” Wednesday, Feb. 17, from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. in Malone Hall’s Harrison Room.

Understanding how and why fraud is committed is paramount to preventing and detecting it. This seminar is designed to point out who commits fraud, why they commit it, how they commit it and what employers can do to greatly reduce or eliminate instances of fraud within their workplace. How law enforcement agencies and external fraud examiners can help employers in targeting perpetrators will also be addressed.

Featured speakers include Dr. Dan Teed, Troy University; Honorable Larry K. Anderson, Circuit Judge, Houston County Circuit Court; Dr. Orrin K. (Skip) Ames III, Troy University; Shane Ash, Dothan Police Department; and Seth R. Brooks, Houston County District Attorney’s Office.

Tickets are \$15 per person, which includes lunch. Pre-registration is required by Wednesday, Feb. 10. To register or for more information, call (334) 983-6556, ext. 1263.

Small Business Seminar

Employment Law Fundamentals

Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce

Feb. 25 • 11:30 a.m.

In today’s workplace, the number of employment laws that organizations must comply with are increasing to unprecedented levels. New and changing laws regarding compensation, recruiting, interviewing, hiring, benefits, policy development, discipline and safety are just a few of the elements of the workplace that are under extensive scrutiny from the government.

Join the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce and Dan Sinus, vice president of Human Resources and Risk Management for the PR Companies (PREmployer, Personnel Resources and Preferred Risk Services), Thursday, Feb. 25, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. to learn more about what compliance measures you will need

to implement to legally recruit, hire, compensate, manage and discipline your employees.

Some of the laws discussed will include the Fair Labor Standards Act, Title VII, the Affordable Care Act, Fair Credit Reporting Act and the National Labor Relations Act. Staying abreast of these new and changing laws is critical to avoid financial penalties, lawsuits, and investigations by regulatory agencies.

The seminar will be held in the Chamber’s board room and the cost is \$10, which includes a boxed lunch. Pre-registration is required by Tuesday, Feb. 24. To reserve your seat, call Susan Tatom at (334) 792-5138 or email statom@dothan.com.

Severe Weather Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday

February 26-28

Alabama’s fifth severe weather preparedness sales tax holiday begins at 12:01 a.m. Friday, Feb. 26, 2015, and ends at midnight, Sunday, Feb. 28, 2015.

Alabama shoppers can stock up tax free on common supplies costing less than \$60 that every home and business needs to prepare for a natural disaster, or even a general emergency. Generators costing \$1,000 or less can also be purchased free of the state’s 4 percent sales tax during the three-day tax holiday.

TAX HOLIDAY

For more information, go to www.alabamaretail.org/alabamasalestaxholidays/.

YOUR CHAMBER

Don’t Forget To Vote

Special Election

Feb. 9

Your vote counts!

2016 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 2016 Small Business Person of the Year from Jan. 1 to Feb. 12, 2016. Nominees will be interviewed and the top three finalists will be announced at the General Membership Meeting held during Small Business Week May 2016. The winner will be announced at the Annual Meeting to be held in October 2016.

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)

Nominee: _____

Company: _____

Phone Number: _____

Nominated By: _____

Company: _____

Phone Number: _____ **E-mail:** _____

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

Either mail or fax this form to:
Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce • Attn: LaRhonda Robinson
P.O. Box 638, Dothan, AL 36302 • Fax: (334) 794-4796.

Nominations are due by Feb. 12, 2016.
Thank you for your nomination!

25TH ANNUAL TRADE SHOW
ADMIT ONE
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2016

SPOTLIGHT ON BUSINESS
A NIGHT AT THE MOVIES!

3-7 p.m. Dothan Civic Center

Find out what business is going to the movies at this year's Spotlight on Business. Take a few hours away from the office and discover new business opportunities.

Not only will you have an amazing time, but it's also a chance to discover new prospects.

- Mingle and meet individuals looking for your services.
- See what's new, what's changed and what over 80 Chamber area businesses have to offer.
- Explore new business-to-business opportunities.

Don't miss this once-a-year chance to meet new prospects by being part of the 2016 Business "Night at the Movies" Trade Show. And don't forget to bring plenty of business cards!

Admission: \$3 to public; Chamber member employees FREE.
Minors must be accompanied by an adult.
For more information, call (334) 792-5138
Sponsored by:

COOK'S PEST CONTROL **WOWbusiness**



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Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce
February 2016
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Economic Indicators

▲	<p>Labor Force for the Dothan MSA for November: 62,164 in 2014; 62,421 in 2015 58,528 in 2014; 58,923 in 2015 Employed</p>
▼	<p>Unemployment for the Dothan MSA for November: 5.8% in 2014; 5.6% in 2015</p>
▼	<p>Residential Building Permits for the City of Dothan for November: 15 issued (\$4.58 million) in 2014; 6 issued (\$1.79 million) in 2015</p>
▲	<p>Home Sales in Dothan for November: 65 sold in 2014; 77 sold in 2015</p>
▲	<p>Enplanements for Dothan Regional Airport for November: 4,035 in 2014; 4,143 in 2015</p>
▼	<p>Houston County & Dothan Sales and Use Tax Collections (\$) for November: \$1,427,285 in 2014; \$1,256,471 in 2015 (County) \$4,625,513 in 2014; \$4,329,288 in 2015 (City)</p>

*Editor's Note: Sources for this information vary; call the Chamber for details.
Data as of 1/06/15. Visit www.dothan.com for the most current information.*



Bob Woodall
Air Care Systems, Inc.
Commercial & Residential

334.340.1111
AL 800 • FL 800 • TX 800 • GA 800



turn to the experts 

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DOTHAN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

meeting the challenge  shaping the future

www.dothan.com