

Chamber Connections

Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce

July 2022



**Communities Find Success
Through Arts**

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**Officials Break Ground On
100,000 Sq. Ft. Spec Building**

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**Helping To Create And
Shape Tomorrow's Leaders**

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SEACT's Mamma Mia

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Your Cover Photo



Your cover photo features (l-r) Kim Clark as Rosie, Jennifer Love Doberty as Donna and Kendell Shows as Tanya in Southeast Alabama Community's Theater's production of Mamma Mia.

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UNITED STATES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

ACCREDITED



CCAA 2021-2023 **ALABAMA ACCREDITED CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

EventsCalendar

July

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

- 4 ► **Independence Day – Chamber Closed**
- 6 ► **LEADS Group 1 Biweekly Meeting – 8 a.m.**
Location: 102 Jamestown Blvd. (Chamber)
- Ribbon Cutting: Eiland Marine & Motors, LLC – 10:30 a.m.**
Location: 3095 Hartford Highway
- 7 ► **Ribbon Cutting: Little J's Smocks And More, LLC – 10:30 a.m.**
Location: 5411 State Highway 605 South, Unit A
- 13 ► **LEADS Group 2 Biweekly Meeting – 8 a.m.**
Location: 102 Jamestown Blvd. (Chamber)
- Ribbon Cutting: Frankie's Flags – 10:30 a.m.**
Location: 102 Jamestown Blvd. (Chamber)
- 19 ► **Ribbon Cutting: GL Robotics – 11 a.m.**
Location: 12051 S. Park Ave.
- 20 ► **LEADS Group 1 Biweekly Meeting – 8 a.m.**
Location: 102 Jamestown Blvd. (Chamber)
- Board of Directors Meeting – 8:15 a.m.**
Location: 3775 Napier Field Road (Buffalo Rock Pepsi)
- Ribbon Cutting: Barb's Country Kitchen – 10:30 a.m.**
Location: 1574 S. Eufaula Ave., Eufaula
- 22 ► **Ribbon Cutting: SIA Dermatology – 10:30 a.m.**
Location: 1733 W. Main St., Suite 500
- 26 ► **Ribbon Cutting: Aflac - Larry Jenkins – 10:30 a.m.**
Location: 200 N. St, Andrews St., #4
- 27 ► **LEADS Group 2 Biweekly Meeting – 8 a.m.**
Location: 102 Jamestown Blvd. (Chamber)
- Ribbon Cutting: Property Control Ground Maintenance Inc. – 10:30 a.m.**
Location: 420 Southgate Road
- 28 ► **Ribbon Cutting: Houston County Career Academy Programs Expansion – 1 p.m.**
Location: 662 W. Main St.
- Entrepreneurship Council Seminar: Financing Opportunities – 5:30 p.m.**
Location: 102 Jamestown Blvd. (Chamber)

*For more information, see page 18.

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Communities Find Success Through Arts

Contributor: Jennifer Doherty, SEACT Director

Art matters. Or, “The Arts” matter. If this article were entitled “Business Success Through Technology and Personal Growth,” the relevance and subject might be clear to a broad business readership, easily drawing connections to corporate performance and key practices. Instead, it’s called “Communities Find Success Through Arts,” immediately provoking ambivalence and confusion.

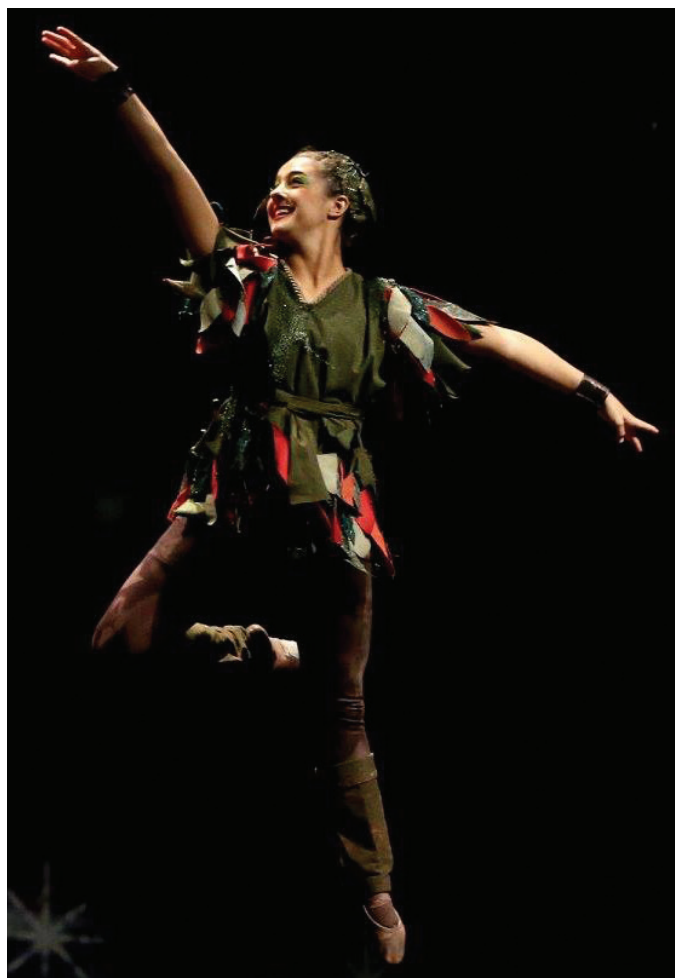
Sometimes we think the broad impact of the arts is through sponsorship, growth of corporate art collections or an interesting element of a company’s social responsibility agenda. The stereotypical view is that the arts will help a company with team building, or corporate problem-solving. Actually, they do both of those things well, but this limited view of the role arts play in business keeps us from understanding its powerful track record in driving improvements in local economies, cultural connections and workforce creativity. Additionally, it makes it more difficult for arts-based businesses to make a case for broader impact and relevance.

The fact is that communities that harness the arts as an engine for improving local education, workforce development, social problem-solving and enhancing quality of life are thinking much bigger than logos and event billboards. These communities have learned that the arts create interventions that improve and change the way an entire community works, thinks and performs.

A happy by-product of that thinking might be a company’s bottom line. It is, after all, what we’re all concerned with when it comes to investments in community development. These investments are “more than functioning sewers and fixing potholes” (Source: Chamber Connections, Melody Lee, Grow Southeast Alabama, February 2022). By every measure, the nonprofit arts and culture industry supports jobs, generates revenue and provides an educational foundation for every STEM-related industry.

In Dothan today, local arts organizations are connecting with our schools, providing windows into southern, and other, cultures and making it a more desirable place to live and work. It isn’t new to expect that they provide inspiration and joy to residents, beautify public spaces and strengthen the social fabric of our communities. What is often forgotten is that they are also businesses. They employ people locally, purchase goods and services from local businesses, make communities more vibrant and attract visitors. More importantly, a culture of art and artists spawns peripheral industry and business.

“Artistic activity is often viewed as a discretionary element in a regional



Southeast Alabama Dance Company's Peter Pan

economy, rather like icing on a cake of industry, finance and basic services. The occupation ‘artist’ conjures up dual images of a few star painters, composers and photographers who land the prestigious grants and the many aspiring actors, dancers and writers waiting tables to underwrite creative time in attic rooms. [This is an] impoverished view of the arts and its role in the regional economy. It treats the arts as a consequence of, even a parasite on ... a [community].” (Source: The Artistic Dividend: The Arts’ Hidden Contributions to Regional Development, Ann Markusen and David King, 2003).

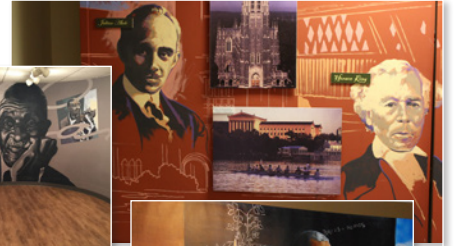
Using this narrow perspective, how can arts and culture have contributed 4.5 percent to the nation’s GDP? It is because art and artists enhance the design, production and marketing of products and services in every business sector. They also help firms recruit top-rate employees and generate income through artistic events and activities. (During Economic Highs and Lows, the Arts Are Key Segment of U.S. Economy, National Endowment for the Arts, 2020).

The definition of a city “having culture” is akin to buying tickets to the theatre so you can “go get some culture.” A city defined by a culture of creativity means we are making intentional civic and private investments in art and culture opportunities that attract, support and engage a creative community. It’s here, in Dothan, today. Strategic investment in supporting and growing the art sector can only add to the uniqueness and marketability of Dothan as a desired destination for work, a workforce and travel.

Various Features Of Art Within Our Community



Fosterfest



George Washington Carver Museum



Murals



SEADAC



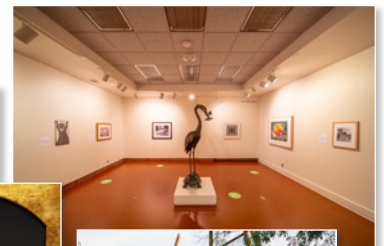
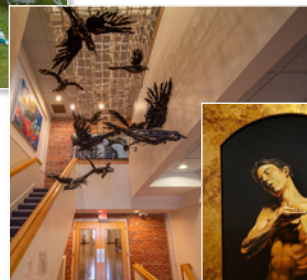
SEACT



Peanuts Around Town



Wiregrass Museum Of Art



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5-9 Years

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Badcock & More
Covenant Steel

Disabled American Vet Chapter 87
Dothan Hematology & Oncology, PC
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Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Fort Rucker
Harrison, Dr. Thomas
Health Center South Medical Tower
Jimmy Johns Dothan Inc.
Krewe of Kolosse Inc.
McGee, Jim
Mural City Coffee Co.
Playmaker Embroidery, LLC
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Vistage

1-4 Years

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Bowen Pharmacy
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Hibachi Joe's
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Jus Relax
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Vision Center South

What makes your business organization stand out?

Vision Center South is a full-service optometry vision care center with six locations in the tristate region. They use cutting edge technology to provide the best in vision health. Their expert optometrists provide comprehensive eye exams and advanced testing to diagnose eye disorders. With locations in Dothan, Enterprise, Brewton and Wetumpka, Alabama, Marianna, Florida and Bainbridge, Georgia, Vision Center South offers convenient and affordable primary eyecare to communities throughout the Southeast. Each of their locations have Optical Boutiques featuring a wide variety of stylish frames and lens options to customize your glasses to fit your lifestyle. They also have a large selection of specialty contact lenses. Vision Center South is an optometric division of Eye Center South, a trusted 41 plus year multi-clinic ophthalmology practice widely respected for providing world class surgical eyecare. With the addition of Vision Center South, you can expect the same gold standard of excellence in primary eyecare.

Describe an exciting recent highlight for your business/organization:

The newest Vision Center South location held its Grand Opening June 15 at Health Center South Medical Tower, Suite 102. With the relocation of the former downtown Dothan clinic, previously Denney Vision, which has been a longtime member of the downtown Dothan business community, was a sentimental but exciting move. Their new state-of-the-art facility boasts over 3,000 square foot of a luxurious optical boutique and office space with interior design features that rivals an upscale boutique hotel. You must come experience it for yourself. Having your annual eye exam and shopping for frames/contacts will feel like a spa day in this beautiful modern facility. Parking and accessibility to the new location is optimal. You can also enjoy breakfast, lunch or a quick treat at The Cellar Café located conveniently across the hall from the clinic.

How has your business/organization changed in the last 12 months, and what do you see for the future?

Vision Center South was founded in 2019 and rapidly grew into a thriving multi-clinic optometry provider. In the last 12 months, despite a national pandemic, Vision Center South added its most recent clinic in Bainbridge, Georgia. They have also been busy planning for the relocation/grand opening of their new flagship store in Dothan. Sourcing materials and experiencing delays due to supply chain shortages have been challenging, but Vision Center South made it. The new Dothan location will feature a state-of-the-art inhouse digital laboratory where they will custom make your lenses to order using the most modern state-of-the-art digital technology. With plans for expansion throughout the Southeast, the future is bright for Vision Center South.

What advice would you offer to someone looking for the type of services your business/organization provides?

Vision Center South's expert team of optometrists would encourage everyone from age five and beyond to schedule annual eye exams. This is critically important to detect any abnormalities impairing your vision which can hinder your quality of life. Many eye disorders are slow progressing and may be undetectable to the patient. Annual eye exams ensure that your eyes remain healthy. With increased usage of digital devices, eye strain is also on the rise. Vision Center South can help offering Blue Light Lens technology that blocks the harmful light from digital devices. Don't forget protecting your eyes from harmful UV Rays. They also offer polarized lenses perfect for people who love the outdoors. They hope their new Dothan location provides a memorable and enjoyable patient experience, where their expert team treats you like family. Schedule your eye appointment today by calling (334) 793-2633.

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Ambassadors & Diplomats

Star Of The Month



Brenda Stefin
WDFX-TV Fox 34

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.



Abbey Richards
Troy University

The Ambassador and Diplomat Spotlight 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.

Tell Your Alabama Story To Keep Graduates Working In Alabama



Brad Kimbro

According to *Forbes Magazine*, Alabama ranks 47th in the nation in retaining college graduates. More specifically, two-thirds of the in-state college graduates remain in Alabama and only 20 percent of the out-of-state college graduates remain in Alabama to begin their professional journey. These statistics lead to two key questions -- why are students leaving to work in other states? And as a community, what can we do to solve this problem?

Leadership from the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce, Southeast Alabama Works and Wallace Community College all recently participated in the Fuel Alabama (FUEL AL) Talent Conference presented by the Economic Development Partnership of Alabama. The conference revealed the best practices in talent attraction and retention and prompted us to share with our communities.

So, why are students leaving to work in other states? A recent report from the EDPA, *Retain Alabama*, highlighted some key takeaways to include: 1) the biggest barrier to retaining Alabama students is their sense that the state does not have the job opportunities they want; 2) students are evaluating their post graduate opportunities on a city level, not a state level, and Alabama's cities are competing against other Southern cities; 3) when it comes to positioning Alabama, there is a clear direction - its cities offer mid-size, manageable communities with short commutes that let graduates enjoy life outside of work; 4) practical incentives like sign-on bonuses, student loan forgiveness, and incentives for graduate school would increase their likelihood to stay in the state; 5) students start prioritizing places of interest before graduation, so early engagement with students is critical; and 6) the EDPA will play a key role in helping communities and employers attract and retain talent graduating from Alabama universities through research, convening, communications, and targeted student programming.

As we take these things into consideration, we should begin to answer the second question concerning how our communities solve the talent attraction/retention problem at hand. At the FUEL AL conference, we heard directly from a variety of young professionals about the issues that matter to them in deciding where to work and live. One recent graduate stated, "Young professionals are concerned with starting salary, quality of life, cost of living, the potential for professional advancement, positive work culture and freedom to implement new ideas in the workplace." Another young professional said, "Outside of work, I am looking for

Chamber Names Executive Committee, New Board Members

At the June Board of Directors' meeting, the past five board chairs of the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce presented the following slate of officers to be accepted for the FY 2023 Executive Committee beginning Oct. 1, 2022:

Michelle Lewis

*AAA Cooper Transportation
Chair*

Walter Hill

*Wiregrass United Way
Chairman-Elect*

Brad Kimbro

*Wiregrass Electric Cooperative
Immediate Past Chairman*

Bob Woodall

*Bob Woodall Air Care Systems Inc.
Grow Dothan Chairman*

Scott Parsons

*Merrill Lynch Wealth Management
Treasurer*

Jeff Williams

*SmartBank
Community Development Council
Chairman*

Tammie Potter

*Breakfast & Lunch at Tammie's
Education and Workforce Development
Council Chair*

Walt Ellis

*Troy Bank & Trust
Governmental Affairs Council Chairman*

Gina Grant

*Century 21 James Grant Realty
Membership Development Council Chair*

Also at the June meeting, the Chamber's Nominations and Elections Committee, chaired by Delrick McKay, immediate past chairman and City of Dothan, presented the following slate of nine candidates as incoming board members who will serve three-year terms of office beginning Oct. 1, 2022:

Jeff Brannon

Flowers Hospital

Kerri Deshazo

Synovus

Terri Dubose

Southeast Alabama Child Advocacy Center

Gina Grant

Century 21 James Grant Realty

Claudia Hall

Southeast Health

Angela Underwood

House of Ruth Inc.

Melanie Weed

Jackson Thornton

Monty Weigel

SunSouth Bank

Jeff Williams

SmartBank

The Chamber's board determines policies and set goals aimed at advancing economic and community development in the Dothan area.

things to do – community spaces, book clubs and varied recreational opportunities." Other recent graduates in attendance stressed the importance of working in an environment with creative freedom, having challenges to problem-solve and wanting to be part of a company with a purpose.

It was apparent to those who attended the FUEL AL conference that local businesses and companies must market themselves appropriately to the younger generation. The online and social media presence of a company is vital when attracting the Gen Z workforce. It is important for cities, businesses, organizations and companies to welcome new ideas and ensure a healthy culture is present. Also, we all must realize we are competing across the state for the best and brightest workers; therefore, salary expectations for the Gen Z population are higher than ever before.

So, what can Dothan and Houston County do to recruit talent to the Wiregrass area? It really is simple – we must share our story, be a part of the change and invite graduates to visit

our area. Seeing is believing. The community plays a crucial role in recruiting and retaining workers, especially those who are younger. Statistics show that recent graduates desire to live in communities where their quality of life is valued. In many cases, young talent is deciding where they would like to live first and deciding where they would like to work second. Therefore, communities that are investing in their downtown areas, like the city of Dothan is planning to do, will see a return on those investments.

The time has never been better to live, work, and play in southeast Alabama. The future is bright. The opportunities are endless. However, it is up to each of us to share our Alabama story. Will you join me to help 'Fuel Alabama' with talent and workers for the future?

Brad Kimbro is the chief operating officer of Wiregrass Electric Cooperative and currently serves as chairman of the Board of Directors of the Dothan Houston County Library System and the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce.

#SaveTheDate



Thursday, August 4, 5:30 p.m.
Health Center South Medical Tower

Hors d'oeuvres and Cash Bar

Tickets \$20 per person

Deadline to purchase tickets Thursday, July 28, at noon

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Faulk Appointed To PeoplesSouth Board



Grant Faulk

PeoplesSouth Bank, a community bank headquartered in Colquitt, Georgia, with 31 full-service locations in Alabama, Georgia and Florida, recently announced the appointment of Grant Faulk to the bank's board of directors.

"We are delighted to have Grant serve on the board," said Erin Stuckey, PeoplesSouth Bank president. "His entrepreneurial spirit and desire to help others will provide valuable guidance as we strive to fulfill the needs of customers, employees and shareholders in the communities we serve."

In his role as general manager and co-owner of Weed Man Lawn Care, Faulk leads a team providing all aspects of turfgrass management to customers throughout Alabama. He is also the co-owner of Lakewood Landscape Group where he works with a team providing landscape management to its clients in the Wiregrass. Faulk and his twin brother Kyle lead both businesses. Together they are driven by the desire to help as many people as they can reach their God given potential. This development process is the most challenging and rewarding part of their careers.

Faulk has a degree in building science from Auburn University. He is also certified by the Alabama Department of Agriculture in ornamental turf and pest control.

Faulk is no stranger to the construction industry and service industry. He served seven years in commercial construction in Alabama, Georgia, Nebraska and Texas. For the past 17 years, he has been involved in the service industry by starting two landscaping businesses that have grown into industry leaders for the markets they serve.

For more information, contact Amy Stovall at (229) 758-8822 or astovall@peoplesouth.net.

FORT RUCKER AND OUR FUTURE NEED YOU

**FORT RUCKER ECONOMIC IMPACT**

Fort Rucker contributes \$1.7 billion to our local Wiregrass economy each year. Right now, they are in need of our business community's support to ensure their future.

Fort Rucker is the training site for Army helicopter pilots. A new flight platform is being developed, Future Vertical Lift, that will eventually phase out current training. We need to solidify Fort Rucker as the Future Vertical Lift training center to guarantee their future.

FUTURE VERTICAL LIFT**HOW WE CAN HELP**

Community support will be one factor considered when the Army chooses their Future Vertical Lift training bases. Association of the United States Army (AUSA) is the premiere national organization for community support for Army bases. The AUSA | Fort Rucker Wiregrass Chapter is trying to get 250 local businesses to become members of their organization before advocating for Fort Rucker this fall at the Pentagon. These added community business memberships will clearly demonstrate the Wiregrass' support for Fort Rucker.

If your business is interested in solidifying the future of Fort Rucker and our strong local economy, contact the Fort Rucker Chapter of the AUSA, contact Tanya Hatley, executive secretary, at (931) 980-9639 or email tanyahatley@gmail.com.

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Ellis Named To 40 Under 40 List



Walt Ellis,
Dothan City President

Independent Banker magazine, the award-winning monthly publication of the Independent Community Bankers of America, recently announced its 40 Under 40: Emerging Community Bank Leaders. The award recognizes up-and-coming innovators, influencers and civic servants that represent the future of community banking. Congratulations to Troy Bank & Trust's Dothan City President, Walt Ellis, who was named to the list.

"ICBA congratulates and recognizes the success of these exemplary community bankers for their innovative spirit, along with their hard work and dedication as they continue to grow their potential and impact as community bankers," said Rebeca Romero Rainey, ICBA president and CEO. "Their determination and commitment to the values of community banking continues to make a positive impact on the customers and communities they serve."

The feature story in the June issue of

Independent Banker highlights how the 40 Under 40 honorees have overcome challenges and answered calls for innovation while staying true to the guiding principles of relationship banking that set community banking apart from others in the financial services space. Candidates were judged on character, leadership, community involvement and innovation.

The article organizes the winners into the following community banking categories: marketers, paycheck protection program champions, innovative leaders, customer and community service advocates, and lenders and mentors. Bank technology services provider FIS, of Jacksonville, Florida, sponsored this year's program.

Troy Bank & Trust is a \$1.4 billion dollar asset independent community bank headquartered in Troy, Alabama, with 16 locations in six Alabama counties. With 116 years of service to the communities they serve, they try every day to truly be "the only bank you'll ever need!"

For more information, contact Ellis at (334) 305-0475, wellis@troybankandtrust.com or visit www.troybankandtrust.com.



Southeast Health Earns An "A" Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade

Southeast Health Medical Center is proud to announce it has earned an "A" for the spring of 2022 by one of the nation's leading independent organizations that measures patient safety.

Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grades are updated twice annually, in the fall and spring. This national distinction recognizes Southeast Health Medical Center's achievements in protecting patients from preventable harm and error in the hospital.

"This distinction is the result of our commitment to provide our patients with the safest care possible," said Rick Sutton, Southeast Health CEO. "I'm proud of our team for earning this elite designation recognizing our high standards, which is a direct result of us consistently planning the work and working the plan to improve quality and safety."

The Leapfrog Group, an independent national watchdog organization, assigns an "A," "B," "C," "D" or "F" grade to general hospitals nationwide based on more than 30 national performance measures reflecting errors, accidents, injuries and infections, as well as systems hospitals have in place to prevent harm.



The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade is the only hospital ratings program based exclusively on hospital prevention of medical errors and harms to patients. The grading system is peer-reviewed, fully transparent and free to the public.

"As our health care system continues to feel the strain of the pandemic, I thank the workforce and leadership of Southeast Health Medical Center for sustained commitment to patient safety, day in and day out," said Leah Binder, The Leapfrog Group president and CEO. "An 'A' Safety Grade is an outstanding achievement, and one that is not possible without a 24/7 effort by the entire health care workforce to protect patients from harm. This community should be proud."

To see Southeast Health Medical Center's full grade details and to access patient tips for staying safe in the hospital, visit www.hospitalsafetygrade.org and follow The Leapfrog Group on Twitter, Facebook and via its newsletter.

Barge Design Selects New Board Members



Doug Hooker

Barge Design Solutions Inc. elected two new members, Doug Hooker and Ben Adams, to the board of directors at its 2022 Annual Meeting.



Ben Adams

Hooker, one of the firm's three external board members, has been a prominent leader in both public and private sector organizations, recently retiring after 10 years serving as executive director of

the Atlanta Regional Commission. In this role, he worked with state and local transportation entities in managing the region's long-range transportation plan and facilitated community and development strategies to enhance the region's growth and competitiveness.

Adams joined Barge in 2013 and is a vice president leading the company's Client Service function in the Georgia market. He has served as the leader of Barge's Columbus office since its inception and has been instrumental in growing Barge's presence in the Southeast.

Barge Design Solutions Inc., is an engineering and architecture firm with diverse in-house multi-disciplinary practice areas. The employee-owned company is 400 plus people strong and serves clients nationwide from multiple US locations.

For more information, contact Paula Harris at (615) 252-4312, visit www.bargedesign.com and stay connected with the company on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram.





DOTHAN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Area Officials Break Ground On 100,000 Square Foot Spec Building

Officials from the city of Dothan, Houston County Commission, Industrial Development Board of the City of Dothan, Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce/Grow Dothan, area business leaders and Alabama legislators were on hand today for the groundbreaking of a new 100,000 square foot speculative building being built in the Sam Houston Industrial Park at 102 Austin Court.

To enhance economic development and recruitment of new industry to the area, the building will be located on a 41-acre site known as Lot 3 in the platted industrial park. The purpose of the spec building is to have an existing building available to lure prospective industry into the area. As studies indicate, approximately 85 percent of industrial projects are seeking existing buildings to move into versus new greenfield development. The spec building will be a finished shell building with the only things needing to be completed will be pouring of the flooring, electrical, sprinkler system and the necessary dock/drive-in doors based on the customized needs of the prospective industry.

Alabama Department of Commerce Secretary Greg Canfield stated, “Alabama is hot and our economy continues to sizzle, but one of our challenges right now is having available buildings to continue to spur economic development. The availability of quality-sized buildings in Alabama is at an all-time low, so seeing the Dothan-Houston County area add this new addition to the state’s building inventory is a big enhancement to continue Alabama’s growth in the industrial development arena. We commend all the state, county, city and business leaders working together to put this facility in place to create future opportunities for the Wiregrass region.”

City of Dothan Mayor Mark Saliba and Houston County Commission Chairman Mark Culver in a joint statement said, “Working together with our economic team of city, county, chamber, state, utility partners and Industrial Development board leaders, our priority continues to be to build the infrastructure and capacity to continue to spur economic development growth for our region. This project continues to showcase the partnerships we have in our area from the local to state levels, to work collaboratively to enhance economic development progress for our area and continue to create employment opportunities for our residents.”

The building will be designed for customized completion based on the needs of the prospective industry and provide local and state economic development officials with an arsenal to lure prospective industry to the area and submit on future economic development projects. Due to the speed to market for many industries needing to move fast to meet market opportunities, many prospective projects are seeking existing buildings to close the timing gap to get their projects in place versus new greenfield development.

The building will be expandable to add another 100,000 square feet, will have 25 foot by 50 foot column spacing, and a 32-foot eave height on the 41-acre tract of land. The building will be served by Dothan Utilities (Alabama Municipal Electric Authority) with water, sewer and electric service. Natural gas service will be by Southeast Gas and telecommunication

providers will include Troy Cable, WOW!, Spectrum and CenturyLink.

“We appreciate the opportunity and partnership in the city of Dothan to support continued economic development success and progress. This is a very essential project to continue our mission in serving the growing needs of the Dothan and our other members in the Alabama Municipal Electric Authority,” said Fred Clark, AMEA president. “We commend the area leaders for their vision and work to creating build capacity to grow. We are proud to be a strong partner in all of Dothan’s economic development activities.”

Rep. Dexter Grimsley commented, “On behalf of our Governor, the Alabama Department of Commerce/AIDT, the Economic Development Partnership of Alabama, and our local legislative delegation, we stand ready to work together to support the future opportunities this project will provide our area with new investment and employment growth. We appreciate our partnership and relationship with the city of Dothan, Houston County and our chamber leaders to always work together as a team to support economic development opportunities. We have a great team and we all work together collaboratively to focus on the needs of our area and this project exemplifies the continued teamwork we have in our area.”

Brad Kimbro, Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce chairman, extended his sincere thanks and appreciation to the city of Dothan, Houston County Commission, the Industrial Development Board of the City of Dothan, state leaders, Chamber leaders, and Engineered Systems Inc. for the public-private partnership to work together to help grow the Wiregrass region. “This approximately \$4 million project would not be possible without the teamwork of many entities to develop this project to lure more manufacturing or distribution related operations into the area. Projects like this take on certain risks and there are no guaranties, but based on our rich history of undertaking past speculative building projects we are convinced this is the right time and place to move ahead,” echoed Kimbro.

This project represents the fifth speculative building developed in the Dothan area to spur economic activity and the size of buildings have varied over time due to changing market conditions from 40,000 square foot buildings to now 100,000 square foot buildings. Speculative buildings are built in anticipation of the growth of a community. Based on the outlined plan for a city, county or region, a speculative building is an economic development tool to entice a potential plant expansion or usher in a new manufacturing or distribution operation. The anticipated time for completion of this project is scheduled for fall 2022.

Special acknowledgment to the city of Dothan, Houston County Commission, Houston County Road and Bridge Department, the Industrial Development Board of the City of Dothan, Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce/Grow Dothan, Alabama Department of Commerce/AIDT, Alabama Department of Transportation, Economic Partnership of Alabama, Southeast Gas, Alabama Municipal Electric Authority, Dothan Utilities, Dothan Planning and Development Department, Engineered Systems Inc, Grow Southeast Alabama, Troy Cable, WOW!, Spectrum and CenturyLink.



Spec Building Rendering



Alabama Rep. Dexter Grimsley, 85th District (Henry, Houston)



Grow Dothan Chairman Bob Woodall, Bob Woodall Air Care Systems Inc.



City of Dothan Mayor Mark Saliba and Houston County Commission Chairman Mark Culver.

Helping To Create And Shape Tomorrow's Leaders

Even with all this past year's challenges with COVID-19 restrictions, the Dothan Area Chamber Foundation was successful in making sure its annual Youth Leadership Dothan-Houston County and Leadership Dothan classes once again came out on top. Class participants showed dedication, strength and triumph in completing the programs.

Thirty-nine high school juniors from eight area schools in Houston County graduated from Youth Leadership Dothan-Houston County Class 30. Held at Wiregrass Rehabilitation Center Inc's Sterling Event Services Rotary Hall, Maya Brown from Houston Academy provided attendees with an overview of the year's highlights.

The Leadership Dothan's Class 40 had 32 graduates this year and held its graduation ceremony in June at the Windmill Station. During the evening event, course highlights were provided by Morgan Hoggle, Prim & Mendheim, LLC, and closing remarks were given by Lori Lewis, Leadership Dothan Steering Committee.

Both leadership programs are operated through the Dothan Area Chamber Foundation and serve as important leadership resources to this area. The programs not only help raise a participant's awareness of the local issues and increase their understanding of different perspectives, but also help to encourage the individual to become more involved in solving the challenges facing their community.

Youth Leadership Dothan-Houston County is a training program that prepares high school juniors for leadership, involvement and

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

A nine-month program, Leadership Dothan focuses on community resources, education, local and state government, health care, public safety, agricultural and quality of life.

Each year, both classes are required to complete a community service project or fundraising effort to enhance the community. Youth Leadership volunteered at Chrysalis Home for Girls and helped Hidden Lake Primary School landscape their outdoor classroom. The Leadership Dothan class held a raffle and kickball game benefiting Time Youth Dothan Inc. Thank you to the event sponsors Southern Nuclear, Townsend Building Supply, Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine, Flowers Hospital, Pepsi Gulf Coast Jam, Southeast Health, Michelin North America, Inc. and Wiregrass Wealth Management.

The deadline to submit an application for the Leadership Dothan Class 41 has already passed. Plans are currently underway for the 2022-2023 Youth Leadership program; applications will be available starting Aug. 25. If you would like more information about either of the classes, contact Linda Kelley, program coordinator and director of community development, at (334) 792-5138 or lkkelley@dothan.com.



Youth Leadership Dothan-Houston County Class 30 had 39 students complete the program.



Leadership Dothan Class 40 held its Graduation Banquet at the Windmill Station and had 32 graduates.

Congratulations

Youth Leadership Dothan-Houston County & Leadership Dothan Classes 2022 Graduates

Youth Leadership Dothan-Houston County Class 30

Landon Andress
Rehobeth High School

Jack Andrews
Houston Academy

Allie Bedsole
Rehobeth High School

Shelby Branch
Dothan High School

Maya Brown
Houston Academy

Coleman Cannon
Providence Christian School

Lewis Carter
Houston Academy

Luca Chavers
Rehobeth High School

Olivia Crump
Providence Christian School

Sarah Eldridge
Houston Academy

Claire Faulk
Houston Academy

Banks Folger
Providence Christian School

Carl Forrester
Dothan High School

Edward Fountain
Ridgecrest Christian School

Kendall Golden
Rehobeth High School

Colin Groover
Dothan High School

Angelyse Hanna
Northside Methodist Academy

Max Hawker
Houston Academy

Mack Hollis
Wicksburg High School

Callista Lewis
Providence Christian School

Malone Liddon
Houston Academy

LaShonna Loftin
Houston County High School

Anna Love
Houston Academy

Maggie McCollough
Providence Christian School

Griffin McGee
Houston Academy

Sims Mendheim
Houston Academy

Caleb Metcalf
Wicksburg High School

Camille Murphree
Harvest Christian School

Gaige Parker
Rehobeth High School

Will Pitchford
Houston Academy

Jackson Reid
Bethel Christian Academy

Eli Saliba
Houston Academy

Harrison Swanner
Houston Academy

Keira Tessalone
Rehobeth High School

Lily Vierkandt
Rehobeth High School

Ella Wood
Dothan High School

Lily Woods
Houston Academy

Mallory Worsham
Houston Academy

George Zeron
Houston Academy



Brandon Bagwell
Individual Sponsorship

Audrey Bawcum
Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine

Alexis Bell
Southeast Alabama Community Action Partnership

Demetrius Bogan
Apex Commercial Janitorial Solutions, LLC

Dana Bonney
334 Prevention Project

Daniel Byrd
Michelin North America Inc.

Martha Compton
Wallace Community College

Alex Culbreth
Troy Bank & Trust

Terri DuBose
Southeast Alabama Child Advocacy Center

Misty Freeman
Houston County Schools

Robyn Gause
Flowers Hospital

Cameron Griffith
Coleman Worldwide Moving

Eric Hartigan
Southeast Health

Morgan Hoggel
Prim & Mendheim, LLC

Brooke Latham
MidSouth Bank

Gwendolyn Leak
E&G Leak Enterprise, LLC

Trent Lester
Alabama Motor Express

Katy Lewis
Wiregrass Angel House

Allison Love
Townsend Building Supply

Andy Love
City of Dothan

Keisha McKissic
KMac Realty Group

Lily Mendoza
Weicher Realtors, JBR Legacy Group

Kristen Murkerson
Wiregrass Wealth Management

Aerial Payne
Central Panhandle Association of Realtors

Cameron Powe
Milestone Psychology & Therapy

Zach Rogers
Great Southern Wood

Christina Ross
Wiregrass Foundation

Cendi Stevens
Flowers Hospital

Annie Stuart
Southern Nuclear – Plant Farley

Ariel Tillman
Surgery Center South

Angela Underwood
The House of Ruth Inc.

Brittney Wilkerson
City of Dothan



The Value Of A Job



Steve Turkoski,
Project Manager

When an individual starts work in a new job, it has an effect on the employee's financial standing, the employer's productivity and by extension it has an effect on the local economy as well as the local and regional gross domestic product. A single new job within an industry affects the employment requirements in other industries.

It is estimated that a dollar turns over five times in a local economy, losing about 60 percent to leakage on every turnover. At the fifth turnover, the full local impact is \$1.66. This is a national estimated average and it varies with region. We

purchased the Regional Input-Output Modeling multipliers through the Bureau of Economic Analysis for the Dothan Metropolitan Statistical Area and our average earnings multiplier is 1.53.

In addition to the flow and turnover of dollars, each job in the industry of consideration creates indirect and induced jobs in other industries. The RIMS data provides multipliers for 64 "benchmark industries" and several hundred specific NAICS. The 2019 data for the Dothan MSA Benchmark Industries are sorted in the table on page 17 from highest to lowest, by the number of indirect and induced jobs created for each job created in the industry of consideration.

Eagle Eye Awards College Scholarships

For the second year, Eagle Eye Outfitters Inc. honored members of their Ambassador and Diplomat Program. High School Ambassadors and College Diplomats are employed by Eagle Eye Outfitters over the previous year. They are responsible for working closely with customers to determine their needs, answer their questions about products and recommend the right solutions.

This year, 13 Ambassadors and Diplomats were recognized for their achievements and received a \$500 cash scholarship for their work. A total amount of \$6,500 was awarded to these deserving students. Four of the 13 are receiving this scholarship for the second time.

Second year recipients were Taylor Phillips, Macy Hataway, Marty Gary and Grayci Webb. First year recipients were Kaleb Drake, Kaylea Grimes, Carolyn McInnis, Laci Campbell, Savanna Story, Morgan Taylor, Jordyn Crawford, Joanna Woodall and Caitlin Darnell.

For scholarship eligibility, candidates must be employed for the entirety of the calendar year beginning before July and ending on May 31 the following year. During this time, they must adhere to the job description and other provisions outlined in the Eagle Eye Employee Handbook. These students are given an annual opportunity to renew their employment each additional year of college with opportunities for annual increases in hourly pay and additional scholarships.

Upon completion of their education, Eagle Eye Ambassadors and Diplomats are encouraged to apply for positions within Eagle Eye and become permanent employees in their career fields.

To apply to become an Eagle Eye Ambassador or Diplomat, submit your resume at 3535 Ross Clark Circle or via email to Rick Walz, store manager, at rick@eagleeyedothan.com.



Eagle Eye Outfitters Inc. recently awarded 13 students of its Ambassador and Diplomat Program with college scholarships.

2019 Date For Dothan MSA Benchmark Industries	Jobs for Each Direct Job in The Industry of Concern			
	Type I Jobs	Type II Jobs	Induced Jobs	Indirect Jobs
Wood product manufacturing	2.7388	3.3539	0.6151	1.7388
Air transportation	2.3492	3.2741	0.9249	1.3492
Utilities*	1.9295	2.8311	0.9016	0.9295
Chemical manufacturing	1.795	2.478	0.683	0.795
Rail transportation	1.6852	2.3103	0.6251	0.6852
Primary metal manufacturing	1.6315	2.2069	0.5754	0.6315
Mining (except oil and gas)	1.5143	2.1746	0.6603	0.5143
Food and beverage and tobacco product manufacturing	1.8052	2.1599	0.3547	0.8052
Support activities for mining	1.4489	2.1448	0.6959	0.4489
Motor vehicles, bodies and trailers, and parts manufacturing	1.5724	2.0457	0.4733	0.5724
Paper manufacturing	1.4352	1.9907	0.5555	0.4352
Other transportation equipment manufacturing	1.3701	1.9228	0.5527	0.3701
Data processing, hosting, and other information services	1.4939	1.9011	0.4072	0.4939
Plastics and rubber products manufacturing	1.462	1.8742	0.4122	0.462
Nonmetallic mineral product manufacturing	1.4174	1.8465	0.4291	0.4174
Truck transportation	1.4243	1.7949	0.3706	0.4243
Farms	1.5406	1.7716	0.231	0.5406
Machinery manufacturing	1.3586	1.7659	0.4073	0.3586
Wholesale trade	1.3277	1.764	0.4363	0.3277
Insurance carriers and related activities	1.3183	1.7219	0.4036	0.3183
Other transportation and support activities*	1.3539	1.7133	0.3594	0.3539
Management of companies and enterprises	1.1872	1.6927	0.5055	0.1872
Monetary Authorities-central bank, credit intermediation and related services	1.2577	1.6834	0.4257	0.2577
Waste management and remediation services	1.3158	1.6603	0.3445	0.3158
Publishing industries (except Internet)	1.2365	1.6346	0.3981	0.2365
Broadcasting (except Internet) and telecommunications	1.2525	1.6227	0.3702	0.2525
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	1.2594	1.6156	0.3562	0.2594
Construction	1.2644	1.6049	0.3405	0.2644
Electrical equipment, appliance and component manufacturing	1.2077	1.5771	0.3694	0.2077
Warehousing and storage	1.2885	1.5738	0.2853	0.2885
Hospitals	1.2084	1.5729	0.3645	0.2084
Furniture and related product manufacturing	1.2745	1.5567	0.2822	0.2745
Professional, scientific and technical services	1.152	1.5469	0.3949	0.152
Textile mills and textile product mills	1.2771	1.545	0.2679	0.2771
Rental and leasing services and lessors of nonfinancial intangible assets	1.2572	1.5316	0.2744	0.2572
Computer and electronic product manufacturing	1.1059	1.5257	0.4198	0.1059
Ambulatory health care services	1.1322	1.5172	0.385	0.1322
Other services*	1.243	1.4898	0.2468	0.243
Miscellaneous manufacturing	1.1818	1.4843	0.3025	0.1818
Printing and related support activities	1.2045	1.4518	0.2473	0.2045
Forestry, fishing and related activities	1.2036	1.4274	0.2238	0.2036
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	1.0983	1.3702	0.2719	0.0983
Performing arts, spectator sports, museums and related activities	1.1241	1.2903	0.1662	0.1241
Accommodation	1.114	1.2826	0.1686	0.114
Educational services	1.1123	1.2782	0.1659	0.1123
Nursing and residential care facilities	1.0901	1.2745	0.1844	0.0901
Real estate	1.1361	1.2743	0.1382	0.1361
Administrative and support services	1.1006	1.2732	0.1726	0.1006
Motion picture and sound recording industries	1.0841	1.2477	0.1636	0.0841
Securities, commodity contracts, and other financial investments and related activities	1.0824	1.2453	0.1629	0.0824
Other retail	1.0823	1.2391	0.1568	0.0823
Apparel, leather, and allied product manufacturing	1.0832	1.2328	0.1496	0.0832
Amusement, gambling, and recreation industries	1.1095	1.2325	0.123	0.1095
Food and beverage stores	1.075	1.2263	0.1513	0.075
General merchandise stores	1.0735	1.2199	0.1464	0.0735
Food services and drinking places	1.0943	1.2172	0.1229	0.0943
Social assistance	1.0773	1.2089	0.1316	0.0773
Transit and ground passenger transportation*	1.0461	1.1208	0.0747	0.0461
Oil and gas extraction	0	0	0	
Petroleum and coal products manufacturing	0	0	0	
Water transportation	0	0	0	
Pipeline transportation	0	0	0	
Funds, trusts and other financial vehicles	0	0	0	
Households	0	0	0	

*Includes government enterprises.



Entrepreneurship Council

Entrepreneurship Council Monthly Seminar

Financing Opportunities

*Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce
Thursday, July 28 • 5:30 p.m.*

The Entrepreneurship Council, in cooperation with Troy University's Sorrell College of Business and the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce, will hold a Financing Opportunities seminar Thursday, July 28, at 5:30 p.m.

Guest speakers will include individuals from the Small Business Administration, area banks and other finance agencies. The cost is \$10 per person. To reserve your seat, or for more information, contact Mackroyce Corbitt Jr. at (334) 678-9075, entrepreneurshipcouncil@gmail.com or visit www.entrepreneurshipcouncil.org.



DOTHAN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

LEVEL 1

JULY 12-13
8:00 - 4:00

\$50

LEVEL 2

AUG 11
8:00 - 4:00

\$25

LEVEL 3

SEPT 14
8:00 - 4:00

\$25

LEADERSHIP CLASSES

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https://seaw.me/22_dothan

REGISTER ONLINE

Are You A Chamber Member-To-Member Participant?



Being a participant not only helps promote your business, but also demonstrates your Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce support and membership commitment.

For more information about this DACC benefit or to become a participant, call Hayden Camp, director of membership, at (334) 792-5138, email hcamp@dothan.com or visit www.dothan.com/membertomemberprogrammembertomemberprogram.

Back-To-School Sales Tax Holiday July 15-17

Alabama's 17th annual sales tax holiday for school-related items will be observed from 12:01 a.m. Friday, July 15, 2022, until midnight, Sunday, July 17, 2022.



For three days only, pay no sales tax on:

- * Clothing and footwear (\$100 or less per item)
- * Certain school supply items (\$50 or less per item)
- * Computers or computer equipment (\$750 or less)
- * Any book valued at \$30 or less

Each year, the Alabama Retail Association compiles a toolkit for retailers with all the information needed to prepare for and promote the sales tax holiday in their store. To download the Alabama Sales Tax Holiday Retailer's Toolkit, visit the below website.

Retailers are required to participate and may not charge state sales tax on items that are legally tax-exempt during the Sales Tax Holiday. Depending on a city's or county's participation, local sales tax may apply.

For more information, visit

www.alabamaretail.org/resources/salestaxholidays

DISCOVER & EXPLORE

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WITH THE DOTHAN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



9-DAY JOURNEY

HIGHLIGHTS:

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- Round trip transfers between airports and hotels
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- Visit La Sagrada Familia and Prado Museum

Click here to
BOOK NOW

EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT
\$3,499 PER PERSON

Departing March 22, 2023

For more information and a full brochure, please contact Hayden Camp at (334) 792-5138 or hcamp@dothan.com



AMBASSADOR / DIPLOMAT COMMITTEE APPLICATION 2022-2023

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

Do you enjoy people and networking?

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

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

The Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce Ambassador and Diplomat Committees are gearing up for its 2022-2023 fiscal year and are looking for a few good volunteers who enjoy teamwork and meeting people. The program year runs October-September and the committees meet the first Tuesday of each month at 9 a.m. at the Chamber office.

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

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

The Chamber has 50 Ambassador positions available for the 2022-2023 year and **will accept applications until NOON Aug. 12, 2022, or until all positions are filled.**

Returning Ambassadors/Diplomats must also re-apply for the 2022-2023 year.

For more information, contact the Director of Membership, Hayden Camp, at (334) 792-5138 or email hcamp@dothan.com.

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

Name: _____

Business Name: _____

Title or Position: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Circle One: AMBASSADOR DIPLOMAT

Presenting Sponsor



Chamber Connections



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July 2022
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ECONOMIC INDICATORS FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL



DOTHAN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



2021

2022

↑	Labor Force For The Dothan MSA:	64,363 62,314 (Employed)	65,151 63,860 (Employed)
↓	Unemployment For The Dothan MSA:	3.2%	2.0%
↑	Residential Building Permits For The City Of Dothan:	14 Issued (5.46 Million)	46 Issued (\$13.92 Million)
↓	Home Sales in Dothan:	181 Sold	171 Sold
↑	Enplanements For Dothan Regional Airport:	2,913	3,572
↓	Houston County & Dothan Sales And Use Tax Collections (\$):	\$2,245,669 (County) \$8,014,955 (City)	\$2,056,777 (County) \$7,622,645 (City)

Editor's Note: Sources for this information vary; call the Chamber for details.
Data as of 6/6/22. Visit www.dothan.com for the most current information.

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DOTHAN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

(334) 792-5138
melia@dothan.com

meeting the challenge  shaping the future

www.dothan.com