

# DOWNTOWN DALTON

## Summer Concert Series

[WWW.DALTONEVENTS.COM](http://WWW.DALTONEVENTS.COM)

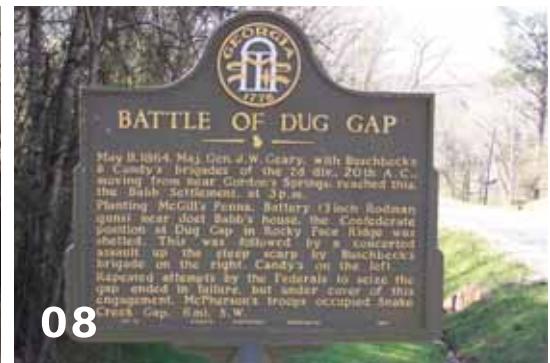
# ChamberLink

Greater Dalton  
Chamber of Commerce



INTERACTIVE MAGAZINE JULY 2017

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## ChamberLink

a publication of the Greater Dalton Chamber of Commerce  
100 S. Hamilton Street  
Dalton, GA 30720  
706-278-7373 | [info@daltonchamber.org](mailto:info@daltonchamber.org)

[www.daltonchamber.org](http://www.daltonchamber.org)

# Chairman's message



Vacation season has arrived! I hope you and yours have the opportunity to take a break and visit some interesting places this summer. Some of those interesting places may be a long way from home, but don't forget that we have many things to see and do right here in our own backyard. This month we feature an article about some of those places you might not have visited recently.

Also remember that we host plenty of our own guests right here in greater Dalton. Athletic tournaments such as the recent softball tournament at Heritage Park, Civil War sites, conventions, business, and other events bring people to Dalton year-round. We want our guests to feel welcome in the place we call home. So, if you run into a visitor, let them know you're glad they're here. Tell them about your favorite things to do in Dalton or suggest a great restaurant to them.

On a trip recently, when I mentioned being from Dalton, a family from Missouri told me that they have stayed overnight in Dalton many times on their way to Florida. They let me know how much they enjoy their stop because the folks at the Courtyard by Marriott told them about one of our restaurants downtown. Now, visiting our downtown has become a regular part of their visit thanks to the fine work of the staff at the hotel. Each of us, as ambassadors for our community, can make that kind of positive difference!

Whether you travel great distances this summer or enjoy a staycation in our own backyard, I hope the summer brings you some rest and relaxation. Enjoy!

Sincerely,

Chuck Dobbins, Chairman

On the cover: The Summer Concert Series is in full swing at the courtyard at Crescent City.



## Mission

The Chamber will serve our members by being a catalyst for economic growth, workforce and leadership development, and quality of life improvements in our community.

## Vision

Greater Dalton will be a first choice community to live, work, play, and do business.

## Organizational Priority

The Chamber will lead positive community growth.

### Executive Board of Directors

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Judy Sawyer .....	Vice President, Finance & Administration
Phyllis Stephens .....	Chief Operating Officer
Barbara Ward .....	Director of Workforce Development

# August 2017

**Let's Do Lunch**

Wednesday, August 2nd  
Noon  
Lisa's Cafe  
410 S. Hamilton Street  
Free to attend!

**A.M. Connect**

Thursday, August 3rd  
8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.  
Belhaven University  
2301 Fiber Drive  
Free to attend!

**Campaign Academy**

Monday, August 7th  
1:30 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.  
Greater Dalton Chamber  
100 S. Hamilton Street  
Free to attend!

**Chamber Connections**

Wednesday, August 9th  
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
Dalton Golf and Country Club  
333 Country Club Way  
\$15.00 for members

**Member Mixer**

Thursday, August 17th  
5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
Legacy Cattle Company  
613 LaFayette Road Rocky Face  
Free to attend!

Digital readers can access the most current calendar of events by [clicking here](#).

2017

# CHAMBER CLASSIC GOLF TOURNAMENT

September 25, 2017

1:00 PM • The Farm

Shotgun Start  
\$250/golfer or \$1,000/foursome

Deadline to register is  
Wednesday, September 20.

Register by contacting  
Beth Morrison at (706) 712-0949.



Yes, I will sponsor the Chamber Classic and help support the Greater Dalton Chamber of Commerce!

I am unable to play this year, however I would like to make a contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Circle Your Sponsorship Level:

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Billing Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Company: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Team: \_\_\_\_\_ Handicap: \_\_\_\_\_

Send your commitment to: [morrison@daltonchamber.org](mailto:morrison@daltonchamber.org)  
or fax 706-226-8739

Greater Dalton Chamber of Commerce  
100 S. Hamilton Street Dalton, GA 30720



# 10 Dalton Staycation ideas

BY ANTHONY LUKE

Feel the need to get away? How about a staycation instead? A staycation is a mini vacation, without ever leaving town. Staycations are becoming popular because it doesn't cost a lot of money, and there are usually more things to do in your town than you think. Dalton is no exception. Below, the Dalton Convention & Visitors Bureau has highlighted a few fun places in Dalton to make your staycation more enjoyable.

## **1. Escape Revolution – 2708 Airport Road Suite 2 Escape Dalton – 244 N. Hamilton Street**

[www.escaperevolutions.com](http://www.escaperevolutions.com)

[www.escapedalton.com](http://www.escapedalton.com)

Escape Revolution has three custom rooms. Choose between the Murder Scene, Cabin in the Woods and the SAW Experience. You and your party will have to go through clues, puzzles and work together to be able to escape. Escape Dalton is more than an escape room. It is an experience that crosses the time and space continuum, an adventure that stimulates your senses. Escape Dalton will take you to King Solomon's Temple in search of the Ark of the Covenant, will test your wits as you try to escape the clutches of a mad scientist. Will you escape? CAN you escape? You only have an hour. Dalton's two Escape experiences, this will keep you challenged during the summer!

## **2. Downtown Dalton Summer Concert Series – Courtyard at Crescent City – Downtown Dalton**

The Downtown Dalton Summer Concert Series is a FREE concert open to the public that features a different band every Friday Night from June 2nd until September 1st. Concert starts at 7:30 PM. Bring your friends, family, and some lawn chairs, and relax to the music of local bands.

## **3. Dalton Falls Fun Center – 2817 Airport Road**

[www.daltonfallsfuncenter.com](http://www.daltonfallsfuncenter.com)

Dalton Falls Golf and Laser Tag provides fun for the whole family. Enjoy 27 holes of miniature golf, arcade room, outdoor Laser Tag, bumper cars, Bubble Balls, ice cream shop, and more!

## **4. Disc Golf – 1275 Cross Plains Trail**

Heritage Point Park features one of the few Disc Golf courses in Georgia. It's a ton of fun for the whole family. Disc Golf follows many of the basic rules of standard golf.

## **5. Dalton Distillery Tour – 109 E. Morris Street**

[www.daltondistillery.com](http://www.daltondistillery.com)

Ever wanted to know how moonshine is made? Wonder no more. The Dalton Distillery offers tours of its facility Tuesday through Saturday from 10 AM to 5 PM. The Butler family can't remember not making whiskey. Opening this distillery is a son's way of keeping an American tradition alive and honoring his father and grandfather's brave ways by offering the world their family recipe corn whiskey. So go on by, meet Master Distiller Raymond Butler, and sample some of the world's best Moonshine. Dalton Distillery is also brewing up the world's first distilled spirits using Sunflower seeds!

## **6. Tunnel Hill Heritage Center and Historic Railroad Tunnel – 215 Clisby Austin Drive, Tunnel Hill, Georgia, 30755**

[www.civilwarrailroadtunnel.com](http://www.civilwarrailroadtunnel.com)

Come see one of Georgia's most unique attractions. The 1850 Railroad Tunnel, one of the oldest railroad tunnels in the South; open 6 days a week. Visit the museum, and take a guided tour of the 1,477 ft. railroad tunnel, as well as the 1848 Clisby Austin House, the 1900's era replica General Store, and enjoy the outdoors on walking paths through the 85+ acre site.

## **7. Creative Arts Guild – 520 W. Waugh Street**

[www.creativeartsguild.org](http://www.creativeartsguild.org)

Art instruction including dance, music, theatre, visual art, pottery, gymnastics and tumbling. Gallery exhibits. Festivals, Concert Series and Sculpture Garden.

## **8. Whitfield-Murray Historical Society – 715 Chattanooga Ave**

[www.whitfield-murrayhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.whitfield-murrayhistoricalsociety.org)

Whitfield-Murray Historical Society is dedicated to preserving the history and culture of Whitfield and Murray County. Historical society properties include the Hamilton House, the Huff House, the Blunt House, and Dug Gap Battle Park in Whitfield County; the Wright Hotel, Chatsworth Depot, and the Spring Place Methodist Church in Murray County, Georgia. Go for a tour of one, or all of the properties.

## **9. Hike the Disney Trail – U.S. 41,**

[www.georgiatrails.com](http://www.georgiatrails.com)

West of Dalton, this steep trail ascends Rocky Face Mountain. Considered by many to be the most challenging trail in Northwest Georgia, Disney derives its name from the lone grave of an English-born Confederate named George Disney. His grave is located at the end of the trail where Disney fell. Access begins behind the Nazarene Church at I-75, exit 336m Hwy 41-North one Mile.

## **10. Nob North Golf Course – 298 Nob North Drive, Cohutta, Georgia 30710**

[www.cityofdalton-ga.gov/recreation](http://www.cityofdalton-ga.gov/recreation)

A Gary Player designed golf course, this 40-year-old venue features all the amenities of a private club without membership fees. 6,573 yards, par 72, and open seven days a week during daylight hours.

There you have it, 10 great things to do in Dalton. Deciding to take a staycation is easy. There's no packing, no booking hotels, or planning activities for the family. Everything you do on a staycation is located right here. Dalton has plenty of places to eat, shop, play, and relax. Instead of spending money on a vacation somewhere else this year, how about considering a staycation in Dalton!

# Local Historical Properties

Built in 1855, the original Huff House faced the railroad tracks. After serving as the headquarters for General Joseph E. Johnston during the Civil War occupation of Dalton, the home was purchased by the Huff family. The historic house was rotated 180 degrees in 1904 by jacking the house up onto round logs, which were then harnessed to mules and pulled, a process that took over 2 weeks. The family lived in the house during this process!



Huff House  
314 N Selvidge Street Dalton  
Open Fridays 10am-4pm



Blount House  
506 S. Thornton Ave. Dalton  
Open Fridays 10am-4pm

Built in 1840, The Hamilton House is the oldest home in Dalton. The home contains the Lesche Room which features, not only the antique Lesche furniture, but also Robert Loveman's personal writing desk and book collection. The Lesche Club, which was founded by Dalton Female College graduates, is the oldest literary club within the United States. The club still meets and studies various literary pieces, including Robert Loveman's poems and writings.



Crown Garden & Archives  
715 Chattanooga Ave. Dalton  
Open Monday-Friday 10am-4pm

The oldest wood frame home in Dalton, the Blunt House was built in 1848 as the home of the first mayor of Dalton. Ainsworth Emery Blunt was a missionary to the Cherokee Indians within the region.

Mr. Blunt came to Dalton via boat and wagon with all of his possessions in one trunk which is displayed upstairs at the Blunt House. Since the home was gifted to the historical society with all of the Blunt family possessions, the collection at the Blunt House is one of the most extensive from that time period in this area.



Hamilton House  
701 Chattanooga Ave. Dalton  
Open Fridays 10am-4pm

Built in 1891 as the offices to Crown Cotton Mills, the building today serves as the headquarters for the Whitfield-Murray Historical Society. One unique component of the property is the original city water source and pump house. Thanks to the high producing Hamilton Spring, downtown Dalton was privileged to have city water very early on in its development.



Two Union soldiers were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for rescuing a fellow soldier during the battle. The soldiers placed cast iron skillets over their heads for protection from artillery, then crawled onto the field under a blanket, which they used to carry the wounded soldier off the field.



Dug Gap Battlefield Park  
Dug Gap Mountain Road Dalton  
Open 7 days a week, dawn to dusk



Wright Hotel  
201 E. Market St. Chatsworth  
Open every 2nd Saturday  
April - September 12pm-5pm

Thomas Wright opened the hotel in 1909 and passed it on to his daughter, Kate Raine. Ms. Raine was a nurse to Native Americans out West and brought her nursing paraphernalia and various Indian artifacts back to Chatsworth with her, which are now on display at the hotel.

The depot was relocated from its original location beside the railroad tracks to behind the Wright Hotel. The depot houses the Talc Museum exhibit which contains a collection of historical information and artifacts relating to the historic talc industry in Murray County. The depot also is the home to a multitude of model trains, which are always running when the building is open.



Chatsworth Depot  
Located beside the Wright Hotel  
Open every 2nd Saturday  
April - September 12pm-5pm



Old Spring Place Methodist Church  
7131 Hwy 225 S. Chatsworth  
Open by appointment only

The church, which was erected around 1875, is the oldest public meeting building in Murray County. The congregation began as an Indian mission in the early 1800s, but later moved during the Trail of Tears. The "owl" atop the church is often used as a landmark for the locals.



HOSTED BY:



3

4

5

13

10

11

heart  
attack

12

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# DEM Camp Continues to Grow

As an effort to share career opportunities in Greater Dalton, the Chamber, the Boys and Girls Club of Gordon, Murray and Whitfield, Shaw Industries and Mohawk Industries stepped up to provide a free camp for middle school students focused on design, engineering and manufacturing. This first camp was held in June 2011 with 29 students attending. After seven successful years of DEM Camp, 133 students graduated this year, 100 new campers and 33 returning campers. Twenty-four business and education partners have now joined to make this experience of no cost to all participants.

Brian Cooksey of Shaw Industries partnered with Barbara Ward of the Greater Dalton Chamber in creating the concept and curriculum for Dem Camp in 2011. Brian states, "DEM Camp is a key part of our local workforce development strategy. Through this experience, we introduce students to skills and career opportunities in our local manufacturing organizations that they were not previously aware of. Talented members of our local companies help inspire the next generation to see what might be possible for their career."

During the week, campers experience team building activities, build electronics circuit boards, create carpet designs, build a rapid prototype car to race, practice accurate measurement activities, create laser designs, experience programming industrial and Lego robotics, have a career exploration session with a middle school counselor, and tour local industries. Campers complete all of these activities with industrial safety in mind. The returning campers work in teams to design and build solid fuel rockets and a hover craft that is powered by leaf blowers. The returning campers also spend a day at Dalton State College where they have a session with a Chemistry Professor and an Engineering Professor. They also have a presentation on sustainability, learning about caring for our planet.



The key to workforce development is to begin instilling information about exciting career opportunities in design, engineering and manufacturing at an early age. During the 7 years of

DEM Camp, over 500 students have participated. In addition, creators of the camp are pleased that a number of other communities in Georgia have asked for the camp design and are implementing similar camps in their communities.

Elizabeth Phelan, who has had both of her children attend DEM Camp, shares her thoughts, "DEM Camp has been an incredible opportunity of hands on learning mixed with fun for both my children. The time spent has opened their eyes to experiences & possibilities that they would have never known about. There are no "impossibles" only the encouragement of let's make your vision "possible".... DEM is jewel of the Dalton community!!!!"

**A special thank you to all of the supporters of Camp DEM.**

## Camp Sponsors



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Brown Ox Ventures, Inc.

Information for registration for the eighth edition of DEM Camp will be on the Chamber website in March 2018. The dates for camp will be June 4-8, 2018.



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# *A Summer of Fun*

by Carl Campbell

Summer is here and the temperatures are getting hot! Many of you are gearing up for vacations and perhaps slowing down the pace of your business. Perhaps you are a student or teacher and are gearing up for a summer break and a slower pace and are looking for a Summer of fun.

For us here at the Joint Development Authority, our summer is getting hot as well, and we are having fun. Summer is our "busy" season so we are "hot" with lots of prospects looking for their next home. Companies use the spring and summer to choose the location for their next investments, and this summer is busier than ever. Hosting prospects in town is fun to an Economic Development guy like myself so keep your fingers crossed that we also have a summer season full of prospect fun. Now I also like a beach trip and family getaway too, so hopefully we can squeeze that in as well, but the majority of my summer will be spent trying to attract business to the greater Dalton area.

With that in mind, I would like to share some thoughts to help this summer be a success from an Economic Development perspective. If you are a property owner, it's always a good time to dress up or just maintain your property. This applies to residential and business property. Prospects are often looking for their next home, and the aesthetics of our community are very important. When a prospect is serious about our town, they often want to see schools, homes, the hospital, apartments and many other things. Chances are, we may be passing by your home or place of business during the visit. Sprucing up your place is great for you or your business and makes your property more valuable, which can increase our chances of bringing new businesses to town.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEWS**



**Dalton • Whitfield County**  
JOINT DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

The Mission of the Development Authority is to facilitate the long-term, positive economic growth of the community by attracting/retaining jobs, diverse investments, and growing the tax base.

The Development Authority represents a public-private partnership funded by City of Dalton, Whitfield County, and Grow Greater Dalton.

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Kevin Harris (Chair)  
Bill Davies (Vice Chair)  
Frank Roberston (Secretary)  
David Jolly  
Bob Kinard  
Sara "Skeeter" Pierce  
David Renz

### **STAFF**

Carl Campbell  
(Executive Director)

Ali Harp  
(Project Manager)

Anna Kate Sisson  
(Intern)

## Key Economic Indicators

### Dalton-Whitfield County

#### Unemployment

##### Whitfield County

Latest

April 2017

**5.1%**

Previous Month

March 2017

**5.6%**

One year ago

April 2016

**5.2%**

#### Whitfield County Unemployment Rate



##### Jobless Rates

City of

Dalton:

**5.3%**

Georgia:

**5%**

United

States:

**4.1%**

#### Building Permits

##### Permits Issued – Whitfield County

Latest

May 2017

Commercial: 10      Residential: 20

Previous Month

April 2017

Commercial: 1      Residential: 13

One Year Ago

May 2016

Commercial: 2      Residential: 12

2016 Total

Commercial: 36

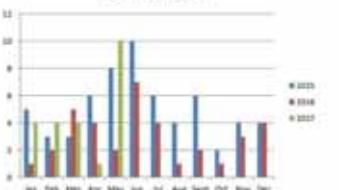
Residential: 183

2017 Total

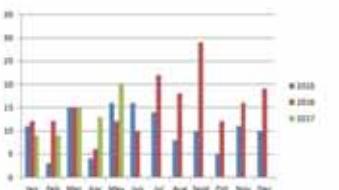
Commercial: 23

Residential: 66

#### Commercial



#### Residential



#### Retail Sales

##### National – 2016 - 2017

Total Retail Sales

April 2017

**\$410,352,000**

Previous month

March 2017

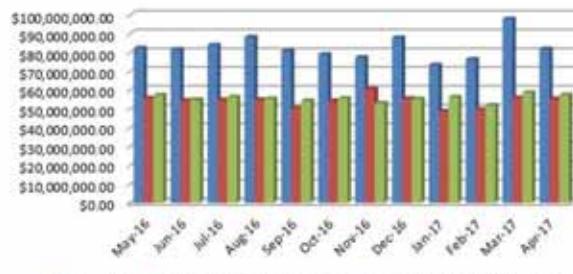
\$424,328,000

One year ago

April 2016

\$394,298,000

#### 2016-2017 National Retail Sales



\*National retail sales numbers retrieved from the U.S. Census Bureau.

■ Auto Dealers   ■ General Merchandise Stores   ■ Food Services & drinking places



Come network with these smiling faces at Chamber Connections!

**August 9**  
**September 13**  
**October 11**  
**November 8**

These events: 11:30am-1pm

RSVP at [daltonchamber.org](http://daltonchamber.org)

*Same Faces. New Name.*



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## **COPPEDGE & ASSOCIATES, P.C.**

**Attorneys At Law**

**Warren N. Coppedge, Jr.**

**Steve Michmerhuizen**

**Bryan Rayburn**

**508 S. Thornton Avenue  
Dalton, GA 30720**

**www.coppedgefirm.com**

**706-226-0040**

This page courtesy of Coppedge & Associates, P.C.

Goals achieved. New goals set.  
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## Ribbon Cuttings



### Elks Aidmore

Jaime Stafford  
105 N. Pentz  
(706) 529-9830



### Legacy Cattle Company

Alana Ballew  
613 LaFayette Road  
(706) 519-7711



### Planet of the Grapes Wine Bar & Retail Store

Trent Williams  
126 W. King Street  
(706) 913-0131



### Whitfield County Sheriff's Office Training Center

Sheriff Scott Chitwood  
296 Old Prater Mill Road  
(706) 694-4111

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# MEMBER MIXER



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# Local Education Achievements!

## Dalton Public Schools

- Westwood School's Odyssey of the Mind team placed 5th out of 56 US and international teams that competed at the 2017 World Finals.
- Dalton High has 67 Advanced Placement Scholars, the most in school history!
- Dalton High has been named one of America's Most Challenging High Schools in 2017 by *The Washington Post*.

## Whitfield County Schools

- 12 Google Certified Educators and two Google Certified Trainers use G Suite for Education to teach students.
- Whitfield Education Foundation plans to award up to \$50,000 in Innovative Teaching Grants this year.
- Northwest High School graduate Fergus King is the first student from Whitfield County Schools to graduate with a high school diploma AND an associate's degree. His degree is in natural science from Middle Georgia State University.



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# Diplomat of the Month

*featuring*

## Michelle Fountain



I am humbled to be named Diplomat of the month. It is a joy to be able to volunteer side by side with my fellow diplomats and the Greater Dalton Chamber of Commerce. I am fortunate enough to work for a company that has strong community ties and knows the importance of giving back to our community.

For nearly 20 years, I have been working with Alliant Health Plans, a leading provider of health care insurance in northwest Georgia. Alliant was founded by our local physicians and hospital. We offer quality and affordable individual and group health plans to Georgia businesses and consumers. As a regulated and licensed Provider Sponsored Health Care Corporation (PSHCC), Alliant strives to improve health care for our members. We accomplish this by shaping our board of directors to include physicians and community leaders who determine how to best deliver care to the communities we serve. By putting doctors in charge of treatment decisions and patients ahead of profits, we're retuning medicine to its original purpose: healing. We focus on the overall health and well-being of our members and serve them proudly, with honor and integrity.

The time that I have spent with other Diplomats has provided me with the opportunity to work with similar minded, talented business people, which makes our community a great place to work and live.

*For more information on becoming a Diplomat, call Beth Morrison (706) 712-0949*



## Mohawk is honored to welcome the following new members:

### The Battlegrounds Games and Comics

Michael Gunter  
2708 Airport Rd., Suite 1  
Dalton, GA 30721  
(706) 259-9704

### Family & Friends Counseling

Joylene Green  
607 S. Thornton Ave.  
Dalton, GA 30722-6359  
(706) 313-5677

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