

ChamberLink



Dalton Love

Our readers share their stories



INTERACTIVE MAGAZINE FEBRUARY 2017

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ChamberLink

a publication of the Greater Dalton Chamber of Commerce
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Dalton, GA 30720
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www.daltonchamber.org

Chairman's message



February is here, and with it our thoughts turn to our loved ones and what special treats we will provide for them on Valentine's Day. We decided the Chamber would get in on the game by asking you to share your stories about why you love our community. Valentine's Day serves as a terrific reminder of all the wonderful reasons we love those closest to us, and we thought we could all use a similar reminder about some of the things there are to love about our community. We received some great stories, and I know you'll enjoy them.

I would also like to ask each of you to do us a favor. I'm certain you have your own story about something you love about our community. Think about that story. Share it with someone else (especially if it's someone who isn't from here). We would love for you to send it to us at the Greater Dalton Chamber too. Email Beth Morrison (morrison@daltonchamber.org). We'll post these "love stories" to our Facebook page for others to enjoy! It's all too easy to forget what makes our community special. Sharing your story helps us all remember why we love the place we call home.

Chuck Dobbins, Chairman

On the cover: Cade and Stephani Womack on their wedding day. Courtesy of Lovelle Photography



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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Phyllis Stephens	Chief Operating Officer
Barbara Ward	Director of Workforce Development

February/March 2017

**Share the Vision
ESPLOST Update Breakfast**
Wednesday, February 15th
8:00 a.m. (buffet line opens at 7:30 a.m.)
Dalton Golf and Country Club
333 Country Club Way
\$20.00 per person
Tickets required, no tickets sold at the door

Let's Do Lunch
Wednesday, March 1st
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Lisa's Cafe
410 S. Hamilton Street
Free to attend!

Member Mixer
Thursday, February 16th
5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Trailheads Outdoor Gear
300 S. Hamilton Street
Free to attend!

Chamber Connections
Wednesday, March 5th
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Dalton Golf & Country Club
333 Country Club Way
\$15.00 for members

**Good Morning Dalton
Haig Mill Lake SPLOST Update**
Tuesday, February 28th
8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
Dalton Convention Center
2211 Dug Gap Battle Road
\$25.00 for members
Tickets required, no tickets sold at the door

A.M. Connect
Thursday, March 9th
8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
Innovative Risk Services
405 N. Hamilton Street
Free to attend!

Business Expo 2017
**Building
Business**

May 3, 2017

See page 21 for more details



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



Billy and Tanner Jaco

“
*I absolutely fell in
 love with Dalton
 State, and, by and
 large, my
 community.*
”

I was born and raised right here in Dalton. I am a first-generation Daltonian, as my whole family is from California, so I don't have very many blood relatives here. I do, however, have a very large Dalton family.

I went all through the Dalton Public Schools system, where I graduated from Dalton High in 2011. My senior year, I was faced with a big decision: I could go to Dalton State College, or I could go to one of the other schools I had been accepted into, the University of West Georgia or Kennesaw State University. My decision, reluctantly, was to stay in Dalton and attend DSC for a few semesters, to earn my General Education credits before I chose a major and transferred.

What ended up happening was that I absolutely fell in love with Dalton State, and, by and large, my community. I had the opportunity to work in the Office of Marketing & Communications at Dalton State as a student assistant, which opened my eyes to a career path I hadn't considered before: Marketing & Communications/Public Relations.

I began to seek out more and more opportunities to meet people, to volunteer, to become a part of multiple organizations in town. Now, at 23 years old, I am married (to a native of Knoxville who moved here for his job at Shaw and also fell in love with Dalton, Billy Jaco), own a home, work for the Downtown Dalton Development Authority,

and am a board member for Dalton Little Theatre, the Friendship House, and the Young Professionals of Northwest Georgia. Additionally, I am very active in the arts community, having been employed previously at the Creative Arts Guild and also regularly performing at both Artistic Civic Theatre and Dalton Little Theatre. The opportunities to get involved in civic organizations, social organizations, volunteer organizations, are boundless, as is the city's desire to grow.

The sense of community in Dalton is staggering; I now characterize Dalton as a "small town with big town attitude." These are the many reasons I love Dalton.

--Tanner Jaco

Life-long Love

I have a life-long love for Dalton and Whitfield County. I was born in 1949 at what is now the BB&T bank downtown. My whole family has lived here and been blessed by the friends, customers, and support groups such as Bradley Wellness Center, First Baptist Church, and multitudes of other organizations that helped us in times of need.

We have the best health facilities, schools, fire and police departments, and resource groups such as Providence, Greater Works, DOC-UP, the Collaborative, and of course the greatest Chamber of Commerce.

My 91 year old father has been active his entire life in business here, and has been the director of the North Georgia Fair Association.

My sisters have taught and worked locally for decades, growing friendships for life. My wife Cheri has been the office manager for Dalton Plastic Surgery for 35 years.

After serving 4 years as a Navy Hospital Corpsman during the Vietnam conflict, I returned to Dalton to work for Whitfield Medical Association, then in retail with my father, then taught science for 17 years at Christian Heritage.

I now am blessed to work with the Georgia Dept. of Labor as the local veteran representative to help find jobs for vets. I cover 6 counties in North Georgia, and have established wonderful long term relationships with multiple employers.

I look forward to 2017 as the most productive year yet in helping veterans and others in our area to enjoy the benefits of living in this great town. --Mike Riddle



Mike and Cheri Riddle

Love from Malaysia



Krystal Tee



Dalton is a city where you fall in love even more over time. The people are passionate about the city, and that contagious passion shows through the local businesses, the local events, and the multiple efforts to make the city better and more beautiful for the next generation. The family of Dalton welcomes anyone with open arms, and I could not have found a better city to further my education in. Dalton is a city of opportunities for those who are actively seeking, and that is why I love this city of Dalton.

-Krystal Tee

Community Love

I just wanted to take the chance to give my "heart to Dalton." I have been a resident here for almost 4 years, but have been working in this area since 2003. There are lots of things that I love about the area, but more so since I came to live here.

Of all of those, I would have to say that the majority of what I love is the combination of hometown hospitality and care for the fellow man/woman, plus the introduction of a great deal of diversity to my children to teach them to love every person individually.

They have learned not to be closed minded and to combine that millennial need for group think with a volunteer's heart so

that even the lesser advantaged have opportunity.

Since I have lived in Dalton, I have had the opportunity to volunteer in the community many times, and sometimes my children were, as they say, "voluntold." But after getting involved, they were very thankful for the chance and the lessons they learned in the process. We are originally from SE Tennessee, but never have I lived in an area where such giving is a part.

Also, I don't know if our residents really realize how beautiful our downtown really is. My son Elijah and I walked it last night and really enjoyed seeing all the unique offerings we now have. We LOVE Dalton, GA

--Michelle Hurley

"The introduction of a great deal of diversity to my children to teach them to love every person individually."



Michelle Hurley and Elijah Carney

Fell in Love



Stephani Womack

Dalton, GA was a town that I had never heard of before job searching. After a few months of interviews, I successfully secured a position at Dalton State College. I moved to Dalton not expecting to stay more than three years.

Not long after I moved here, I fell in love with the town, the people, and a boy. A year and a half in, I had a new husband Cade, a new family, and an incredible group of friends. Dalton opened its arms to a small-town Michigan girl and I have never felt more at home.

I am going on three years of living here and I would not change it for the world. Dalton is a growing, vibrant town that I hope to have a hand in building.

I believe that Dalton is one of the best kept secrets of Northwest Georgia. Part of me wants to keep it that way, but the other part wants to welcome everyone to see the town I now consider my own!

--Stephani Womack



HOSTED BY:



Leadership

Dalton-Whitfield

Local government was the topic of the January session of Leadership Dalton-Whitfield. Session chairs Dalton City Councilmen Gary Crews and Tate O'Gwin and Whitfield County Commission Chairman Lynn Laughter put together a great day for the class. We also appreciate being joined for the day by retired Whitfield County Commission Chairman Mike Babb.

The day included an overview of city and county governments and updates on SPLOST projects for recreation, fire, and public safety. The class also heard from the City and County Public Works Departments and learned about plans for a new park in downtown Dalton.

The homework assignments included half of the class exploring whether Dalton should consider a tax increase and the other half researching whether Whitfield County should build a fire station at the south end of the county. At the end of the presentations, class members voted on these two issues.

Class comments about the session include:

"Local government is an area where everyone has input and a voice. It was great to talk to the people involved."

"The homework assignment opened my views of each topic both on the positive and negative side of things. Great points were provided by each group."

Special thanks to session chairs:

Dalton City Councilmen Gary Crews and Tate O'Gwin, Whitfield County Commission Chairman Lynn Laughter, and retired Whitfield County Commission Chairman Mike Babb



LDW

"This has been my favorite session so far. I love government and debates. I look forward to future government classes."

Chamber Connections



"Chamber Connections is the BEST way to network every month! I have made many valuable connections over the years. Plus, it's a great time to make new friends, catch up with old ones and hear what's going on in our community."

--Jennifer Johnson, First Bank of Dalton



"I always enjoy Chamber Connections because it gives me the opportunity to learn about all the amazing things happening in our community. I'm also able to share what's going on at Bradley Wellness Center. After attending these Chamber events just a few times, you already feel like part of the family!"

--Mandy Hunter, BWC



• THE BEST NETWORKING LUNCH IN DALTON •



DO YOU HAVE YOUR 30 SECONDS?

CHAMBER CONNECTIONS

March 8

Dalton Golf & Country Club

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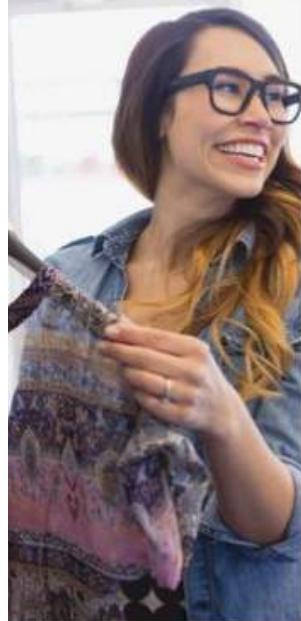
Winter & Scoggins is now part of Nichols, Cauley & Associates, LLC



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Key Economic Indicators Dalton-Whitfield County

Unemployment

Whitfield County

Latest
October 2016

5.8%

Previous Month
September 2016

5.7%

One year ago
October 2015

6.1%

Whitfield County Unemployment Rate



Jobless
Rates

City of
Dalton:

6.7%

Georgia:

5.2%

United
States:

4.7%

Building Permits

Permits Issued – Whitfield County

Latest
December 2016

Commercial: 4 Residential: 19

Previous Month
November 2016

Commercial: 3 Residential: 16

One Year Ago
December 2015

Commercial: 3 Residential: 10

2015 Total

Commercial: 60

Residential: 125

2016 Total

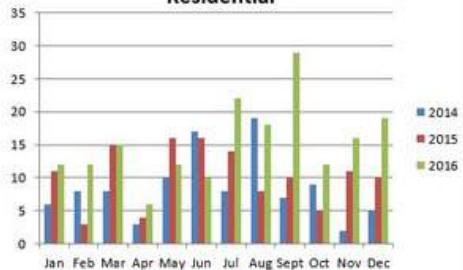
Commercial: 36

Residential: 183

Commercial



Residential



Retail Sales

National- 2015-2016

Total Retail Sales

November 2016

\$415,466,000

Previous month

October 2016

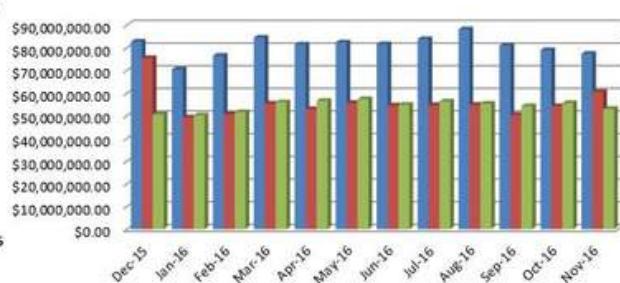
\$398,051,000

One year ago

November 2015

\$394,212,000

2015-2016 National Retail Sales



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

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



2016 IN GEORGIA

FY 2016 was an exceptional year for economic development for the entire state. Georgia's successes are a testament to the unparalleled business environment, culture of collaboration and teamwork. See some of the successes below.

If you are reading the digital version, click [HERE](#) to read the Georgia Department of Economic Development's *2016 Year in Review* report.



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

Bill Davies
Bob Kinard
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Lamar Lyle (Vice-Chair)
Sara "Skeeter" Pierce
David Renz
Frank Roberston (Secretary)

STAFF

Carl Campbell
(Executive Director)

Summer Nix
(Project Manager)

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- Attentive
- A Good Listener
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- Loyal
- Protective
- Honors a Client Held Leash

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Attorneys At Law

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or come visit us Saturdays from 12-4 at
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or call for an appointment 706-226-5002

DALTON DAY A SUCCESS

The 17th annual Legislative Appreciation Reception known as Dalton Day was a success with over 300 in attendance.

The event was held on the second day of the Georgia General Assembly and it was a great opportunity to showcase the Dalton-Whitfield community. Members of the Whitfield County legislative delegation represented the community as hosts (Representatives Bruce Broadrick, Jason Ridley and Steve Tarvin).

"This reception was our chance to demonstrate that our community is a true asset and economic engine to the State of Georgia. It was also an opportunity to thank Governor Nathan Deal and our state legislators," stated Chairman of the Board Chuck Dobbins (Dobbins Investments, LLC).

If you are reading the digital version, click [here](#) to watch a video of the event



Special thanks to this year's sponsors:
Premier Sponsor Mohawk Industries
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Carpet & Rug Institute
City of Dalton
Dalton Utilities
Eagle Rock Studios Atlanta
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Greater Dalton Chamber of Commerce
Hamilton Health Care System, Inc.
Lyle Industries
Morehouse Group, CPA's
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Shaw Industries
Whitfield County





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Bob's Burgers
Hepin Patel
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DPRD Soccer Courts
Steve Card
904 Civic Drive
(706) 278-5404



Eastbrook Middle School
Principal Greg Bailey
1382 Eastbrook Drive
(706) 226-9859



Eastside Elementary School
Principal Ben Hunt
102 Hill Road
(706) 226-9951



Loud Media Group
Zac Callahan
P.O. Box 2456
(706) 260-7017



Torres Accounting Services
Armando Torres
1502 - B Dug Gap Road
(706) 229-3232

MEMBER MIXER

hosted by:



Diplomat of the Month

featuring

Joseph Weatherford



First off, I want to say "Thank You!" to the Greater Dalton Chamber of Commerce and the community as a whole for an amazing 2016. Last year we experienced unprecedented growth and whole lot of exciting new changes. We've added new staff, new products, and new services, which will only enhance the Owen Experience for new, existing, and prospective customers.

Now more than ever, we can give your home or office a voice. Whether you want a new security system or want to enhance the one you already have, Owen Security Solutions can help. We can give your old, blind alarm system eyes by integrating dynamic HD cameras. We can make sure that you are alerted immediately of breach in the perimeter with Video Verification. We can transform a plain old security panel into the new hub for your Smart Home or Smart Office. And no matter the solution that is right for you, we can put all of those features right in the palm of your hand through your smart phone or mobile device.

Thank you again for an amazing year. I look forward to 2017 and keeping Dalton safe!

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



Exhibit space
available now!

LET'S BUILD BUSINESS!

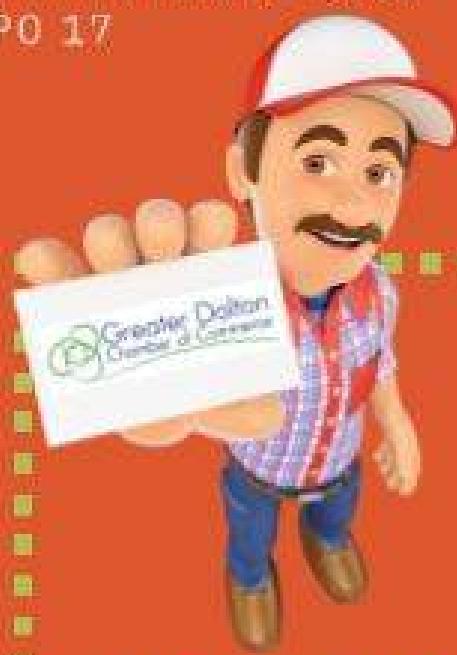
SHOWCASE YOUR BUSINESS AND LEARN ABOUT YOUR
COMMUNITY AT EXPO 17

FREE TO ATTEND!

05.03.17

Make plans to exhibit at
Northwest Georgia's largest
annual networking event.

WEDNESDAY | 10-2PM
DALTON CONVENTION CENTER



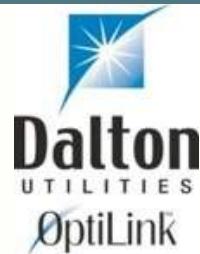
DETAILS ONLINE!
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(706) 277-1764

Food City

Jackie Dills
1287 N. Glenwood Ave.
Dalton, GA 30721
(706) 259-9223

Engine Room, The

Marilyn Silvers
1525 Waring Road
Dalton, GA 30721
(706) 272-3473

Torres Accounting Services, LLC

Armando Torres
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Dalton, GA 30720
(706) 229-3232

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merce.



Do you have changes at your company?
E-mail Beth Morrison at morrison@daltonchamber.org
to have them featured in the next ChamberLink.