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Rotary Club of Dalton Newsletter

<http://www.daltonrotaryclub.org>



This Week:

August 2
Ginger Mathis
*Georgia Northwestern
Technical College - New
Doors to the Workforce*

Upcoming Meetings:

August 9
**No Meeting / Joint
Meeting with Kiwanis
on August 8th**
*Ronnie McClurg / High
School Football Preview*

August 16
District Governor Kim
Waters

August 23
Janice Kiker

Downtown Dalton: Prospects For Growth

By John Hutcheson



Above: Garrett Teems

Rotarian Patty Mooney introduced Garrett Teems, Director of the Dalton Downtown Development Authority. After a previous stint at the DDDA, Garrett served as Director of the Dalton Convention and Visitors Bureau, where he earned statewide recognition for his development of visitor centers at Ringgold and Valdosta, before returning to the DDDA a month ago when his predecessor moved away from the area.

Garrett pointed out that Dalton has the fifth largest downtown in Georgia, with 300 businesses and about 3,000 jobs. Presently only eleven properties are available for development, and several new businesses are scheduled to open in the near future. During the day the area's population triples, and one important goal is to retain some of those people after working hours and attract new ones by developing a vibrant nightlife, with a special focus on the college-age demographic.

Since 2006, when the City decided to revitalize its downtown, most of the streetscapes have been beautified with new lighting and plantings. There has also been a strong interest in sustaining the area's historic appearance, and the DDDA works closely with the Dalton Historic Preservation Commission. Successful recent projects include the former Southern Railway Freight Depot, restored in 2009 and now the home of DDDA and the Visitors Center, and the old Post Office, renovated in 2013 to house the Chamber of Commerce and the Carpet and Rug Institute. Proposals are now being solicited for work on the Western & Atlantic Depot, one of Dalton's oldest and most historic structures. Property owners' interest in such undertakings has been encouraging, as may be seen in the rising number of façade grants. Ranging as high as \$5,000 and funded by the City on applications approved by the Historic Preservation Commission, these have increased from three in 2012 to five in 2014 and twelve in 2015.

Overall, the future of downtown Dalton appears to be the brightest in years, especially as new energy goes into unified planning for its place within the whole region rather than just in Dalton alone. The Friday night concert series and the Screen on the Green movies have been very successful, as have the Dalton Green farmers' market, which has averaged 375 attendees on Saturday mornings and is now held on Tuesday evenings as well. A Beer Festival is scheduled for October 1, 2016, to coincide with the Georgia-Tennessee football game which will be shown on a Jumbotron screen at the old Lee Printing site on Hamilton Street—a location for gatherings being promoted simply as "The Spot." The City's revision of its open-container alcohol ordinance will allow consumers of specified alcoholic beverages to move freely within the downtown area, defined as lying between Waugh Street on the north, Thornton Avenue on the west, East Morris Street on the south, and the railroad tracks on the east, so long as such beverages are purchased from designated downtown food and beverage establishments. Law enforcement will be appropriately vigilant.

Responding to questions, Garrett said that no definite plans exist for new uses of the upper level of the parking deck next to the W & A Depot, although its structural issues have been resolved. Regarding new or projected restaurants and bars, he mentioned Conductor's, a bar and grill; Cold Creek Growlers,

Club Officers:

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a beer shop where food will be catered by Hamilton's; Cyra's, a bar and restaurant located in the old El Sombrero space; and the Crescent City Tavern, another bar and grill. There has also been some talk of reopening the Planet of the Grapes on the former terrace of the Landmark Building, above Maryville Jewelers.

Special Announcements

President Bruce called forward Rotarian Mike O'Neill to recognize him for his excellent photography at the Club's weekly meetings and other events. Mike's skill and diligence are making significant contributions to the Club's historical record.

President Bruce also informed the Club that the Board has acted on this year's education and literacy initiatives by funding necessary repairs on the Big Red Reads bus in the amount of \$3,495.85. A decal bearing the Rotary logo will accordingly be affixed to the vehicle.

August 2nd Birthdays and Anniversaries

2016-07-30

Member Birthdays

	<u>Birthday</u>
Brunson, Kevin M (KEVIN)	2-Aug
McDonald, David L (DAVID)	2-Aug
Robertson, Cheri L (CHERRI)	2-Aug
Bundros, Thomas A (TOM)	7-Aug
Adcock, Don W. (DON)	8-Aug

Partner Birthdays

Robertson, Cheri
Chandler, Susan

Member Name

Robertson, Ricky N
Chandler, Robert M.

Birthday

2-Aug
4-Aug

Member Anniversaries

No member anniversaries this period.

Wedding Anniversaries

Woodward, Philip F (PHIL)
Bronson, William III(WILLIAM)
Chappell, William J. (WILLIAM)
Pierce, Sara C. (SKEETER)
Abernathy, Melburn H. (MEL)

Partner's Name

Betty
Erica
Bennieta
Lamar
Gretchen

Anniversary

3-Aug
5-Aug
6-Aug
7-Aug
8-Aug

Years

41
20
60
50
29

