

# A spotlight on our home and garden merchants

With the annual Northeast Alabama Home & Garden Show coming up in March, it only seems natural to be mindful of our members in the home improvement-related, and the lawn and garden-related categories. That is why I would like to shine a spotlight on the businesses in those sectors during the next month or so.

Our lawn and garden category currently includes three members. We have 13 members whose primary focus is home improvement or construction-related products or services.

All the businesses in these categories are vital to the local economy. The 16 businesses represent over 125 jobs that need to be sustained, not to mention a fair number of contractors who benefit from referrals within the categories. Obviously, there is potential for job growth in these categories, as well.

In addition, when it comes to support for local sports teams, churches, schools, and civic organi-

zations, many of those who own and operate these businesses are among the most active citizens in the community. The impact of their survival runs deeper than just jobs.

Rather than shopping in other counties or states, or online, shop locally when you have do-it-yourself home improvement projects, and insist that the contractors you hire shop locally for building material, lumber, plumbing supplies, electrical supplies, paint, and floor covering.

One of our members in the home improvement category, A-1 Freedom Carpet Cleaning, has recently opened a new office at 502 Main Street West, next door to Brantley's. A member of the Rainsville Chamber since June 2007, the growing company has state-of-the-art equipment and are experts at cleaning carpet, upholstery, tile and grout, and more. They also provide 24-hour flood and fire restoration service. Look for their ads in the *Sand Mountain Shopper's Guide* for special offers.

It has now been over a year since

another member in that category, S&S Wholesale, held a grand opening for their new 2,100 square foot showroom. It features kitchen and bathroom products such as bath tubs, faucets and sinks, as well as a huge selection of light fixtures. For those who have not yet visited the showroom, S&S Wholesale is located at the intersection of Marshall Road and Highway 75 North.