

**2004 Chamber  
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**Chair-elect**  
Mark Carter

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Bill Plowden

**Treasurer**  
John Harris

**Past Chairman**  
Greg Arrowood

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Gregg Johnson  
Shannon Kennedy  
Jennie Lambert  
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Holly Sweat  
Dr. Steve Thornburg  
Jim Toole  
Sam Wilson

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# InterAction

The Official Publication of the Cleveland County Chamber **FEBRUARY 2004**

## “Chamber Pride in Kings Mountain”

*Annual Showcase Event Kicks Off February 24th*

The Kings Mountain office of the Chamber will host a reception for members from the Kings Mountain and Grover areas on Tuesday, February 24, 2004. This is the sixth year this event has been held, and it will help kick-off the "Chamber Pride in Kings Mountain Business Showcase" event.

The reception will take place in the lobby area of Kings Mountain City Hall at 101 West Gold Street between 5:30 and 6:45 p.m. Dozens of area businesses and organizations are also taking advantage of an op-

portunity to exhibit a variety of materials and information during the two-week long "Chamber Pride in Kings Mountain Business Showcase" that will conclude in March.

Members can attend the reception at no cost. Food, music and prizes will be a part of the event. Please call the Cleveland County Chamber Kings Mountain office at 704-739-4755 to rent exhibit space or to make reservations for the reception. —*From the Kings Mountain Advisory Council*

## Business At Breakfast Set For February 6

*Helps One-to-One In Shelby To Serve As Host*

What better way to begin your day than to enjoy a scrumptious breakfast? The answer is simple; join other business professionals as they promote their business while treating themselves to breakfast. On Friday, February 6 beginning at 8:30 a.m., Helps One-to-One of Shelby will sponsor a Business at Breakfast networking event.

The Cleveland County Chamber is pleased to present businesses with the opportunity to engage in structured networking in a relaxed atmosphere. This event allows participants to share information about their business and the services they provide to members of the

community at virtually no charge.

Each participant leaves this event thrilled about their business as well as others within the community. Business at Breakfast is available to Chamber members for \$5. Reservations should be made by February 4. For guests and non-members or those without a reservation, the cost is \$10.

Helps One-to-One is located at 950 Wendover Heights Drive in Shelby and is a non-profit human service agency that has developed a system to help individuals with disabilities realize their full potential through relationship building and personal goal orientation. —*From the Membership Services Division*

## 2003-2004 Chamber Activities & Events



Ribbon cutting for Tom Freeman Construction in Shelby on December 11.



Ribbon cutting for Talk of the Town Salon & Spa in Boiling Springs on January 13.



Ribbon cutting for Trendsetters Salon & Spa in Shelby on January 15.



Business After Hours at Shelby Savings Bank on January 15.

## *Business After Hours*

*Comfort Inn of  
Kings Mountain  
722 York Rd.*

*February 12, 2004  
5:30—7:00 p.m.*

*Beverage Sponsor:  
Fox Distributing Co.*

## Chamber Restructures Economic Development Department

In an effort to allocate resources in the most efficient manner possible, the Cleveland County Chamber will be reorganizing the Economic Development and Travel & Tourism department effective immediately.

"With so many people out of work and acknowledging the stiff state and nationwide competition for new businesses and economic investments, we will be diverting some tourism resources to economic development," said Stuart Gilbert, Chamber President. "As a result, we have eliminated the full-time Manager of Travel & Tourism position currently held by Cindi Cannon."

In addition, Gilbert stated that the Chamber would be immediately working toward the objective of seeking a project manager for economic development who will assist in the implementation of a county wide economic development strategy.

"A successful organization must constantly evaluate how resources and dollars are spent," said Scott Darnell, Senior VP of Economic Development. "The Chamber must dedicate its attention to serving its members by

improving the local economy, growing markets, and providing a roadmap for economic prosperity."

Gilbert credits many new initiatives under Cannon's term as Manager for Travel & Tourism including the development of a 2003-2004 tourism plan of work and the first separate tourism budget; the formation of an executive committee of the travel council to assist in Cleveland County tourism efforts; and the establishment of many new networking relations and opportunities including but not limited to the North Carolina Department of Tourism and Film offices, tour bus operators, exhibiting at the National Tourism events held this past year in Charlotte, and other exhibits highlighting Cleveland County tourism attractions. Cannon also researched and reported on the economic impact of various tourism events in the county.

"Cindi has been an excellent employee. She has done everything we have asked her to do and it has been a pleasure to see her grow professionally this past year," said Gilbert. "The fruits of

Cindi's labor will assist us as we continue to move forward in our tourism efforts. The Chamber is committed to the Travel & Tourism component of our economic development strategy and will allocate 10 hours of staff time each week to continue to build upon the strong foundation Cindi has provided."

"It's encouraging to see that the Chamber is closely monitoring its efforts to improve the economic condition of Cleveland County and maximize the investment of members and local governments," said Chamber Chairman David Faunce. "This difficult decision was not a reflection of Cindi's performance for the Chamber."

Under the economic development merger agreement signed between the Cleveland County Board of Commissioners and the Cleveland County Chamber in 2002, Cindi Cannon is a county employee and will return to the County for other employment opportunities.

—From the Planning & Administrative Council

## International Festival Date Set For April 17 In Uptown Shelby

The Cleveland County Chamber is currently planning the 4th Annual International Festival in conjunction in uptown Shelby this May. The festival will take place on the courtsquare in uptown Shelby on Saturday, April 17 from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m.

The International Festival will

feature music, food, entertainment, and demonstrations from around the globe.

The committee is hard at work lining up the entertainment, food vendors, and business displays for this event. If you are interested in participating as either a vendor or a sponsor, please call Niki Bliss-

Carroll at the Chamber at 704-487-8521. Mark your calendar now and make plans to attend on April 17.

— From the Marketing & Communications Committee

### Our Mission Statement:

The Cleveland County Chamber will strive to provide effective membership services and proactive leadership to enhance economic opportunity and quality of life in our community.

### Our Vision Statement:

The Cleveland County Chamber will be the community's premier advocate of business and a leader of public and private initiatives to sustain second-to-none living, learning, working, and leisure-time environments.

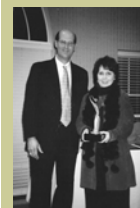
## Annual Banquet Award Winners



2003 Zenith Award Winner: John Cline, Cleveland Co. Sanitary District (far right)



2003 Bridge Builder Award Winner: John Young, Cleveland Regional Medical Center (second from right)



2003 Athena Award Winner: Dr. Dottie McIntyre, Cleveland Community College (right)



2003 Entrepreneur of the Year Award Winner: Gregg Tillman, Cleveland Headline News (TV33) (left)



2003 Ambassador of the Year Award Winner: Deek Alexander, Springboard Telecom (right)



Jean Bettis, Office Manager, was recognized for 45 years of service at the Chamber. (left)



Greg Arrowood, Shelby Savings Bank (right) passes the symbolic gavel to incoming board chair David Faunce, Faunce Realty (left).

*Member Renewals-December 2003*

Beneficial NC Inc. – 8 years  
 Fred B. Blackley, Landscape Architect – 19 years  
 Carillon Assisted Living – 5 years  
 Carolina Artisans Construction, Inc. – 17 years  
 Children's Homes of Cleveland County – 6 years  
 Cleveland Medical Associates – 3 years  
 Country Time Party Rentals – 5 years  
 Cowboy Place – 10 years  
 Curves For Women – 3 years  
 Senator Walter Dalton – 4 years  
 DeVoe Realty – 3 years  
 Farmers Furniture, Appliance & Electronics – 2 years  
 Frame Masters Gallery – 9 years  
 Golden Corral – 2 years  
 Kearns Business Solutions, Inc. – 3 years  
 Kings Mountain Family YMCA – 5 years  
 Manpower – 16 years  
 McDonald's – 28 years  
 NVR Building Products – 5 years  
 Odom & Associates Engineering, Inc. – 6 years  
 Peeler Insurance and Realty, Inc. – 3 years  
 Petroleum World – 49 years  
 Radio WADA – 3 years  
 RBC Liberty Insurance – 3 years  
 Shelby Post Office – 10 years  
 Shelby Rotary Breakfast Club – 3 years  
 Springboard Telecom, LLC – 5 years  
 Stamey Funeral Home, Inc. – 5 years  
 Summit Place International – 7 years  
 Til-Mar Textiles – 14 years  
 United Way of Clev. County, Inc. – 18 years  
 Withrow's Funeral Home, Inc. – 19 years

*New Member***VICTORIAN ROSE AT THE CHARLES**

Mr. Elwin Stilwell  
 108 W. Warren St.  
 Shelby, NC 28150  
 Telephone 704-482-9360  
 PHOTOGRAPHY

*Members on the Move*

The following members have changed their membership to include:

Wachovia Bank – Todd Williams  
 Shelby Rotary Breakfast Club – Dale Short  
 Harvest Works Inc. – Rhonda Cooper  
 Upper Cleveland County Chamber of Commerce – Pete Pedersen  
 Clev. County Assoc. of Realtors – Tere Blackwood

**New Mailing Address:**

The following Chamber members have new mailing addresses while their locations, telephone numbers, etc. remain the same:

New mailing address for **Life Enrichment Center** is **103 T. R. Harris Drive, Shelby, NC 28150**. Telephone number remains 704-484-0405.

New mailing address for **Council on Aging/Senior Center** is **100 T. R. Harris Drive, Shelby, NC 28150**. Telephone number remains 704-482-3488.

**Name Change and New Location:**

New name for Habilitation & Support Services is **HELPS ONE TO ONE**. They have moved into their new facility and the location address is **950 Wendover Heights Dr., Shelby, NC 28150**. Mailing address remains P.O. Box 3088, Shelby, NC 28151, and telephone number is 704/484-3921.

*Board Action*

At the December Board of Directors meeting, the following action was approved:

- Approval of EDC Plan.
- Approval of 2004 Chamber Action Plan.
- Appointment of Bill Plowden as 2004 Chamber Board Secretary.

*Thank You Corner*

A SPECIAL  
 THANK YOU TO  
 CHAMBER  
 MEMBERS FOR  
 THE BEAUTIFUL  
 CARDS SENT  
 TO THE CHAMBER  
 DURING  
 THE CHRISTMAS  
 SEASON  
 AND TO THE  
 FOLLOWING  
 CHAMBER  
 MEMBERS FOR  
 GIFTS  
 BROUGHT TO  
 THE CHAMBER  
 STAFF:

Scott Vending,  
 Westmoreland  
 Printers, Shelby  
 Savings Bank,  
 Coldwell  
 Banker Horn  
 Real Estate,  
 Rock Hill  
 Chamber,  
 Jennifer  
 Hammerstein  
 (Cleveland  
 Headline News)  
 and Brownie  
 Plaster.

# CLEVELAND COUNTY CHAMBER

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Kings Mountain, NC 28086

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Fax: 704-487-7458

E-mail:  
info@clevelandchamber.org

We're on the Web!  
[www.ClevelandChamber.org](http://www.ClevelandChamber.org)

**Stuart Gilbert**  
President

**Scott Darnell**  
Senior VP-Economic  
Development

**Niki Bliss-Carroll**  
VP-Programs/Communications

**Misti Humphries**  
VP-Membership Services

**Tim Waters**  
VP-Existing Industry/Kings  
Mountain Office

**Jean Bettis**  
Office Manager

**Shirley Brutko**  
Administrative Assistant-Kings  
Mountain Office

**Jean Canipe**  
Receptionist



## Business Support · Economic Development · Travel & Tourism

### 2004-2005 Quality of Life Magazine Ad Space Available

We are pleased and excited to announce that production of the 2004 Cleveland County Quality of Life Magazine and Business Resource Guide is now underway. As the primary publication for newcomers and industry recruitment, we don't want you to miss your opportunity to be featured in the newest edition of the magazine, which will once again be produced by **Westmoreland**

**Printers, Inc.** in Shelby. The publication will now be produced every 18 months (previously, it was printed every 12 months). With an enhanced distribution plan,

your company will benefit from tremendous exposure throughout Cleveland County and the Charlotte region.

By pledging your commitment to advertising in the 2004 book, you will receive the added benefit of receiving updated information on the latest economic development projects. Companies who advertise in this publication will be considered partners in the economic development effort in Cleveland County. This partnership could provide your company with valuable leads and networking opportunities, which will likely exceed your

initial investment as an advertiser in the publication.

Be sure to act now to secure your prime position in the upcoming publication. Ads will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis. Please take a look at the ad rates and fill out the enclosed form. Discounts are available for companies who provide camera-ready artwork to the publisher.

For more information, please contact Niki Bliss-Carroll or Scott Darnell at the Cleveland County Chamber at (704) 487-8521.

—From the Marketing & Communications Division

### Businesses Needed For Career Awareness Fair On April 8

The Chamber's JobReady Partnership is set to sponsor Workforce 2004, the annual career awareness fair for eighth graders throughout Cleveland County.

The 10th annual event will be held on Thursday, April 8, 2004 from 8:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.,

at Cleveland Community College. It is designed to acquaint students with a variety of career opportunities in Cleveland County, and allows them to see first-hand how these career options relate to their school curriculum.

Any business with an interest in being a part of Workforce 2004 can call Nedra Maddox at Cleveland Community College (704-484-4000) or Niki Bliss-Carroll at the Chamber (704-487-8521).

—From the Education Division

### February 2004 Chamber Calendar of Events

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| Feb. 06 | Business At Breakfast: Helps One-to-One, 950 Wendover Heights Drive, Shelby; 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m.; Reservations Required  |
| Feb. 06 | Ribbon Cutting: Helps One-to-One, 950 Wendover Heights Drive, Shelby; 10 a.m.   |
| Feb. 10 | Ribbon Cutting: American General Financial Services, 711 E. Dixon Blvd, Shelby; 10 a.m.   |
| Feb. 11 | Ribbon Cutting: Uptown Bagel & Deli, 301-B East Warren Street, Shelby; 9 a.m.   |
| Feb. 12 | Business After Hours: Comfort Inn of Kings Mountain, 722 York Rd., Kings Mountain; 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.; Beverage Sponsor: Fox Distributing Co., Inc.; Reservations Required |
| Feb. 17 | Groundhog Job Shadow Day; 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (rescheduled from 2-03-04 due to inclement weather)  |
| Feb. 24 | "Chamber Pride in Kings Mountain" Business Showcase event; Kings Mountain City Hall, 101 W. Gold St., Kings Mountain; 5:30 p.m. – 6:45 p.m.; Reservations Required          |

### In The Coming Months...

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| Mar. 11 | Business After Hours at AmVets in Shelby  |
| March   | Boiling Springs "State of the Community" Breakfast (location, time & date TBA)  |
| April   | Shelby "State of the Community" Breakfast (location, time & date TBA)           |
| Apr. 17 | International Festival: Cleveland County's Passport to the World; Uptown Shelby |

We're on TV too! Watch Time Warner Cable Channel 33 on Saturdays for the latest business news on "News & Views," courtesy of **Cleveland Headline News.**

