

**2004 Chamber  
Officers, Directors:**

**Chairman**  
David Faunce

**Chair-elect**  
Mark Carter

**Secretary**  
Bill Plowden

**Treasurer**  
John Harris

**Past Chairman**  
Greg Arrowood

**Board of Directors**

Calvin Adams  
Jim Allen  
Greg Arrowood  
Janet Berry  
Mark Carter  
David Faunce  
Larry Hamrick, Jr.  
Max Hamrick  
John Harris  
Dave Hart  
Roger Holland  
Gregg Johnson  
Shannon Kennedy  
Jennie Lambert  
Dale McKillop  
Linda McKnight  
Brownie Plaster  
Bill Plowden  
Holly Sweat  
Dr. Steve Thornburg  
Jim Toole  
Sam Wilson

**Inside This Issue:**

- Kings Mountain "State of the Community" Breakfast
- Chamber Hires New VP of Membership Services
- Common Themes in Chamber's annual Legislative Breakfast
- State Web Site Promotes Cleveland County
- May 2004 Calendar of Events
- Pictures & Much more!

# InterAction

The Official Publication of the Cleveland County Chamber

MAY 2004

## *Kings Mountain "State of the Community" Breakfast Date Set*

Chamber members and residents in the Kings Mountain area will have a unique opportunity to hear the latest news and upcoming initiatives in Kings Mountain with the final installment of the spring "State of the Community" breakfasts in 2004.

The third in the series of three "State of the Community" breakfasts is scheduled for Thursday, May 13 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. at the Patrick Senior Life & Conference Center in Kings Mountain.

Kings Mountain Mayor Rick Murphy, Cleveland County School Board Chair Dr. George Litton and County Commissioner Chairwoman Mary Accor will focus on issues facing Kings Mountain and Cleveland

County, and will discuss the challenges and successes facing their respective areas of local government.

This informative program is open to all members of the community. A deluxe continental breakfast will be served at the cost of \$10 for Chamber members and \$15 for non-members. Deadline for reservations in Tuesday, May 11.

The Boiling Springs "State of the Community" breakfast was held on March 24; and the Shelby event was conducted on April 6.

Call the Chamber at 704-487-8521 to reserve your seat for the Kings Mountain breakfast today! —From the *Governmental Affairs Division*

## *2004 Membership Drive To Begin On May 18*

The Cleveland County Chamber will conduct its annual Membership Campaign from May 18 through June 18 to increase Chamber memberships and sponsorship of various Chamber events. Janet Berry of Frame Masters Gallery in Shelby is the 2004 campaign chairwoman.

This year's theme is "Connecting Business to Business: You are the missing link." This year's drive will be our biggest and best yet. Teams are made up of board members, advisory council members, volunteers, and Chamber Ambassadors. By working together, we expect to surpass the campaign goal of 72 new members.

A strong and successful campaign will allow us to continue to serve our county's business community with top-of-the-line programs and benefits. The campaign kick-off is scheduled for May 18 with a team training planned on May 13. If your business would like to donate a door prize or new member incentive for the campaign, please contact Misti Humphries at (704) 487-8521.

—From the *Membership Services Division*

## *Vickie Fitch Hired As New Chamber VP New Role Set To Begin On May 17*



**V. Fitch** recently promoted to Project Manager for Economic Development.

A longtime resident of Cleveland County, Fitch graduated from Shelby High School in 1980 and attended Gardner-Webb University. She received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration.

"We are very excited about Vickie joining our team at the Chamber," said Stuart Gilbert, Chamber President. "She has an excellent track record of working with local businesses throughout her career in Kings Mountain, Shelby, and Cleveland County. In addition, she enjoys an outstanding reputation among both past employers and former coworkers."

Fitch has worked in a variety of business and industrial settings

throughout her impressive career. After eight years with Reliance Electric where she worked in human resources and marketing, Vickie began working for Deer Brook Golf Club as director of marketing and sales. Most recently, she has served as area manager of Cleveland County for Personnel Services Unlimited (PSU) where she provided staffing solutions for a broad range of companies.

"Cleveland County has so much to offer," said Fitch. "Through my volunteer work with the Chamber, I have witnessed the progress the Chamber has made in economic development and I am very impressed with the direction our county is moving in. I am thrilled to be able to make a positive impact in serving both the current and future members of the Chamber."

Vickie is married to Coleman Fitch and lives in Shelby. She will begin working at the Chamber on May 17. —From the *Planning & Administrative Council*

***Business After Hours:  
Cleveland Country Club***

*May 13, 2004; 5:30—7:00 p.m.  
Beverage Sponsor: Fox Distributing Co.*

*Luncheon To Feature Senate President Pro Tem Marc Basnight*



M. Basnight

The Cleveland County Chamber is pleased to announce that Senator Marc Basnight, President Pro-Tem for the North Carolina Senate, will be the keynote speaker for a luncheon at Cleveland Country Club on May 6 from 12 p.m. to 1:15 p.m.

Senator Basnight represents Beaufort, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Hyde, Pasquotank, and Perquimmons counties. He has served 10 terms in the North Carolina Senate, resides in Raleigh, and is a small business owner.

The luncheon was originally scheduled for February 26, however, was cancelled due to inclement weather.

Reservations for the luncheon on May 6 are required. The cost for the event is \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members. Please call the Chamber at (704) 487-8521 for more information or to register. —From the Governmental Affairs Division

*Representative Tim Moore Provides Department of Labor Posters*

As part of the constituent services of Representative Tim Moore, his office has provided the latest Department of Labor posters to the Cleveland County Chamber for distribution to the public. "Many businesses believe they have to



T. Moore

purchase these posters from private vendors," said Moore. "But that is not true and we wanted to make these easily accessible to our area businesses."

This poster will put a business in full compliance with all state notice requirements. In addition, federal posters are also available at the Chamber.

"Anything we can do to save businesses time and money is a good thing," Moore continued. "This is a small way that we can provide assistance at the state level." The posters are provided free of charge by the North Carolina Department of Labor. For more information, contact the Cleveland County Chamber in Shelby at (704) 487-8521.

—From the Governmental Affairs Division

*Economy, Transportation Discussed at Legislative Breakfast*

The economy and the need for jobs was a common theme during the Cleveland County Chamber's annual Legislative Breakfast on April 22 at Cleveland Country Club in Shelby.

The capacity crowd of over 110 people listened intently as NC Senator Walter Dalton, NC Representative Debbie Clary, and NC Representative Tim Moore presented information on the latest news from Raleigh and what is anticipated as they enter into the short session of the legislature in just a few weeks.



W. Dalton

A general premise among the legislators was the importance of attracting new business and industry to North Carolina. Each speaker discussed the significance of North Carolina being named the number one choice for business/industrial relocation by Site Selection Magazine for the third year in a row.

"Issue number one: jobs," said Representative Moore as he addressed the audience. "We need to do all we can possibly do to increase the number of jobs in North Carolina."

Each year, the Governmental Affairs Division of the Chamber presents a "Legislative Action" agenda. This document provides important information on how the state legislators can work on behalf of business and industry in Cleveland County. Clary, Dalton, and Moore each took an opportunity to address a variety of items that appear on the action agenda.

Among items discussed were North Carolina's progress in education, the Highway 74 Bypass project, fair trade, economic incentives, the corporate income tax, Medicaid relief for counties in North Carolina, health-care and health insurance, and the potential for a ban on video poker. Attendees also took advantage of an opportunity to ask questions related to items of particular interest to their businesses.

—From the Governmental Affairs Division

**"Issue number one: jobs. We need to do all we can possibly do to increase the number of jobs in North Carolina."  
—Rep. Tim Moore, NC House**

*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.*

## Member Renewals-March 2004

BB&T – 50 years  
 Carolina National Bank – 3 years  
 F. DeLane Davis, Watch Repairing – 50 years  
 Days Inn – 34 years  
 Global USA Online – 4 years  
 Hunt's Auto Sales & Body Shop, Inc. – 19 years  
 Jackson Hewitt Tax Service – Shelby Office – 7 years  
 Franklin Mabry – 5 years (as retired member)  
 Midas Auto Service – 20 years  
 Neely & Company Insurance – 3 years

Nephrology Associates of the Carolinas, P.A. – 11 years  
 Ellen Palmer – 15 years  
 Ray's Homes – 26 years  
 Shallowbrook Builders, Inc.- 5 years  
 Smurfit-Stone – 38 years  
 Staffmasters USA – 11 years  
 Stein Services of America Inc. – 13 years  
 Tact Plastics USA – 9 years  
 The Printin' Press, Inc. – 6 years  
 Yamato Japanese Steakhouse – 7 years

## New Members...

### CNC/ACCESS

Ms. Lisa Willis  
 222 N. LaFayette St.  
 Shelby, NC 28150  
 Telephone: 704/481-0046  
 Fax: 704/482-1424  
 e-mail: Lwillis@rescare.com  
 HEALTH SERVICES

### DEER SPRINGS FARM

Mr. Johnny White  
 1515 Stagecoach Trail  
 P.O. Box 197  
 Lawndale, NC 28090  
 Telephone: 704/538-6060  
 Fax: 704/538-8779  
 e-mail: info@deerspringsfarm.org  
 Web Page: www.deerspringsfarm.org  
 ORGANIC FOOD USDA CERTIFIED

### ELECTRICITIES OF NORTH CAROLINA INC.

Ms. Brenda Daniels  
 P.O. Box 29513  
 Raleigh, NC 27626  
 Telephone: 919/760-6363  
 e-mail: bdaniels@electricities.org  
 Web Page: www.electricities.com  
 UTILITY TRADE ORGANIZATION FOR  
 PUBLIC POWER COMMUNITY

### MOUNTAIN WASH LAUNDRY

Mr. Gary Patel  
 1032 S. LaFayette St.  
 Shelby, NC 28152  
 Telephone: 704/482-1003  
 LAUNDROMAT

### NEARLY PERFECT TOURS

Ms. Sandy Smith  
 106 Columns Circle  
 Shelby, NC 28150  
 Telephone: 704/481-9415  
 e-mail: nperfect@bellsouth.net  
 Web Page: www.nearlyperfecttours.com  
 TOURS

### SOUTHEASTERN FINANCIAL RESOURCES, LLC

Mr. Mark Patty  
 421 S. LaFayette St.  
 Shelby, NC 28150  
 Telephone: 704/471-1414  
 Fax: 704/471-1373  
 e-mail: markpatty@bellsouth.net  
 FINANCIAL SERVICES

## Members On The Move...

The following companies have changed their membership to include the following representatives:

**Gateway Properties** – Micki Padgett  
**Stacy's Garden World** – Louis Stacy  
**Manpower Temporary Services** – Sherry Hines  
**Royster P & M Warehouse** – Bobby Eskridge

Name Changes:

**Stacy's Garden World** is the new name for Turner's Garden World, located at 1326 N. Post Road, Shelby, NC 28150. Telephone number is 704/482-4407.

Deaton & Biggers law firm has changed the firm name to **Deaton, Biggers & Gulden, P.L.L.C.** Mailing address is P.O. Box 458, Shelby, NC 28151; and the firm is located at 402 E. Graham St., Shelby, NC 28150. Telephone number is 704/482-7300.

Hunt's Auto Sales & Body Shop has sent the Chamber information showing the company's corrected name is **Hunt's Auto Sales, Inc.** Company address is 1200 Cambridge Drive, Shelby, NC 28152, and telephone number is 704/487-8341.

## Thank You Corner...

- **Patrick Senior Life & Conference Center**—for hosting the March 30 meeting of the Kings Mountain Advisory Council.
- **Larry Hamrick, Jr. of Warlick & Hamrick Insurance**—for providing lunch for the March 30 meeting of the Kings Mountain Advisory Council.

## Member News...

### Calling all Pastors...

Join us for the **"Pastor's Prayer Group"**  
 each Tuesday at 8:30 a.m. at the  
 Cleveland County Chamber!

*Scripture Reading · Fellowship · Prayer*

Please let your pastor know... we want them to join us!

*For more information, call Pastor John Boggs at  
 Central United Methodist Church at (704) 487-6336.*

### Chamber Photos & Events



EAP Counseling, Inc. Ribbon Cutting: April 02, 2004



"State of the Community" Breakfast-Shelby: April 06, 2004



KM Pools Ribbon Cutting: April 02, 2004



Business After Hours at Victorian Rose: April 15, 2004



Shelby Pools Ribbon Cutting: April 16, 2004



Legislative Breakfast: April 22, 2004



Gateway Properties Ribbon Cutting: April 20, 2004



Business at Breakfast at Shelby AmVets: April 29, 2004

# CLEVELAND COUNTY CHAMBER

200 South Lafayette St.  
Shelby, NC 28150

600 York Road  
Kings Mountain, NC 28086

Phone: 704-487-8521  
Fax: 704-487-7458

E-mail:  
info@clevelandchamber.org



**Stuart Gilbert**  
President

**Scott Darnell**  
Senior VP-Economic  
Development

**Misti Humphries**  
Economic Development Project  
Manager

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

**Vickie Fitch**  
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

## Cleveland County in Top Position on Regional Web Site

The Cleveland County Chamber is reporting a substantial increase in economic development web hits today after receiving a quarterly summary from the Charlotte Regional Partnership web site at the board meeting on Tuesday.

Scott Darnell, Senior Vice President of Economic Development said the Chamber has had tremendous success in promoting the assets and strengths of Cleveland County. "The level of activity related to the marketing of our available land and buildings continues to increase exponentially," said Darnell. "From December 2003 to February 2004, we had a 385 percent increase in web hits for our county." As a result, Cleveland County had the highest number of total hits in the entire Charlotte Region for the month of February.

In other economic development news, four projects totaling \$36 million in investment and representing 250 jobs are currently approved for incentives or in the due diligence phase. Approximately 65 percent of clients are looking at available buildings, while 35 percent are looking at available land.

Site selection firms, the North Carolina Department of Commerce, and Charlotte Region brokers are among groups whose requests for information on Cleveland County have increased. The CommScope facility is one of four finalists for a high-end cabinet manufacturing plant, while the Kings Mountain Corporate Center is a finalist for a Fortune 100 distribution company.

—From the Economic Development Council

## State Web Site Provides Opportunities To Promote Cleveland County

The Cleveland County Chamber is excited about a marketing opportunity available to event planners and citizens who wish to promote a festival or event at the state level through the NC Travel & Tourism web site, [VisitNC.com](http://VisitNC.com).

Shirley Brutko, Administrative Assistant for the Kings Mountain Office of the Chamber, will be posting information to the site's Calendar of Events on behalf of Cleveland County, and she needs your input.

"This is a fabulous opportunity for our county's festivals and events to be listed among the biggest and best events of the state," Brutko said. "From the mountains to the heartland to the coast, VisitNC.com provides a wide range of information to residents and visitors, and the wonderful events of Cleveland County can be publicized along with some of the largest festivals

and special events in the state!"

VisitNC.com is a web site developed to help promote activities and events happening around the state. "Spring is alive in North Carolina," the web site boasts. "Whether your pleasure is golf, fishing, Shakespeare or a strawberry festival, it's time to get outside and let the sun warm your back. With such a variety of events, North Carolina offers something for everyone. Below you can see some of the events planned for the upcoming month. Or, use our calendar search where you can find interesting events for your specific travel dates and destinations."

If you or your organization would like to promote an activity, festival, or special event, please email your information in an electronic format to [shirley@clevelandchamber.org](mailto:shirley@clevelandchamber.org).

—From the Travel & Tourism Division

## May 2004 Chamber Calendar of Events

Be sure to check our web site at [www.clevelandchamber.org](http://www.clevelandchamber.org) for event updates!

- May 04 Candidates Forum: Republican Party Forum at Cleveland Community College Auditorium; 6:30 p.m.
- May 06 Economic Development Luncheon with Sen. Marc Basnight: Cleveland Country Club; 12:00 p.m.; \$15 members/\$20 non-members (RSVP by May 4 to 704-487-8521)
- May 07 Ribbon Cutting: Healing Hands Therapy Center, 105 Regal Drive, Suite 6, Kings Mountain; 12 p.m.
- May 13 Kings Mountain "State of the Community" Breakfast at Patrick Senior Center; Kings Mountain, 8 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.; \$10 members/\$15 non-members (RSVP by May 11 to 704-487-8521)
- May 13 Campaign 2004: "Connecting Business to Business" Team Training at Cleveland Country Club; 4 p.m.
- May 13 Business After Hours: Cleveland Country Club; 1360 East Marion Street, Shelby 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.; Beverage Sponsor: Fox Distributing Co., Inc.
- May 14 Ribbon Cutting: Mountain Wash Laundry, 1032 S. Lafayette St., Shelby; 10 a.m.
- May 14 National Tourism Day at North Carolina Welcome Center in Kings Mountain
- May 18 Membership Campaign Begins
- May 31 Memorial Day Holiday: Chamber Offices Closed



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**.

