

**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

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InterAction

The Official Publication of the Cleveland County Chamber

August 2004

Congressional Luncheon Set For August 19

Candidates for the 10th District U. S. Congressional seat will be featured at the Chamber's annual Congressional luncheon this month. The event is scheduled for August 19 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. at North Lake Country Club in Shelby.

The cost for the luncheon is \$17 for members and \$22 non-members. Seating is limited and reservations with advance payment are appreciated on or before August 17.

This event is sponsored by **BellSouth, Curtiss-Wright Flight Systems, Duke Power, and PSNC**. For more information, call the Chamber at (704) 487-8521.—*From the Governmental Affairs Division*

NC Commerce Secretary Visit Scheduled

The Economic Development division of the Cleveland County Chamber is presenting a unique program for area manufacturers in August.

North Carolina Department of Commerce Secretary Jim Fain will speak to the Chamber's Manufacturers Council during a luncheon on August 24 at Cleveland Country Club and will provide an overview of the tools available for existing industries through the state of North Carolina.



Sec. Fain

The NC Department of Commerce is the lead agency for statewide economic development initiatives, as well as community and workforce development. The purpose of the meeting is to provide a forum for information and exchange on the resources available in North Carolina to promote business success and longevity.

Existing businesses provide a solid foundation for community development and growth. Existing firms are credited for creating the majority of new jobs. Officials at the Chamber are committed to maintaining a strong and viable existing industry program to promote retention and expansion.

The event is open only to manufacturers in Cleveland County and the surrounding area. For more information, contact Misti Humphries at (704) 487-8521.—*From the Economic Development Division*

Business After Hours:

August 12, 2004 · 5:30—7:00 p.m.

Life Enrichment Center · Kings Mountain
(located on Kings Mountain Boulevard)

Beverage Sponsor: Fox Distributing

Buy Local!

When making your back-to-school purchases, be sure to support the fine businesses right here in Cleveland County. Remember...



The Buck Stops Here... Buy Locally!

NC Sales Tax Free Event

For the third year in a row, North Carolina will offer a sales tax free weekend August 6-8, 2004. The Cleveland County Chamber encourages you to buy locally during this time.

August is fast approaching which means school shopping will soon begin. This year though, the expenses will be lowered due to the annual North Carolina sales-tax free weekend. This sales-tax holiday will begin Friday, August 6 and will end Sunday, August 8.

Items included in exemption are: clothing, such as shoes, leotards and tights; coats, jackets, belts, and hosiery; sport or recreational equipment, like, ballet and tap shoes, goggles, mouth guards, ice skates, roller skates, as well as cleated or spiked athletic shoes.

All clothing items of \$100.00 or less per item are exempt, as well as all recreational or sporting equipment of \$50.00 or less per item.

With "The Buck Stops Here...Buy Locally" initiative, we encourage you to remain in Cleveland County when shopping for these Back-To-School goods. For more information regarding this tax free weekend, contact the Chamber at (704) 487-8521.—*From the Marketing Division*

Small Business of the Month Program Kicks Off Next Month

The Small Business Council of the Cleveland County Chamber is pleased to announce a new program to recognize the successes of small businesses in Cleveland County.

The "Small Business of the Month" recognition program was approved by the Chamber's Board of Directors in July. The program will honor small business members of the Chamber who have been in business for at least one year. Other qualifications for the pro-

gram are:

- Chamber member in good standing;
- Apparent solid financial base;
- Considered successful by peers;
- Expanding number of employees;
- Apparent business growth; and
- Community involvement/ community support.

Businesses that are nominated will receive a letter from the Small Business

Council. A plaque will be given to the winner and a banner will be displayed at their business during the month they are recognized. The monthly winner will be announced the first Thursday of the month at 10 a.m.

If you have any questions about this new program or wish to nominate a business by August 15, please contact Misti Humphries at (704) 487-8521.

—From the Small Business Council

Fall Planning Conference To Be Held In Blowing Rock, NC

Mark your calendars today for a convenient getaway weekend and a chance to contribute to the growing plans of the Cleveland County community. This year's Cleveland County Chamber Fall Planning Conference is scheduled for October 21-23 at the beautiful Meadowbrook Inn located in the heart of Blowing Rock, North Carolina.

This weekend event offers an ideal opportunity to enjoy the gorgeous fall colors of the Blue Ridge Mountains and give you a chance to offer the Cleveland County Chamber your assistance in preparing for another exciting year of programs and events.

The Meadowbrook Inn is located just minutes from the quaint

town of Blowing Rock, which offers shops, galleries, and restaurants. The conference will begin Thursday evening, October 21, with a cash bar and sit-down dinner and will culminate at noon on Saturday, October 23.

Watch for the conference brochure in your mail and be sure to register by September 3 in order to guarantee your accommodations. Don't miss this opportunity to contribute to the grand plans for Cleveland County and to experience the attractions of Blowing Rock with your Chamber staff and board members! —From the Planning & Administrative Council

Workforce Study Reveals Skilled Labor Pool in Cleveland County, NC

A workforce study by a Texas-based research firm will serve as an economic development tool to attract new industries and companies to the area, say economic development officials with the Cleveland County Chamber.

The study, compiled by The Pathfinders of Dallas, Texas, was completed in June, and examines the extent to which underemployment exists in the Cleveland County area. In addition, it documents the cost, skills, experience, and education of that hidden workforce.

"In a poll of its corporate clients, The Pathfinders found that those clients' experiences suggest that less than 10 percent of the new hires for new operations come from the ranks of the unemployed," the report states. "Instead, these companies staff a new operation principally with individuals who are working but who desire better jobs and who possess the skills, education, and experience to qualify them for better jobs. Those individuals are considered 'underemployed' and are identified as such in this report."

According to Bill Robertson, Director of WIA for Region C, the study was initiated at the request of Scott Darnell and Stuart Gilbert of the Cleveland County Chamber. "Stuart had worked with The Pathfinders in other communities, and he and Scott both felt that a similar study in our area would greatly assist

their efforts to attract quality companies to Region C," said Robertson. "A grant was awarded by WIA to allow The Pathfinders to conduct the study, and we are very pleased with the results."

The labor shed of the Cleveland County area (including all of Cleveland, Rutherford, and Polk counties, and portions of Burke, Gaston, and Lincoln counties in North Carolina and a portion of Cherokee County in South Carolina) has a civilian labor force of approximately 165,000. This labor force has a population of around 12,900 unemployed persons who are actively seeking work. The report claims that a new employer would be able to attract employees from an additional pool of about 27,400 potentially available workers who have indicated an interest in changing jobs (referred to as the 'underemployed.')

"One of the most important site selection criteria for a major existing industry or new industry recruiting project is labor," said Chamber President Stuart Gilbert. "It was absolutely critical that we have good solid numbers on our underemployed workforce. This report helps us to quantify the quality, availability, and cost of our existing underemployed workforce. Since our competitors have been using underemployment statistics for years, we are pleased that our area is the first in

(continued on page three)

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.

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.

Chamber Efforts Assist in 74-Bypass Highway Trust Fund Designation

The recent designation of the U.S. 74 Shelby Bypass as a Highway Trust Fund project will have a major impact on economic development efforts in Cleveland County, say Chamber economic development officials.

"The Chamber has lobbied for the expedient completion of the Highway 74 Bypass, and it is extremely rewarding that our efforts have not been in vain," said Chamber President Stuart Gilbert upon learning of the designation. "The fact that we have state legislators that are on both the house and senate conferee committees is a tremendous advantage for us. They worked hard for our region and the results speak for themselves this during this short session. We have spent much time visiting Raleigh and our legislators this year on behalf of our members and are very pleased with the results!"

By receiving the Highway Trust Fund designation, the proposed Highway 74 Shelby Bypass becomes eligible for approximately \$360 million in state money that could speed up the completion date by five years. And that translates into more economic development opportunities, says North Carolina Representative Debbie Clary.



Rep. Clary

"Highways that can handle large volumes of traffic are the lifeblood of an industrial manufacturing-based community that needs to move product quickly and easily," said Clary. "The additional funding will not only speed up the construction of the new bypass by five years, but will mean additional dollars for the community as well."

Senator Walter Dalton agrees. "The quicker the bypass is completed, the more dramatic the economic impact will be," Dalton states. "I am pleased we were able to get this in the senate budget and that the house concurred with our position. In my opinion, it will make a dramatic difference for the citizens of my district."



Sen. Dalton

Chamber officials and members of the Cleveland County contingency have visited Raleigh three separate times this year, and each time lobbied for the Highway Trust Fund designation for the Highway 74 Shelby Bypass project. Representative Tim Moore said the results would not have been possible if not for teamwork among the Cleveland County legislative delegation.



Rep. Moore

"Getting the Shelby Bypass included in the Highway Trust Fund was a product of bi-partisan cooperation," said Representative Tim Moore. "We all know the economic development benefits of this project and are proud we were able to deliver this initiative to the people of Cleveland County."

For more information on the legislative action efforts of the Cleveland County Chamber's Governmental Affairs Division, call the Chamber at (704) 487-8521.—*From the Governmental Affairs Division*



S. Gilbert

Sign Up Now For Leadership Cleveland County's 2004-2005 Program

Leadership Cleveland County celebrates the start of its 16th year this month. The 2004-2005 program year begins with a kickoff event on August 26th. The participants will attend an orientation session to help prepare them for the program. Following the orientation, the participants will attend a reception, to which the over 250 alumni of the program are invited.

The chair of the 2004-2005 program is Mitch Johnson of First Charter National Bank. Mitch completed the leadership program with the Class of 2004. Following the August kickoff, participants will attend an overnight retreat in September. From October through April, monthly sessions will focus on the history of the county, health care, economic development, human services, government, education, and parks and recreation. The Class of 2005 will participate in an "Adventure Day" at **Gardner-Webb University's** Broyhill Adventure Course in May prior to their official graduation ceremony.

Leadership Cleveland County is a program sponsored by the Chamber to develop informed, committed and qualified individuals capable of providing dynamic and progressive leadership for Cleveland County. Those who participate in the program gain personal and professional development, lasting friendships and good business contacts. The cost of the program is \$550 for Chamber members and \$650 for non-members. The deadline for registration and payment is August 16, 2004. For more information, contact the Chamber at (704) 487-8521.—*From the Membership Services Division*

Workforce Study Reveals Skilled Labor

(continued from page two)

North Carolina to document this information."

Scott Darnell, the Chamber's Senior Vice President of Economic Development, agrees that the report is now available to assist in his new industry recruitment efforts. "I have already sent this information to many of our industrial prospects and clients, and it has been very well-received," said Darnell.

Among other items studied, the report examines the desired pay rates of the underemployed workers. About 25 percent of the underemployed workers would take a new job for \$10.57 an hour or less. At the upper end, the 25 percent most qualified and experienced would command \$19.94 per hour or more. The median desired pay rate of the underemployed workers is \$13.78 per hour.

The Pathfinders Report on the Cleveland County area is available online at www.clevelandcounty.com. The Pathfinders functions as a site-selection consultant to many of America's largest corporations, including companies such as AT&T, DuPont, 3M Corporation, IMC Global, and more. According to The Pathfinders, the question that most often drives the search for a new business location is whether the candidate location has the workforce needed, and a workforce analysis has been a key component of the site searches conducted for these clients. Companies making location decisions based upon these surveys have reported that when staffing actually began, the numbers reported by The Pathfinders proved to be accurate.

For more information, contact the Cleveland County Chamber at (704) 487-8521.—*From the Economic Development Division*

Member Renewals-June 2004

Adventure House – 13 years
 Adventures in Advertising – 6 years
 American Red Cross – Cleveland County – 18 years
 Anchor Marine – 26 years
 Dr. Christian Anderson – 7 years
 Law Offices of Michael J. Bednarik – 7 years
 Boiling Springs Medical Associates, P.A. – 3 years
 Gaylord Bralley Agency – 9 years
 CA Short Company – 6 years
 Carolina Trophies – 12 years
 Caromont Medical Group, Inc. – 8 years
 Century Care of Shelby, Inc. – 2 years
 Charlotte Copy Data – 10 years
 Chen's Restaurant – 20 years
 Child Care Connections – 5 years
 Christ Covenant Church – 3 years
 Cingular Wireless – 9 years
 CLECO Primary Care Network, Inc. – 3 years
 Cleveland County Sanitary District – 13 years
 Cleveland County Health Agency, Inc. – 18 years
 Cleveland County Branch, NAACP – 11 years
 Cleveland Yutaka Corp. – 8 years
 Comfort Inn – 4 years
 Crawley Memorial Hospital – 5 years
 Creative Sign Service, Inc. – 27 years
 Dedmon's Harvestore System, Inc. – 6 years
 Deer Brook Golf Club – 7 years
 Dermatology Center of Shelby – 5 years
 Dialysis Clinic, Inc. – 9 years
 Doctors Vision Center – 7 years
 Dover Foundation, Inc. – 14 years
 Chuck Earley – 7 years

Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance Co. – 18 years
 Firestone Fibers & Textiles Company – 10 years
 First Baptist Church – 7 years
 First Charter Bank – 15 years
 First Piedmont Financial Corp. – 12 years
 Gateway Properties – 3 years
 GDS – Republic Services of NC – 28 years
 Glenn Lumber Co., Inc. – 7 years
 Gragg & Gragg, LLP – 40 years
 Grand Rentals of Shelby – 7 years
 Hall Builders, Inc. – 3 years
 Hamrick Brothers, Inc. – 6 years
 Home Builders Assoc. of Cleveland County – 9 years
 Homes & Land Magazine – 17 years
 Homestead Landscape & Feed Co. – 4 years
 Hoyle Plumbing Co., Inc. – 7 years
 Image Marketing Group, Inc. – 7 years
 Investors Title Insurance Company – 5 years
 J & E Sales, Inc. – 18 years
 J & W Textile Services, Inc. – 6 years
 Kennedy Concrete & Utilities – 7 years
 KFC Day Enterprises, Inc. – 6 years
 Kings Mountain Business & Prof. Assoc. – 6 years
 KM Pharmacy – 3 years
 Lattimore and Peeler, Land Surveying – 11 years
 J. Frank Love – 15 years
 Mangum & Associates, Inc. – 5 years
 Martin Marietta Materials – 20 years
 Medical Arts Pharmacy – 6 years
 Melrose Shopping Center – 14 years
 Mi Pueblito Mexican Restaurant, Inc. – 5 years
 Dr. Roger K. Miller – 7 years

Neff Tree Service, Inc. – 5 years
 Neisler Brothers, Inc. – 6 years
 Optometric Eye Care Center – 7 years
 Outer Limits Salon & Spa – 3 years
 Pathways – 7 years
 Petroleum World, Inc. – 50 years
 Prudential Carolinas Realty – 24 years
 Rose Car Company – 5 years
 Rutherford Elec. Membership Corp. – 17 years
 Scissorsmith & Company/Divas Dolls, Too – 3 years
 Scott Classic Catering – 4 years
 Shelby City Park Carrousel Friends – 5 years
 Shelby Medical Associates – 4 years
 Stacy's Garden World of Shelby – 3 years
 Staffmasters, Inc. – 11 years
 Sullens Trucking Company, Inc. – 5 years
 Sun Belt Textiles, Inc. – 7 years
 Super 8 Motel – 9 years
 Sylvan Learning Center – 6 years
 The Sub Factory – 6 years
 Tobacco Unlimited, Inc. – 4 years
 Transportation Admin. Of Cleveland County – 12 years
 Dr. Bruce R. Trefz – 13 years
 Value Incentives, Inc. – 6 years
 WellPath, a Coventry Health Care Plan – 2 years
 White Investments of Shelby, LLC – 16 years
 Workforce Staffing, Inc. – 5 years
 Yelton Data Systems, Inc. – 20 years
 Zaxby's – 5 years

New Members-June 2004 (continued on page 5)

BERT COSTNER-FARM BUREAU INSURANCE-SHELBY

Mr. Bert Costner
 1503 W. Dixon Blvd.
 P.O. Box 126
 Shelby, NC 28151
 Telephone: 704/482-2436
 Fax: 704/480-8310
 e-mail: bert.costner@ncfbins.com
 Web: www.ncfb.com
 INSURANCE

BRIDGES HARDWARE AND HOME CENTER

Mr. Tim Miller
 100 S. Cansler St.
 P.O. Box 1100
 Kings Mountain, NC 28086
 Telephone: 704/739-5461
 HARDWARE

BURCH ELECTRIC INC.

Mr. Doug Burch
 1619 E. Marion St.
 Shelby, NC 28150
 Telephone: 704/487-0863
 ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR

CHRIST COVENANT NORTH

Mr. Kevin Larsen
 1050 Sam Lattimore Road
 Shelby, NC 28152
 Telephone: 704/482-6101
 MINISTRY

CK CONTRACTING, INC.

Mr. Sam Garrison
 124-1 Wooding Pl.
 Kings Mountain, NC 28086
 Telephone: 704/730-9948
 Fax: 704/730-9975
 email: ckcontracting@carolina.rr.com
 CONTRACTOR

COLDWELL BANKER HORN REAL ESTATE-SHARICE BOWLING

Ms. Sharice Bowling
 213 S. DeKalb St.
 Shelby, NC 28150
 Telephone: 704/481-2181
 Fax: 704/481-9008
 email: sharice@coldwellbanker.com
 Web: www.sharicebowling.realtor.com
 REALTOR

COLDWELL BANKER HORN REAL ESTATE - SHERRY HORN

Ms. Sherry Horn
 213 S. DeKalb St.
 Shelby, NC 28150
 Telephone: 704/482-7316
 Fax: 704/481-9008
 REALTOR

COVENANT FAMILY FELLOWSHIP

Mr. Terry Jordan
 1050 Sam Lattimore Road
 Shelby, NC 28152
 Telephone: 704/473-6501
 MINISTRY

EL PASO MEXICAN RESTAURANT

Mr. Edgar Visosco
 1230 E. Dixon Blvd.
 Shelby, NC 28152
 Telephone: 704-481-0350
 Fax: 704/481-0397
 RESTAURANT

F. R. LEDFORD & ASSOCIATES, P.A.

Mr. Frank Ledford
 520 S. DeKalb St.
 P.O. Box 278
 Shelby, NC 28151
 Telephone: 704/482-7585
 SURVEYOR

FALLSTON PHARMACY

Mr. Brian Kiser
 4841 Fallston Road
 P.O. Box 418
 Fallston, NC 28042
 Telephone: 704/538-3021
 Fax: 704/538-0224
 PHARMACY

GIBSON INDUSTRIAL SERVICES

Mr. Paul Gibson
 1051 York Road
 P.O. Box 69
 Kings Mountain, NC 28086
 Telephone: 704/730-9981
 CONSTRUCTION

GO FISH CHRISTIAN STORE

Kelly & Lori Ware
 2001-33 E. Dixon Blvd.
 Shelby, NC 28150
 Telephone: 704/484-8777
 Fax: 704/484-9292
 e-mail: kfwlcw@aol.com
 BOOKS

HELPING HANDS NURSING SERVICE, INC.

Ms. Ruth Huffstetler
 400 Royster Ave. #12
 P.O. Box 1504
 Shelby, NC 28151
 Telephone: 704/482-8714
 Fax: 704/482-5810
 NURSING SERVICES

JERRY'S MINI MART, INC., JERRY'S DEEP FRIED PEANUTS

Mr. Jerry Silver
 4400 Polkville Road
 P.O. Box 8
 Polkville, NC 28136
 Telephone: 704/538-0996
 Fax: 704/538-5778
 e-mail: jerrysminimart@shelby.net
 RESTAURANT

JMX RACING PROMOTIONS, INC.

Mr. Joe Williams
 131 Bethlehem Road
 P.O. Box 1845
 Kings Mountain, NC 28086
 Telephone: 704/460-0408
 e-mail: info@jmxracing.com
 Web: www.jmxracing.com
 PROMOTERS

KELSAN, INC.

Mr. Ron Carroll
 3018 Harmon Homestead Rd.
 Shelby, NC 28150
 Telephone: 704/300-2316
 Fax: 704/319-9035
 e-mail: rcarroll@kelsan.biz
 Web: www.kelsan.biz
 INDUSTRIAL & MAINTENANCE SUPPLIES

KINGS MOUNTAIN FITNESS & CHRISTIAN KARATE CLUB, INC.

Mr. Ron Carroll
 213 S. Battleground Ave.
 Kings Mountain, NC 28086
 Telephone: 704/300-2316
 FITNESS CENTER/GYM/KARATE

KINGS MOUNTAIN LITTLE THEATRE, INC.

Mr. Jim Champion
 202 S. Railroad Ave.
 P.O. Box 1022
 Kings Mountain, NC 28086
 Telephone: 704/730-9408
 Fax: 704/739-7888
 e-mail: jchampion@oglebay.onco.com
 Web: www.kmlt.org
 AGENCY/ORGANIZATION

New Members-June 2004 *(continued from page 4)*

REID LINDSAY INSURANCE AGENCY

Mr. Reid Lindsay
1671 E. Dixon Blvd.
Shelby, NC 28152
Telephone: 704/487-9347
Fax: 704/487-0623
e-mail: reid.lindsay-bwgd@statefarm.com
INSURANCE

MOUNTAIN STREET PHARMACY, INC.

Mr. Allan M. Propst
709 W. Mountain St.
Kings Mountain, NC 28086
Telephone: 704/739-7225
Fax: 704/739-7288
Web: www.mountainstreetpharmacy.com
PHARMACY

MRA KINGS MOUNTAIN, LLC

Mr. George Hampton
44785 Macomb Ind. Dr.
Clinton Township, MI 48036
Telephone: 586/954-0706
e-mail: ghampton@andersoncook.com
Web: www.mraindustries.com
MANUFACTURING

NEW WILDERNESS ADVENTURES

Mr. Mark Folk
1050 Sam Lattimore Road
Shelby, NC 28152
Telephone: 704/482-6101
MINISTRY

OUTDOOR LIGHTING PERSPECTIVES

Mr. Joe Kendrick
P.O. Box 1408
Boiling Springs, NC 28086
Telephone: 864/444-8431
Fax: 704-730-0955
e-mail: joekendrick@bellsouth.net
Web: www.outdoorlights.com
LIGHTING

PLONK TIRE INC.

Mr. Tim Plonk
227 S. Cherokee St.
Kings Mountain, NC 28086
Telephone: 704/739-0193
Web: www.plonktire.com
TIRE DEALERS

RICK'S OLE COUNTRY STORE

Mr. Divyang Patel
1557 N. Piedmont Ave.
Kings Mountain, NC 28085
Telephone: 704/739-7534
Fax: 704/853-2558
e-mail: xxdbpax@aol.com
CONVENIENCE STORE

RIPPLE EFFECTS ENTERTAINMENT

Mr. David Grayson
Location: 335 E. College Ave., Boiling Springs, NC
Mailing: 2361 Sheriff Allen Road
Shelby, NC 28152
Telephone: 704/434-7001
Fax: 704/434-7361
e-mail: rippleeffects@hotmail.com
AMUSEMENTS

SHELBY MUSIC CENTER

Mr. John A. Reid
306 S. LaFayette St.
Shelby, NC 28150
Telephone: 704/487-7404
Fax: 704/487-9280
Web: www.shelbymusiccenter.com
MUSIC

BILL SHUFORD HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

Mr. Keith Shuford
213 Campbell St.
Shelby, NC 28150
Telephone: 704/484-0025
Fax: 704/484-0059
e-mail: billshuford@darrcam.com
HEATING/AIR CONDITIONING CONTRACTOR

SKY-VUE

Mr. Duane Heafner
1407 S. LaFayette St.
Shelby, NC 28152
Telephone: 704/482-4138
AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE

SOUTHERN CRAFTSMEN

Mr. Allen Putnam
909 Polkville Road
Shelby, NC 28150
Telephone: 704/471-1796
Fax: 704/487-4380
CONSTRUCTION

STATELINE DOLLAR STORE

Lynn Heath
Location: 218 S. Main St., Grover, NC 28073
Mailing: 2603 E. Cherokee St. Blacksburg, SC 29702
Telephone: 704/937-9745
e-mail: lheath@gusaol.com

STEEN & ASSOCIATES, INC.

Ms. Nancy Steen
1403-A N. LaFayette St.
Shelby, NC 28150
Telephone: 704/482-1448
Fax: 704/482-1472
HEARING SERVICES

THE BEAR CAFÉ

Ms. Sheila Ciliberti
901 E. College Ave.
Shelby, NC 28152
Telephone: 704/480-0201
RESTAURANT

THE BRIDGE

Brandi Rabon
1050 Sam Lattimore Road
Shelby, NC 28152
Telephone: 704/482-6101
CONSULTING/MINISTRY

Members on the Move

The following company has changed its membership to include the following representative:

Bernhardt Industries – Nathan Buchanan

New Addresses:

Marvin B. Hamrick Construction, Inc. – 133 Corine Court, Shelby, NC 28152. Telephone number is 704/434-7713.

Manelines Unique Boutique – 1100 S. LaFayette St., Shelby, NC 28152. Telephone number is 704/482-9938.

Four Leaf Textiles, LLC – P.O. Box 440, Clover, SC 29710--telephone number 803/222-8856.

Carolina First Bank – Street address: 110 W. Marion St., Shelby, NC 28150
Mailing address: P.O. Box 2387, Shelby, NC.
Phone number is 704/482-5651
Fax number is 704/482-7358
Representative: Jamey Davis

Charlotte Copy Data, Inc. – Account manager is Paul K. Shives. His address is 1361-A E. Garrison Blvd., Gastonia, NC 28054. Phone number is 704/867-7878; and fax number is 704/867-7704.

Board Action

At the June meeting of the Chamber Board of Directors, the following action items were approved:

- To give an annual award sponsored by Duke Power Company to an individual or to a group for outstanding volunteer community involvement.
- Adopted a resolution urging voter support of a constitutional amendment (Amendment One) to permit the issuance of self-financing bonds by cities and counties in North Carolina for developmental purposes.

Thank You Corner

- Special thanks to Dale McKillop and Mayflower Vehicle Systems for supplying lunch for the July Chamber Board of Directors meeting.
- Special thanks to all volunteers and businesses who helped make the annual Membership Drive a success. A complete list of businesses and volunteers who provided door prizes or other assistance will be listed in next month's issue of *InterAction*.

Chamber Photos & Events



Internal Medicine of Shelby Ribbon Cutting: June 03, 2004



Carousel Ice Cream Ribbon Cutting: June 09, 2004



Curves For Women Ribbon Cutting: July 19, 2004



Lunch-n-Learn at Neal Senior Center: July 28, 2004

Chamber Trip To Raleigh On June 2 Yields Positive Results For Cleveland County

Members of the Cleveland County business community took advantage of an opportunity to discuss issues affecting Cleveland County during the Chamber's annual Legislative Trip to Raleigh in June.

Various meetings were scheduled for the contingency from the county to discuss economic development initiatives, transportation issues, and other state and local policies. Participants met with North Carolina Representatives Debbie Clary, Dr. Bob England, and Tim Moore; Senator Walter Dalton; Senate President Pro-Tem Marc Basnight; House Speaker Richard Morgan; Department of Commerce Secretary Jim Fain; Kevin Howell from Governor Mike Easley's office; and Department of Transportation Secretary Lyndo Tippett; among others.

Representative Tim Moore (Cleveland) believes more can be done from the state level to address state and local economic development incentives. "The best way to address the industrial economic development issue is to reduce the corporate income tax," Moore said.

Dr. Bob England (Cleveland/Rutherford) agrees that local incentives are important, but says we must not forget that our current economic situation is the result of national and international policies over which the state legislature has little control. "The loss of textiles in the magnitude that we have experienced is an unfortunate result of these policies. Our challenge is

certainly a difficult one," England said. "It will be a slow turnaround, but we are still optimistic that our local citizens will be able to make a difference and have an impact in the economic recovery of our area."

Representative Debbie Clary also took time to meet with the group while in the midst of state budget discussions. Cleveland County Chamber Board Chairman David Faunce was among the participants, and said the meetings netted positive results for Cleveland County's economic future.

"We received such a warm reception from these top state officials, I was extremely pleased," said Faunce. "This is a group of highly motivated individuals who are serious about making Cleveland County a better place to live and work. We will receive much assistance from these dignitaries as we move forward with new economic development initiatives."

The most difficult aspect of the Chamber's governmental action program is addressing the "tough" issues--those that have varying effects on businesses and the community. "The Chamber has a fair and sound system of determining its legislative positions and their local impact," said Stuart Gilbert, Chamber President. "The visits to Raleigh provide our community with important opportunities to make certain the needs and concerns of Cleveland County are addressed to our satisfaction."

Raleigh Trip Photos



Meeting with NC Commerce Secretary Jim Fain



With House Co-Speaker Jim Morgan



Delegates with Senator Walter Dalton and gift for Governor Mike Easley



Always time for ice cream!



Jim Allen and Representative Tim Moore in Raleigh

CLEVELAND COUNTY CHAMBER

200 South Lafayette St.
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Chamber Officials Encourage Support of Amendment One

The Cleveland County Chamber's Board of Directors has unanimously adopted a resolution urging voter support of a constitutional amendment to permit the issuance of self-financing bonds by cities and counties in North Carolina for developmental purposes.

Also known as Amendment One, state and county leaders believe the measure would establish the creation of quality jobs, the revitalization of communities, and new economic opportunities for North Carolina. Voters will be asked to amend the state constitution to allow for the local issuance of self-financing bonds. Currently, Arizona and Delaware are the only other states in the nation that don't allow this form of borrowing.

Amendment One would authorize the use of self-financing bonds for economic development. Chamber officials unanimously endorse the concept and believe that the bonds will give the local governments the flexibility to pursue multiple types of economic development projects, including industrial site development, redevelopment of existing industrial sites, retail and mixed use development, and more.

The concept of self-financing bonds is supported by former governors Jim Hunt, a Democrat, and Jim Martin and Jim Holshouser, both Republicans, the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners, the North Carolina League of Municipalities, the North Carolina Citizens for Business and Industry (NCCBI), and a non-partisan umbrella organization of state leaders in business and govern-



VOTE
YES!

Amendment One

ment called North Carolinians for Jobs & Progress, among others.

The change would allow local governments, development groups or businesses to designate a development district and create a public-private partnership to shape the project's scope. All projects would be reviewed and approved by the North Carolina Local Government Commission prior to the issuance of the self-financing bonds.

According to North Carolinians for Jobs & Progress, no local bond approved by the commission has defaulted in over 50 years. The Cleveland County Chamber believes the bonds can be used as a means to significantly strengthen the county's ability to create new jobs and investment here at home and across the state.

It is expected that property in the development zone would appreciate, thus providing local communities with the gain in property taxes that is used to pay off the bonds, which are not general-obligation bonds. Once the bonds are paid off, the incremental increase in property tax revenue goes back to the local government, thereby increasing the tax base.

Improvements like water and sewer lines, sidewalks or street beautification are common projects that are supported by the bonds. In addition, the bonds can be used for projects relating to the reuse of abandoned factories or to help build affordable housing.

The Board of Directors of the Chamber has pledged to work to educate the citizens of Cleveland County about the local importance of approving Amendment One at the polls on November 2.—From the Governmental Affairs Division

August 2004 Chamber Calendar of Events

Be sure to check our web site at www.clevelandchamber.org for event updates!

- Aug. 12 Business After Hours at Life Enrichment Center in Kings Mountain; 5:30 p.m.—7 p.m.
- Aug. 19 Congressional Luncheon; 12 p.m. at North Lake Country Club, \$17 members; \$22 non-members
- Aug. 24 Manufacturers Council Luncheon with Secretary Jim Fain; Cleveland Country Club (invitation only)
- Aug. 25 Lunch-n-Learn Series: Neal Senior Center; Cost \$10, 12 p.m.
- Aug. 26 Ribbon Cutting: DeVoe Realty, 405 East Marion Street, Shelby; 10 a.m.
- Aug. 26 Leadership Cleveland County Kick-Off & Alumni Reception at Chamber



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