

**2004 Chamber
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Mark Carter

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Bill Plowden

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Dale McKillop
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InterAction

The Official Publication of the Cleveland County Chamber October 2004

Voters Have Opportunity To Be Economic Developers For A Day

Cleveland County's approximately 53,000 registered voters will have an opportunity at the polls November 2 to play a positive, personal role in an effort to make our county more competitive in the rough-and-tumble economic development arena.

No heavy lifting is required. All voters have to do November 2 is vote "Yes" on Amendment One. Passage of Amendment One would add a major new tool in Cleveland County's already broad and intensive efforts to accelerate our economic recovery. That ought to be an encouraging prospect in a county which has experienced double-digit unemployment and the loss of more than 3,500 jobs since 2001.

A positive statewide Amendment One vote would authorize amending the North Carolina Constitution to permit counties

and municipalities to issue self-financing bonds to fund public improvements and spur private investment in special development districts.

For example, a city might designate a dilapidated block as a special development district. The block's current tax value might be \$100,000. Once the improvements were made, the value might have risen to \$500,000, a net increase of \$400,000. Taxes paid on the \$400,000 net increase would be used to repay the bonds. Taxes paid on the original \$100,000 would still go to the city's general fund.

Once the bonds were retired, taxes paid on the full \$500,000 tax value of the redeveloped block would go to the city coffers. Such bonds have been used quite successfully for over 40 years in 48 other states, including neighboring South Carolina, resulting in billions of dollars worth of public improvements and private investment. The hundreds of self-financing bond projects in those 48 other states have neither required property tax increases nor required cities or counties to pledge their taxing authority.

Self-financing bonds are not sold just like general obligation bonds. With general obligation bonds, a county or municipality pledges to the bond holders that it will use the community's full faith and credit to repay the bonds. With self-financing bonds, cities and counties do not pledge to the bondholders their full faith and credit. The difference is important because the North Carolina con-

stitution requires a referendum on bonds only when the community is pledging its full faith and credit to the bondholders.

Also, general obligation bonds allow the bondholders to force the community to raise taxes to pay off the bonds. Self-

financing bonds prohibit bondholders from forcing the community to raise taxes to pay off the bonds. Furthermore, a survey of self-financing bond issuances over the past 50 years reveals a successful retirement rate of more than 98 percent. Property tax dollars were not used to retire the less than two percent of the problem issuances.

Sales taxes were used in those two percent of cases. Amendment One prohibits the use of sales taxes for such purposes. Other taxpayer-protection elements of the self-financing bond procedures embodied in Amendment One are equally stringent. North Carolina cities and counties could, after discussion with landowners, specify certain areas to be development districts. Those districts, however, would not become official until development plans were thoroughly reviewed and approved by the North Carolina Local Government Commission.

The Local Government Commission is an independent, non-partisan body. A key assurance against flawed projects slipping through is that in over 50 years, no local bond approved by the Local Government Commission has defaulted. —From the *Governmental Affairs Division*



**VOTE
YES!**

Amendment One

*Business After
Hours:*

**October 14, 2004
5:30—7 p.m.**

**First Charter
National Bank**

**316 S. Lafayette St.
Shelby, NC**

Expect More From Us.

**FIRST
CHARTER**

Education Luncheon Scheduled for October 14 with Kings Mountain Rotary

The Chamber's Education Division, the JobReady Partnership of Cleveland County, Education Station and the Kings Mountain Rotary Club will host North Carolina Director of School Improvement Marvin Pittman in October.

Pittman is the Director of School Improvement, Division of School Improvement, Alternative and Safe Schools/ Instructional Support through the state office of Public Schools of North Carolina. NC School Board Chairman Howard Lee

was initially scheduled to speak at the event, but had to cancel due to a conflict with another event.

The purpose of the luncheon is to increase awareness for the JobReady Partnership and its programs.

Pittman is a former teacher, principal, and superintendent and he will address workforce preparedness and other statewide education issues, which have an impact on the business community. The luncheon will

be held Thursday, October 14, 2004 from 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. at the Patrick Senior Center in Kings Mountain. The cost for the event is \$8. For more information about sponsoring or attending the upcoming Education Luncheon, call the Chamber at 704-487-8521. This is a wonderful event that you won't want to miss, so mark your calendar today.—From the Education Division



Fall Planning Conference Planned for October 21-23 in Blowing Rock, NC

There is no better time to visit the mountains than in the colorful fall season and no better reason to make plans on October 21-23 to support your local Chamber in enriching your community.



Mark Carter

This year's Fall Planning Conference will be held in Blowing Rock, where we will examine Cleveland County's "Path of Progress." Come join the Chamber Board members and other community leaders as we enjoy fun and fellowship—while working on key strategies for the enhancement of Cleveland County.

Make this the year you begin attending the conference. Travel costs are lower this year, so join us in rolling up our sleeves to strengthen our county and have serious fun at the same time! The cost to attend the conference is \$160 per person. This fee includes dinner on Thursday and conference materials. Guest speaker and economic developer David Kozlow will provide

an unforgettable presentation on Friday, and Chamber goals and objectives for 2005 will be addressed during work sessions on Saturday.

The Meadowbrook Inn of Blowing Rock is holding a block of rooms for the Chamber through October 7. If you wish to reserve a room for the conference, call the Meadowbrook directly at (800) 467-6626. Experience the charm and beauty of The Meadowbrook Inn, located in the colorful mountains of Blowing Rock. Each guest room features a variety of amenities including continental breakfast, color television, climate control, in-room hair dryers, and more.

A golf outing is also being offered to conference participants. A Chamber-organized outing will be conducted on Thursday afternoon (tee times begin at 12 p.m.) at Boone Golf Club. The cost is \$44 for golf and cart fees. For more information about this year's conference, or to register, call the Chamber at (704) 487-8521. — From the Membership Services Division

Small Business of the Month Ceremony Recognizes Business Consulting Group

The Small Business Council of the Cleveland County Chamber is pleased to announce the next recipient of the recently-established recognition program for small businesses in Cleveland County.

Business Consulting Group, Inc. will receive the Chamber's October 2004 "Small Business of the Month" award at a recognition ceremony on Thursday, October 7 at 10 a.m. The ceremony will be held at Business Consulting Group, located in Suite 22 of the former Shelby Supply Building on 222 North Lafayette Street, Shelby. Owner Robby Reynolds, Jr. has been in business for 30 years and has seen the client base grow each year. Business Consulting Group currently offers full service account-

ing and business consulting; and the group is looking into expansion to offer new areas of service for their clients.

"Our staff has worked very hard to provide outstanding quality services to our clients," said owner Robby Reynolds. Small Business Council members agreed that a key factor in this recognition was Robby's strong commitment to his clients even with his many community activities. Reynolds also encourages his staff to be involved in the community. Robby and his staff serve in many areas of this community including the American Legion baseball committee, which has worked to raise money for improvements at the Shelby High baseball field to host the Regional and State level

tournaments. In addition, the YMCA and Hospice have also benefited from his spirit of volunteerism.

The "Small Business of the Month" recognition program was approved by the Chamber's Board of Directors in July. The program honors successful small business members of the Chamber who meet the qualifications for the program. The winner each month will receive a plaque, provided by Carolina Trophy, and a banner to display at their place of business during the month.

If you have any questions about this program or wish to nominate a business to be considered, please contact Misti Humphries at (704) 487-8521. — From the Small Business Council

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.

Chamber Events

Small Business of the
Month Recognition
Ceremony:

*Life Enrichment Center on
September 2, 2004*



Ribbon Cutting:

*Shelby Camera & Video
on September 16, 2004*

Business After Hours:

*5 East Restaurant
on September 16, 2004*



Chamber Events



Business At Breakfast:

*Shelby Savings Bank
on September 24, 2004*

Fair Preview Breakfast:

*Cleveland County Fairgrounds
on September 30, 2004*



Fair Preview Breakfast:

*Special Presentation to
David Willis Family
on September 24, 2004*



Member Renewals-August 2004

Bennett Charters – 3 years
 Broad River Greenway – 6 years
 Carolina ENT Associates – 9 years
 Carolina Paint Stores – 10 years
 Carolinas Commercial Realty – 6 years
 Cleveland Co. Business Dev. Center – 12 years
 Dalton, Walter, NC Senator – 5 years
 Goodwill Industries – 5 years
 Ham's Restaurant – 8 years

Johnson Development Co. – 7 years
 Kings Mountain Rotary Club – 6 years
 Machine Builders & Design, Inc. – 7 years
 Merle Norman Cosmetics of Shelby – 6 years
 Miller Orthopaedic, Inc. – 11 years
 Ni Fen – 8 years
 Office Max – 3 years
 Professional Payroll Services, Inc. – 3 years
 Prudential Carolinas Realty – 24 years

Sagebrush Steakhouse – 5 years
 Shallowbrook Builders, Inc. – 5 years
 Shelby Rotary Club – 38 years
 Taste-T Drive-In – 5 years
 TexSource – 2 years
 Total Care – 11 years
 Turner Trucking Company – 15 years
 Verizon Wireless – 12 years
 Wilson Real Estate – 21 years

New Members...

BIG PAPA'S, INC.

Kpjm & Tricia Crocker
 1715 E. Dixon Blvd.
 Shelby, NC 28152
 Telephone: 704/482-7231
 Fax: 704/482-7241
 e-mail: bigpapas@caorlina.rr.com
 TIRE & AUTO CENTER

BLIMPIE SUBS & SALADS

Mr. Jon Pavlish
 Walmart, 705 E. Dixon Blvd.,
 Shelby, NC 28150
 Telephone: 704/481-9108
 Fax: 704/484-2978
 e-mail: jlpavlish@carolina.rr.com
 RESTAURANT

KINGS MOUNTAIN OFFICE EQUIPMENT INC.

Mr. Tripp Mabry
 238 Cherokee St.
 Kings Mountain, NC 28086
 Telephone: 704/739-4501
 Fax: 704/739-4502
 e-mail: tripp@mabryofficeequipment.com
 Website: www.mabryofficeequipment.com
 OFFICE EQUIPMENT, SUPPLIES, SERVICES

MCBEE SYSTEMS

Ms. Margie L. Davidson
 5500 Executive Ctr. Dr. #127
 Charlotte, NC 28212
 Telephone: 704/536-0582
 Fax: 704/536-8152
 e-mail: Marjorie.davidson@mcbeeinc.com
 Website: www.mcbeeinc.com
 PAYROLL SERVICES

PAPA'S PIZZA TO GO BUFFET

Ms. Sherrie Earl
 1011-A Grove St.
 Shelby, NC 28152
 Telephone: 704/487-1911
 Fax: 704/487-1977
 e-mail: sherrie.earl@charter.net
 RESTAURANT

PHILLIP PHILBECK COLLECTION

Mr. John Stalzer
 105 W. Warren St.
 Shelby, NC 28150
 Telephone: 704/487-0368
 Fax: 704/482-4912
 e-mail: frmg.shelby@earthlink.net
 Website: www.phillipphilbeck.net
 ART GALLERY

Thank You Corner...

Earl D. Parker, II – **DIGITAL RESULTS** – volunteer computer assistance

Members On The Move...

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

Sharonview Federal Credit Union – Marianne Geiger
 Carillon – Tregg Greene
 Alliance Bank & Trust – Leah Berry
 Kearns Business Solutions – Shannon Nichols
 City of Kings Mountain – Greg McGinnis
 Cleveland Mall – Jennifer Jenkins

New mailing address:

New mailing address for Internal Medicine, P.A. of Shelby is: P.O. Box 1149, Shelby, NC 28151. (Office location is: 1405 North LaFayette St., Suite A, Shelby, NC 28150, and telephone number is: 704/487-4321.)

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

We're on the Web!
www.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

Terry Brown
Manager of Travel & Tourism

Jean Bettis
Office Manager

Shirley Brutko
Administrative Assistant-Kings
Mountain Office

Jean Canipe
Receptionist



Gateway Antique Festival Scheduled In Kings Mountain

Historic Kings Mountain is the official "Gateway" to the three area parks, so it just makes sense that the city's annual fall festival be called the "Gateway Antique & Arts Festival." The festival is scheduled for October 8 through October 10 in Kings Mountain.

On Friday, the festival kicks off at 9 a.m. with a concert by John Love and Uncle Thunder at the Joy Performance Center. The weekend's events will provide a wonderful opportunity for citizens of Cleveland County and beyond to bring the entire family out to see and enjoy the many visiting antique dealers, antique train show, artisans and crafters, bake sales, art show, open house at the Maueny home, antique appraisals, museum storytelling and crafts for the children.

In addition, the Kings Mountain Museum will participate with a variety of historic exhibits. Bluegrass and mountain dulcimer music will fill the air while you enjoy barbecue, fresh milled apple cider, and down-home cooking. The

event will kick off on Friday, October 8 and will conclude Sunday, October 10.



Artists perform at the 2003 Gateway Antique Festival in Kings Mountain.

A special treat will be the singing Cowboys on stage at the Joy Performance Center on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Children can enjoy a pony ride from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. next to the Joy Performance Center.

Reenactors fully dressed in revolutionary attire will be on hand, along with campfire cooking, musket demonstrations, music, basket weaving, spinning, doll making, storytelling, paper cutting, cloth weaving, and more. The Carolina Raptor Center will be featured next door to the historic Barber Cabin.

And don't miss the "Classic Car Show" that will be held on Cherokee Street on Saturday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday there will be a bluegrass gospel service on Gold Street from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m., a jazz concert behind city hall from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., and many more activities through 6 p.m.

You don't want to miss this event! Call 704 734-0333 or (704) 739-4755 for more information. — From the Travel & Tourism Division

October 2004 Chamber Calendar of Events

Oct. 07	Small Business of the Month Recognition Ceremony: Business Consulting Group; 222 N. Lafayette St., Suite 22, Shelby; 10 a.m.
Oct. 12	Candidates Forum at Cleveland Community College; 6:30 p.m.
Oct. 14	Education Luncheon with State School Board Chair Howard Lee at Patrick Senior Center
Oct. 14	Business After Hours: First Charter Bank, 316 S. Lafayette St., Shelby; 5:30 p.m. – 7 p.m.
Oct. 19	Ribbon Cutting: Wellington Hamrick (expansion), 1111 Airport Road, Shelby; 4 p.m.
Oct. 19	Candidates Forum at Cleveland Community College; 6:30 p.m.
Oct. 21-23	Fall Planning Conference in Blowing Rock, NC (registration deadline October 7)
Oct. 27	Lunch-n-Learn at Neal Senior Center: "Financial Options For Your Small Business;" 12 p.m.
Oct. 28	Workforce at Cleveland Community College; 8:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Oct. 28	Ribbon Cutting: Alliance Bank & Trust, 117 W. Warren St., Shelby; 5 p.m.
Oct. 29	Ribbon Cutting: Blimpies (inside Walmart); 705 East Dixon Boulevard, Shelby; 4:30 p.m.
Oct. 29	Business At Breakfast at White Oak Manor; 401 N. Morgan St., Shelby; 8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

In the Coming Months...

Nov. 02	Election Day! Be sure to vote!
Nov. 04	Small Business of the Month Ceremony at Cleveland Physical Therapy
Nov. 09	Economic Forecast Luncheon at Cleveland Country Club
Nov. 11	Veterans' Day: Chamber Offices Closed
Nov. 17	Lunch-n-Learn at Neal Senior Center: "Tax Tips"
Nov. 18	Business After Hours at Sagebrush Steakhouse—Co-sponsored by PSU
Nov. 25-26	Thanksgiving Holiday: Chamber Offices Closed

Learn more about the MBA, MAcc, and IMBA Programs.

October 26; 6 p.m.
Graduate School of Business
Hamrick Hall, Room 116

Contact us:
www.gradbiz.gardner-webb.edu
800-457-4622

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