

**2005 Chamber
Officers, Directors:**

Chairman
Mark Carter

Chair-elect
Bill Plowden

Treasurer
Bill Plowden

Past Chairman
David Faunce

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Mark Carter
Kim Duren
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Tim Mathis
Dr. Gene Moore
Scott Neisler
Brownie Plaster
Bill Plowden
Holly Sweat
Dr. Steve Thornburg
Jim Toole

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InterAction

The Official Publication of the Cleveland County Chamber

January 2005

Bob Inman To Serve As Keynote Speaker at Chamber's Annual Banquet

Local business leaders will enjoy an evening of reflection and fun at the 67th Annual Banquet of the Cleveland



Bob Inman

County Chamber, scheduled for January 27, 2005 at Triple D Publishing, located at 1300 South DeKalb Street in Shelby.

Nationally renowned author and regional television personality Bob Inman will serve as the keynote speaker at the event. Inman is slated to bring a heartwarming and inspirational speech entitled "Hometown Heroes." Chamber leaders expect a capacity crowd for the event.

A novelist, screenwriter and playwright, Bob Inman is a native of Elba, Alabama. He left a 31-year career in journalism in June 1996 to devote full time to fiction writing. He is the author of four novels, all published by

Little, Brown and Company: *Home Fires Burning* (1987), *Old Dogs and Children* (1991), *Dairy Queen Days* (1997), and *Captain Saturday* (2002). Down Home Press published a collection of his non-fiction work, *Coming Home: Life, Love and All Things Southern*, in October, 2000.

Inman is the author of two stage plays, the musical comedy "Crossroads," and "The Christmas Bus."

He has written screenplays for six motion pictures for television, two of which have been "Hallmark Hall of Fame" presentations. He is a member of the Authors Guild, Writers Guild of America, PEN American Center, North Carolina Writers Conference, North Carolina Writers Network, and Alabama Writers Forum. Inman and his wife, Paulette, live in Charlotte and Boone, North Carolina.

The Chamber's annual banquet brings a ceremonial end to a successful and productive year, and will include the traditional

"passing of the gavel" by current Chairman David Faunce (Faunce Realty) to Chair-Elect Mark Carter (Carter Chevrolet).

Each year at the banquet, several community members are recognized with special awards. The slate of awards includes the Volunteer of the Year Award, the Bridge Builder Award, the Zenith Award, the Duke Power Citizen Award, the Athena Award, the Jean Bettis Support Staff Award, and the Entrepreneur of the Year Award. Two additional awards are presented to the Chamber Ambassadors, a volunteer group that works to promote member recruitment and retention.

The event will kick off with a reception and cash bar at 6:30 p.m. Dinner and the awards program will follow at 7:30 p.m. The cost of the event will be announced soon. If you are interested in reserving your seat, call the Chamber today at (704) 487-8521. — *From the Membership Services Division*

Small Business Council Continues Lunch-n-Learn Series in 2005

The Chamber's Lunch-n-Learn series will continue on Wednesday, January 26 at the Neal Senior Center in Shelby. The facility is located at 1266 Fallston Road.

The series is sponsored by the Chamber's Small Business Council and features a variety of topics relevant to small business owners and their staff. The topic on January 26 is "Marketing Tips: Big Ideas on a Small Budget" and will be presented by Jeff Champion of Champion Communications. The following Lunch-n-Learn seminars are currently scheduled:

February 23—"The Legal Entities of Small Business—What's the Best Choice"

March 23—"How to Assess the Health of Your Business/How to Make Wise Business Investments"

April 27—"What a Small Business Needs to Know About His/Her Banker"

May 25—"How to Become A More Effective Salesperson"

The cost to attend each event is \$10 per person. Call the Chamber at (704) 487-8521 for more information on these and other upcoming events. — *From the Small Business Council*

The Cup & Saucer Tea Room Receives Small Business of the Month Recognition

The Small Business Council of the Cleveland County Chamber is pleased to announce the first recipient in 2005 of the recognition program for small businesses in Cleveland County.

The Cup & Saucer Tea Room & Fine Gifts will receive the Chamber's January 2005 "Small Business of the Month" award at a recognition ceremony on Thursday, January 6 at 11 a.m. The ceremony will be held at The Cup & Saucer Tea Room, located at 107 West King Street in Kings Mountain. The Small Business Council will stay and enjoy lunch and conduct its first meeting of the year on the premises after the ceremony. If you are interested in being a part of this council, please call the Chamber to make your reservations for this lunch meeting.

The Cup & Saucer has been open for business since 2001 and employs eight people. The house occupied by the Cup & Saucer was once the Harmon Home, which has been restored to show some of the original architecture. Paintings and artwork of local artists are also displayed throughout the home to recognize the talent of local residents. The

gift shop has been expanded to carry a line of ladies clothing and accessories as well as a line of infant apparel and accessories.

Owner Mary Alice Armstrong has provided Kings Mountain and the surrounding area a wonderful respite from the busy day, complete with delicious food, homemade desserts (made fresh daily), and a pleasant atmosphere for meeting, shopping, and dining. The Tea Room offers ample space for little girls' birthday parties as well as for showers and bridal luncheons. Rehearsal dinners for wedding parties as well as small receptions can also be held at The Cup & Saucer.

The restaurant got its start after a chance comment by Brenda Lovelace of Kings Mountain, who attends church with Mrs. Armstrong. After enjoying some of her fine cooking and treats regularly at church socials, Mrs. Lovelace asked Alice if she had ever thought about going into business for herself and making her love for cooking a business in Kings Mountain for everyone to enjoy. Mrs. Armstrong obviously liked the idea and often says, "The rest is history!"

"I cannot begin to tell you how our business

has grown," says Armstrong. "In my wildest dreams, I never imagined how God would bless us!" Armstrong credits her staff with much of the business' success and calls them her "wonderful employees... the greatest staff possible." She also enjoys helping the community by providing gifts or gift certificates to be used in fund-raising events by schools and other local non-profit organizations.

For additional information about The Cup & Saucer Tea Room, call owner Alice Armstrong at (704) 730-0384 or drop by during normal operating hours for lunch. The Small Business of the Month award is sponsored by the Small Business Council of the Cleveland County Chamber and co-sponsored by Carolina Trophies, Shelby Shopper & Info, and The Star. The winner each month will receive a plaque, provided by Carolina Trophies, 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

Chamber Recognizes Contributions of Cleveland County Board of Education in January

Residents of the county dedicated to providing educational opportunities to area children are being honored in January by the Board of Directors of the Cleveland County Chamber.

At the December meeting, the Board approved a resolution that recognizes the contributions and efforts of Cleveland County Schools. The resolution states that the "Chamber hereby declares its appreciation to the members of the Cleveland County Board of Education--and proclaims the month of January as 'School Board Recognition Month.'"

Members of the **Cleveland County Board of Education** are: Dr. George Litton; Dr. Jack Hamrick, Shearra Miller, Dr. Steve Curtis, Mary Evans, Tommy Greene, Richard Hooker, Jo Boggs, and Terry McClain.

The Education Division of the Chamber, chaired by John Lattimore of Cleveland Community College, urges all members and citizens to join in recognizing the dedication and hard work of local school board members in preparing today's students for tomorrow's world.

For more information about the Cleveland County Board of Education, log on to www.ClevelandCountySchools.org or call (704) 476-8000. — From the Education Division

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION

WHEREAS, school boards create a vision for what students should know and be able to do;

WHEREAS, school boards establish clear standards for student performance;

WHEREAS, school boards ensure that student assessments are tied to established standards;

WHEREAS, school boards are accountable to the community for operating schools that support student achievement;

WHEREAS, school boards align district resources to ensure that students meet standards;

WHEREAS, school boards create a climate that supports the philosophy that all children can learn at high levels;

WHEREAS, school boards build collaborative relationships based on trust, teamwork, and shared accountability; and

WHEREAS, school boards are committed to continuous education and training on issues related to student achievement;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Cleveland County Chamber hereby declares its appreciation to the members of the Cleveland County Board of Education --and proclaims the month of January

SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH.

The Chamber urges all members and citizens to join in recognizing the dedication and hard work of local school board members in preparing today's students for tomorrow's world.

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.

Cleveland 20/20 Advisory Council Schedules First Meeting for January 2005

The Cleveland County Economic Development Partnership will kick off the new year with the first meeting of the Cleveland 20/20 Advisory Council in January.

The group is comprised of the top-level private sector investors in the Cleveland 20/20 Economic Development Partnership. The meeting is scheduled for the second week in January and participants are expected to develop an economic development network to assist in economic development efforts.

According to John Young (Cleveland County HealthCare System) and Adelaide Craver (First National Bank), co-chairs of the Cleveland 20/20 Economic Development fundraiser, the meeting will provide the first opportunity for investors to interact with each other for a common purpose.

"In order to experience economic growth, we must position ourselves as an employer-friendly community," said Young. "As in most things, it can be done if we all work together in trust for the good of the community."

Although there are nearly 50 businesses and industries who have pledged support of the Cleveland 20/20 Economic Development plan to date, only the top-level investors will participate in the meeting. Those investors are: Cleveland County HealthCare System, Coldwell Banker

CLEVELAND 20/20
A Clear Focus
on Economic Prosperity for
Cleveland County

Horn Real Estate, Duke Power, Fidelity Bank,

First Charter Bank, First National Bank, Gardner-Webb University, Keeter Motors, REMAX Select, Scott Food Services, Shelby Savings Bank, and Wachovia.

Campaign co-chair Adelaide Craver believes there are many compelling reasons for businesses and industries to support the fundraising efforts, but the most important reason is to help unemployed residents of Cleveland County.

"Economic development is so vitally important to our county because a successful economic development program creates good jobs for our citizens," said Craver. "This leads to a much healthier economic climate for all businesses."

In addition to receiving the latest "inner-circle" information on current economic development projects, the investors will have an opportunity to provide input into what should be top economic development priorities in 2005. Chamber President Stuart Gilbert believes another crucial function of the meeting will be to establish an exclusive system to further support economic development in the county. "We are looking forward to a

time of input and discussion from these key investors," said Chamber President Stuart Gilbert of the meeting. "But the main objective will be to formalize a network among the private sector that has never before been available in Cleveland County in an organized way to assist with economic development issues."

Officials are also making it clear that there is still time to participate in the campaign as a top-level investor in order to be a part of the decision-making at the January meeting. "Obviously, the input from the top-level investors will help generate our key priorities in 2005," said Scott Darnell, Senior VP for Economic Development. "Of course, we will provide opportunities for all investors to be heard. However, as in all things, the higher the investment, the greater the return."

A meeting among healthcare providers is planned later in January to request specific support of the Economic Development Action Plan. If you would like more information on how to participate in the Cleveland 20/20 Economic Development Partnership, contact Stuart Gilbert or Scott Darnell at (704) 487-8521 or log on to www.clevelandchamber.org/econdevelopment/index.asp.

—From the Cleveland 20/20 Economic Development Partnership

Cleveland Co. Industrial Environmental Exchange

The Cleveland County Industrial Environmental Exchange, CCIEE, was originally organized in 1991 in partnership with the Cleveland County Chamber in order to promote the exchange of technical and management information and ideas among industries.

In the past the group has sponsored community-based programs promoting education to industry employees, the business community, and legislators. The members are presently restructuring in order to incorporate Safety and Business issues as well as the original focus on the Environment.

The North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resource Hazardous Waste Division had asked the CCIEE in 1996 to initiate a pilot program for the State and EPA that would provide outreach compliance assistance to smaller businesses and industries within the County. This was successful at the start and now that the CCIEE once again has reorganized, the State is very much interested in continuing these efforts.

Letters have been sent to local businesses and industries offering CCIEE support and an invitation to participate in the monthly luncheon programs. Any one interested can contact the Chamber at (704) 487-8521 for more information.

Kings Mountain Business Showcase Scheduled For February 22—March 18 at Kings Mountain City Hall

The Cleveland County Chamber recognizes that it is necessary to promote area businesses as efficiently and professionally as possible while maintaining low cost to both the business and the Chamber. One of the most effective ways to accomplish that goal is to "gather" as many local businesses together in a central location and promote the businesses.

For the past four years, the Cleveland County Chamber has hosted an event at the end of February known as the "Kings Mountain Business Showcase." This event serves as a forum to show Kings Mountain and Grover members how much they are appreciated. This year's showcase will be held at Kings Mountain City Hall starting February 22 at 5:30 p.m. and continuing through 5:00 p.m. on March 18. The event will kick-off with a reception from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on February 22 that is open to members, participants and the general public.

Last year, 40 businesses were hosted, and more than 1,700 residents visited the showcase during the open month. The event is open to all businesses and organizations in the Kings Mountain and Grover areas that would like to participate. There is a limit to the number of exhibitors we can accommodate. All interested participants are encouraged to get their registration in as soon as possible.

So what is this event about anyway? "Kings Mountain Business Showcase" offers participants the opportunity to place any relevant business materials, products, service information or promotional items on the display as they wish to help promote their business. During the kick-off reception, representatives from the business are present to address any questions that may arise about their particular business, although it is not required that they attend.

The Chamber encourages area businesses to become connected with the community through the "Kings Mountain Business Showcase" event and invites the public to come in and check out those businesses at Kings Mountain City Hall from February 22 at 5:30 p.m. through March 18 at 5 p.m. If you are interested in participating in the event or reception, contact Shirley Brutko or Tim Waters at the Kings Mountain office of the Cleveland County Chamber at (704) 739-4755. —From the Kings Mountain Advisory Council

Chamber Events



Alliance Bank & Trust hosted a ribbon cutting and grand opening on November 4,



Foothills Home Care hosted a ribbon cutting and grand opening celebration on November 10, 2004 at their 212 West Dixon Boulevard location in Shelby.



Frame Masters Gallery, located at 105 West Warren Street in uptown Shelby, was the site of a ribbon cutting and grand opening celebration for The Phillip Philbeck Collection on December 2, 2004.



Just Cuts, located at 302-4 East Dixon Boulevard in Shelby, hosted a ribbon cutting and grand opening on December 7, 2004.



On December 8, a ribbon cutting and open house was held for REMAX Select, located at 331 South Lafayette Street in Shelby.



A Volunteer/Member Appreciation Reception was conducted at Frame Masters Gallery, located at 105 West Warren Street in Shelby, on December 2, 2004.



The Chamber's "Small Business of the Month" award was presented to Curves for Women, located at 1517 South Lafayette Street in Shelby for the month of December 2004 during a recognition ceremony on December 2.



Business At Breakfast was hosted by Holiday Inn Express of Shelby on December 9. Holiday Inn Express is located at 2001 East Dixon Boulevard in Shelby.

Member News... (Member News is printed on a first-come, first-served, space available basis. Email your information to niki@clevelandchamber.org.)

John Barker, Sr. Named CRCBR Realtor of the Year



From left: John Barker, Jr.; Leah Bailey, John Barker, Sr.

The Charlotte Regional Commercial Board of Realtors CRCBR held its 2004 annual awards banquet during the month of November at the Westin Hotel. CRCBR which is the largest commercial board serving the Carolinas represents over 800 commercial practitioners selected John Barker, Sr., SIOR, CRE as Realtor of the Year.

During the banquet, the award was presented by Leah Bailey, SIOR of Trinity Partners, a CRCBR board member and daughter of Mr. Barker.

Barker has been an active industrial real estate practitioner since 1971 serving the Carolina's market. In his 33 years he has completed over 3,000 industrial transactions and created over 10,000 jobs. Some of his clients include, Freightliner Trucks, Tyco, Parker Hannifin, Reliance Electric and Kemet. Barker is also a recipient of the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, North Carolina's most prestigious service award as well as being inducted as a Paul Harris Fellow from Rotary.

Barker has been a long standing member of the Society of Industrial and Office Realtors, which is comprised of 2,200 practitioners worldwide recognized as the leading professional organization for commercial real estate practitioners.

Headquartered in Washington, D.C., the Society of Industrial and Office REALTORS® (SIOR, www.sior.com) is a global professional organization that certifies commercial real estate service providers with the exclusive SIOR designation. Individuals who earn their SIOR adhere to the highest levels of accountability and ethical standards.

Only the industry's top professionals qualify for the SIOR. Today, there are 2,200 SIORs in 450 markets in 20 countries.

Two of Mr. Barker's children Leah Bailey and John Barker, Jr. hold the SIOR designation and represent the only family within SIOR to have a son and daughter with the designation.

Members On The Move...

The members listed below have changed their membership to include the following:

Ticona – Darrell Fisher (Interim Site Manager)

American Cancer Society – Linda Neal (Community Mgr.)

Time Warner Cable – Sandra Johnson, local contact (telephone 704/482-5603; fax 704/484-2035)

COMSERV, INC. – Max Bristol

New mailing address:

Humphries Development Group: 500 Forest Hills Dr., Shelby, NC.

American Cancer Society – local address is 313-3 Pinkney St., Shelby, NC 28150, telephone office number is 704/470-4064, cell number is 704/473-0815, and fax number is 704/470-4114. (Charlotte address is 6000 Fairview Road, Suite 200, Charlotte, NC 28210.)

Cleveland Headline News Debuts Cable Channel 9 "Prime Edition" on January 31

On Monday, January 31, Cleveland Headline News will be adding an extended newscast from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Named "Prime Edition," the new show will air on cable channel 9, the leased access channel.

Airing Monday through Friday evenings, Prime Edition will feature longer news stories, as well as include local sports agendas and scoreboards, more in-depth weather, and business reports. Weekly features will also be included, such as financial, health, and school reports.

Jeannie Tillman, President of Cleveland Headline News, is enthusiastic about the station's growth. "We're really excited about the possibilities for Prime Edition. Almost since day one our viewers have been requesting more news, but we have been unable to accommodate them since CNN Headline News limits us to producing only a six-minute newscast every half hour on channel 33. Expanding onto channel 9 each weekday evening will enable us to provide more of what our community wants. We see this as a public service—a way to keep Cleveland County more informed."

The Prime Edition on channel 9 will air at 7:00, 7:30, 8:00, and 8:30 p.m. for 15 minutes. The last 15 minutes of each half hour will be a new advertising medium for local businesses called Cable Classifieds. It is a combination of newspaper-like classifieds ads interspersed with free non-profit public service announcements.

Gregg Tillman, General Manager of Cleveland Headline News, says that although they are excited about the new show and what it will mean to the community, there is a lot of work left to do. "Over the next 4 weeks, we have our hands full. We are in the process of designing new sets, hiring new reporters, buying and installing new equipment, and basically changing the way we have always done business. We're well into it, so I feel confident that everything will fall into place by January 31. Our biggest challenge is to let our 22,000 viewers know to switch over to channel 9 at 7:00 each evening. It's also exciting that those subscribers who have chosen to just purchase basic cable will be able to see the Prime Edition. We'll be getting a whole new audience in them."

Also on January 31, Cleveland Headline News will be updating their TV33 6-minute newscasts one hour earlier. The Morning Edition will now begin at 5:24 a.m., the Afternoon Edition starts at 11:24 a.m., and the Evening Edition begins airing at 5:24 p.m. This change is designed to fit into people's schedules better and to accommodate early risers and the lunchtime viewers.

Cleveland Headline News is a division of Media AdVentures, Inc., a locally-owned, private corporation owned by Gregg and Jeannie Tillman. Gregg is also the recipient of the 2004 "Entrepreneur of the Year" Chamber Award. Cleveland Headline News has been on the air in Cleveland County for over 13 years—since November 1, 1991. There are approximately 100 "Local Editions" of its type in the United States, and Cleveland Headline News is one of only two in the nation which are entirely self-supporting. The others are divisions of a cable company or a broadcast affiliate.

Member Renewals-November 2004

Allen Properties – 20 years	Country Time Party Rentals – 6 years	Tim Moore – 3 years
Beneficial NC Inc. – 9 years	CT Communications, Inc. – 5 years	Pizza Hut – Kings Mountain – 6 years
Brown's Automotive Service – 18 years	DeVoe Realty, Inc. – 4 years	Reno Chiropractic Center, PA – 9 years
Carolina Artisans Const., Inc. – 18 years	Econo Lodge – 41 years	Shelby Nursery, Inc. – 11 years
Carolina Farm Credit – 2 years	Employment Staffing – 8 years	Shelby Rotary Breakfast Club – 4 years
Children's Homes of Clev. County, Inc. – 7 years	Harvest Works, Inc. – 2 years	Til-Mar Textiles, Inc. – 15 years
Cleveland County JobLink Career Center – 10 years	Jim Horn – 5 years	Wal-Mart Distribution Center – 3 years
Commercial Data Systems – 8 years	It Takes An Entire Village, Inc. – 6 years	Withrow's Funeral Home – 20 years
	Kearns Business Solutions, Inc. – 4 years	
	Manpower – 17 years	

New Members...

SWEET SCENT-SATIONS

Ms. Loretta Mayo
814 S. DeKalb St., Shelby, NC 28150
Mail: 1121 Scottsdale Dr. #24, Shelby, NC 28150
Telephone: 704/482-2832
Fax – same as phone
email: msmayol@bellsouth.net
CANDLES, GIFT SHOP

CHAMPION COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Jeff Champion
P.O. Box 1726, Shelby, NC 28151
Telephone: 704/300-8483
Fax: 704/487-0106
email:
jeff@championcommunicationsagency.com
Website:
www.championcommunicationsagency.com
ADVERTISING AGENCY

Board Action...

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

- A community crime study to be conducted by Gardner-Webb University.
- A review study/assessment of the Chamber's Organizational Structure for Economic Development to be conducted by Dr. David Kolzow.

REMAX SELECT

Ms. Stephanie Williams
331 S. LaFayette St., Shelby, NC 28150
Telephone: 704/487-7653
Fax: 704/487-7633
REAL ESTATE

SERVPRO OF CLEVELAND COUNTY

Mr. Harold R. McCumber
P.O. Box 610, Fallston, NC 28042
Telephone: 704/481-0550
Fax: 704/481-0525
email – servpro9148@bellsouth.net
FIRE & WATER CLEANUP & RESTORATION,
CARPET, UPHOLSTERY

Thank You Corner...

H & H Pest Control - service

Holiday Inn Express – Shelby – Business at Breakfast host for December BAB

Chamber December Board Meeting:
Greg Arrowood & Glenda Greene— **Shelby Savings Bank** —location and meal for December meeting of Chamber Board.

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-Marketing & Communications

Vickie Fitch
VP-Membership Services

Tim Waters
VP-Existing Industry/Kings Moun-
tain Office

Terry Brown
Manager of Travel & Tourism

Jean Bettis
Office Manager

Shirley Brutko
Administrative Assistant-Kings
Mountain Office

Jean Canipe
Receptionist



Business Support · Economic Development · Travel & Tourism

Chamber Ambassadors: Recruitment & Retention Specialists



Pictured from left to right, front row: Shannon Nichols (Kearns Business Solutions); Martha Bivens (AFLAC Insurance); Glenda Drum (Baskets from the Heart); Peggy Wright (The Star); Judy Wagner (Sister's Closet Consignment Shoppe); Tammy Hunt (Interim Health Care); Barbara Mull (Edward Jones Investments); and Shanna Capps (TV 33). Pictured from left to right, back row: Vickie Fitch (Cleveland County Chamber); Stuart Gilbert (Cleveland County Chamber); Kimberly Self (Allen Tate Realtors); Dwayne Humphries (Humphries Development Group); Shelley Roberts (Fidelity Bank); and Calvin Hastings (WOHS).

What's It All About?

The Ambassador program consists of volunteers that support and help carry out the goals and mission of the Cleveland County Chamber.

Chamber Ambassadors assist their chamber in the following ways: Ambassadors help new members get involved in the Chamber programs that result in the highest return on the new member's investment. They also serve as event hosts at chamber networking events such as Business After Hours, Business At Breakfast, and Ribbon Cuttings. Ambassadors are very instrumental in bringing new Chamber members throughout the year.

Benefits of Being an Ambassador:

- An excellent way to meet new people in the business community as well as providing the Ambassador with business contacts and networking leads;
- An opportunity to learn about business and industry in Cleveland County
- Visibility in the business community;
- Business promotion and business referral opportunity as well as personal recognition.

The Cleveland County Ambassador Mission Statement: The Ambassadors are a group of Chamber members who volunteer their time to educate new and existing members through personal visits and to serve as goodwill representatives to the business community on behalf of the Chamber.

The Ambassadors meet on the first Friday of every month at noon. If you would like more information about the program or are interested in becoming an Ambassador, please call Vickie Fitch at 704-487-8521 for more information.

January 2005 Chamber Calendar of Events

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|---------|--|
| Jan. 06 | Small Business of the Month Award: Cup and Saucer Tea Room, 107 W. King Street, Kings Mountain; 11 a.m. |
| Jan. 13 | Ribbon Cutting: Hallelujah Acres Expansion; 900 S. Post Road, Shelby; 11:45 a.m. |
| Jan. 17 | Chamber Closed: Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday |
| Jan. 20 | Business After Hours: Carolina Chiropractic Plus, 145 W. Dixon Blvd., Shelby; 5:30—7 p.m.; Beverage Sponsor: Fox Distributing Co., Inc. |
| Jan. 21 | Business At Breakfast: Helps One To One, 946 Wendover Heights Drive, Shelby; 7:30—9 a.m. |
| Jan. 27 | Chamber Annual Banquet Featuring Bob Inman at Triple D Publishing 1300 S. DeKalb Street, Shelby; 6:30 p.m. Cash Bar/Reception; Cost \$55/person. RSVP to (704) 487-8521 by January 20. |