

**2005 Chamber
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Mark Carter

Chair-elect
Bill Plowden

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Roger Holland

Treasurer
Bill Plowden

Past Chairman
David Faunce

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David Faunce
Max Hamrick
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Dave Hart
Roger Holland
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John Lattimore
Tim Mathis
Dr. Gene Moore
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Bill Plowden
Holly Sweat
Dr. Steve Thornburg
Jim Toole

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InterAction

The Official Publication of the Cleveland County Chamber

April 2005

Boiling Springs "State of the Community" Breakfast Scheduled April 5

Chamber members and residents in the Boiling Springs area will have a unique opportunity to hear the latest news and upcoming initiatives in Boiling Springs with the upcoming "State of the Community" breakfast in April.



2004 Boiling Springs "State of the Community" Breakfast

The first in a series of three "State of the Community"

breakfasts is scheduled for Tuesday, April 5 from 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. at the Gardner-Webb University Spangler Stadium first floor meeting room. Boiling Springs Mayor Max Hamrick, Cleveland County School Board Chairman Dr. George Litton and County Commission Chairman

Ronnie Hawkins will focus on issues facing Boiling Springs and Cleveland County, and will discuss the challenges and successes facing their respective areas of local govern-

ment. This informative program is open to all members of the community. A continental breakfast will be served at a cost of \$10 for Chamber members and \$15 for non-members. Deadline for reservations in Monday, April 4.

Similar "State of the Community" breakfasts will be held later this spring in Shelby and Kings Mountain. Call the Chamber at 704-487-8521 to reserve your seat today or register online through the Chamber's Scrolling Events Calendar. — *From the Governmental Affairs Division*

Business Expo for Chamber Members Planned April 27

In honor of National Small Business week April 25-29, officials at the Cleveland County Chamber and Cleveland Community College are co-sponsoring a special event to promote area small businesses. A Business Expo will be held at Cleveland Community College on April 27, and local businesses will have a chance to represent themselves to the community.

The event will begin at 12 p.m. and conclude at 7 p.m. and will feature a variety of activities and events geared to small business owners and their staff. Seminars on a variety of business-oriented topics will feature motivational speakers, field professionals, and advisors. This is a great opportunity for small businesses to showcase their services, to learn from others in similar fields, and to network within the community.

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New Community Calendar Unveiled on Chamber Web Site



The Travel & Tourism Division of the Cleveland County Chamber is pleased to announce a new feature of the organization's web site. A Cleveland

County Community Calendar has been added to the site, and event planners around the county will be able

to access the calendar and upload their event information in just a few easy steps.

Located at www.ClevelandChamber.org, the calendar can be found directly below the "Chamber Events" scrolling calendar. The Travel & Tourism logo is featured and directly below the logo, users will find two options. One can view the Community Calendar by clicking on the first link. This will take the user into the calendar mod-

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Business After Hours—April 21, 2005; 5:30 to 7 p.m.

Fidelity Bank · 331 S. Lafayette Street · Shelby, NC

Beverage Sponsor: Fox Distributing Co., Inc.

Business Expo

(continued from page 1)

Special complimentary booths are available to local restaurants who would be willing to provide food trays and other food samples at their booth. All other booths for the expo are \$50 for Chamber members and \$100 for non-members. All those interested in participating in this unique event should call (704) 487-8521. —*From the Small Business Council*

National Small Business Week 2005—April 25-29

In recognition of the small-business community's contribution to the American economy and society, the president designates one week each year as National Small Business Week. Leading up to that week, the U. S. Small Business Administration, in co-sponsorship with public and private sector small business supporters, will host special events to honor and present awards to the nation's entrepreneurs and small-business champions at the SBA district, state, and national levels.

A Few North Carolina Small Business Facts

(Source: 2004 Small Business Administration Profile for North Carolina)

There are approximately 650,900 small business in North Carolina.

Women-owned businesses generate \$24.2 billion in revenues and employ 221,973 workers.

Small firms typically use commercial bank lenders and rely on local bank services.

Texsource Scheduled To Receive "Small Business of the Month" Designation April 7

The Small Business Council of the Cleveland County Chamber is pleased to announce the next recipient of the recognition program for small businesses in Cleveland County. Texsource, Inc. will receive the Chamber's April 2005 "Small Business of the Month" award at a recognition ceremony on Thursday, April 7 at 10 a.m. The ceremony will be held at their business in Kings Mountain on 301 South Battleground Avenue.

Texsource supplies products for the screen printing industry and began its operation in 1997 in Charlotte in a 4,000 ft² building. In less than two years, the business needed additional space and so in 1999, Texsource moved to Kings Mountain in a 5,000 ft² facility. In 2000, owner Robert Bolin bought out a competitor in Virginia and continued to experience strong growth. Texsource, once again, found itself needing additional

warehouse and office space. In 2001, Texsource purchased and moved to their existing location, an 11,000 square-foot building on Battleground Avenue in downtown Kings Mountain. The success story does not stop here – in fact it seems to be just beginning. In 2002, Texsource purchased another competitor in Alabama and started a location in Birmingham and then most recently in 2004, a location in St. Paul, Minnesota opened. There are plans for additional locations in the near future.

Owner Robert Bolin contributes the success of his company to rapid growth and accomplishments. The company experienced continuous growth through the slower economic periods by adapting their business in the changing market to remain profitable. Texsource is very involved in the local community and has offered their support to the following organizations:

YMCA, Police and Fire departments, Womens Club, Revitalization Town project, and the Economic Development efforts as a Cleveland 20/20 partner.

For additional information about Texsource, log on to www.texsourceonline.com or contact President Robert Bolin at (704) 739-9612, toll free at 888-344-4657 or by email, robertb@texsourceonline.com. The Small Business of the Month award is sponsored by the Chamber's Small Business Council and co-sponsored by Carolina Trophies, Shelby Shopper & Info, and The Star. Each month, the winner receives a plaque, provided by Carolina Trophies, and a banner to display at their place of business. 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.

Terry's Tourism Tips for Cleveland County: A Monthly Look at Upcoming Activities

By: Terry Brown, Manager of Travel & Tourism for the Cleveland County Chamber



Terry Brown

Welcome one and all to this monthly column! I hope that I will enlighten you on a number of events and other tidbits that will help promote our beautiful county.

One thing I have quickly learned while serving as Manager of Travel & Tourism for Cleveland County is that from the north to the south and from the east to the west, many fellow citizens have no idea what is going on just below them or above them in Cleveland County. We all need to support each other if we are to be successful in our own region. We need to go to events and bring friends and relatives to our area to enjoy the many activities planned around the county. So, I'm calling on you too, to be a marketing tool for a better and stronger county. I cannot do it without your help. Stop by the Chamber offices, either in uptown Shelby or Kings Mountain and pick up one of our brochures, a Visitor's Guide or Calendar of Events, to better help you know what to attend and promote.

Now, some points of interest:

- There are two new sites you might like to visit and while there enjoy a

healthy lunch, Hallelujah Acres and Harvest Works. They are located in Shelby.

- Feel free to call me should you plan a class reunion or family reunion and want information on what is new and available to see.
- Do you need a speaker for your civic group? Give me a call.
- If you receive "Our State" magazine you will note there was an article and promotion about the Kings Mountain Historical Museum and the "Crosswalk" outdoor drama in Kings Mountain held in March.
- In the recent "Go" magazine for AAA, we shared a co-op ad featuring our new logo for this division and invited visitors to our county. We have already had 40 inquiries about the county because of this ad.
- The Chamber's wonderful new web site has already had over 93,000 inquiries since November.
- The Kings Mountain Historical Museum may soon be awarded a \$22,000 grant for restoration pro-

jects on added structures, including the Barber cabin.

- Don't miss the exhibit "A Stitch in Time: Pre 1960 Needlework and Quilts," at the Kings Mountain Historical Museum. Call 704-739-1019 for details.
- On May 15 at 3 p.m. in B.N. Barnes Auditorium, Kings Mountain, a hand bell concert will be held featuring The Raleigh Ringers, who have performed in 32 states & France.
- An item not listed in the Calendar of Events is the upcoming Belwood Town Festival on May 28, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call 704-538-7982 for details.
- Asheville's Biltmore Estate Festival of Flowers will be held April 2 to May 1.
- Held in Wilmington, the Azalea Festival is scheduled for April 6 through April 10.
- Visitors to North Carolina from Canada are up 15.7 percent.

I look forward to sharing with you next month. Until then enjoy our beautiful corner of the world.

New Community Calendar

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The user then simply fills out the requested information in the form provided and selects "submit." The information is automatically sent to Terry Brown, the Manager of Travel & Tourism. Terry will review the information submitted and either "accept" or "decline" the request. Once accepted, the data will post to the calendar within 48 hours.

Users can request email reminders on specific events, select printable versions of the calendar for a particular month, add events months and even years in advance, access sponsor or web site information on the event, and much more. For more information on the new Community Calendar, contact Terry Brown or Niki Bliss-Carroll at the Cleveland County Chamber at (704) 487-8521. —From the Travel & Tourism Division

March 1, 2005 thru March 30, 2005 Web Site Usage for www.ClevelandChamber.org

Total Number of Referrals during this period: **21,132**

Each member averaged **28.4** referrals during this period.

Each day this period there was an average of **728** referrals from our website business directory.

Top Business Categories This Period: Real Estate, Manufacturing, Restaurants, Health Clubs, Fitness Centers & Gyms, Motels/Hotels, Employment Agencies/Temporary Services, Attractions, Golf & Country Clubs, Banks, Builders & Contractors, Campgrounds, Bed & Breakfast, Amusements, Computer Consulting, Childcare, Tours, Accountants/CPA's, Employment Screening, Real Estate-Commercial

Top Keywords This Period: Employment, Entertainment, Real Estate, Lodging, Dining, Health, Shopping, Golf, Education, Banks

For more information, call (704) 487-8521.

Chamber Events



SBM Ceremony at Carolina Trophies: March 3



Kings Mountain Outdoor Drama Meeting: March 8



Ribbon Cutting at Carolina Country BBQ: March 8



Opportunities for Biotech Forum: March 10



NC Welcome Center Renovation Celebration: March 14



Ribbon Cutting at Pharr Technologies: March 17



Business After Hours at Shelby Motors: March 17



Agency/Non-Profit Sharing Meeting: March 29

Member Renewals-February 2005

Academy of Performing Arts – 10 years
 B & C Catering – 12 years
 BellSouth – 51 years
 Bernhardt Furniture Company – 32 years
 Bridges Barbecue Lodge – 51 years
 Cleveland County Veterinary Medicine – 23 years
 J. B. Ellis Locksmith – 20 years
 Maxwell B. Hamrick Insurance Agency, Inc. – 16 years
 Hunt's Auto Sales, Inc. – 20 years
 ICI Deluxe Paints – 50 years
 Dr. Kendalyn Lutz-Craver & Dr. Bill Henshaw – 39 years

Maco, Inc. – 18 years
 Digital Results – 3 years
 B. F. Maner Agency, Inc. – 11 years
 Nu-Way Laundry & Cleaners – 7 years
 Radio Station WOHS (KTC Broadcasting) – 51 years
 RBC Centura Bank – 51 years
 Shelby Pools – 5 years
 Sherer, Inc. – 51 years
 Southco Industries, Inc. – 51 years
 Two Doors Down – 4 years
 Williams Electric Company of Shelby – 32 years

New Members . . .

AFFORDABLE PAINTERS

Mr. Michael D. Harden
 117 Westfield Road
 Shelby, NC 28150
 Phone: 704/484-3355
 Fax: 704/259-9906
 PAINTING CONTRACTOR

ALL AMERICAN MORTGAGE GROUP, LLC

Mr. Bob Webb
 1 East Marion St.
 Shelby, NC 28150
 Phone: 704/482-2588
 Fax: 704/487-8665
 e-mail: bob@allamtg.com
 MORTGAGE LENDING

ASHLEY'S

Ms. Linda Allen
 212 S. Railroad Ave.
 P.O. Box 1576
 Kings Mountain, NC 28086
 Phone: 704/734-0044
 Fax (same as telephone number)
 ANTIQUES

DR. MICHAEL E. BRAME

(Cleveland Urologic Surgery, P.A.)
 1001 N. Washington St.
 Shelby, NC 28150
 Phone: 704/482-2011
 Fax: 704/484-0303
 PHYSICIAN

CAROLINA COUNTRY BARBECUE & DINER

Mr. Trent Testa
 400 Dixon School Road
 P.O. Box 846
 Kings Mountain, NC 28086
 Phone: 704/730-1882
 Fax: 704/739-0732
 RESTAURANT / CATERING

CAROLINA LAWN SERVICE

Mr. Hasker Stevenson
 211 Mt. Sinai Church Road
 Shelby, NC 28152
 Phone: 704/482-7821
 e-mail: carolinalawn@hotmail.com
 LANDSCAPING, LAWNCARE

EDGERTON CHIROPRACTIC

Dr. Ezra Edgerton
 421 S. Main St. · P.O. Box 1141
 Boiling Springs, NC 28017
 Phone: 704/434-9130 · Fax: 704/434-9142
 e-mail: edgertonchiro@bellsouth.net
 Web: <http://edgertonchiro.chiroweb.com>
 CHIROPRACTOR

HOKE ENTERPRISES

Mr. Ray Hoke
 2550 Blacksburg Road · P.O. Box 290
 Earl, NC 28038
 Phone: 704/482-0003
 Fax: 704/482-0633
 e-mail: hokeconstruction@aol.com
 Web: www.hokeenterprises.com
 BUILDERS/CONTRACTORS

U. S. ARMY (RECRUITING)

Sgt. Michael Zurline
 2001 E. Dixon Blvd., Suite 58
 Shelby, NC. 28152
 Phone: 704/482-5271 · Fax: 704/484-1818
 e-mail: Michael.Zurline@usarec.army.mil
 Web: www.goarmy.com
 RECRUITING – US ARMED FORCES

Members On The Move . . .

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

Triangle R.A.C. (Rent-A-Car) – Alicia Jennings

Thank You Corner . . .

Special thanks to the following member(s) for services in March:

Christ Covenant Church – for providing meeting facility and a catered lunch for the March Chamber Board of Directors meeting.

Ambassador News & Information...

The Ambassador group is putting together a team to walk in the MS Walk event that will be held at Cleveland County Fairgrounds on April 9. Anyone wanting to sponsor an Ambassador please contact Vickie Fitch at the Chamber at (704) 487-8521.

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-Kings Mountain Office

Terry Brown
Manager of Travel & Tourism

Jean Bettis
Office Manager

Shirley Brutko
Administrative Assistant-Kings
Mountain Office

Jean Canipe
Receptionist

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

Business Support · Economic Development · Travel & Tourism

2005 Membership Campaign Kicks Off with Business Expo

The 2005 Membership Campaign will kick-off on April 27 in conjunction with the Business Expo at Cleveland Community College.

The campaign will run from May 1, 2005 through May 31, 2005 with the theme "Building Powerful Partnerships." Any non-Chamber member who has a booth at the Business Expo can join the Chamber on April 27 and \$50 of their booth fee will be credited to their first year Chamber dues.

Members who would be willing to offer discounts, door prizes, or other promotions to campaign volunteers and/or new members should contact Vickie Fitch at (704) 487-8521. We will bring you more information on this exciting annual event in the next edition of the Chamber newsletter. — *From the Membership Services Division*

"Muskets, Music, & Merriment" Planned for October 2005



The Travel Council of the Cleveland County Chamber is announcing a special branding initiative to tie together several special events currently planned in October. According to Travel & Tourism Manager Terry Brown, there are several exciting activities planned throughout the month of October, including the 225th Battle of Kings Mountain celebration, the annual Gateway Antiques Festival in Kings Mountain, the Cleveland County Arts Council's "Art of Sound" and the Foothills Quilters Guild art display, and the Broad River Greenway's Revolutionary Ghost Walk. For more information of these and other activities in Cleveland County in October, call Terry Brown at (704) 487-8521. — *From the Travel & Tourism Division*

Ambassador Profile Heather Mauney



H. Mauney

Chamber Ambassador Heather Mauney epitomizes the volunteer term "behind the scenes." Although she may not be visible at every event, Heather typically assists in organization, set-up, or clean-up of almost every Chamber activity. She was recognized as the Chamber's 2004 Paul Limerick Volunteer of the Year at the annual banquet in January.

Heather is married to Matt Mauney and has beautiful 4-year-old twin daughters, Sara and Rebecca.

Cleveland County Lean Council will meet April 14 at 8 a.m. at Eaton Corporation to take a closer look at the lean manufacturing practices that earned Eaton the first-ever NC Shingo Prize for Excellence in Manufacturing. Administered by the Industrial Extension Service of North Carolina State University, the Shingo Prize recognizes manufacturers who are successful at implementing lean strategies. Eaton's touted lean manufacturing accomplishments include a decrease in defects by 70% since 2001, an increase in on-time delivery to 99.9% in 2003, and a 48% reduction in cost of non-conformance since 2001. For more information on the meeting, call Misti Humphries at (704) 487-8521.

April 2005 Chamber Calendar of Events

Click on the online "Calendar of Events" located at www.ClevelandChamber.org for event info & updates!

- Apr. 01 Ribbon Cutting: Wal-Mart SuperCenter (renovation); 8 a.m.
- Apr. 01 Ribbon Cutting: Pro-Fitness (new equipment); 10 a.m.
- Apr. 05 Boiling Springs "State of the Community" Breakfast at Spangler Stadium (GWU); 7:30 a.m.
- Apr. 07 Small Business of the Month Recognition: Texsource in Kings Mountain; 10 a.m.
- Apr. 14 Cleveland County Lean Council (CCLC) meeting at Eaton Corporation; 8 a.m.
- Apr. 19 Ribbon Cutting: Curves in Boiling Springs; 4 p.m.
- Apr. 21 Business After Hours: Fidelity Bank (S. Lafayette Street in Shelby); 5:30 p.m.—7 p.m.; Beverage Sponsor: Fox Distributing Company, Inc.
- Apr. 25 National Small Business Week Recognition Begins
- Apr. 27 Business Expo at Cleveland Community College; 12 p.m.—7 p.m.; \$50 members; \$100 non-members (Call 704-487-8521 for more information.)