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Jim Toole

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# InterAction

The Official Publication of the Cleveland County Chamber

May 2005

## *A Closer Look at Economic Development in Cleveland County*

By: Chamber President Stuart Gilbert, CEcD



S. Gilbert

Has there been much public input in economic development these past two years? I would have to say that you could take a wheelbarrow full of reports that have been done over the last three years on how to do economic development. Over a couple of hundred citizens gave their time and ideas on how to improve our job and investment opportunities in Cleveland County. However, without adequate funding, all these ideas will stay on the book shelf. Take a look at the public input on economic development these past two years:

- Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) \$270,000 report provided by Sue Myrick;
- Follow up Focus Cleveland Reports and the follow up Chamber Falling Planning Conference in 2003 (See [www.focuscleveland.com](http://www.focuscleveland.com));
- Chamber Economic Development Feasibility Study –February 2004;
- UNC-Chapel Hill Positive Impact Study Reports ([www.clevelandchamber.org](http://www.clevelandchamber.org) look under publications);
- UNC-Chapel Hill Negative Impact Study Reports ([www.clevelandchamber.org](http://www.clevelandchamber.org) look under publications);
- Cleveland 20/20 Economic Development Partnership Report- ([www.clevelandchamber.org](http://www.clevelandchamber.org) look under 20/20 section);
- City of Shelby 125-page Electri-Cities Economic Development Report-2005;
- City of Shelby Strategic Planning Report for 2003-2004;
- Cleveland County Comprehensive Plan (2004-2005 by Centralina Council of Governments)-approved April 2005 by Cleveland County Government;
- City of Kings Mountain Comprehensive Plan (Draft);
- Cleveland 20/20 Economic Development Restructuring Presentations and PowerPoint Presentation of February 24, 2005;
- Isothermal Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) 2005.

I have seen reports come and go over the years. Unless there is a passion and a specific effort to make something happen, these reports simply get dusty. Cleveland 20/20 is a result of our community saying, enough of all these reports, let's get involved and let's implement a plan of action that has already been documented that we can do if we can simply work together and do what is the best interest of our community. The

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## *Kings Mountain "State of the Community" Breakfast Set for May 20*

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

The final in a series of three "State of the Community" breakfasts is scheduled for Friday, May 20 from 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. at the Patrick Senior Center in Kings Mountain. Kings Mountain Mayor Rick Murphrey, Cleveland County

School Board Chairman Dr. George Litton and County Commission Chairman Ronnie Hawkins will focus on issues facing Kings Mountain and Cleveland County, and will discuss the challenges and successes facing their respective areas of local government. This informative program is open to all members of the community. A continental breakfast will be



2004 Kings Mountain "State of the Community" Breakfast

served at a cost of \$10 for Chamber members and \$15 for non-members. The deadline for reservations is Thursday, May 19.

Similar "State of the Community" breakfasts were held last month in Shelby and Boiling Springs. 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 After Hours*

*May 19, 2005  
5:30 to 7 p.m.*



**Hallelujah Acres**  
900 S. Post Road  
Shelby, NC

## *April 2005 Web Site Report*

*www.ClevelandChamber.org*

### **Referral Summary This Period**

The total number of referrals from the website business directory was 16,053. Each member averaged 21.49 referrals from the web site this period. Each day this period there was an average of 535 referrals from the directory.

### **Top Business Categories This Period**

This is a summary of the categories referred most often from the website: Real Estate, Attractions, Employment Agencies/Temporary Services, Motels/Hotels, Restaurants, Amusements, Entertainment, Accountants & CPAs, Manufacturing, Health Clubs/Fitness Centers & Gyms, Builders-Contractors, Campgrounds/Gold & Gem Mining, Child Care, Employment Screening, Golf, Tours

### **Most Popular Events This Period**

How To Become a More Effective Salesperson, Kings Mountain "State of the Community" Breakfast, Business After Hours at Fidelity Bank, Shelby "State of the Community" Breakfast, 2005 Business Expo at Cleveland Community College, Wal-Mart SuperCenter Re-Grand Opening, Ribbon Cutting at Allstate Insurance-Brad Gilbert Agency, Pro-Fitness Ribbon Cutting & Celebration, Business After Hours at Hallelujah Acres, Shelby Savings Bank Centennial Celebration

## ***Jerry's Mini Mart Scheduled To Receive "Small Business of the Month" Designation***

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. Jerry's Minimart and Deep Fried Peanuts will receive the Chamber's May 2005 "Small Business of the Month" award at a recognition ceremony on Thursday, May 5 at 10 a.m. The ceremony will be held at their business in Polkville on 4400 Polkville Road.

Owner Jerry Silver opened Jerry's Minimart in 1981 as a convenience store to service this end of the county. In 1985, he expanded the business and opened a grill which has continued to expand over the years and now serves three meals a day. The grill offers a lunch buffet, nightly dinner specials, and as Jerry states, "any sandwich imaginable." The grill has been a nice addition to the convenience store and serves as a popular respite for those who are working or traveling in this part of Cleveland County. In January 2004, Jerry once again saw an opportunity to increase and expand his business with Jerry's Deep Fried Peanuts, made right here in Cleveland County and distributed in parts of seven states.

As owner and operator of his business for 24 years, Jerry feels very blessed and fortunate to be able to offer a great place to stop for things people may need along their way. He is also

proud to support the local economy by providing full time employment for eleven people. He credits the success of his business to providing a necessary commodity to the community.

"Just as every community needs a post office, bank, and church, they need a good convenient store and restaurant and we provide this," says Jerry Silver.

Jerry's Minimart and Deep Fried Peanuts believes in supporting the community and offers assistance to many local organizations including the Polkville Volunteer Fire Department, Polkville Baptist Church, Boy Scouts, and Youth League Sports. For additional information about Jerry's Minimart or Jerry's Deep Fried Peanuts, contact President Jerry Silver at (704) 538-0996 or by email, [jerrysminimart@shelby.net](mailto:jerrysminimart@shelby.net).

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.*

## *A Closer Look at Economic Development in Cleveland County—continued from page 1*

amazing thing is that it doesn't matter which reports you look at they all say the same thing! Either we pull ourselves up and create a stronger business climate or all our businesses, government and ultimately our citizens will end up losing jobs, and local taxes will go up to simply maintain the current government services.

The latest report done by the Cleveland County Chamber was a Crime Survey for the City of Shelby released in April of 2005. This report is not necessarily an economic development report, however our board of directors determined at the 2004 Fall Planning Conference hosted by now Cleveland County Chamber Chairman, Mark Carter that this issue was an important issue for our community to understand and to look at ways to become a safer, less crime committed community.

All these reports build up to the latest report completed entitled Building a Twenty-First Century Economic Development Organization in Cleveland County, North Carolina, by Dr. David Kolzow, Nation wide economic development consultant hired by Cleveland County Chamber Board of Directors, May 2005. The information that leads up to this important, action oriented suggested organizational game plan for Cleveland County will be explained as the Cleveland 20/20 economic development program is better explained.

### **What is the good news that has happened in Cleveland County in the last two years?**

How about industrial absorption of over 1,400,000 square feet in 2004 alone? Instead of our county having the greatest amount of unoccupied industrial space in the Charlotte Region in 2003, we now stand with about eight percent vacant industrial space (which is among the lowest in the Charlotte Region according to a study done by KIRCO Corporation of Charlotte—see page four). In addition, we have more than one investor that has plans for adding thousands of additional square feet of additional speculative new business spaces in Cleveland County. Yes, we have much more we need to do as we have close to over 1.5 million square feet of vacant mill space that needs to be analyzed and occupied in the future. Plans are in motion to get these spaces occupied.

### **What about Cleveland County attracting over \$77 million new business investment and over 650 new direct jobs with the support of our economic development partnership in less than two years?**

Take a look at our Cleveland County

Chamber web page that shows that our county has had over 113 million new investment announced along with total new jobs of 1000 in the last two years.

### **What is this new Cleveland 20/20 economic development partnership?**

It is a partnership now of both our public bodies and our private sector businesses designed to focus more results in Cleveland County in five areas: 1) New Business Recruitment; 2) Retention and Expansion of Existing Businesses; 3) Small Business and Entrepreneur Development; 4) Workforce Development; and 5) Investor Relations.

One of the biggest continuing criticisms that we have received is the lack of communications with all our economic development partners. A unifying effort of this size has never ever been previously done in our County and we are among the leaders of this type of county-wide partnership efforts in the Charlotte Region. In April of this year, we received a check for Cleveland 20/20 and resolution of support from the Town of Earl showing a grassroots effort designed to bring economic development unity throughout the county. Most of the small communities finally feel like someone is attempting to work to help them as we have already met this year will all but two of our 15 communities. Economic development should be done in every community in the way that each community wants it done. For some communities in Upper Cleveland, perhaps tourism development is what they want. With the input of these communities we can work together to grow our entire county. When this happens, the larger communities automatically will see positive economic benefits.

Thanks to our current 80-plus private sector leaders who have already committed \$225,000 a year for five years to fund the economic development vision and make it a reality.

### **What does this private sector funding mean for Cleveland County?**

It means that the private sector is now paying more for the economic development budget than is received by Cleveland County Government, City of Kings Mountain, Town of Boiling Springs and Cleveland County Sanitary District 2004 cumulative totals! There is a strong positive correlation between economic development budget size and economic development success.

Please take a look on our web page and see the private sector investors that have *already* signed on to support economic development. Instead of asking the public sector to fund all the costs of

having a more successful economic development program which would require elected officials to raise taxes; Cleveland 20/20 will allow economic development to move forward with a more aggressive program. The additional advantage is that this will be the first time ever that the private sector businesses will have worked hand in hand with Cleveland County's public sector to create a stronger, more vibrant business economy that will create more jobs and investments.

As we move forward in our county and rattle the cages to move forward in economic development, *changes* will be required to make room for a lot more input. We simply need to add more seats for everyone to be involved at the same table. The discussions that have been going on around town shown that *action* is going to happen.

On February 24, 2005 Dr. Dave Kolzow, one of the best economic development organizational consultants in the country, shared the results of his one-on-one meetings with our elected officials in Cleveland County. Based on the input of our public leaders, Kolzow presented at this public meeting his findings including ideas for incorporating improvements to our economic development council. All the mayors in Cleveland County, all the elected officials of Cleveland County Government, City of Shelby, City of Kings Mountain, Town of Boiling Springs, and Cleveland County Sanitary District, all 80 private sector leaders and the Economic Development Council were all invited along with the media and the public. Working together requires making some changes in ED structure to accommodate increased financial and human resources allocated for Cleveland County ED.

### **What input do you want to give in the economic development process?**

Probably one of the most important things to remember in economic development is that economic development is about creating a business-friendly climate that will help more businesses to grow and prosper. Economic development is not the same as community development, although both are important. So have you committed yet to Cleveland 20/20? Soon, we will unveil our foundation support that will allow local citizens to contribute to our economic development efforts and receive a charitable contribution. If we are not moving forward, we are moving backwards. We look forward to your continued support to make even greater strides in our local economy in 2005!

### Chamber Events



Ribbon Cutting for renovations at Wal-Mart SuperCenter (704 East Dixon Boulevard) on April 1.



Ribbon Cutting for new equipment & services at Pro-Fitness of Shelby (1243-B East Dixon Boulevard) on April 1.



Small Business of the Month Recognition Ceremony at Texsource, Inc. (301 South Battleground Avenue) on April 7.



Boiling Springs "State of the Community" breakfast on April 5 at the Gardner-Webb University Football Center.



Cleveland County Lean Council (CCLC) meeting at Eaton Corporation on April 14.



Ribbon Cutting at Curves of Boiling Springs (421 South Main Street) on April 18.

### Chamber Events



Business After Hours at Fidelity Bank  
(331 South Lafayette Street) on April 21.



Open House at Southeastern Container, Inc.  
(Kings Mountain Corporate Center) on April 22.



Groundbreaking for Americ-Inn of Boiling Springs  
(428 East College Avenue) on April 26.



Shelby "State of the Community" Breakfast at Cleveland Country Club



2005 Business Expo at Cleveland Community College  
(137 South Post Road) on April 27.



Ribbon Cutting at Allstate Insurance-Brad Gilbert Agency  
(407 East Marion Street) on April 29.

## 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



Greetings to one and all, and I hope you were able to go out this past month and attend an event away from your backyard. There is so much going on in and around our county,

and this is the perfect time of year to appreciate the treasures we have near and far away. I want to encourage you to visit our site, [www.ClevelandChamber.org](http://www.ClevelandChamber.org), and be sure to view our new area under the Chamber Events Calendar—the Travel & Tourism Community Calendar.

This new area of the web site features county-wide community events for the coming months (and even years). We encourage you to view the calendar and submit events for approval to assist you with promoting your event.

Please mark your calendar for May 13. This is the date we will be celebrating National Tourism week at the I-85 south Welcome Center, near Kings Mountain. Come say hello to our exhibitors from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Most recently, six event planners from our county attended the recent Governor's Conference in Asheville, and gathered information on how better to promote our region. The report given on tourism is, it's a \$13.2 billion industry in our state, and employs over 183,000 people statewide. We are the sixth-most visited state, and 12<sup>th</sup>-most visited in heritage tourism. Be proud of all we have!

Our new Calendar of Events will soon be published for the months of June, July,

August, and September. The publication will be available at the Chamber the first week of June. Be sure to stop by and pick one up.

Now, some points of interest:

- Our division is introducing a month of activities this October called "Muskets, Music, & Merriment." The first featured event is the 225th anniversary of the Battle of Kings Mountain, which will be held October 7. That same weekend will feature the Foothills Quilters at the Cleveland County Arts Center, with over 90 quilters participating. On October 15, Kings Mountain will host the Gateway Festival, a day-long event featuring vendors, antiques, music, food & more. On October 21, the Broad River Greenway will host a Revolutionary Ghost Walk with militia. October 22 will bring the "Art of Sound" event to uptown Shelby as part of the Art's Council's annual tribute to music. Live performances Jazz, Swing, Latin, Christian, Irish, Blues, and more are scheduled in many venues. Be sure not to miss any of these exciting activities in October.
- A new event will be brought to the community by the Uptown Shelby Association this spring. "Movies a la Mode" is a free event under the stars, featuring family friendly movies. Call 704-484-3100 for details.
- Don't miss the 11th annual "Alive After Five" Concert Series kickoff on May 5, featuring "The Fantastic Shakers." Call

704-484-3100.

- On May 5, the Arts Council in uptown Shelby is featuring "Art Around Town," with a local gallery crawl as the focus. Call 704-484-2787 for details.
- The Neal Senior Center is hosting the "Golden Nineties" celebrating adults 90 and above, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on May 13. Call 704-482-3488 for details.
- Don't forget to stop in at Live at Leatherwood's Opry every Saturday night from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. On May 14, the Burgess family ("Right Track") will be featured in this "living room" that seats 185, in a smoke-free, alcohol-free environment.
- Drop by the Kings Mountain Historical museum and see their great display "Early Building and Farming Equipment."
- There is always something interesting going on at our surrounding parks. On May 28-29, "Military Through the Ages" is the feature at the Kings Mountain National Military Park, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Call 864-936-7921 for details.
- Did you know that 40% of restaurant owners were waiters once?
- Agriculture in North Carolina produced \$66.6 billion in 2004.
- The North Carolina web site, [www.visitnc.com](http://www.visitnc.com) has had 55 million visits in three years, between 104-420 thousand monthly visits, averaging seven minutes per visit.

## Cleveland County Leads Region in Industrial Absorption from 2003 to 2004

If a "Most Improved Player" award could be given to a county in the Charlotte Region for industrial recruitment, then Cleveland County would almost certainly be this year's recipient. According to a study of the industrial market in the Charlotte Region, Cleveland County had the highest rate of improvement in absorption of industrial inventory. In layman's terms, that means that Cleveland filled up more than 45% of the available industrial space from 2003 to 2004. No other county in the region comes close to that kind of improvement.

The report, completed by KIRCO of Charlotte, examines the vacancy and absorption rates and analyzes available industrial inventory from 2003 to 2004. Counties included in the report are: Burke, Caldwell, Cabarrus, Catawba, Cherokee, Chester, Chesterfield, Cleveland, Davidson, Gaston, Iredell, Lancaster, Lincoln, Rowan, Rutherford, Stanly, Union, and York.

In 2003, the report states that Cleveland County had a vacancy rate of 17.95%. That percentage shrunk to 8.13% in 2004. Available industrial inventory in 2003 was over 2.8 million square feet. By 2004, the available inventory was down to less



than 1.3 million square feet. In addition, the county had absorption of 95,300 square feet in 2003 but more than 1.45 million square feet was absorbed in 2004.

As a whole, the vacancy rate of industrial space in the Charlotte Region increased slightly. In 2003, the region had a vacancy of 8.7% and in 2004 the rate increased to 10.13%.

The region still absorbed more space, which indicates an improvement in attracting industrial clients to the area. In 2003, the absorption rate for the region stood at 8.36 million square feet while it increased to 9.08 million square feet in 2004.

KIRCO is based in Troy, Michigan with a regional office in Charlotte. The company specializes in a variety of real estate services, and has planned and developed in excess of 11 million square feet of high-demand properties of enduring economic value for investors and corporate clients. KIRCO is a major developer of build-to-suit for sale or lease office, high tech and industrial buildings, retail centers, residential communities, and various institutional facilities. For more on the KIRCO report, contact Scott Darnell at (704) 487-8521.

## Member Renewals-March 2005

Alexander/Pace, Inc. – 11 years  
 Carolina Energies, Inc. – 51 years  
 Cleveland County Business & Development Center – 13 years  
 Cleveland County Schools – 41 years  
 Cummings Furniture Company – 21 years  
 DeVane Marketing, Inc. – 5 years  
 Education Station – 11 years  
 Life Enrichment Center – 19 years

Mayflower Vehicle Systems – 18 years  
 Optimist Club of Shelby – 51 years  
 Realty Executives Integrity, Inc. – 3 years  
 Rogers, R. H., Jr. – 2 years (as retired member)  
 Smurfit-Stone Container Enterprises, Inc. – 39 years  
 The Printin' Press, Inc. – 7 years  
 Trusted Touch Automotive, Inc. – 21 years  
 Wal-Mart Supercenter – 19 years

## New Members . . .

### INDUSTRIAL DISTRIBUTION GROUP

Mr. Todd Pruett  
 2100 The Oaks Parkway  
 P.O. Box 1127  
 Belmont, NC 28012  
 Telephone: 704/398-5600  
 Fax: 704/398-5645  
 e-mail: [todd.a.pruett@idg-corp.com](mailto:todd.a.pruett@idg-corp.com)  
 INDUSTRIAL & MAINTENANCE SUPPLIES

### KUHL CONCRETE SPECIALTY, LLC

Ms. Rita Kuhl  
 2242 Hoey Church Road  
 Shelby, NC 28152  
 Telephone: 704/692-0557  
 Fax: 704/487-5832  
 e-mail: [kuhl\\_concrete@yahoo.com](mailto:kuhl_concrete@yahoo.com)  
 CONCRETE / CONSTRUCTION

### CURVES FOR WOMEN

Ms. Beth Monteith  
 110-3 West King St.  
 Kings Mountain, NC 28086  
 Telephone: 704/730-0008  
 Fax: 704/730-0012  
 e-mail: [kmcurves@yahoo.com](mailto:kmcurves@yahoo.com)  
 FITNESS, WOMEN'S

### CURVES OF BOILING SPRINGS

Pate Abrahami  
 421 S. Main St.  
 P.O. Box 1141  
 Boiling Springs, NC 28017  
 Telephone: 704/434-2882  
 Fax: 704/434-2882  
 e-mail: [pateabrahami@hotmail.com](mailto:pateabrahami@hotmail.com)  
 Webpage: [www.curvesinternational.com](http://www.curvesinternational.com)  
 FITNESS, WOMEN'S

## Members On The Move . . .

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

**Verizon Wireless** – Kimberly Dyer.  
**Jackson's Cafeteria of Shelby** – Bo Jackson.  
**Copeland Corporation** – Steve Miles.  
**Harris Teeter** (Kings Mountain) – Michael Meehan.

### Name Changes:

Carolina Trophies has changed its name to **CAROLINA TROPHIES & SCREEN PRINTING**. The company's address is 709 Eastview St., Shelby, NC 28150 and telephone number is 704/482-2392.

Odom & Associates has changed its name to **ODOM, HOLLI-FIELD & ASSOCIATES**. The company's address is 152 E. Main St., Forest City, NC 28043-3101, and telephone number is 828/247-4495.

### Mailing address change:

Jackson's Cafeteria will use their Shelby location (720 Hamrick St., Shelby, NC 28150) as their mailing address for local (Cleveland County) correspondence. (Their main office is located in Gastonia.)

## Thank You Corner . . .

The Chamber would like to thank the following members:

- Gregg Johnson (**Adventures in Advertising**) – provided lunch (from **North Lake Country Club**) for April meeting of Chamber Board of Directors on April 19, 2005.
- Host for April Business After Hours – Fidelity Bank
- Beverage Sponsor for April Business After Hours – Fox Distributing Company, Inc.
- Corky Fulton (**Sagesport**), provided meeting site for Kings Mountain Advisory Council meeting on April 11.
- Larry Hamrick, Jr. (**Warlick & Hamrick**) – provided lunch (from **Subway**) for Kings Mountain Advisory Council meeting on April 11.

## CLEVELAND COUNTY CHAMBER

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Shelby, NC 28150

600 York Road  
Kings Mountain, NC 28086

Phone: 704-487-8521  
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E-mail:  
info@clevelandchamber.org

We're on the Web!  
[www.ClevelandChamber.org](http://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

### Ambassador Profile *Millie Sims*



*Millie Sims*

Millie is employed as Director of Development at Helps 1 to 1, a non-profit agency that provides services for individuals with special needs. She has worked at the agency for two years, and has more than 20 years of experience in the mental health field.

In her position at Helps 1 to 1, she writes grants, organizes special events, and serves as the community spokesperson for the organization. She began serving as a Chamber Ambassador in January of 2005.

Millie enjoys cooking, listening to jazz, and collecting African-American art. She does not have children, but is a proud great-aunt of five nephews, one niece, and has a new niece or nephew due in September.

### *Annual Legislative Trip to Raleigh Scheduled for June 8*

Join the Chamber for the 2005 Legislative Visit to Raleigh, scheduled for Wednesday, June 8. The Governmental Affairs Division invites you to participate in its one-day excursion to the capital city.

The tentative agenda includes departing Cleveland County at 6:30 a.m. in van pools, lunch in The Cardinal Room at noon, and visits, briefings and special presentations during the afternoon. Invitations for meetings have been issued to top ranking state officials. In recent years, the attendees have enjoyed planned meetings with the governor, House speakers, Senate president, Commerce and Transportation secretaries, and many other key officials at the state.

Local legislative delegation members, including

Representatives Debbie Clary, Tim Moore, Dr. Bob England and Senator Walter Dalton, have been asked to give trip participants a legislative briefing upon arrival and have been invited to a reception and/or dinner in their honor at 5 p.m. to conclude the day's activities. **Duke Power** and **BellSouth** will sponsor the event.

Departure from Raleigh is expected around 7 p.m., with return to Cleveland County at approximately 10:30 p.m. The cost for participants will be based on fuel and parking expense, lunch and other necessities. Call the Chamber as soon as possible to make your reservation for the June 8 trip. —*From the Governmental Affairs Division*

### *May 2005 Chamber Calendar of Events*

Click on the online "Calendar of Events" located at [www.ClevelandChamber.org](http://www.ClevelandChamber.org) for event info & updates!

- May 11 Ribbon Cutting: Hamilton Heights Subdivision, 102 Blue Sky Circle in Boiling Springs (near Springmore Elementary School); 11:15 a.m.
- May 19 Business After Hours: Hallelujah Acres, 900 South Post Road, Shelby; 5:30 p.m.—7 p.m.
- May 20 Kings Mountain "State of the Community" breakfast at Patrick Senior Center, 909 E. King Street, Kings Mountain; 7:30 a.m., Cost \$10 members, \$15 non-members
- May 20 Centennial Celebration at Shelby Savings Bank, 224 E. Warren Street, Shelby; 11:15 a.m.
- May 25 Lunch-n-Learn at Neal Senior Center: How to Become a More Effective Salesperson; 12 p.m., Cost \$10
- May 30 Memorial Day Holiday: Chamber Offices Closed