

**2005 Chamber  
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Bill Plowden

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Tim Mathis  
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Scott Neisler  
Brownie Plaster  
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Dr. Steve Thornburg  
Jim Toole

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# InterAction

The Official Publication of the Cleveland County Chamber September 2005

## *It's Not Too Late! Space Still Available at Fall Planning Conference*

Destination – Charleston! The Fall Planning Conference registration deadline has been extended to Thursday, September 8. Space is limited, but there is still space available on a first-come, first-served basis. This year's conference is scheduled for September 15-17 at the Charleston Riverview Hotel near historic downtown Charleston.

We are pleased to announce this year's conference will feature three phenomenal guest speakers.

Motivational humorist Al Walker will provide the Thursday evening entertainment. On Friday, Ron Morgan of Urban Ventures will discuss the concept of civic intelligence and how a community can move together through the intersections of change. Saturday will feature a leadership-inspired discussion by Ron Carroll of Kelsan, Inc. followed by the crucial group breakout sessions in which participants plan for the coming year. Chamber



*Carriage Tour in Historic Charleston*

officials are encouraging one and all to make an effort to attend this conference which is sure to be unforgettable.

The conference begins Thursday evening, September 15, with a cash bar/dinner and will culminate at noon on Saturday, September 17. The Charleston Riverview Hotel is conveniently located one mile from the heart of historic Charleston, and is just a short drive to many shops, galleries, restaurants, and beaches.

We hope you will be able to join us in planning for the future of the Chamber and Cleveland County. The cost for conference participants is \$149 a person. Hotel accommodations are just \$85 a night at the Charleston Riverview, and rooms are still available at that rate. For more information or to register call the Chamber at 704-487-8521. — *From the Membership Services Division of the Cleveland County Chamber*

## *Cleveland, Gaston, & Lincoln Chambers To Participate in Washington Trip*

Representatives of the Cleveland County Chamber along with members of the Gaston and Lincoln Chambers will gather for a trip to the nation's capitol on September 20 and 21.

U.S. Representatives Patrick McHenry and Sue Myrick will serve as hosts of this annual event. Helping to organize plans for the event is Governmental Affairs Division Chairman Dave Hart of Duke Power, a sponsor of the trip.

Senators Richard Burr and Elizabeth Dole have been invited to participate in the event and provide information to the visit-



*Washington D.C. Capitol Building*

ing delegation. U.S. House leaders and chairpersons of various key congressional committees are hoping to join the group as well.

Discussion of North Carolina's economy will be one of the

main topics while in Washington. Representatives of the tri-county delegation hope to encourage legislation to provide assistance and help improve the job market for citizens in our region.

Sponsors of the trip are Bell-South and Duke Power. The cost is \$550 and includes airfare and hotel accommodations. For more information, contact Stuart Gilbert at (704) 487-8521. — *From the Governmental Affairs Division of the Cleveland County Chamber*

*Due to the Fall Planning Conference, there will be no Business After Hours event in September.*

## *Small Business of the Month Recognition Ceremony at American Safety*

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. American Safety Utility Corporation received the Chamber's September "Small Business of the Month" award at a recognition ceremony on Thursday, September 1 at 11 a.m. The ceremony and open house was held at their business, located on 529 Caleb Road, in Shelby. Immediately following the ceremony, American Safety invited everyone to stay for refreshments and to take a tour of the business and the International Lineman's Museum.

American Safety opened for business in 1982 with two employees, owner Buddy Price and one other person, in a 3000 square-foot building in Forest City, NC. In 1992, Buddy Price relocated his business to the current 30,000 square-foot facility in Shelby and today, the company has 35 full-time employees. What began as a simple concept to sell safety products to consumers has developed into a global-market-selling-machine known as "American Safety." American Safety Utility Corporation has the tools and safety equipment to prepare you for any season or situation. Whether you need a gas or hydraulic tool, a Streamlight Litebox, a Nasco Rain Suit, a Greenlee Tester, a Pair of West Coast Boots, or even a Reel Trailer, American Safety has it. Constantly striving to bring the best quality in safety wear, American Safety is one of the most recognized names in the working man's vocabulary, offering reliable, dependable gear at a reasonable price. Some of their largest customers are BellSouth, AEP – American Electric Power, Duke Power, Progress Energy, and Electricities.

President Buddy Price states, "We currently have sales in all 50 states and ship product into 26 different countries. We are known across the US by the utility companies as an aggressive

and ethical company." As a small business, American Safety has made many changes over the years. Changes have been made to remain competitive and to keep the employee's jobs, which is extremely important to Price and the rest of his management team. The company recently unveiled a new catalog and Price claims this new marketing piece as well as the dedication of the workforce has helped to increase sales this year.

American Safety travels all over the country for trade shows, seminars, and other lineman events. The business is actively involved in the community, contributing each year to Relay for Life, Cleveland Rutherford Kidney Association, and others. Another example of their commitment to the community and to the linemen is The International Lineman's Museum, located onsite. The museum contains utility/lineman artifacts, pictures, poetry, and many personal items that have been donated by family members of deceased linemen. The museum is a wonderful history lesson in the progression of many modern day conveniences, such as the telephone and electricity.

For more information about American Safety or the International Lineman's Museum, contact President Buddy Price, at 704-482-0601, by email, [bprice@americansafety.com](mailto:bprice@americansafety.com), or browse through the online store, [www.americansafety.com](http://www.americansafety.com). The Small Business of the Month award is co-sponsored by the Chamber's Small Business Council, the Small Business Center at Cleveland Community College, 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 of the Cleveland County Chamber*

## *Candidates Forums Scheduled for September 22, 27 at Cleveland Community College*

The Governmental Affairs Division of the Cleveland County Chamber will coordinate two candidates' forums prior to the area's fall elections in October and November. Candidates for local seats on the Shelby City Council and Kings Mountain City Council as well as the race for Kings Mountain Mayor will be given a chance to participate during the September 22 forum scheduled for 6:30 p.m. at the Cleveland Community College auditorium.

On September 27, the candidates for Cleveland County Sanitary District seats and Cleveland County School Board seats will have an opportunity to present their views beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Cleveland Community College auditorium. The forums will be videotaped for rebroadcast on local cable channel 19. The Chamber's Governmental Affairs Division is encouraging all citizens, particularly business representatives, to make plans to vote.

If you are not sure if you are registered or need information on where your polling site is located, contact the Cleveland County Board of Elections office at (704) 484-4858. — *From the Governmental Affairs Division of the Cleveland County Chamber*

### **Forum Dates**

**Thursday September 22; 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.**

*Shelby City Council · Kings Mountain City Council and Mayor*

**Tuesday, September 27; 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.**

*Cleveland County Sanitary District · Cleveland County School Board*

**Sponsors:** C19TV, Cleveland Community College, Cleveland County Chamber, Cleveland Headline News, *The Star*

### **Format: Part A**

*Candidates will be asked to respond to questions prepared by the Forum Committee. The Questions will not be made available in advance. Each question will have time limits from 30 seconds to two minutes. The order of the questions will be randomly drawn prior to the forum. The order of the candidates will be randomly drawn prior to the forum to allow different candidates to answer a question first.*

### **Format: Part B**

*Each candidate may use up to two minutes to make a closing statement. The order of the candidates responding will be randomly drawn prior to the forum.*

### *Our Mission Statement:*

*The 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 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



T. Brown It is hard to believe that summer is over and fall is fast approaching. Now it's on to football games and Muskets Music & Merriment. If you receive Triple AAA "Go Magazine," be sure to look on page 20 for our ad, telling all about all of the fun coming to Cleveland County during the month of October.

We also encourage you to keep the insert you will find in your September utility bill (Duke Power customers won't have inserts) that will help you stay informed about the many great things going on in October in our county. Next month at this time the Calendar of Events for October 2005 through January 2006 will be available. We encourage you to stop by either Chamber office and pick up a copy of this brochure. You might also like to pick up the new colorful brochure about Kings Mountain.

The Travel Council meets bi-monthly and the next meeting will be this month, September 27 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Shelby City Park Carrousel. This group represents many interests, including: motels, event planners, non-profit groups, artisans, radio, television, retail, government, businesses, consultants and more.

From this group came the dedicated marketing committee for Muskets, Music,

& Merriment and they have been great to work with! Allow me to share their names with you, Violet Arth with Cleveland County Arts Council; Shirley Brutko with Cleveland County Chamber; Kim Duren with Broad River Greenway; Paul Foster with Gardner-Webb University; Glenda Gilmore with NC Division of Tourism, Film & Sports Development; Aron Goss with The Star; Kitty Hoyle with Wellington Hamrick & Hamrick Goode House; Dana Lundquist with First National Bank; Ellis Noel with the City of Kings Mountain; Gary Patel with Econo Lodge; Tina Salzman with Holiday Inn Express/Shelby; Sandy Smith with Nearly Perfect Tours. If you see them, please thank them for their hard work. Now some odds & ends:

- Don't miss the 15th annual Belwood Antique & Tractor Engine show from September 9-11;
- The Shelby & Boiling Springs Corn Maze starts this month, with thousands of visitors enjoying the fun;
- Live at Leatherwood's has one of my favorites, "The Dollar Brothers," coming on September 10;
- The 9th annual Broad River Greenway Rubber Ducky Regatta is September 18 and will provide fun for all ages;

- Stop by the Kings Mountain Historical Museum, featuring "Honor Our Veterans: Uniforms & Memorabilia" starting September 20;
- Neal Senior Center will feature fun and dancing on September 22-23 for adults 55 and above;
- Cleveland Mall will be hosting a craft show, including jewelry, fudge, afghans and more from September 23-25;
- Heavenly Echo Gospel Music Park with feature "The Burchette Family" on September 30 beginning at 5 p.m.;
- The 81<sup>st</sup> Annual Cleveland County Fair opens September 29 and continues through October 8;
- Did you know that in the last decade 50 new campgrounds were added to the total of 350 established campgrounds in North Carolina?
- Tweetsie Railroad will be staying in its present location for at least another year, through the end of the 2007 season; and
- Over 66% of pet owners bring their pets along when traveling.

Since the gas prices keep escalating, I hope that will encourage you to stay local and visit various activities and events happening in Cleveland County!

## Muskets, Music, & Merriment Promotes Many Upcoming Events Planned in October

The Travel Council of the Cleveland County Chamber is busy promoting the special branding initiative to tie together several special events currently planned this fall. "Muskets, Music, & Merriment" is the marketing slogan that officials say will tie together all of the county's many activities scheduled for October.

According to Travel & Tourism Manager Terry Brown, there are several exciting events 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. Specific dates and details of the events are listed below.

**October 7-9:** 225th Celebration of the historic Battle of Kings Mountain at Kings Mountain National Military Park. The official 225<sup>th</sup> celebration of the Battle of Kings Mountain ceremony at 3 p.m. on October 7, followed by the grand re-opening of the exhibit area. October 8-9 will feature re-enactors from across the eastern seaboard doing tactical demonstrations; music and more. Hours are Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday evening tours of the battlefield will be conducted. Visit [www.nps.gov/kimo](http://www.nps.gov/kimo) for details.

**October 7-9:** Foothills Quilter's Guild Show at Cleveland County Arts Center, uptown Shelby. Over 90 members displaying traditional to con-



temporary quilts. A boutique will be open for sales, with demonstrations each day. Visit [www.ccartscouncil.org](http://www.ccartscouncil.org).

October 15: Gateway Festival in Downtown Kings Mountain. Open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. in honor of the 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary Battle of Kings Mountain. This event will feature re-enactors, arts, crafts, miniature train, pony-, and hayrides, and the King Pup Radio Show. Also look for basket & fabric weaving, music, flea market, car show, storytelling, food, and much more. Visit [www.cityofkm.com](http://www.cityofkm.com) for details.

October 21: Revolutionary War Ghost Walk at Broad River Greenway. The greenway near Boiling Springs will host a Revolutionary Ghost Walk, including food and beverage, ranging from "bloody fingers" to hot chocolate. Storytelling will follow around a campfire. Visit [www.broadrivergreenway.com](http://www.broadrivergreenway.com) for details.

October 22: "Art of Sound" Music Festival. Cleveland County Arts Council in Uptown Shelby. Live music festival featuring over 25 performers, in multiple venues. Musicians include Malcolm Holcombe, Kim Richey, Circuit Riders, David Childers & Modern Don Juans, Larry Keel & Natural Bridge. In addition, more than 20 other groups and musicians will perform Bluegrass, Jazz, Swing, Latin, Blues, Christian, Irish and more. Visit [www.artofsoundcc.com](http://www.artofsoundcc.com) for more information.

For more information of these and other activities in Cleveland County in October, call Terry Brown at (704) 487-8521 or log onto the Chamber's web site at [www.ClevelandChamber.org](http://www.ClevelandChamber.org) and click on the Muskets, Music, & Merriment logo.

## *Ribbon Cuttings & Chamber Events*



The Small Business of the Month Recognition Ceremony was held on August 4 at Education Station in Shelby.



A ribbon cutting and open house was held on August 4 at Majors Chiropractic Center in Kings Mountain.



A ribbon cutting was held on August 4 at the Chamber for AutoQual of Charlotte.



U. S. Representative Patrick McHenry spent a day in Cleveland County on August 10 as part of "Town Hall Day."



The Leadership Cleveland County Alumni Reception was held on August 23 at North Lake Country Club in Shelby.



Vickie Fitch and Bee Strain served as guest speakers at the August 24 Lunch-n-Learn event at the Neal Senior Center.



Business At Breakfast was hosted by HarvestWorks, Inc. on August 26 at their 891 N. Post Road location in Shelby.



The Matchforce Training Class was held on August 30 at Cleveland Community College.

## Chamber Events & Meetings



Far Left: The Cleveland 20/20 Economic Development Private Sector Investors met at First National Bank on August 10. Left: The Cleveland 20/20 Advisory Council met at Hallelujah Acres on August 25 to select the three private sector members of the Cleveland 20/20 Executive Committee (full story on page 7).

Far Right: Congressman Patrick McHenry (10th District, North Carolina) spoke at the Chamber's Annual Congressional Luncheon held on August 18 at North Lake Country Club. Right: Approximately 70 people attended the luncheon to hear from McHenry.



The Tailgate & Tee Reunion was held on August 12 at Cleveland County Fairgrounds. Clockwise from top left: First National Bank received the "Best Decorated" award; the Chamber staff dressed as castaways in honor of the Gilligan's Island Theme; hundreds danced to the sounds of the band "Fantasy" of Rock Hill; others took advantage of a chance to sit and enjoy food and fellowship.

## Member Renewals-July 2005

Alterra Sterling House – 9 years  
 American Safety Utility Corp. – 8 years  
 Autobell Car Wash, Inc. – 3 years  
 Baker Dental Care – 8 years  
 Blackley, Dr. Shem K. III – 13 years  
 Boiling Springs Family YMCA – 7 years  
 Boiling Springs, Town of – 8 years  
 Bowen Collision Center, Inc. – 12 years  
 Boys' & Girls' Club of Cleveland County – 7 years  
 Broad River Greenway – 7 years  
 Buffalo Creek Farm – 4 years  
 Carolina ENT Associates – 10 years  
 Carolinas Commercial Realty – 7 years  
 Caromont Medical Group, Inc. – 9 years  
 Century Care of Shelby, Inc. – 3 years  
 Chen's Chinese Restaurant – 21 years  
 Child Care Connections of Clew. County, Inc. – 6 years  
 Choice USA Beverage, Inc. – 10 years  
 Cleveland Contractors, Inc. – 12 years  
 Cleveland County Dept. of Social Services – 5 years  
 ComServ., Inc. – 3 years  
 Council on the Aging, Senior Center – 17 years  
 Creative Sign Service, Inc. – 28 years  
 Deer Brook Golf Club – 8 years  
 Dermatology Center of Shelby PA – 6 years  
 Dover Foundation, Inc. – 15 years  
 Econo Lodge – 42 years  
 Ellison, Paul S. – 8 years (as retired member)  
 Employment Security Commission of NC – 41 years  
 Firestone Fibers & Textiles Company – 11 years  
 First Baptist Church, Shelby – 8 years  
 Fitch Sign Company, Inc. – 16 years  
 Fox Distributing, Inc. – 26 years  
 Gaylord Bralley Agency – 10 years

GDS – Cleveland – 29 years  
 Gragg & Gragg, LLP – 41 years  
 Grand Rental Station of Shelby – 8 years  
 H & H Industries, Inc. – 6 years  
 Hallelujah Acres, Inc. – 8 years  
 Hampton Inn – 17 years  
 Hamrick Brothers, Inc. – 7 years  
 Homes & Land Magazine – 18 years  
 Image Marketing Group – 8 years  
 Interim Health Care – 4 years  
 Investors Title Insurance Company – 6 years  
 Jackson's Cafeteria of Shelby, Inc. – 10 years  
 Jerry's Mini-Mart, Inc. – 2 years  
 KFC-Day Enterprises, Inc. – 7 years  
 Kings Mountain Business & Professional Association – 7 years  
 Kings Mountain Historical Museum Foundation, Inc. – 6 years  
 Kings Mountain Rotary Club – 7 years  
 KM Pharmacy – 4 years  
 Lattimore and Peeler Surveying – 12 years  
 Law Offices of Michael J. Bednarik, P.A. – 8 years  
 Manelines Unique Boutique – 3 years  
 Martin Marietta Materials – 21 years  
 Mayflower Vehicle Systems – 18 years  
 Merle Norman Cosmetics of Shelby – 7 years  
 Mi Pueblito Mexican Restaurant, Inc. – 6 years  
 Monroe Tire Sales – 5 years  
 Moore, Barbara - Coldwell Banker – 4 years  
 Morganton Eye Physicians, P.A. – 4 years  
 Morris & Daughter – 7 years  
 MRA Industries – 2 years  
 NCAE – Cleveland County – 19 years  
 New Wilderness Adventures – 2 years

Office Max – 4 years  
 Palmer, Ellen – 16 years  
 Pathways – 8 years  
 Picnic People Western Carolinas – 2 years  
 Pine Grove Golf Club, Inc. – 19 years  
 Plonk Tire Inc. – 2 years  
 Proffitt, Steve M. – 5 years  
 Raymond James Financial Services, Inc. – 7 years  
 Rogers Honda – 25 years  
 Rylan C. Redding, Jr., CPA – 6 years  
 SageSport – 12 years  
 Shelby Hardware – 27 years  
 Shelby Radiological Associates – 39 years  
 Shelby Rotary Club – 39 years  
 Shelby Shopper & Info – 20 years  
 Sister's Closet – 7 years  
 Southern Craftsmen, LLC – 2 years  
 Sun Belt Textiles, Inc. – 8 years  
 T & M Dental Ceramics – 6 years  
 Tedder Motor Co., Inc. – 5 years  
 Teddy & Meekins, P.L.L.C. – 11 years  
 Thomas (Ray) Petroleum Company, Inc. – 21 years  
 Total Care – 12 years  
 Trefz, Dr. Bruce R. – 14 years  
 Upper Cleveland County Chamber of Commerce – 12 years  
 Value Incentives – 7 years  
 Wellington Hamrick, Inc. – 8 years  
 WellPath, a Coventry Healthcare Plan – 3 years  
 Workforce Staffing, Inc. – 6 years

## New Members . . .

**CHRIST FOR THE NATIONS CHURCH INTERNATIONAL**  
 Pastor Mike Gullatte · 409 Polkville Road · P.O. Box 1213  
 Shelby, NC 28151 · Telephone: 704/482-8001 · Fax: 704/482-8021  
 CHURCH

**DAVIS & ASSOCIATES ADVERTISING**  
 Mr. Gene Davis · 224 S. Lafayette St. · Shelby, NC 28150  
 Telephone: 704/480-7143 · Fax: 704/480-7125  
 e-mail: [menuads@yahoo.com](mailto:menuads@yahoo.com)  
 ADVERTISING / SPECIALTIES & PREMIUMS

**ORIGINAL DESIGN**  
 Dr. Jim Toole · 805 McBrayer Homestead Road · Shelby, NC 28152  
 Telephone: 704/434-7007  
 TRAINING, CONSULTING, SPEAKING

**QUALITY CONCRETE AND GRADING**  
 Mr. Jesse Lukens · 1405 Beverly Avenue · Shelby, NC 28152  
 Telephone: 704/472-1215 · Fax: 704/482-6023  
 e-mail: [jlukens@bellsouth.net](mailto:jlukens@bellsouth.net)  
 CONCRETE / CONTRACTORS

**SET OF SHELBY**  
 Mr. Tom Wise · 891 N. Post Rd. · Shelby, NC 28150  
 Telephone: 704/487-7725 · e-mail: [twise@nc.eastersealsucp.com](mailto:twise@nc.eastersealsucp.com)  
 AGENCY

**WATTS PERFECTIONS, INC.**  
 Mr. Chad Watts · 2617 Royster Road Shelby, NC 28150  
 Telephone: 704/538-9990 · e-mail: [bluegdjill@yahoo.com](mailto:bluegdjill@yahoo.com)  
 Web page: [www.wattsperfections.com](http://www.wattsperfections.com)  
 SERVICES

## Members On The Move . . .

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

- **Hampton Inn** – Tiffany Mullis
- **Affordable Suites of America** – Kathy Hendricks
- **Kings Mountain Business & Professional Association** – Kristi Anthony
- **Glaize Components** – Dan Hood
- **Martin Marietta Aggregates** – Phil Wright

## Thank You Corner . . .

The Chamber would like to thank the following members/representatives for office assistance during the month of August:

**John Canipe & Donnie Spriggs** – for services at the Chamber.

## Cleveland 20/20 Advisory Council Selects Three Executive Committee Representatives

### Three Members of Executive Committee Will Also Serve on Chamber Board of Directors

Private sector business representatives who are supporting the Cleveland 20/20 Economic Development Partnership at the benefactor level selected three people to serve as members on an elite seven-member executive committee during a meeting on August 25. These three private-sector leaders will join three public sector representatives who were recently named by the government entities they represent.

The public sector representatives to the Cleveland 20/20 Advisory Council Executive Committee are Cleveland County Commissioner Willie McIntosh, Kings Mountain Mayor Rick Murphrey, and Shelby Mayor Ted Alexander. The private sector representatives selected during the meeting on August 25 are Adelaide Craver of First National Bank, Sandra Keeter of Keeter Motors, and Lloyd Williams of RE/MAX Select. Craver was also selected to serve as the Chairperson of the Executive Committee. Commissioner McIntosh, Mayor Alexander, and Chairperson Craver will also serve as new representatives to the Chamber Board of Directors, the governing body over economic development.

The new structure of economic development was officially adopted on August 2 after a restructuring proposal was approved by the Chamber Board of Directors and by Cleveland County Commissioners in June. The meeting held on August 25 was comprised of benefactor-level public and private sector investors in economic development. According to the plan, the three private sector representatives will join the three public sector representatives as part of a seven-member group known as the Cleveland 20/20 Advisory Council Executive Committee. The seventh member of the committee will be voted upon by the six-member group at their first meeting and must be considered a citizen representative of the community at large.

On June 15, officials unveiled the new plan which calls for an overhaul in the existing structure for economic development. The proposal provides for private sector representation in economic development for the first time in county history. In addition, the public sector representation is enhanced to include ex-officio members as well as appointed officials.

Cleveland County Commissioners held



*Cleveland 20/20 Advisory Council Meeting on August 25*

a public hearing on the proposal during their meeting on June 21. Many local business leaders spoke in favor of the plan which had been unanimously endorsed by a restructuring committee before its public unveiling. A copy of the structure is available online on the Cleveland 20/20 page at [www.ClevelandChamber.org](http://www.ClevelandChamber.org).

Prior to 2002, the economic development department was part of county government. At the time, then-commissioner Charlie Harry saw new possibilities for Cleveland County by moving economic development to the Cleveland County Chamber. Although Commissioner Harry passed away before seeing the results of his vision, other community leaders recognized the importance and wisdom behind the idea. The economic development department officially became part of the Chamber in the fall of 2002 with a plan to pursue private funding for economic development within two years.

While the process has been evolving since economic development was moved under the Chamber's organizational umbrella, those involved in the most-recent restructuring unanimously approved the new composition for economic development to include public and private sector partners.

The Cleveland County Chamber unveiled a private-sector fundraising campaign in October of 2004 and succeeded in generating private-sector pledges of \$225,000 a year to assist in funding a five-year economic development strategy known as "Cleveland 20/20: A Clear Focus on Economic Prosperity for Cleveland County." The plan was developed in part from the 2002-2003 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), Focus: Cleveland, the 2003 Fall Planning Conference, and interviews conducted by Resource Development Group during the feasibility assessment phase of the fundraising campaign.

Meetings held in the early part of 2005 revealed that public sector officials desired a more gradual, less aggressive pace for economic development restructuring. A committee of 12 members was assembled with representation from Cleveland County, City of Kings Mountain, City of Shelby, Town of Boiling Springs, Cleveland County Sanitary District, Cleveland County Chamber, and Cleveland 20/20. This group participated in four work sessions during the months of May and June that resulted in their unanimous endorsement of a new structure for economic development which they say is more inclusive of public and private sector investors.

The restructured group is divided into four sections. The largest group is the "Cleveland 20/20 Economic Development Partnership." This group is comprised of anyone and everyone who contributes any amount to economic development. From the general taxpaying public to private investors, the Cleveland 20/20 Economic Development Partnership is open to all citizens and will meet annually.

From this group, a "Cleveland 20/20 Advisory Council" will be formed. This group will meet quarterly and participate in the annual meeting of the larger partnership. Currently, approximately 25 companies, individuals, and/or municipalities are at the Cleveland 20/20 Advisory Council "benefactor" level.

A "Cleveland 20/20 Advisory Council Executive Committee" will be formed from the Advisory Council level, and that group will consist of seven people (three public sector representatives, three private sector representatives and one citizen representative.) Three members from this group of seven will also serve on the Board of Directors for the Cleveland County Chamber. The Cleveland 20/20 Advisory Council Executive Committee members will meet monthly, quarterly (with full Advisory Council), and annually (with full Economic Development Partnership).

The Cleveland County Chamber Board of Directors will continue to serve as the governing body for economic development. The Chamber Board meets monthly and will also meet annually with the Cleveland 20/20 Economic Development Partnership. — *From the Cleveland 20/20 Economic Development Partnership*

# CLEVELAND COUNTY CHAMBER

200 South Lafayette St.  
Shelby, NC 28150

150 W. Mountain St.  
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](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

**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

### Cleveland County Fair Preview Breakfast Set for September 29

The fair will be back in town this month and welcomes all Chamber members to come out for the annual kick-off breakfast! The Cleveland County Fair and the Chamber invite you to preview the 81<sup>st</sup> annual Fair on Thursday, September 29 at 7:30 a.m. Chamber members who attend will get a sneak preview of the



food and festivities!

The sponsors for this year's event are Willis Sandwich Shop, McDonald's and Jenkins Food. The breakfast will begin at Willis Sandwich Shop, across from the exhibit hall and performing arts stage.

This year the fair begins on Thursday, September 29 and runs through

October 8. As the largest county fair in the state, the Cleveland County Fair attracts visitors from many surrounding areas and all who attend enjoy a variety of entertainment, food and exhibits.

Reservations for the Chamber Fair Preview Breakfast are requested before Tuesday, September 27. Call the Chamber at 704-487-8521 to make a reservation or for more information.—From the Membership Services Division

### Ambassador Profile Calvin Hastings Radio WOHS "The Boss"

Calvin Hastings is one of the Chamber's most dedicated Ambassadors. You may have seen Calvin serving as a DJ at one of the Chamber's community events, or as a supporter at a ribbon cutting celebration. Wherever he is, Calvin always has a cheerful smile and friendly hello for everyone. Calvin and his wife Teresa formed KTC Broadcasting in 1983 and now operate radio stations in Cherryville (WC SL), Shelby (WOHS), Gastonia (WGNC), and Lincolnton (WLON). The Hastings' say that the four-station simulcast provides coverage from Forest City to Charlotte to Hickory to Spartanburg.



Calvin, a.k.a. "The Skipper" at the 2005 Tailgate & Tee Reunion.

Thanks, Calvin, for all you do for the Cleveland County Chamber!

### September 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!

- Sept. 01 Small Business of the Month Recognition Ceremony at American Safety; 11 a.m.
- Sept. 05 Labor Day Holiday: Chamber Offices Closed
- Sept. 06 Ribbon Cutting: J&J at The Pier, Kings Mountain (Hwy 161); 2 p.m.
- Sept. 07 Leadership Cleveland County: Day Retreat at Chimney Rock Park
- Sept. 08 Ribbon Cutting: Kings Mountain Office of the Chamber, 150 W. Mountain St.; 11 a.m.
- Sept. 15-17 Fall Planning Conference in Charleston, SC at Charleston Riverview Hotel
- Sept. 20-21 Legislative Trip to Washington D.C.
- Sept. 22, 27 Candidates Forums at Cleveland Community College; 6:30 p.m.—9 p.m.
- Sept. 28 Lunch-n-Learn at Neal Senior Center; 12 p.m.
- Sept. 29 Fair Preview Breakfast at Cleveland County Fairgrounds; 7:30 a.m.