

The Informer July 2005

The Chamber, 16 West Main Avenue, Taylorsville, NC 28681

Phone: (828) 632-8141; Fax: (828) 632-1096

Visit us on the Web at www.alexandercountychamber.com

E-mail us at delder@alexandercountychamber.com

Mission Statement: *The Alexander County Chamber of Commerce is organized to promote and coordinate the efforts of commerce, industry and the professions in order to maintain and strengthen a healthy business climate and to improve the overall quality of life for the citizens of Alexander County.*

Second Annual Chamber of Commerce Street Dance and Vehicle Show

When: Saturday, July 30; 5:30-10:00 p.m. (rain date: Sunday, July 31)

Where: Main Avenue Drive, Taylorsville, NC

Come see the vintage vehicles, eat good food, win a cake, and participate in family activities.

From 8-10 p.m. DJ Danny Bentley will play your favorite tunes from the 60's, 70's, and 80's while you dance the night away!

DON'T MISS THE FUN!!

See inside flyer for more details.



Chamber Night at the Crawdads

The Chamber of Commerce and the Hickory Crawdads are sponsoring Chamber Night at the Crawdads on Monday, August 22. Call the Chamber office (632-8141) to find out how you can get free tickets as a benefit of your Chamber membership. Come watch the Crawdads take on the Lexington Legends Astros while you network with fellow Chamber members. Game time is 7 p.m.

NEW TEACHER LUNCHEON

*Help the Chamber Welcome
Approximately 50 New
Teachers to Alexander County*

**Monday, August 15, 2005
12:00 noon; ACHS Cafeteria**

**The \$30.00 cost includes lunch
for you and the teacher.**

**We need Chamber members to donate items
to go in gift bags for each teacher.
This is an excellent and low cost opportunity to
advertise your business to these new residents.**

See insert for more details.

BUSINESS OF THE MONTH

June: United Carolina Group

July: John Boy Chevrolet



Pictured above, left to right: Glenn Fox, Chamber member; Marissa Cooper, Cooper Southern Properties; Angie Davis, UCG loan officer; Denise Elder, Chamber Executive Director; Jamie Harrington, UCG founder and owner; dwaine coley, Chamber board member; Tricia St. Clair, UCG loan officer; Angie Mooney, UCG marketing specialist; Gail Drum, and Marie Chapman, Chamber board members. United Carolina Group was founded in 1996 by Jamie Harrington who is a licensed broker and CPA. UCG deals with home and construction loans and specifically enjoys working with first-time homebuyers.



Pictured above, left to right: Allison Jarvis, Chamber board member; Emily Stafford, John Boy Chevrolet office manager; Jacqué Deadwiley, general sales manager; Joe Williams, part owner and general manager; Marie Chapman, Chamber board member; and Denise Elder, Chamber Executive Director. Not pictured is Ronnie Yow, sales manager. John Boy Chevrolet opened in 2001 and is owned by "John Boy" Isley, Joe Williams, Moe Parker, and Ed Lowe. Denise Elder, Chamber Executive Director, stated, "The dealership has been very supportive of the Chamber and also of the community with the Alexander Assistance Grants Program."

PARAGON FILMS EXPANDS TO ALEXANDER COUNTY

On June 20, 2005, Paragon Films, Inc. of Broken Arrow, OK announced the opening of a new 40,000 square foot facility in Taylorsville. Paragon Films, Inc. is the sixth largest stretch film manufacturer in North America. The new industry will be located in the Alexander Industrial Park and hopes to begin production in November of 2005. Paragon will initially bring an additional twenty-five jobs to the county and more with future expansions. **Mike Babb, CEO of Paragon, stated, "We take care of our people. If your whole focus is on the almighty dollar, then you lose sight of the people. Our people are our extended family."**

The Chamber of Commerce applauds this step forward for Alexander County.

ACHS Student Work Program

Do you need some help at no cost to you? ACHS teacher and program coordinator Jan Barriger states, "A new and wonderful program has been put in place by the state for children with disabilities. Our students are now required to get job-training skills at actual businesses in their communities. Their work hours are based on your needs and could be as much as two hours each day or as little as one hour per week." Students have worked in eight businesses in the county in the past thirty months. Students will be assisted by school staff members as long as there is a need. Contact ACHS teacher Jan Barriger at 828-632-7063 ext 137 if you would like to help with this program. References and job-site comments can be provided upon request.



Stillpoint Center Ribbon Cutting

On Friday, June 17, 2005, the Stillpoint Center held a ribbon cutting. The Stillpoint Center is a natural wellness center founded on the principle of providing the highest quality service through the offering of natural body therapies and educational programs. Pictured from left to right: Glenn Fox, Chamber member; Candace Gale, educational coordinator; Elizabeth (and Olivia) Jarman, massage therapist and electrodermal screening practitioner; Sandra McIlvain, founder and massage therapist; Gail Drum, Chamber board member; Sallie Hartis, Chamber administrative assistant; and dwaine coley, Chamber board member. The Stillpoint Center is located at 81 NC Hwy 16 N. For more information, call 635-5008.

Thanks for the Renewals June

Alexander County Veterinary Services
 American Cancer Society
 Barnard Combs, Potts, & Rhyne, PA
 BB&T-Taylorsville
 Benefit Solutions, Inc.
 Andrew Benfield Insurance Agency
 Broome Associated Insurance
 Bethlehem Pharmacy
 Jerry Campbell, Attorney
 Carolina Orthopaedic Specialists, PA
 Clayton Marcus, Inc.
 Craftmaster Furniture
 Electric Beach Tanning and Hair
 Hildebran Accounting
 Iredell Memorial Hospital
 Lisa's Fresh Fruits & Vegetables
 Management Recruiters of Bethlehem
 Market Basket Food Store
 MCL Engineers, PA
 Millsaps Realty
 Piedmont Cardiology Associates
 Piedmont Natural Gas
 Quality Quickly, Inc.
 Scotz BBQ and Diner
 Stony Point Animal Clinic, PA
 Taylorsville Glass, Inc.
 Taylorsville Times
 Tilley Harley Davidson, Inc.
 Top Job Cleaning, LLC
 Town and Country Drug
 J. David Whitener
 Wildflowers



Chamber Foundation Recognized

Claudia Ward-Eller, director of the Homegrown Teaching Fellows Program, presented a plaque of appreciation to the Alexander Chamber Foundation Board for the Foundation's \$4000 contribution to the Homegrown Teaching Fellows Program. This program provides scholarships to Alexander County residents who agree to teach in their home school systems when they complete their education. Chamber Foundation Board Members pictured above, left to right: Glenn Fox, Jack Hoke, presenter Claudia Ward-Eller, Denise Elder, Chip Swinnie, Russell Greene, and Sharon Mehaffey.

**United Way Campaign
 2005-06 Kickoff
 Thursday, August 25
 First Baptist Church
 Davis Hall
 12:00 noon**

Alexander County
Chamber of Commerce
16 West Main Avenue
Taylorsville, NC 28681

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Taylorsville, NC
PERMIT NO. 88

*Advertise your events in the Chamber newsletter. Have an event, seminar, grand opening, customer appreciation, etc. planned? Call (828) 632-8141 and let us know and we can help you advertise. Your chamber is here to help you and your business.
Keep us informed!*

Town of Taylorsville Supports the Chamber of Commerce



The town of Taylorsville has agreed to give a total of \$10,000 to the Chamber of Commerce for the fiscal year 2006. “We genuinely appreciate the town’s support, and we see great things for the future as we work together,” stated Gail Drum as she accepted a \$4,000 check on behalf of the Chamber from Mayor Guy Barriger. “It’s a collaboration of the town, the county, and the Chamber to make progress.” The mayor agreed, “It’s vital to Taylorsville and Alexander County that we have a Chamber of Commerce. It’s a vital hub for getting new businesses.”

Surprising Local Resources

By Sallie Neville, Director, Small Business Center, Catawba Valley Community College

Whenever I meet with someone who is thinking of starting a business, or already owns one, I tell her about local resources and inevitably the person is surprised. “Wow, I didn’t know that!” tends to be the usual response.

Catawba Valley Community College’s Small Business Center (SBC) offers seminars (most cost only \$10 and if you sign up for 3 you get one free!) on a regular basis on topics such as marketing, business planning, or how to create a website. Additionally, the SBC has a lending library of books, videos and audiotapes that anyone can borrow (and you don’t have to be a CVCC student to do so.)

Plus, the SBC provides free counseling by the director (Me! – call 828-327-7000 x4112 for an appointment) and by Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) who advise in the areas of finance, marketing and overall good business practices. SCORE counseling takes place at the CVCC Small Business Center on Wednesday mornings, but appointments can be set up at other times too. If you own a business and would like a SCORE counselor as a mentor please call Sharon at 828-327-7000 x4117 to set up your first session. You’ll be glad you did.

Another area that causes eyes to widen is in industrial training. CVCC helps facilitate state funds (we’re talking FREE state funds) for Focused Industrial Training (FIT) to train shop floor employees and front line supervisors in manufacturing industries. There’s also New and Expanded Industry Training (NEIT) funds for companies that create 12 or more new jobs, and finally, an Incumbent Workforce Grant that is federal funding to educate and train current workers. Confused? Or, interested in learning more? Contact Crystal Glenn, CVCC’s Director of Industrial Training, at 828-327-7000 x4293.

The Small Business Technology Development Center (SBTDC) is a University based organization that helps local businesses. They primarily work with existing businesses in a variety of areas including strategic planning and capital formation, but also assist startups with business plans. For more information on SBTDC, contact Blair Abee, Assistant Regional Director, at 828-345-0279.

If you want to find out about Small Business Administration (SBA) loans, the Western Piedmont Council of Governments can help you. They will not only provide information, but may be able to help prepare the loan application. Contact Jim Chandler, Public Services Director, at 828-322-9191 x215 to get the scoop.

Another “best kept secret” is the new North Carolina Military Business Center. Its purpose is to help businesses from our state bid (and win) government contracts. Jim Hunt is the local representative and his office is located on CVCC’s East Campus. Contact Jim at 828-261-6388 if you want to learn more about government contract bidding.

Finally, don’t forget about the Hickory Public Library. It has a great selection of business resources including “Reference USA” that is a national database that can be used when marketing your business’s products and services. And, if you’re starting a business you need to check out the website www.growyourownbiz.com. It was created by several of the organizations I’ve mentioned, and will answer many of your basic questions.

I hope you can see by now that if you’re starting a business or have one that needs a boost, there are plenty of local resources that can help – and it may make all the difference in the world.