



The Chamber NewsGram

The Pamlico County Chamber of Commerce

Chart Update—July 2006 Position – 35 08.0N 76 36.5W

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I continue to hear compliments on two Chamber initiatives. I also continue to brag about both of them and praise our Executive Director for her efforts in both areas.

The Pamlico County Chamber of Commerce Visitor's Guide and Membership Directory was such a hit that they are ALL GONE! – over 3,000 copies have been snatched up in a matter of weeks. Those of you who invested in an advertisement got a real bargain. We are investigating a reprint but that will be dependent on costs. We may ask our advertisers to help defray the expense of a reprint once we know the bottom line.

The second initiative of note is our redesigned web site, www.PamlicoChamber.com and its partner web site www.PamlicoDirectory.com. New items continue to be added weekly and we continue to get new members, in part, because of their enthusiasm about the web sites and how they feel it benefits their business. If you have not taken the time to check out these two sites, please do so. As you have heard me admonish

some of our businesses in the past, if YOUR PAGE on the directory site is BLANK, you are missing a business opportunity. The Board of Directors agreed that we will provide links to any PamlicoDirectory.com web page only if it has content on it. Blank pages reflect poorly on your business and the Chamber. Check out your page and call Mim for help if you need her assistance.

Well, it's time to go stand under the water sprinkler in the yard! These 95+ degree temps are dreadful.

Bill Schmidt
President

BUSINESS GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Jerry Prescott is the Chairman of the Chamber's Business Growth and Development Committee. Members who would like to take part in this committee are asked to call Jerry at 745-7348. The next meeting will be on September 5.

Welcome New Members

After Hours Plumbing Repairs , Eddie & Courtney Norfleet	745-4038
All-N-1-Fashions , Vennie Himbry	745-5385
Countrywide Home Loans , Lisa Roberts.....	252-493-4807
Faith Works World Ministry , Fred Brown	229-8112
Keller-Williams Realty , Marvin Bullock	249-2577
Bayboro Development Center, Inc. Joe Himbry	745-4868

What's New??? www.PamlicoChamber.com

It's all new ... and it's almost complete. The new Chamber website, www.PamlicoChamber.com is now live on the internet. While some pages are still undergoing construction, the majority of the user pages have been completed and are there for the world to see. Our objective was to build a site that is interactive, that provides lots of information for folks seeking to know more about Pamlico County, that is easy for a user to negotiate, and provides timely information about our members' businesses. PamlicoChamber.com with it's partner site PamlicoDirectory.com seeks to meet those objectives. Below are some of the features you might want to explore.

Chamber Members Section For the Community

Under the "Chamber Members" heading, there are currently four choices for users. All of the listings under these headings are available only to members and at **no cost to Chamber Members**.

➤ **The Pamlico Directory** — a link to www.PamlicoDirectory.com where each member has their own page. Need help updating your directory page? Call Mim.

➤ **Member-to-Member offers** — a place where you can offer a discount (or take advantage of one) offered by Chamber Members to Chamber Members. Offers must have an expiration date. Up to 9 different MTM offers may appear at any time. Available on a first-come basis. We will also include your graphic (small) and a link to your website.

➤ **Member Events** — publicize your event not only to Chamber members but to the world. You can list special events, such as receptions, openings, major sales events, etc.

➤ **Employment Opportunities** — Here is somewhere where you can place your "help wanted" ad for free — up to 100 words. Ads will appear for one month (or longer if you "renew"). Contact Mim to place your ad.

In the "About Pamlico County" Section, you will find a page for Community Organizations. We will be happy to list any non-profit social, service, or faith-based community organization, club, or association that requests to be included. Click the "Add my Organization" button to have an organization included. If you belong to, or know of an organization that might want to be listed, please pass the word.

CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE?

The website still needs more good "Pamlico Pictures". As you go through the pages you will see several pages that have no picture other than the header. If you have one to share, please email it to us.

We are still looking for content for some of the pages in "Things to Do in Pamlico." If you have ideas or expertise (or both) please contact us and we'll be happy to have you help.

Suggestions? Corrections? Please send us suggestions for corrections, additional pages or subjects that you think we should include; we'll be grateful.

STILL TO COME- Members Portal

A Member Login facility on the website will allow members to access features on the site that are not available to the general public. The following features are planned for the membership portal:

- Update company information
- Priority Email to Chamber
- Members Suggestions
- Nominate Board Members
- RSVP to Events



COMMUNITY NEEDS

HEARTWORKS — Dr. Sue Lee of **Pamlico Pediatrics** has purchased the Bayboro Chevrolet Building for the Heartworks Program Community Center. Volunteer help is needed to get the building ready to be opened within a short period of time. Call 745-2070 if you can help.

LIFT — **Camp Seafarer** has partnered with the LIFT Program to provide great training events. LIFT is providing additional training such as a mentor program. The LIFT program is looking for volunteer mentors for it's students. If you are interested in participating, please contact Richard Hodges at 249-0776 or rpahodges@vol.com

Member-To-Member Offers SPEC FEVER GUIDE SERVICE

Tarpon have entered the Pamlico Sound and Neuse River and Captain Gary Dubiel is booking trips for the silver king. He's now offering a July special on his tarpon trips.

Gary is now offering Chamber members a Member- to-Member discount \$50 off an evening drum trip for August and September 2006.

Call Gary at 249-1520 for details.

FORREST FARM SUPPLY EARNS BUSINESS APPEARANCE EXCELLENCE AWARD

Each quarter, the Chamber will recognize a business which has demonstrated an exemplary amount of "Pamlico Pride" in the visual appearance and "curb appeal" of their property. A sign showing the award is placed at the business for the entire quarter. In addition, the business receives a certificate and a check for \$100.

The first award was given to **Forrest Farm Supply** of Bayboro for their success in transforming their business into an eye-pleasing asset to the community. If you haven't yet been in Chuck and Wanda's new facility, we suggest that you treat yourself to a visit.

The award was initiated and made possible through the generosity of Mari Trosclair of Hidden Coast and by **Carol Wright, Oriental Buyer's Broker**. Nomination forms can be found on the new Chamber Website, or call the office to request a form. Nominations for the Fall award are due by September 1.

Coming Events—July

27—Chamber After Hours at **First Citizens Bank in Bayboro**. 5:30 pm.

Coming Events— August

6 — **Circle 10 Art Gallery**, Reception for Guest Artist Linda Coffey, 2-4 pm

8— Chamber Board of Directors Meeting, CANCELLED

17 — “**Legal Requirements for a Small Business**” Seminar at Small Business Center, Bayboro. 6-9pm. Call Jerry Prescott at 745-7348 or email jprescot@pamlicocc.edu

28 — “**The 21st Century Manager**” Lunch and Learn Seminar with Mike Collins at The Village Restaurant, Oriental. Sponsored by PCC Small Business Center. 9-noon. Call Jerry Prescott at 745-7348 or email jprescot@pamlicocc.edu

Coming Events— September

3— **Circle 10 Art Gallery**, Opening for the Small Works Show. 2-4 pm

5 — **Business Growth and Development Committee**, Small Business Center, Bayboro, Time TBA

7 — “**Start Any Online Business from Scratch**” Seminar with David Williams. Small Business Center, Bayboro 6-9pm. Call Jerry Prescott at 745-7348 or email jprescot@pamlicocc.edu

12— Chamber Board of Directors Meeting, 7:30 am. Small Business Center, Bayboro

23—“**How to Start a Small Business**” Lunch and Learn Seminar with Reggie Smith at the Small Business Center, Bayboro. 9-noon. Call Jerry Prescott at 745-7348 or email jprescot@pamlicocc.edu

Visit our members at <http://www.pamlicodirectory.com>



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STATE MINIMUM WAGE TO RISE

North Carolina's minimum wage is poised to rise to \$6.15 an hour after the legislature gave final approval to a \$1-per-hour increase. The Senate voted 37-12 for a \$1-per-hour increase in the minimum wage to \$6.15, a year after the idea appeared dead, thanks to support from pro-business legislators and high poll numbers.

Small business advocates, who largely have been the sole voices in opposition to raising the minimum wage in recent months, said the increase will lead to shorter hours or layoffs, particularly in rural areas.

Polls also showed that up to 80 percent of North Carolina voters wanted an increase, helping raise support among legislative leaders and pro-business Democrats during an election year.

News from the Board

Map Price Reduced for Members

At the July 11 Meeting, the Board of Directors agreed to reduce the price of Pamlico County maps from \$1.50 to \$1.00 each to member businesses. If you wish to purchase maps, please send an email letting us know how many maps you would like to purchase. Maps may be picked up at the Chamber office on Thursdays.

Visitors Guide & Membership Directory

We have now distributed all of the Visitor's Guide and Membership Directories – they are being distributed by all North Carolina Welcome Centers, the Dismal Swamp Welcome Center, the New Bern and Washington Visitors Centers.

In addition to copies available at the Pamlico County Visitors Center, members **Mariner Realty, Coldwell-Banker Willis Smith Realty, Tidewater Realty, United Country Pamlico Realty & Land, Weichert Realtors—Olde Country Real Estate, Welcoming You, Bright's Limousine Service, County Cab, and Oriental Marina and Inn** are also major distributors of the publication.

The board is considering a re-print of the 48-page booklet, depending upon the cost.