

The Chamber NewsGram

A bi-monthly publication of The Pamlico County Chamber of Commerce

January 2008

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www.PamlicoChamber.com

MEMBERS

www.PamlicoDirectory.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Welcome to our new year at the Pamlico County Chamber of Commerce. I would like to welcome back all of our old members and welcome all of our new members.

I encourage each and every one of you to make our Chamber an important part of your overall business plan. The board and staff are dedicated to serving our membership. But, in order to do that well, we need to hear your voice; telling us how the Chamber can ever better meet your needs.

Please, take the few minutes it takes to read your bi-monthly newsletter, check out the weekly *This Week at the Chamber* emails concerning our activities or other happenings that can benefit your business.

A chamber gathers strength from its membership. Be a participant, these activities are there for YOUR benefit. Please be a part of our plan to help you – it will be an investment in your own business.

Please contact me anytime if I can serve you in any way.

With warmest wishes for a prosperous year in 2008,

Carla Byrnes
President

THE CHAMBER'S UPDATED STRATEGIC PLAN

At the January Board Meeting, President Carla Byrnes presented an updated Strategic Plan for the Chamber. The first part of the plan is printed here and further sections will be printed upcoming newsletters. If you have suggestions or comments, please share them with Carla. This month's section covers the Vision and Mission of the Chamber and the Strategic Areas of Focus.

Pamlico County Chamber of Commerce
Strategic Plan 2008

It is the goal of the Board of Directors to develop and implement strategies to take the organization and the business community into the future. The vision, mission, and plan serve as a blueprint for the programs, services, and value the Chamber creates for its members. This plan reflects the vision that the Board has for the organization and the Pamlico County Community.

I. VISION

The Pamlico County Chamber of Commerce is the foremost voice for the business community. As our area's leading business association, we actively engage members to become the driving force for community progress. The Chamber is the premier coalition builder bringing about partnerships that result in a strong and vibrant business and community environment. We collaborate regionally to promote economic prosperity while adhering to the highest standards of professional excellence and integrity.

II. MISSION

The Chamber of Commerce, a membership organization, develops and supports an economic, political, and social climate favorable for businesses and community growth. Our mission is to provide leadership, and to serve and represent our members.

III. STRATEGIC AREAS OF FOCUS

This strategic plan is designed to be a guiding document for the Pamlico County Chamber of Commerce for the next two-three years. The strategic plan is a fluid document – a continuous work in progress – altered from time to time as deemed necessary by the Chamber's Board of Directors in order to most effectively meet the needs of the growing and changing community.

This plan focuses on six strategic areas:

- BUSINESS GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT
- CHAMBER GROWTH & MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT
- MARKETING, PROMOTION, & COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT
- ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE
- GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS & POLICY
- WORKFORCE & EDUCATION

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Pamlico Animal Welfare Society (PAWS), Heidi Artley & Cynthia Shockley..... 745-7297
Pamlico Christian Academy, Tina Styron, Vicki Sevenski, Beth Bucksot..... 249-2238
Pamlico Auto/Truck Repair, Arapahoe, James Carawan 771-2510
Edward Jones Investments, New Bern, Dan Roberts IV..... 637-5087

FROM THE BOARD

ANNUAL MEETING

2008 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

At the Chamber's Annual Meeting on December 11, the following were elected to serve as officers and directors for 2008.

President: Carla Byrnes, B & B Yacht Designs, 252-745-4793

Vice-President, Business Growth & Development: Jerry Prescott, Pamlico Community College, Small Business Center, 252-45-7348

Secretary: Barbara Ransom, Welcoming You, 252-249-1445

Treasurer Ron MacLean, Coldwell Banker Willis-Smith, 252-229-0528

Greg Bohmert, Marine Mechanical and Electrical Repair, 252-675-1410

Wayne Brackin, Tideland EMC, 1-800-637-1079

Fred Brown, Faith Works World Ministries, 252-229-8112

Beth Bucksot, Beth's Boaticians, 252-745-3215

Flo Daniels, Habitat for Humanity, 252-745-6544

Judy Marco, Mariner Realty, 252-249-1014

Sallie Ransom, Camps Sea Gull & Seafarer, 252-249-1111

Nancy Schwarzer, Axelson Chiropractic, 252-670-7535

Also at the Annual Meeting, the Chamber awarded the Business Person of the Year award to **Alfred Cahoon**, of Cahoon's True Value & Sport Shop; the Citizen of the Year award was presented to **George Brinson**. Additionally a Lifetime Honorary Membership was presented to **Almira Dallas** for her many years of loyal and dedicated service to the Chamber. We again congratulate these three, and thank them for their outstanding service to the Pamlico Community.

DECEMBER MEETING

At it's December meeting, President-Elect Carla Byrnes presented the draft of the Chamber's Strategic Plan for 2008. This Strategic Plan will be printed in sections, starting with the first sections, the NewsGram. Members are encouraged to share their comments or suggestions with Carla. Also, at this meeting, The Chamber Slogan for 2008 "Nurturing the Entrepreneurial Spirit" was adopted.

JANUARY MEETING

During the January Board Meeting, it was agreed to donate \$100 to the Pamlico County Schools Teacher Appreciation Project. Additionally the board decided that instead of having a booth at the Croaker Festival, a full page ad would be purchased in the Croaker Festival Program. It was further suggested that the Chamber explore the possibility of updating our logo to something more modern and something that would enable the embedding of the logo on stationery rather than purchasing printed stationery (see page 5 for more information).

BUSINESS GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The SBC/Chamber Business Growth & Development committee has been busy with issues concerning the Business Growth of Pamlico County. At the October, November, December, 2007 meetings we concentrated on issues which included the following:

- 1) Pamlico County Statistics Note Book,
- 2) Reviving the Committee of 100,
- 3) Following up on the Hwy 55 Smart Growth Plan,
- 4) CART Presentation,
- 5) Developed a committee Action Plan,
- 6) Designated a committee member to attend all County Commissioners meeting,
- 7) Developing Criteria for Pamlico County Schools entrepreneurship presentation,
- 8) Planning for the April 5, 2008 Home,Garden, and Small Business Showcase to be held at the PCC Auditorium.

NON-PROFIT COUNCIL

The Non-Profit Council met on December 19. At this meeting, the Council decided to implement the plan to have a non-profit seminar day on February 20 at Camp Caroline. Speakers for this event will be Michele Oros who will be talking about Fund-raising through Grant Writing and Anne Cameron who will be speaking about Recruiting and Working with Volunteers. The cost of the seminar is \$25 for chamber members, which will include a catered luncheon. The registration form is available on the Chamber's Website, included in this newsletter, or available by calling the Chamber office.

John Farmer, of Camp Don Lee agreed to chair the Non-Profit Council Meetings for 2008. The council meets on the third Wednesday of even-numbered months. Chamber members and their guests are invited to attend.

HOME BASED BUSINESS COUNCIL ???

If you work or run a business from your home, and you would like to explore the formation of a group whose purpose would be to work together to solve common problems, to help the Chamber understand your business needs and how the Chamber can best serve you, and to support each other, please call or send an email to let us know. We currently have 3 members who have expressed an interest in this kind of group.

QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETINGS REINSTATED

President Carla Byrnes announced that she would like to reinstate the Chamber's Quarterly Business Meetings in 2008. Time and Place still to be determined, but these meetings will take place on March 27, June 19, and September 25.

UPCOMING EVENTS

We are happy to include members events on this page. Call or email the Chamber with details.

- January 20—**Barry Manilow in Concert.** Excursion with **Down East Destinations.** Reservations required 670-0447. Only a few spaces left!
- January 23—(Thursday) **Community Breakfast at Camp Don Lee.** 8:30am. 249-1106, extension 23.
- January 24—(Thursday) - Seminar "**Making Money Online While You Sleep**" at Small Business Center 6-9pm. Presenter: David Williams. 745-7348 to register. Reservations requested.
- January 31—(Thursday) **2008 Membership Fees Due.**
- January 31 (Thursday) Registration form available online for **Home & Garden and Small Business Showcase**
- February 7—(Thursday) **Business Growth and Development Committee.** 8:00 am SBC. (Showcase Committee)
- February 7—(Thursday) - Seminar "**Tax Planning and Reporting**" at Small Business Center 6-9pm. 745-7348 to register.
- February 12 – (Tuesday) **Board of Directors** at SBC. 7:30am
- February 12—(Tuesday) - Seminar "**Achieving Sales Projections Through a Viable Marketing Plan**" at Small Business Center 6-9pm. Presenter: Reggie Smith. 745-7348 to register. Reservations requested.
- February 16—(Saturday) A Valentine Special Event ~ **Couples Yoga** by Annette Tersigni and Brad Fisher at **Body Balance**, Oriental, \$57. Pre-registration required. 249-3664
- February 20—(Wednesday) **Non-Profit Council Seminar** at Camp Caroline. 8:30am—3:30. Chamber members \$25, includes lunch. Pre-registration Required.
- February 23 – (Saturday) Let the music dance you! **Dance Spirit** at **Body Balance.** 7:00pm \$9. More information: 249-3664.
- February 23 – **Circle 10 Gallery's Annual Stew & Brew** Fundraiser at the gallery at 1103 Broad Street, Oriental. Join the members for soup, bread, and dessert from 10am-4pm.
- February 27 —(Thursday) **Business After Hours** at **Creative Kitchen and Bath**, Merritt. 5:30-7:00 pm
- March 6 —(Thursday) **Business Growth and Development Committee.** 8:00 am Small Business Center. (Showcase Committee)
- March 11 – (Tuesday) **Board of Directors** at SBC. 7:30am
- March 12—(Wednesday) - Seminar "**Tricks of the Trade Show**" at Small Business Center 6-8:30pm. 745-7348 to register. Denise Ryan. Tailored especially for Home & Garden and Small Business Showcase vendors. Reservations requested.
- March 14-16 (Friday, Saturday, Sunday) Third Annual Yoga Retreat at **Body Balance.** More information 249-3664.
- March 20—(Thursday) - Seminar "**Business Use of Your Home**" at Small Business Center 6-8:30pm. Presenter: Reggie Smith. 745-7348 to register. Reservations requested
- March 22 – (Saturday) Let the music dance you! **Dance Spirit** at **Body Balance.** \$9. 7:00 pm More information: 249-3664.
- March 27 (Thursday) **Quarterly Chamber Business Meeting.** Details TBA
- April 3 (Thursday) – **Business Growth and Development Committee,** SBC 8:00am
- April 5 (Saturday)— **Home, Garden and Small Business Showcase .** Pamlico Community College Auditorium 10am-3pm

Regularly Scheduled Meetings

Board of Directors—Second Tuesday of each month 7:30 each month
 Business Growth and Development Committee – Thursday prior to the second Tuesday of each month 8:00 am
 Non-Profit Council - Third Wednesday of even numbered months. 8:30 am unless otherwise scheduled.
 Quarterly Business Meetings 2008, March 27, June 19, September 25.

SPOTLIGHT ON MEMBERS

SWEET TEA STUDIO

SWEET TEA PLEASE

Vicki Prescott, native and lifelong resident of Pamlico County recently published her book Sweet Tea Please. Recipes and Recollections from Coastal North Carolina. As many may remember, Vicki and her husband Bobby (Prescott Brothers Marine Construction) were once the owners of the Trawl Door restaurant in Oriental.

This is not "just a cookbook." Vicki's book is not only filled with tried and true southern recipes, many of which have been handed down for generations, but her entertaining and delightful stories of growing up in Pamlico County are found throughout the book, along with a generous seeding of photos from Pamlico's past.

For those who are looking for native recipes, you will find Bairds Creek Crab Bisque, Carolina Corn Chowder, Southport Cole Slaw, Pecan Cheese Crackers, China Grove Stuffed Shrimp, Pamlico Paella, or Collard Greens with Cornmeal Dumplings..... and a host of other native dishes (175 in all).

AND MORE

Online at www.Sweet-Tea-Studio.com, (the website is still "under construction") you will soon find Vicki's own line of handcrafted jewelry featuring Swarovski crystals, unique gemstones, genuine Lotus freshwater pearls and semi-precious stones. Additionally you will find Sweet Tea Studio's line of all natural goatsmilk handcrafted soaps, made in small batches by a cold process using Vicki's own unique soap formula.

Still to come are Sweet Tea Studio's environmentally friendly candles, made with all natural biodegradable soybean wax (Support the Farmers!) which makes the best soy candles available. More products will include a line of clothing.

You can order Sweet Tea Please online from amazon.com, barnesandnoble.com, or (soon) the Sweet Tea Studio Website.

Contact Vicki at 229-0826.

Editor's Note: Picked it up, read it from cover to cover because I couldn't put it down. A great read, even if you're not a "Sweet Tea Girl". Mim

Good News!

RIVER DUNES

THE COASTAL LIVING IDEA HOUSE will remain open through May 2008. The Pamlico County Historical Association, is one of the three organizations that were selected to receive benefits from the sale of tickets. PCHA members volunteer as docents for the house, which is open Tuesday-Sunday.

Membership Renewal Time Again

2008 Membership Renewal forms were sent to members in December. Renewals are due no later than January 31. If you have not received your form, please let us know.

BODY BALANCE STUDIO

YOGA FOR BACK CARE

Susan Koepp, a registered yoga teacher is offering an 8-week course on Yoga for Back Care starting on Saturday January 26th, from 11:00am to 12:30pm. The course will emphasize postural alignment, pelvic stability and strengthening the core of your body to ease that chronic back pain.

DANCE SPIRIT

Let the music dance you! with Elizabeth Carrington-House on January 19, February 23, March 22, and April 26. \$9 for 1 1/2 hr session. Reservations are not necessary. 7-8:30pm.

THIRD ANNUAL YOGA RETREAT

Body Balance will be hosting its annual retreat from March 14-16.

Contact Susan Koepp at 249-3664 to register for events.

POTLIGHT ON MEMBERS

BRITTHAVEN OF PAMLICO

Britthaven of Pamlico is a skilled nursing facility, offering both short term and long term stays. Britthaven provides a wide range of services to accommodate multiple medical conditions and needs. The staff at Britthaven is committed to providing the highest quality of life; for our residents, families, and employees.

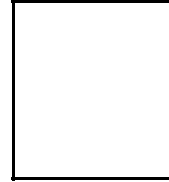
- Medicare/Medicaid Certified
- Licensed by the State of NC Department of Human Resources
- 24 hour licensed nursing
- Rehabilitation Programs (Physical, Occupational & Speech Therapy)
- Caring, dedicated and long-term staff
- Certified nursing assistants
- Restorative nursing
- IV Therapy
- Wound management program
- Pain Management
- Individualized Activity Programs
- Social Services
- Discharge Planning with strong emphasis on short term rehabilitation to return residents to their homes
- Home like environment
- Fine Dining
- Private and semi-private accommodations
- Small close knit community environment
- Local physician with vast experience caring for the elderly

Britthaven of Pamlico is located at 290 Keel Road in Grantsboro. Director is Janet Tenant invites you to call 745-5005 if you would like a tour or more information.

The Pamlico County Chamber of Commerce
Nurturing the Entrepreneurial Spirit



P.O. Box 23
Bayboro, NC 28515



To:

What's In it For Me? - Part 2

This is a second in a series to highlight the benefits of your Chamber Membership.

The Chamber is a business. We are a not-for-profit business, but nonetheless, a business ... and like all businesses, we have things that we purchase or rent. Here are some recent procurements:

- Office Supplies
- Copy machine paper
- Office Equipment
- Food and Drink
- Advertising
- Postage
- Plaques
- Name Tags
- Banking Services
- Printing Services
- Insurance
- Accounting Services
- Decals
- Light Bulbs
- Flowers & Table Decorations
- Door Prizes
- Meeting Rooms
- Telephone Service

While we know that some of the things we need cannot be found from a Chamber Member, it is our policy to **ALWAYS DO BUSINESS WITH A CHAMBER MEMBER IF AT ALL POSSIBLE.** Only when we are unable to find a chamber member who can provide the service or product we need, do we look outside of the membership for that product or service.

So if we need it, and you have it, we get it from you! Always!

We also encourage you to support each other ... Chamber Members purchasing from Chamber Members helps us all to be successful.

Tourism and Events

Pamlico County Visitor's Guide ~ If your group has an event that you would like publicized in the 2008 Visitor's Guide, please get it to us no later than January 21

WATCH FOR NEWS ABOUT

**The Pamlico County
Home, Garden
& Small Business Show**

Saturday April 5

The Chamber and the Small Business center are once again joining forces to give Pamlico County Businesses a chance to strut their stuff. This year's Showcase will emphasize Home and Garden as well as our many small businesses. And once again, Chamber members will receive first chance at booth space and a discount. The application will be on our website at the end of January. Watch your mail and email for more info..