

the BUSINESS Partner

A publication of the Greenville-Pitt County Chamber of Commerce
in partnership with The Daily Reflector



Volume XLIII No. 10

DECEMBER 2018 - JANUARY 2019

22nd Annual Community Unity Breakfast

Monday, January 21, 2019
7:30 AM – 9:00 AM
Harvey Hall - ECU Murphy Center



Keynote Speaker:
Reverend Richard Joyner
Conetoe Family Life Center

This event is free and open to the public.
Advance reservations are preferred and can be
made at www.greenvillenc.org/communityunity

Presented by:



The Greenville-Pitt County Chamber of
Commerce is hosting its annual

Golden Gala



Saturday, January 19, 2019 • 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM
Hilton Greenville • 207 SW Greenville Blvd.

Presented by: VIDANT[™]
Medical Center

The Golden Gala is held each year to celebrate the past year's accomplishments and recognize recipients of the following awards: Citizen of the Year, Ambassador of the Year, and Young Professional of the Year. The event includes dinner, live entertainment and great opportunities to network.

Following the program, we continue the celebration with **The After Glow.**

The After Glow Presented by: YP young
professionals
of pitt county

For more information and to register online, visit greenvillenc.org/goldengala.

Chairman's Message

It has been my honor to serve as the 2018 Chairman of the Greenville-Pitt County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. I am grateful for the support of our Board, the Executive Committee, our members, volunteers, and the outstanding Chamber staff. During 2018, we celebrated the opening of new businesses, launched a new initiative, and engaged in important dialog about the future of economic development in our community.

As Chairman, my primary initiative was to launch a talent development and talent retention initiative. We are blessed to live, work, and play in a thriving community. However, for too many of our local residents, the great careers and educational pathways in our community remain hidden. The concept is now branded "Grow Local," and after a successful pilot with the Pitt County chapters of the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Coastal Plain, we now have hundreds of middle and high school students ready to partner with local businesses in March 2019. We cannot guarantee equal outcomes, but I believe we have an obligation to provide equal opportunities. I call on the business community to engage in this work. It is my sincere hope that Grow Local becomes part of our annual work and, through this opportunity, we are able to retain more of our local talent.

The Chamber organizes work around three commitments: business success, strategic economic growth, and community development. All three of these commitments align with the Board's actions this year to support the development of a public-private economic development partnership. If we are to compete and thrive as a community, we must continue to explore opportunities to leverage our many assets.

The Chamber is well positioned for continued success and I am proud to have been a small part of growth as a community in 2018. Let's resolve to make 2019 even better!

All the best,

Dr. Christopher D. Locklear
Chairman
Greenville-Pitt County Chamber of Commerce



Dr. Christopher D. Locklear

Ambassador Spotlight

• **Randy Draper:** "Being a Chamber Ambassador means I am able to be more involved in my community. I have met many people in this role that otherwise I may have never met. The Chamber's leadership has provided the Ambassadors with unique community service opportunities that many of us may not have experienced on our own. The Ambassador program has also allowed me to learn more about the terrific work that so many of our local businesses do throughout our community. I've been blessed to work for Transamerica for over 26 years. They are supportive of my role as an Ambassador as they encourage their employees to be involved in their local communities. As an Ambassador, I am proud to serve as a liaison between the Chamber of Commerce and the local business community."



Randy Draper
Transamerica

• **Jackie Listecki:** "The Greenville-Pitt County Chamber of Commerce would like to express our appreciation to our Chamber Ambassadors for their participation this year. With your assistance, we were able to extend our appreciation to our members and provide them information related to our community, and economic development initiatives. The mission of the Greenville-Pitt County Chamber of Commerce Ambassador Program is to support membership initiatives by: raising awareness of Chamber activities and benefits, informing and involving new Chamber members to promote strong continuing membership, encouraging meaningful and beneficial participation in Chamber programs, and serving as a liaison between Chamber staff and membership. This program consists of volunteers from the Chamber membership who donate their time to assist the Chamber in various activities. Ambassadors will have the opportunity to meet with key decision makers on a professional basis while assisting the Chamber with meeting its goal of personally contacting each Chamber firm for increased membership growth and retention. We were able to accomplish so many of our membership initiatives thanks to your involvement with our Chamber. Thank you for being an extension of our team!"



Jackie Listecki
Greenville-Pitt County
Chamber of Commerce

Economic Forecast Luncheon

Thursday, January 10, 2019
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM • Holiday Inn Greenville



Guest Speaker:
Dr. Rick Niswander, Ph.D., CPA, CGMA
Professor - Department of Accounting
ECU College of Business

Presented by:  **CRI** CARR RIGGS & INGRAM
CPAs and Advisors  **PITT COUNTY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

Register online at greenvillenc.org/efl2019

POWER '19 SERIES

Tuesday, January 22, 2019
12 NOON - 1:00 PM • Hilton Greenville



Guest Speaker:
Jon Gilbert
Director of Athletics - East Carolina University

Presented by:  **WARD AND SMITH, P.A.**
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Visit www.greenvillenc.org to register.

Focus on Business ... Spotlights, Ribbon Cuttings and News!

• **Tyre Realty Group** held a ribbon cutting ceremony on Friday, November 16 to celebrate their new location at 505-E Red Banks Road in Greenville. Tyre Realty Group is comprised of a team of local real estate professionals committed to selling some of the most desired homes in Greenville-Pitt County. Whether you are new to the area or a current resident, the team at Tyre Realty Group will help you understand the local real estate market and assist you as you sell your home and/or buy a new one. For more information, visit Tyre Realty Group online at tyrerealtygroup.com or call (252) 758-4663.



• **Wingstop** held a ribbon cutting ceremony on Wednesday, November 28 at 1885 E. Fire Tower Road in Greenville. Wingstop is not in the wing businesses, they're in the flavor business and it's been their mission to serve the world flavor since they first opened shop in 1994. Wingstop is the destination when you crave fresh never faked wings, hand-cut seasoned fries and any of their famous sides. For people who demand flavor in everything they do, there's only one Wingstop – because it's more than a meal, it's a flavor experience. To view their menu, visit Wingstop online at wingstop.com or call (252) 689-6220.



• **The Housing Authority of the City of Greenville** held a ribbon cutting ceremony on Wednesday, December 5 to celebrate their newly restored 507 accessible handicap unit at 402 W. Roundtree Drive in Greenville. The HACG promotes the development and professional management of a variety of affordable housing opportunities, facilities and supportive services to nurture neighborhoods, provide economic development and self-sufficiency activities for residents while also assuring equal access to safe, quality housing for low and moderate income families throughout the community. The HACG is committed to providing quality lease and for-sale housing opportunities by educating, training and assisting families to become self-sufficient. For more information, visit the HACG online at ghanc.net or call (252) 329-4000.



• **East Carolina University** named Jon Gilbert director of athletics on December 3 and introduced Mike Houston as its 22nd head football coach during a press conference on December 4. Gilbert comes to ECU after serving as athletics director at the University of Southern Mississippi since January 2017. He worked in senior athletics administrative positions at two Southeastern Conference institutions – the University of Alabama and the University of Tennessee. Houston previously served as the head football coach at James Madison University for three years. He brings with him 13 years of collegiate coaching experience, including eight as a head coach. Houston led JMU to the 2016 NCAA Division I FCS Football Championship.



TRAVEL WITH THE CHAMBER IN 2019

UPCOMING INFORMATION SESSIONS (CHAMBER OF COMMERCE)



POMPEII & AMALFI
TUESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2019
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

**NOVA SCOTIA & THE
CANADIAN MOUNTAINS**
THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 2019
11:00 AM - 12 NOON

To register for either of these sessions and for more information,
please visit www.greenvillenc.org/trips



New Members

The following businesses have recently joined the Greenville-Pitt County Chamber of Commerce. We welcome them and encourage you to do business with them.

- A. Dewane Frutiger
- Anita's Mexican Restaurant
- Boulevard West Apartment Homes
- Capital Subaru of Greenville
- Cintas
- Emerson Designs
- Milner, Inc.
- NutriVend
- Universal Healthcare - Greenville

Greenville Utilities Commission

As your public utility provider, Greenville Utilities Commission (GUC) takes pride in safely providing utility solutions; maintaining stable, competitive rates; caring for our environment; and supporting the economic growth of the Greenville region. GUC, along with more than 2,000 other utilities nation-wide, recently celebrated national Public Power and Gas Week, and took the opportunity to remind customers that GUC was established in 1905 as a community-owned, not-for-profit utility.

Unlike private utilities, GUC is not driven to maximize profits for out-of-town stockholders. Revenues benefit customers and the community, not investors. GUC's rates are consistently lower than most other area utility providers.

One major benefit of being a public utility customer is receiving more reliable service than customers of investor-owned utilities. GUC is constantly reinvesting in its systems to provide superior reliability. When compared to area investor-owned utilities, GUC's electric customers experience:

- 65% fewer outages
- Outages lasting only about half as long
- Power restoration about 60 minutes faster when outages occur

Economists estimate the value of this higher level of reliability to customers is \$3 million per year.

GUC's overall electric system availability is 99.9949%, and has been recognized nationally. GUC is one of 92 of the nation's more than 2,000 public power utilities to earn Reliable Public Power Provided (RP3) Diamond designation from the American Public Power Association. This designation is reserved for agencies who provide customers with the highest degree of safe and reliable electric service.



Local control is another important benefit of public utilities. GUC is governed by an eight-member Board of Commissioners made up of local citizens who offer their diverse talents to ensure that GUC continues to work for the betterment of the community.

GUC has long-range plans to maintain, improve, and expand its systems. It is essential that the board and management team plan with a long-term perspective. Not only do we want to provide safe and reliable services to customers today, we want to ensure GUC is able to meet customers' needs tomorrow, while always being positioned to take advantage of opportunities for community growth and economic development.

To find out more about Greenville Utilities, please visit our newly redesigned website at guc.com or follow us on social media.



Renewing Members

The following businesses have recently renewed their Chamber membership for another year. Remember to do business with fellow Chamber members.

- A Time for Science
- A1 Awards and Promotions
- ABC Moving & Storage, Inc.
- Action Advertising, Inc.
- Adelman (Chamber Discoveries)
- Advantage Therapy Solutions
- Airgas National Welders
- Aldridge & Southerland Builders, Inc.
- Aldridge & Southerland Realtors
- Alliance One
- American Red Cross
- Andy Piner & Associates, LLC
- Appogee LLC
- Bad Daddy's Burger Bar
- Bailey's Fine Jewelry, Inc.
- Baymont Inn & Suites
- Bill Clark Homes of Greenville, LLC
- Blount Petroleum Corp.
- Brown & Wood Buick-GMC-Mazda
- Candlewood Suites
- Capital Associated Industries (CAI)
- Carolina Pregnancy Center
- Carolina Vision Care
- Carolina Wealth Management, Inc.
- Carr, Riggs & Ingram
- Carpetland Flooring Express, Kitchen and Bath
- Cayton & Associates, LLP
- Charles Paint Co.
- Children's World
- Clark - Branch Realtors, Inc.
- COECO Office Systems, Inc.
- Custom Building Company
- Cypress Landing on Chocowinity Bay, NC
- Daughtridge Gas & Oil
- Dixon Hughes Goodman PLLC
- Down East Wood Ducks
- Duck Thru Food Stores
- Duke Energy
- Eastern Carolina Vocational Center (ECVC)
- Executive Personnel
- Farrior & Sons, Inc.
- Furniture Fair
- Fussell, Humphreys & Harrell PA
- Greenville - Pitt Association of Realtors, Inc.
- Greenville Branch of the Food Bank of Central & Eastern NC
- Greenville Housing Authority
- Greenville Learning Center
- Greenville Marine & Sport Center, Inc.
- Greenville TV & Appliance
- Greenville-Pitt Co. Convention & Visitors Bureau
- Habitat for Humanity of Pitt County, Inc.
- Hastings Ford, Inc.
- Holden Temporaries, Inc.
- Home Builders Supply Company
- Jani-King of Raleigh/Durham
- Jimmy Register-Century 21 Realty Group
- JKF Architecture
- John Paul II Catholic High School
- Khristi Dixon, Realtor
- Kittrell & Armstrong, LLC
- Luna Pizza, LLC
- Manpower
- McGlohon & Company
- Mental Health America of Eastern Carolina
- MHAworks
- Michael V. Joyner & Co., CPA, PA
- Mid-East Commission
- Montessori Today, Inc.
- Morgan Printers, Inc.
- NC Driving School
- Nease Personnel
- Nino's Cucina Italiana
- Nutrien
- Nutrition Plus of Greenville, Inc.
- Pampered Pooches Pet Salon
- Paperwork Solutions, LLC
- Philippi Church of Christ
- Pinnacle Home Care
- PIP Marketing Signs Print
- Pirate IMG Sports Marketing
- Pitt Country Mart
- Pitt-Greenville Airport Authority
- Polly Piland - State Farm Insurance
- Regional Acceptance Corporation
- RHA Health Services, LLC
- Robinson and Stith Insurance
- Robinson Jewelers
- Rock Springs Center
- Ronald McDonald House of Eastern NC
- Rose's Gymnastics
- Seegars Fence Company
- Sound Partners
- Sullivan, Shearin & Company
- Sunchase Apartments
- T.A. Loving
- Tenth Street Animal Hospital
- The Blackened Kraken Bar & Grill
- The Oakwood School
- The Roberts Company
- The Salvation Army
- Time Financing Services
- Towne Insurance
- Two Men and a Truck
- WAC of Greenville
- Ward and Smith, P.A.
- Wasabi 88
- Waterford Place Apartment Homes
- Wells Fargo Home Mortgage
- Williams & Pabst Dentistry
- WIMCO Corp.
- Winterville Insurance
- Young Management, Inc.
- Youngs Physical Therapy & Sports Performance