

Chamber Is Working On Right Kind Of Growth

BY SUSANNE D. SARTELLE, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
South Brunswick Islands Chamber Of Commerce

Isn't it frustrating when someone tells you he or she has a secret but won't tell you what it is? Well, here's another one.

The chamber is often questioned about what we are doing to bring new business into the area. Aren't we working to create new employment opportunities? Aren't we trying to promote growth in the South Brunswick Islands? Don't we want tourism and other industries to grow? The answer is yes, yes, yes!

What we can say is that we are working on it. What we cannot say is exactly what we are working on. Frustrating isn't it? Certainly, but it is important that when we establish rapport with businesses or developments that we assist them and honor the code of professional confidentiality.

Just what am I saying? The chamber is constantly and currently working on bringing new business to the area. We are concerned with creating new and better jobs, and we are concerned with providing quality for residents and visitors.

Several projects are on the drawing board now. Some of them will come to life; others will not. But the chamber is working to ensure that the quality projects happen. We want only the type businesses that will be assets to our area and good for our citizens and visitors.

Sometimes the chamber is directly involved with the recruiting of a new business or a new development. Other times, we are simply assisting local developers with a new or potential project.

We must remember that projects we work on now, most likely, will not become reality for quite some time...even years. A good example is the Highway 17 bypass visitors center. This project was begun several years ago and completion is still months, maybe even a year, away. But it is happening!

We are growing. And the chamber is working on the right kind of growth. Secrets can become realities.



SARTELLE



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN USHER

HELPING BREAK GROUND for the new South Brunswick Islands Medical Center are (from left) patient Eugene Hemphill, Miller Building representatives Les Turlington and Steve Saieed, Peterson Associates representative Chuck Meanes, Dr. Gregory Young, Dr. Marcus Williams, Dr. Mike Wilkerson, architect Jeffrey Brown, Rep. David Redwine, Brunswick County Board of Commissioners Chairman Kelly Holden and UCB executive Al Laughinghouse.

Center Said Sign Of Medical Community's Stability And Commitment To Local Area

Groundbreaking last Thursday for a 9,400-square-foot center south of Shallotte marked the latest effort to provide more convenient medical care to residents of Brunswick County.

The newest enhancement of the county's expanding medical services community is the South Brunswick Islands Medical Center, scheduled to open July 1.

This is the first center of its type in the area and exemplifies the rapidly expanding availability of general and specialized medical services within the county.

The area is growing, and with that growth comes the need for more medical services, according to John Marshall, administrator of The Brunswick Hospital. "That attracts physicians," he said.

"With the facilities that are being built now what we're seeing is a growing commitment by the medical community to this area," Marshall continued, citing new medical offices built at Shallotte, Supply and now south of Shallotte. "It's good to

see physicians staying in a community for the rest of their lives."

The result is a more stable medical community and a stronger foundation of basic and specialized medical services for area residents that Marshall said he expects will continue to expand.

Three initial groups will occupy the new facility under construction at the intersection of U.S. 17 and Union School Road. They are Dr. Marcus Williams and Dr. Michael Wilkerson, internists doing business as Brunswick Internal Medicine Associates; Dr. Gregory Young, podiatrist; and Dr. Ron Glinski and Dr. Mark Melsner, urologists. Dr. Gary Ross will join the internal medicine group upon completion of his training in Wilmington.

"This represents our commitment to providing full-service medical care to residents of southern Brunswick County," Dr. Williams said at the groundbreaking ceremony. "We hope to have additional specialties not on our staff so as to make medical care convenient."

Eye care and general surgery are two of the specialties the center hopes to attract in the near future.

Williams said the center will allow patients to see different specialists in one area, as well as providing walk-in emergency care for seasonal visitors to the area.

Jeffrey M. Brown of Peterson Associates is architect for the project, with Chuck Meanes the principal in charge. Miller Building is the general contractor.

Expansion of medical services is readily seen at the two hospitals which serve Brunswick County residents, J. Arthur Doshier Memorial Hospital in Southport, with 40 beds and a staff of 120, and The Brunswick Hospital, with its 60 beds and 196 employees. The latter includes an in-house adolescent psychiatric unit. Both hospitals have been actively helping recruit physicians of various specialties to the county as well as upgrading equipment and facilities.

Both hospitals continue to expand their offerings in areas such as laser surgery, physical therapy and

various diagnostic services, with The Brunswick Hospital's latest addition a dedicated mammography system. The Brunswick Hospital is the only facility in the county that offers obstetrical services.

Four care facilities offer 376 beds, with an additional 60 skilled beds recently approved for Brunswick Cove in Leland. Other facilities offering rest home, intermediate and/or skilled care to the elderly and infirm are Autumn Care and Brunswick Village in Shallotte and Ocean Trail Convalescent Center in Southport.

Also, approximately a half-dozen chiropractic medical offices are available in the county.

Brunswick County continues its governmental efforts in the area of medical services. Recently the county hired a 911 planner to prepare for start-up of that emergency response service in 1992. It also hired a medical services director to plan and coordinate the work of the county's first paid emergency medicine personnel in conjunction with an existing volunteer system.



Realtors Donate

The Brunswick Islands Board of Realtors donated \$235 in clothing, toiletries and personal items for the elderly during the holidays to the Volunteer Information Center. Shown with the gift bags are, from left, Mary Dell Somerset, projects chairman; Bonnie Black, projects committee; and Evelyn Madison, president, who presented the items to Michael U. Rhodes (right), member of the Volunteer Information Center Board of Directors.



STAFF PHOTO BY TERRY POPE

VIC Receives Donation

Dennis Crocker (left) NCNB county executive, presents a \$1,000 check to Percy Woodard, who is on the board of directors for the Brunswick County Volunteer and Information Center. The NCNB donation is to help fund the VIC office in Supply.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Community College Offers Crime Prevention Seminar

The Brunswick Community College Small Business Center will present a free crime prevention seminar Tuesday, Jan. 15, from 6:30 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. in the ALS Building on the main campus in Supply.

"Business Crime Prevention" is designed to enhance the security of businesses, which are robbed 10 times more often than individuals, according to a college news release.

Anthony Queen of the N.C. Department of Crime Control and Public Safety will provide business owners, managers and employees with ways to remove or reduce the opportunities for crime in the workplace. Loss prevention techniques that have proven effective in a variety of business environments will be outlined.

There is no registration charge since the seminar is provided through a state grant. However, pre-registration is advised. For more information, call the BCC Small Business Center at 754-6961, 457-6329 or 343-0203.

Training Offered

An activity training course designed for activity directors at nursing homes, long-term care facilities and day programs will be offered this winter at Brunswick Community College.

Those who successfully complete the 50-hour course earn certification through the N.C. Division of Facility Services.

A recent state mandate requires recreational directors of state programs and care facilities to be certified, according to a college news release.

Death and dying, crafts, bedfast activities, psychology and rotation of limbs are among the topics covered in the course. The class uses clinical resources and field trips to nursing homes, funeral homes and libraries as part of the education experience.

Lori Marsell, activity director at Brunswick Cove in Leland who completed the course earlier at BCC, said learning through class trips kept the class fast-paced and interesting.

While some students enroll as a career requirement, the class may also be of benefit to individuals who help care for a non-ambulatory family member.

Instructor Paula Devine said a new class will be scheduled on weekday evenings or Saturdays based on the preference of people who sign up for the class. For more information, call BCC at 754-6900, 457-6329 or 343-0302.

Inspectors Class Set

Brunswick Community College Lead Automotive Instructor Roy Hornaday will teach an eight-hour North Carolina Safety Inspectors Certification course set for Saturday, Jan. 12, from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. in the vocational building automotive shop at the main campus in Supply. A \$25 registration fee is payable at the class meeting. There is no charge for state residents age 65 and older.

To pre-register for the one-day course, call Hornaday or BCC Continuing Education Director Perry Hall at 754-6900, 457-6329 or 343-0203.

Incubation Seminar Set

An upcoming Brunswick Community College Small Business Center seminar will explore the features and benefits of business incubators.

Participants will learn about the new Brunswick Electric Membership Corp. Business Development Center from facility manager Richard Mickey.

"Business Incubator: What Is It All About" will be held Thursday, Jan. 17, from 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. in the multi-purpose room in the ALS Building at the BCC main campus in Supply.

The seminar will show the ways a business incubator can provide a climate of success for new and expanding firms. An incubator's services include management and clerical assistance and shared operating expenses.

Mickey said statistics show that 75 percent to 80 percent of the businesses that begin in incubators are still operating after five years.

To pre-register for the free seminar, call the BCC Small Business Center at 754-6961, 457-6329 or 343-0203.

Series Continues

The Brunswick Community College Small Business Center's "Lunch and Learn" video series continues next week with a workshop on selling.

"How to Sell—More, Better, Cheaper, Faster" will be presented Wednesday, Jan. 16, from noon until 1:30 p.m. at the Blue Dolphin Gallery on Long Beach Road.

The video series shows business owners, managers and employees how to start, build, manage or turn around any business, according to a college news release.

People interested in attending are asked to pre-register by calling BCC's Small Business Center at 754-6961, 457-6329 or 343-0203. There is no admission charge

since the series is provided through a state grant. Participants are invited to bring their own lunch.

Notary Course Set

Brunswick Community College is offering a notary public education course Wednesday and Thursday, Jan. 16 and 17, at the main campus in Supply.

The classes will be held both days in the multi-purpose room of the ALS Building from 6:30 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. Students must register at the first class meeting.

Brunswick County Tax Administrator Boyd Williamson will teach the course, which qualifies students to take the North Carolina notary public licensure exam.

There is a \$25 registration fee for the course. There is no charge for North Carolina residents age 65 and older. The required book costs \$5 and is available at the first class meeting.

For more information on the course, contact BCC Continuing Education Director Perry Hall at 754-6922.

Looking For Career?

Century 21 Sunset Realty will participate in Career Opportunity Week Jan. 14-21. Throughout the week, individuals considering a career change are invited to contact Nancy Smith to learn more about real estate careers.

Career sessions will be held Monday, Jan. 14 and Thursday, Jan. 17 at 7 p.m. in the Century 21 Sunset Realty mainland office across from Sea Trail Golf Links on Hwy. 179. There is no fee or obligation and everyone is welcome, Ms. Smith said.

For more information, contact Ms. Smith at 579-1000.

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