

You Can Join Chamber If Area Is Second Home

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

I am dedicating this column to all our South Brunswick Islands vacationers and home owners who read the *Beacon* in other cities and other states.

I have been so excited lately with all the "fan" mail the chamber has been getting from you folks. Thanks for keeping up with what's happening in the area and for your interest.

As far as homeowners go, I know for sure that we have a great group out there because our local real estate companies are always bragging on you! Your participation in this area helps to make it so wonderful. And, of course, it is wonderful! Isn't that why you've chosen it as your home away from home?

Rest assured that the chamber of commerce is working daily to maintain the "wonderfulness" of the South Brunswick Islands. The by-pass is almost completed, the welcome center will be open early next year, and many other positive things are taking place.

It is nice to know that our area has supporters scattered all over the United States. And even though you don't live here year 'round, your involvement is so important. I encourage you to remain involved and even to become a part of the chamber if you're not already.

Because of those of you who call this your second home, our chamber has developed a special type of membership for you—Booster Membership. By joining, you receive our monthly newsletter from the chamber and are invited to attend any of our membership functions when you are in town. It's a \$25 investment that carries many returns.

Thank you for your support, and we welcome your participation in the chamber. And thanks for all the wonderful letters!



SARTELLE



STAFF PHOTO BY TERRY POPE

Receives Energy Savings Award

Brierwood Builders Inc. was recognized last week with an award of excellence for its attention to energy conservation in designing new homes. Representative Dan Carnevale of West Window Corp. of Virginia, (above left) presents the award to Larry Shreve (center) and Ed Shreve, each a past president of the South Brunswick Islands Home Builders Association and that group's Builder of the Year for 1989 and 1990, respectively.



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN USHER

Rupp Gets Quarterly Award

South Brunswick Island Chamber of Commerce volunteer Debbie Rupp displays the logo jacket she won last week for her work with the Ambassadors Club January through March. She visited 32 member businesses on the chamber's Feb. 26 "Thank You" day, delivering vacation guides. Also, as one of the club's eight to 10 members she welcomes new members, participates in Business After Hours events and new member welcome breakfasts and mentors new members. She represents the office of her husband Gregory P. Rupp, DDS. John Morris, chairman of the Ambassadors Club said the club's next meeting is a breakfast for new chamber members Tuesday, April 23. Chamber members interested in becoming ambassadors or prospective chamber members are welcome. Reservations can be booked by calling Ouida Hewitt at the chamber. The Ambassador Club award is presented quarterly.

Want To Do Business With U.S. Government?

An upcoming seminar and trade fair at the Sheraton Hotel and Marina in New Bern is aimed at businesses interested in doing business with federal agencies.

The April 4-5 event, sponsored by the Marine Corps Air Station, will focus on how to better improve the vendor and government contracting relationships. It will also help to better promote and develop the business base of eastern North Carolina, according to Congressman Charlie Rose.

The conference will include speakers from the Small Business Administration, North Carolina Small Business and Technology Center and local procurement offices. The two-day program will review government needs, product quality, contractor reliability, administrative processes and sources of contractor assistance.

Rose said the sponsors believe it would take an ordinary business considerable time and money to obtain all the information that will be offered.

Registration is \$12, which includes a continental breakfast, hot buffet lunch and informational material.

For more information contact Wesley Morris at 919-466-3446, or Susan Morris, 919-466-7504.

Day Honors Secretaries

Bosses will have the opportunity to honor their secretaries later this month at the South Brunswick Islands Chamber of Commerce's Secretaries Day Luncheon.

The second annual event is scheduled Wednesday, April 24, from noon until 1:30 p.m. at the Jones/Byrd Clubhouse at Sea Trail Plantation at Sunset Beach.

The West Brunswick High School Show Chorus will entertain those attending the luncheon. Door prizes

FmHA Program Helps Farmers

A program aimed at helping farmers get loans from local banks has been introduced by the Farmers Home Administration.

The Interest Assistance Program provides strong incentives for commercial banks to make loans to farmers who otherwise would not qualify, said Ted C. Rivenbark, FmHA supervisor for Brunswick County.

FmHA will pay up to 4 percent interest on loans to help farmers qualify. The interest paid by FmHA depends on the financial condition of the farmer.

FmHA will pay only the amount necessary to help the farmer cash flow with a small reserve, Rivenbark said. Such guaranteed loans are made by a bank or other lender with an agreement from FmHA that if the loan goes bad FmHA will pay the lender for up to 90 percent of the loss.

Rivenbark hopes the program will greatly increase the availability of farm credit through local private businesses.

"The program, made law in late 1990, was put on a fast track so as to assist farmers in time for the 1991 planting season," Rivenbark said.

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

and a fashion show are planned.

Secretaries, administrative assistants and clerical workers are invited to attend. Chamber members and non-members can participate.

The menu will include a salad plate, rolls, dessert, coffee and tea. The cost is \$10 per person, according to a chamber of commerce news release.

The deadline to register is April 17. To make reservations, call the chamber office at 754-6644.

Co-op Recognized

Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation (BEMC) and its general manager, David J. Batten, both received recognition recently at the annual meeting of the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives in Raleigh.

BEMC, which has 140 employees, received a certificate of accreditation for its safety program from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. The association conducts reviews of safety efforts every three years. This is the fourth certificate earned by BEMC.

Batten was recognized by the state association for 20 years of service to the co-op. He has been general manager of BEMC since 1981.

Attends Assembly

Dr. Charles Savarese of Shallotte attended the 43rd Annual Scientific Assembly and Congress of Delegates sponsored March 20-24 by the North Carolina Academy of Family Physicians.

Held at the Research Triangle Park, the event drew approximately 300 family physicians, who participated in continuing medical education programs, social events and committee meetings.

The 1,900-member professional association is dedicated to maintaining high standards of family prac-

lice. To retain membership, family doctors must earn 150 hours of related continuing education every three years.

Financing Is Topic

A comprehensive look at the financial assistance available to small businesses is planned as the next seminar offered by the Brunswick Community College Small Business Center.

The session will be held Tuesday, April 9, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the teaching auditorium of the ALS building on the main campus.

Represented will be the Farmer's Home Administration, the Small Business Administration, the North Carolina Biotechnology Center, the Center for Community Self-Help, United Carolina Bank, the Brunswick County Resources Development Commission, the Technological Development Authority, and Brunswick Electric Membership Corp.

"Nine out of every 10 small business clients I counsel are seeking financial assistance," said BCC Small Business and Industry Director Velva B. Jenkins. While loans are most common, the seminar will ex-

plore all sources of assistance.

Registration begins at 12:30 p.m. The event is offered at no charge. For more information contact the center at 754-6961, 457-6329 or 343-0203.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Wins Bunny

Karen Lynn Martin of Route 2, Bolivia, won this stuffed Easter bunny in a drawing held March 23 at the Speedway store in Shallotte.

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