



BUSINESS UPDATE



Business news and information brought to you by the Kinston-Lenoir County Chamber of Commerce

www.kinstonchamber.com

» CHAMBER HAPPENINGS

RIBBON-CUTTING AT SWEET FROG!



Run on up to 2405-F North Heritage Street in Kinston to satisfy your sweet tooth! That's where you will find sweetFrog. Recently, Mayor Pro Tem Robert Swinson helped new owner Pete Masciave cut the ribbon to celebrate their new ownership. Visit sweetFrog — where their goal is to create the best frozen yogurt experience you've ever have! You create your own combination of delicious, soft-serve premium frozen yogurt, then finish it off with any toppings you choose. Their toppings bar is stocked fresh every day with the best ingredients for a light snack, a decadent dessert, and everything in between. Submitted photo

» CHAMBER AT WORK

2016 Program of Work

By The Free Press

The 2016 Program of Work was presented at the Chamber's annual meeting and is available online at kinstonchamber.com. The progress of the Lenoir 2020 community-leaders committee this past year, along with board member and staff input resulted in a comprehensive plan for this coming year which continues to develop throughout the year.

A portion of this document will be presented in the next several Business Update newsletters. Please contact the chamber office if you have questions.

Special Projects:

Vice President of Special Projects: Tonya Adams, The Beauty Box

Staff: Laura Lee Sylvester, President and Jan Parson, Director of Events and Vickie Jones, Director of Membership Services and Programs.

Special Projects is responsible to the Board of Directors for activities and special projects that give Chamber members an opportunity to network with other members and make valuable new business contacts. In addition, these activities generate non-dues income for the Chamber.

The Special Projects Committee oversees and works on the Chamber's larger events and programs. They also determine if a new event or program meets the criteria of the mission of the Chamber.

2016 Signature Events include: Annual Banquet, BBQ Festival on the Neuse, and Living the Good Life Expo.

» RED CARPET PROGRAM

Welcome to Dave, Rebecca and Richard!

By The Free Press

The Chamber likes to let you know about all the people we welcomed as new Lenoir County residents. The Kinston-Lenoir County Chamber of Commerce and the Red Carpet Committee are pleased to introduce you to Richard Jones, Rebecca Call and Dave Mendich.

The Red Carpet Committee loves to prove to our newcomers why Kinston and Lenoir County is a great place to call home.

Richard, far left, and Rebecca moved to Kinston from Belleune, Neb. Richard is in the military and enjoys hunting, fishing, camping and the outdoors.

Dave, far right, came from Deltona, Fla. He enjoys sports and working around his home.

Richard, Rebecca and Dave are pictured with Scott Bowen, the VP of Business and Tourism for the Chamber.

Thanks to chamber member sponsoring businesses, each eligible newcomer receives a Red Carpet



Gift Card package valued at more than \$1,000, turning new residents into lifetime customers. The program works hand-in-hand with the Think Lenoir County (TLC) project which supports local shopping and encourages people to relocate here.

If you moved here from outside Lenoir County and are interested in the program or just want

more information, please contact Laura Lee Sylvester at llsylvester@kinstonchamber.com or 252-527-1131.

The Chamber is inviting new member businesses to participate by offering a gift cards to new residents.

Please phone the chamber for details.

» SAVE THE DATE

**RIBBON-CUTTING:
Garriss Body Shop
2883 Hull Road, Kinston
March 23, 10 a.m.**

Join us for a ribbon-cutting at Garriss Body Shop. Garriss Body Shop is under new operation by Thomas Edwards.

Thomas is keeping everything the same; no changes to the name, the location and more important, no changes to the staff. The same great technicians are still delivering personalized service to each customer in a timely manner ... just as they have for over 35 years.

Bring a coworker and a friend and join us at Garriss Body Shop!

**BUSINESS AFTER HOURS:
Coastal Plains Livestock
Show and Sale
March 29, 5:30-7 p.m.**

Going once ... going twice ... SOLD! Join us at the Coastal Plains Livestock Show and Sale on Tuesday, March 29 for dinner and a sale!

This year is the 76th anniversary of this historic event that occurs every year on the Monday and Tuesday after Easter. Around 150 children and their families from 11 counties will gather to show off their livestock during the day.

Then the fun begins ... Following the show is dinner and a live auction. The children present their animals in the auction, but not for you to actually purchase. We sell the animals ahead of time to a real market, but the auction is for community business owners to donate money to these children to help them pay for their expenses.

These animals are purchased and raised by 4-H and FFA members and their families. It's not easy or cheap to feed project animals, so we invite the community to help support them as they learn how agribusiness really works.

We will feed you a complete BBQ meal, cooked on site by the famous David Mooring!

Dinner is at 6 p.m.; the auction is at 7.

See you there; we will have a bidding paddle waiting for you!

This sounds like so much fun, bring your coworkers!

**BUSINESS AFTER HOURS:
Rita's by the River
1303 S. Queen St. (enter off
U.S. 70)
April 14, 5:30 p.m.**

» CHAMBER UPDATES

BBQ Festival is only a few weeks away; Vote yes on bond!

By The Free Press

Can you smell the BBQ yet? It's time to start planning for the BBQ Festival! We are now accepting applications for arts, fine crafts, food, Farmers Market and general vendors.

The Kinston-Lenoir County Chamber of Commerce is accepting applications for festival vendors, cook teams, entertainment and festival sponsors.

If you are a business and would like to place a gift item in the Hog Happen' BBQ Cook-off team

welcome bags, contact Laura Lee Sylvester at the chamber.

This is going to be our biggest festival yet!

Be sure to put the BBQ Festival on your calendar.

Invite your family and friends to come along to enjoy great barbeque, rides, vendors, car show, entertainment and so much more.

Go to kinstonbbq.com for information and the schedule of events or call the Chamber at 252-527-1131.

Vote Yes

On March 15, vote yes to the Connect NC Bond — here's why.

The Kinston-Lenoir County Executive Committee of the Board of Directors approved a resolution to support the Connect NC Bond vote. The Chamber encourages everyone to vote yes to give Kinston and Lenoir County much needed funds to improve Lenoir Community College, agri-business in ENC and much more.

For the full resolution, go to kinstonchamber.com. And to learn more, go to connect.nc.gov.

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Statewide Overview

- \$2 billion of targeted, long-term investments
- Projects in 76 counties
- Infrastructure investments are vital to NC's competitiveness
- Connect NC will pay for assets that will last for 50 years
- Interest rates are historically low
- Connect NC will not jeopardize our strong credit ratings

There will be no new taxes or tax increases because of Connect NC.

» BUSINESS AFTER HOURS



Everyone had an enjoyable time at the Lenoir County Council on Aging's Business After Hours networking event. The George T. Skinner Center, 112 E. Blount St., is a great location and has an extensive list of programs for our area's older adult population. Just stop by to learn more. Submitted photo