

Downtown Herald

Volume 10 Issue 11

January 2012

The Corner Chair

Friends,

Many are glad to see 2011 end and a new year with new hopes begin. It is a lot like the movie, *Groundhog Day*, where actor, Bill Murray gets another chance to relive and correct his mistakes from the previous day. With the start of the new year we get another chance to improve on the year before.

In the movie after several days relived over and over Murray becomes frustrated and just wants to move on with his current self-centered lifestyle. After due time he comes to realize the need for others and their need for each other. Once this is realized Murray is able to move into a new day with a new perspective and success. This can be true for us, to have success we must be involved in the world around us and not stand as an island.

It is easy to be an island. It is a challenge to leave the island since you must depend on others to travel. You must get involved and participate with others to reach a new destination. One must move past personal and individual gain and look to the community. If the community is growing and becoming more vibrant and exciting, if you are involved, you will capture that same spirit. If you have not looked around lately, Williamston is growing and becoming more vibrant. Over the last 10 to 12 years we have seen almost 50 million dollars in new investment in Williamston and have benefited by over 500 new retail and professional jobs being created.

We currently are working with several companies that are interested in locating here in Williamston. Two of those entities could bring up to 50 new jobs along with valuable goods and services to our community. The recent economic development study identified that over \$53,000,000 of money is leaving Martin County each year for outside purchases. Residents are traveling to Greenville, Rocky Mount, and even Raleigh for daily goods and services. Those outside purchases include clothes, dining (casual and specialty), farm supplies, automobiles, building

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Small Town Main Street News

Economic Restructuring is working on targeted business recruitment for the downtown. We will be contacting businesses within the region to consider Williamston for expansion or relocation. Businesses targeted would be to fill gaps in our retail market, such as jewelry stores, clothing, home, and garden. We will also be participating in the Strategic Economic Development plan implementation for the County and Towns. The implementation process should get in full swing after January 1st.

Design sub-committee The sculpture is nearly completed and ready for installation there and we should see completion of the project by early spring. Street and sidewalk improvements are currently underway. **Brick sales are extended to January 16th.**

Promotions is working on entertainment and seeking sponsors for the 2012 In The Park Series. Corporate sponsors are needed to help with funding for this community-wide event. Contact Phillip Martin at Town Hall 792-5142 for more information.



A popular site many years ago is now making a comeback but in a legal way. The state has in recent years allowed breweries, wineries and even distilled liquor businesses to open and operate legally. The state is even promoting it through advertising and grant funding opportunities. A number of downtowns have benefited with the opening of micro-breweries and restaurants.

**Williamston Downtown, Inc.
Board Meeting**

**January 10th 7 am
@ Moratoc Restaurant
W. Blvd**

Call to order	7:00 am
Invocation	7:01
Minutes of last meeting	7:05
Financial report	7:10
Committee Reports	7:15
Economic Development	
Design Sub-comm.	
Promotions	
Arts Council	7:30
Friends of Courthouse	7:35
E.J. Hayes Alumni Assoc.	7:40
Martin Community College	7:45
Tourism	7:50
Discussion	7:55
Adjourn	8:00 am

Seen on Main Drag....David Whitley entering the Post Office, Bud Swain visiting Town Hall, Mary-Anne Crowe opening *Treasures and Finds* for daily business,

Williamston Downtown, Inc.
Chairperson: Wilbur Edwards
Vice Chair: A. R. Chesson
Secretary: Jean Stevens
Treasurer: John Spilman
Newsletter Editor: Brent Kanipe

Williamston Downtown, Inc.
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Corner Chair Cont.....supplies to include both indoor and outdoor products, hardware items, and entertainment to mention a few. This leaves a lot of room for new businesses and expansion of product lines in existing businesses. There is no better time than the present to start. If you never start, you can never achieve or finish.

As we start the new year consider joining a local civic club, a local non-profit such as the Arts Council, volunteering for a public board, serving on the Meals on Wheels program, join Williamston Downtown, start a new business, or volunteer at the school. Whatever you choose, believe that your involvement can make a difference in our community and in your life.

Don't live last year over, Make a Difference.

Happy New Year,

Brent



Last year we saw new life come to the former Walmart site with the opening of Roses. We are hoping to announce additional well known tenants this year.

Upcoming Events

Jan. 6-7th
4th Annual Indoor Dirt Karting Championship @ Bob Martin Eastern Ag Center. Tickets available at the door.

Jan. 7th 7—9:30 pm
Barney Conway and the Shadows at Martin County Arts Center on Washington St, Williamston. \$7

Jan. 20-21st
Big Daddy Motorsports Truck and Tractor Pull @ Bob Martin Eastern Ag Center. Tickets available at the door.

Jan. 28th
Spring National Garden Tractor Pull @ Bob Martin Eastern Ag Center. Tickets available at the door.

Check out these and other events @ www.visitmartincounty.com or www.martincountync.com

Reminder

Williamston received a **\$400,000 EPA grant** to assist property owners and developers in doing assessments of their potentially contaminated properties.

Brownfields are considered properties that have been exposed to potentially



harmful contaminants such as petroleum products (old gas stations) or hazardous materials (chemicals). These properties are typically eligible for grant funding. If you have properties that may be potential brownfields properties contact Brent Kanipe at 252-792-5142 to schedule a meeting to discuss how the grant funds can benefit you.

«Company Name»

«Address Line 1»

«City», «State» «ZIP Code»