

POTASH 50th ANNIVERSARY

EDITORIAL BY DICK BARBER

As we pause to break from the regular Beaufort County Committee of 100 luncheons for the summer, I thought it was appropriate to reflect on recent Committee of 100 events. We have had a chance to hear from many good speakers this year on topics ranging from County and City governments, State economic policy, fiber optic projects to medical services. There is clearly a lot going on both locally and around us that will impact our lives significantly. It is good for the members of the Committee of 100 to stay informed of the issues.

The Committee of 100 Board met for a half day to discuss where the Committee of 100 needs to be involved for the next few years. The Board agreed to begin looking at how the Committee of 100 can better market itself internally to generate more membership. There is also a great amount of interest in product development, tourism and workforce development. The Board will form committees to generate, develop and recommend ideas for Committee of 100 involvement going forward.

The Business and Industry Innovation Council has already recommended that Beaufort County become a certified Work Ready Community. The Committee of 100 has engaged the NC East Alliance to help us with this certification. The Board also approved setting up a small business loan program for small businesses to start up and grow.

I want to thank all of you for your membership and support of the Beaufort County Committee of 100 and ask that you continue to look for ways to improve Beaufort County.

Dick Barber, Owner
Morris Insurance Agency



Betty Gray Photo

Mayor Mac Hodges and Ray McKeithan, Public Relations Director for PotashCorp, finalizing details for the Potash 50th Anniversary recognition at the Washington Civic Center.

Potash 50 Years

PotashCorp Aurora celebrated its 50th birthday on April 2, 2014. Formerly Texas Gulf, PotashCorp operates a phosphate mine and phosphate processing facility in Aurora, NC. Today, the company employs over 800 people and hundreds of contract workers and sends over \$7 million annually in revenue to local and State governments. In addition, PotashCorp supports local nonprofits by nearly \$1 million a year. Products manufactured from phosphate are shipped to the global market and range from fertilizer to food-grade additives. We congratulate PotashCorp on its 50th and thank them for their investment in Beaufort County.

The Retreat

The Beaufort County Committee of 100 Board held their first retreat in at least four years to update and develop a strategy for how the Committee can best assist and participate in economic development efforts of the county. Guest speakers in the morning updated the Board on activities at the airport and arts/tourism related efforts in the area. Tom Richter led the group in an exercise where ideas were put on the table for the Committee's involvement in economic development activities. Many ideas emerged from the Board members that led to another exercise to prioritize the list. Workforce development, product development, tourism and organizational development are the areas that the Board felt needed more involvement. The theme for the day was to see how the Committee of 100 could become more relevant in improving Beaufort County. With the activities identified and acted upon over the next few years, the County will be a better place than it is today.

For information about membership, contact the Beaufort County Committee of 100
705 Page Road, Washington, NC 27889
Phone: 252.946.2285 / Email: laura@beaufortcdc.com

Events

Pirates on the Pungo -
May 16-18 - Belhaven

Queen Anne's Revenge Exhibit - June 13 - Bath
Visitors Center

Washington Summer Festival - June 13-14 -
Washington Waterfront

C100 Oyster Roast -
January 9, 2015 -
Washington Civic Center

YOUR MEMBERSHIP DOES MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN BEAUFORT COUNTY

Board of Directors

Jim Chesnutt , Chairman
 Dick Barber, President
 Joy McRoy, Treasurer
 Dianne Bowen
 Mike Calfee
 Bobby Clark
 Starlon Credle
 Lindsey Crisp
 Brad Davis
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 Rocky Jacobs
 Mike Labarbera
 Al Kutzing
 Jay McRoy
 Dot Moate
 Darlene Moore
 Cam Padgett
 Zoph Potts
 Bob Rich
 Tom Richter
 Austin Smithwick
 William Taylor
 Roger Tuttle
 Sandra Warren
 Bill Zachman

Beaufort County Committee of 100 Small Business Loan Program

The Committee of 100 approved setting up a new loan program to create opportunities for new ideas to be developed and turned into viable business ventures. The Board recognized that capital is always the greatest barrier for small businesses to start up and grow. Anyone interested in pursuing a loan through this program can go online and download the description and application information,

<http://www.beaufortcountyc100.com/committee-of-100-revolving-loan-program.html>

Misery index = unemployment rate plus the inflation rate.
 March 2014 misery rate = **9.3%**
 compared to March 2013 misery rate = **11.5%**



New Business Update

ProNamic Industries – As part of the Blue Goose project, ProNamic Industries has been extremely busy preparing the blue building they purchased at the Washington-Beaufort County Industrial Park for the production of air filter media. The company has installed a number of machines that melt glass pellets into fine strands which are then rolled onto a large spinning drum to produce a mat that is then stretched and rolled into the thickness needed for the typical household filter. The company has hired as many as 50 people and will be looking to hire more in the coming year. The finished product is then shipped to Flanders for final filter assembly. The ProNamic production facility has just been painted on the exterior from the obnoxious blue color to a tasteful beige.

Oak Ridge Metal Works –Plant Manager Stuart Asby has a right to be excited about everything going on at Oak Ridge Metal Works. He has added over 25 people to the initial workforce of 16 due to the workload Oak Ridge has experienced. Oak Ridge is a high-end machine shop with talented people building production equipment for filter medial and final filter assembly. The equipment is engineered by Oak Ridge, then constructed either in their facility on Page Road or on site at the customer's facility. The former Brooks Boatworks building has been completely renovated with new offices upstairs and downstairs, as well as improvements in the production area and the building's exterior. Oak Ridge is a great addition to the Washington-Beaufort County Industrial Park.

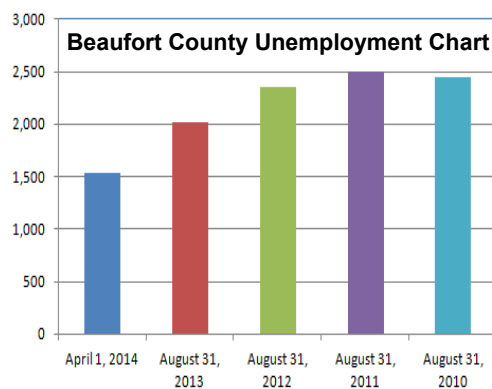
Duke Energy

Millie Chalk, District Manager, Government and Community Relations, of Duke Energy presented Beaufort County Community College with a check for \$147,000 for the college to buy equipment for the establishment of a new industrial maintenance training program to be located at the Beaufort County Skills Center. Graduates from the program will have certificates recognizing skills in safety, electrical and mechanical areas. Duke Energy has also chosen the Beaufort County Industrial Park at Chocowinity for further study in their Site Readiness program. Duke will bring on site an internationally recognized site selection consultant who will provide his opinion on how to best utilize the Park. He will also share his insights on the site selection process with the leadership in Beaufort County. This will mean great additional exposure for the Park and Beaufort County.



Did you know?

High school graduates who skip college face grim job prospects. The unemployment rate for recent grads who do not attend college was 30.9% in October 2013, the most recent month for which data is available.



Buster Humphries Resigns

Buster Humphries, long-time and founding member of the Beaufort County Committee of 100, officially resigned from the Board of Directors in March 2014, citing a need to step back and spend more time with his grandchildren. Buster, a knowledgeable and colorful individual, was always supportive of improving Beaufort County. He will be remembered most for his advocacy of workforce development efforts. He was instrumental in bringing together the private and public sectors to discuss and recommend programming for improving the workforce. He knew the importance of education for the future of Beaufort County. Buster will be missed for his leadership and candor. We wish Buster well and thank him for his service. He will continue to be a member of the Beaufort County Committee of 100.

BCCC Small Business Center Workshops

- **How to Start a Non-Profit Business With Sam Gore** Tuesday, May 27, 2014 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM BCCC, Building 8, Room 828
- **Making Leadership Magical: For the Prospective and Current Small Business Owner with John Formica** Tuesday, May 20, 2014, 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM BCCC, Building 8, Room 828
- **The Good, the Bad and the Ugly: A Discussion of Superlative, Mediocre and Poor Service Traits in Restaurants with Robert H. Doe** Thursday, May 22, 2014 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM BCCC, Building 8, Room 828

<http://www.beaufortccc.edu>