



Columbus County NORTH CAROLINA

VISITOR & RELOCATION GUIDE

WHITEVILLE / TABOR CITY / CHADBOURN / LAKE WACCAMAW / FAIR BLUFF / BOLTON





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Presented by the Greater Fair Bluff Chamber of Commerce For More Information, go to fairbluff.com/bbq-on-the-bluff or call 910-649-7202

Welcome



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE COLUMBUS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN COLUMBUS COUNTY. NC.

Whether you are planning to visit, relocate here, or just pass through,

you will find that our county and towns are unique, quaint, and welcoming communities. Our small-town atmosphere is ideal for raising a family or settling in for retirement. But, don't let our size fool you, we have a lot going on in Columbus County! Throughout the pages of this guide, you'll get a glimpse of what makes Columbus County special. Whether you are an out-



door enthusiast looking to kayak down our rivers, or enjoy the sights and sounds of one of our many cultural festivals, or simply desire to stroll "Mayberryesque" style through the downtown of one of our beautiful communities, Columbus County has much to offer. I hope you will enjoy your time here, whether for a day, a week, or a lifetime.

Jennifer Holcomb





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Fuller Royal
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ecotourism...p.5things to do & see...p.6 hunting & fishing...p.8 accommodations...p.9 festivals & events...p.10 healthcare...p.14business & industry...p.16 take me out to the ballgame...p.21 need to know numbers...p.23 education & childcare...p.24 columbus county map...p.26 our communities...p.33 arts & culture...p.34 famous names & faces...p.36 faith & worship...p.39 food & fun...p.40day tripper...p. 42 preferred business directory...p. 44

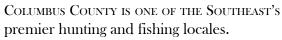
On the cover: Siouan Pow Wow // A slice of fun at the Fair Bluff Watermelon Festival // Tabor City Centennial Carillon Clock // Organic gardener at the farmer's market // Lake Waccamaw sunset // Black water kayaking // Cape Fearless Extreme aerial bark adventure //Chadbourn's finest berries // Columbus County Fair //





ecotourism





Covering 954 square miles, major swaths of the county are forested or intertwined with fertile fields. Beautiful Lake Waccamaw, one of the largest natural lakes between Florida and New York, is well known for its schools of white perch. Three wild and scenic rivers, the Lumber, Waccamaw and Cape Fear, wind their way through scenic lowlands on the way to the Atlantic Ocean and provide bass, catfish, crappie and bream fishing.







things to do see

Reuben Brown House // Reuben Brown House Preservation Society Federal era event // NC Museum of Natural Sciences on Madison Street // Face painting at Bug Fest at the NC Museum of Natural Sciences //





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Reuben Brown House

Reuben Brown was a school master and this is his home, which is a late Federal - era farmhouse built between 1830 and 1840. It houses the Reuben Brown House Preservation Society which is a organization of concerned citizens preserving local history with period music and literature events, as well as sponsoring the A.R. Ammons poetry contest in honor of the renowned American poet originally from Columbus County. The poetry contest has been the inspiration for area school children for 25 years and in 2018 hosted Tracy K. Smith, the Pulitizer prize winning National Poet Laureate.



NC Museum of Natural Sciences

The museum experience in Whiteville is modeled after proven interactive programs at the museum's Raleigh-based Nature Research Center, Nature Education Center and the Prairie Ridge Ecostation. The Whiteville museum features an Investigation Lab, Naturalist Center, Outdoor Nature PlaySpace and Discovery Forest. It offers education and inspiration to visitors free of charge.





The Fair Bluff River Walk

The Fair Bluff River Walk offers beautiful lowland scenery and the access is located in downtown Fair Bluff. Over time, the quiet community has had a relationship that has ebbed and flowed with the river. Outdoor enthusiasts are lured by black water kayaking and canoeing. Also available are trail hikes as well as a casual stroll down the Fair Bluff River Walk.



LAKE WACCAMAW STATE PARK

Lake Waccamaw State Park

Lake Waccamaw State Park encompasses Lake Waccamaw, a shallow, Carolina Bays lake that's one of the largest natural bodies of waters from New York to Florida, plus more than 2,000 acres of forest and shoreline. The lake is home to several rare species of fish and mollusks, and the park contains naturally growing carnivorous plants such as the Venus flytrap. The park has a boat ramp, primitive campsites, hiking trails, a long boardwalk that extends into the 3X5-mile lake, and a visitor's center with regular programs.

Historic Railroad Depots

Columbus County has six historic railroad depots, four of which are museums. The depots in Lake Waccamaw, Chadbourn (shown here), Fair Bluff and Tabor City have artifacts and exhibits that represent their respective towns' history and the history of the railroad. The Riegelwood depot serves as that community's library, and the Whiteville depot, known as Vineland Station, is the town's civic center and hosts a large number of events. It was one of the first brick depots in the state.



The Fair Bluff River Walk // Black water canoeing // Lake Waccamaw State Park // Chadbourn Depot //

HUNTING FISHING

Man's best friend in training // Turkey hunters proudly displaying their prize turkeys // Duck hunting a popular pastime in Columbus County // The big one didn't get away





COLUMBUS IS ONE OF THE STATE'S most rural counties, and there is a welcoming tradition for outdoorsmen. We offer expansive areas for hunting bear or deer in the massive Green Swamp, wading the lowlands and beaver ponds for wood ducks, or plying the fields for quail, turkey or dove on both private and public lands. Outfitters, some with cabins for overnight guests, are available.

"Fishing is a time-honored tradition...

Fishing is a time-honored tradition here. Whether they use a cane pole to wrestle in a feisty redbreast in one or our black water rivers or casting into a frenzied school of white perch at Lake Waccamaw or Lake Tabor, fishermen will not go home disappointed.





8:: thecolumbuschamber.com

Accommodations bed & breakfast

Carolina Charm Quilt and Craft Retreat

204 South Lewis St., Tabor City, NC 28463 410-960-3541 carolinacharmquilting.com

Lake Shore Lodge

2014 Lake Shore Dr., Lake Waccamaw, NC 28450 910-646-3748 lakewaccamawbandb.com

Merri Mac Inn

209 East Wyche St., Whiteville, NC 28472 910-918-5059 merrimacinn.com

The Madison House Bed & Breakfast Inn

101 N. Madison St., Whiteville, NC 28472 910-640-2132 whitevillenc.com/madison house

Weaver's Landing

121 Weaver Dr., Lake Waccamaw, NC 28450 910-646-3832 weaverslanding.com

hotels & motels

Econolodge - 503 J.K. Powell Blvd., Hwy. 701 Bypass, Whiteville, NC 28472 910-642-2378 econolodge.com

Quality Inn - 1415 N. J.K. Powell Blvd., Hwy. 701 Bypass, Whiteville, NC 28472 910-641-0644 qualityinn.com

campgrounds

Lumber River Campground

426 Tar Landing, Evergreen, NC 28438 910-770-1159 Iumberrivertrailride.com

Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park @ Daddy Joe's

626 Richard Wright Rd., Tabor City, NC 28463 877-668-8586, 910-653-2155 taborcityjellystone.com

Boys and Girls Home Exhibition Center

205 Top Tobacco Rd., Lake Waccamaw, NC 28450 910-477-0277 boysandgirlshomesofnc.com

Lake Waccamaw State Park

1866 State Park Dr., Lake Waccamaw, NC 28450 910-646-4748 lake.waccamaw@ncparks.gov

vacation rentals

For vacation rentals in Columbus County visit the columbus chamber.com/discover-columbus/accomodations

FESTIVALS, EVENTS









SPRING

BBQ on the Bluff
- Fair Bluff

NC Strawberry Festival
- Chadbourn

Farmer's Market Fun Run
- Whiteville

Spring Festival
- Tabor City

SUMMER

NC Watermelon Festival

- Fair Bluff

Take the Lake
- Lake Waccamaw

NC Honey Festival
- Whiteville



FALL

Pine Tree Festival - Bolton

Brunswick Stew Festival - Brunswick

> Columbus County Agriculture Fair - Whiteville

Waccamaw Siouan Pow Wow - Buckhead

NC Yam Festival - Tabor City

NC Pecan Harvest Festival - Whiteville

> Columbus Industrial Golf Tournament - Whiteville

FESTIVALS

WINTER
St. James Siouan Festival
- Buckhead

EVELITS

Celebrate The Arts Columbus County Arts Council Columbus County Schools Whiteville City Schools

Southern Farm Days - Lake Waccamaw











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healthcare

COLUMBUS COUNTY RESIDENTS HAVE ACCESS TO DYNAMIC and progressive health care through the services of superb healthcare practitioners, an exceptional hospital, and emergency outpatient facilities.

Providers serve the county with a range of medical services including outpatient labs, diagnostic testing, physical therapy, cardiac rehabilitation, diabetes education, cancer care, hospice, pediatrics, imaging services, gynecology, urology, dental care, and orthodontics. A neonatal intensive-care unit is currently underway at Columbus Regional Healthcare System, the county's full-service hospital.

Additionally, residents are eligible for a variety of services through the Columbus County Health Department on a sliding-fee scale.



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Not only preserving history but creating it too!







What do Lake Waccamaw & Mount Vernon

have in common?

Come in to find out!

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BUSINESS INDUSTRY

This southeastern county offers strategic access to the Interstates 95 and 40 via future Interstate 74 that runs east to west through the county. The Port of Wilmington is less than one hour east and a web of federal and state highways allows employees to reach their employers with ease.

A rail line through the county

links the Port of Wilmington to Charlotte.

Commercial airline service is available at nearby Wilmington (ILM), Fayetteville (FAY), Myrtle Beach (MYR) airports each approximately an hour away with Raleigh-Durham International Airport (RDU) just two and a half hours away. Private and corporate aircraft are facili-

tated by Columbus County Airport's (CPC) 5,500-foot runway just south of Whiteville. (Photo below)

Four prime county industrial sites are: the Southeast Regional Park next to Southeastern Community College in Whiteville, the Tabor Industrial Park in Tabor City, the Columbus County Cape Fear River Site in Riegel-

wood, and the International Logistics Park of North Carolina in Delco. Southeast, Tabor, and the International Logistics Park have each met the comprehensive standards of North Carolina's Certified Sites program and are fully served with electricity, water, natural gas, sewer, highspeed internet, and rail.



16:: thecolumbuschamber.com

BUSINESS INDUSTRY

WORKFORCE CONTINUING EDUCATION AT SOUTHEASTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

As part of the NCWorks Customized Training Program, Southeastern Community College provides education, training, and support services for new, expanding and existing business and industry in Columbus County. Skills development training is also available for the specific purposes of training an individual for employment, upgrading skills of the presently employed and retraining others for new employment in occupational fields.

Top 10 Employers

(private, non-government)

International Paper
Columbus Regional Healthcare
BB&T
Wal-Mart
National Spinning

West Fraser Timber
Atlantic Corporation
Top Tobacco
Wayne E. Bailey Produce
Black's Tire



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International Paper transforms renewable resources into recyclable products that people depend on every day. We are committed to strengthening our people and the communities where we live and work; using all resources responsibly and efficiently; and ensuring our businesses are safe, successful and sustainable.

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fifteen Reporter sional role recognition

A surge of vibrant, young professionals who are not only living and working in Columbus County, but are also ready and willing to take leadership roles and are making a difference in communities that align with their core values. Each year The News Reporter asks citizens to nominate candidates outstanding in their civic and/or professional roles. Fifteen are celebrated in the annual "fifteen under 40" magazine and at a recognition event that has become a summer social highlight.



The News Reporter's "fifteen under 40" Class of 2017

Columbus County.

The perfect place for young professionals to live, work and lead!



Columbus Young Professionals
Columbus Chamber of Commerce & Tourism
Connect > Develop > Lead

Leadership Columbus is a program designed to develop a corps of informed, committed and qualified citizens capable of providing dynamic leadership for Columbus County, recognizing that volunteer leadership is one of the most valuable assets of a community.

For more information on these programs, contact the Chamber at 910-642-3171, or at www.thecolumbuschamber.com.



"I love the atmosphere here...the small town feel and the community pride is something I absolutely adore. The best part is that the people in these communities will welcome you and take you in as their own. I have been blessed to have this happen to me, and Columbus County has truly become my home."

- Justin Furlow, "fifteen under 40" Class of 2018

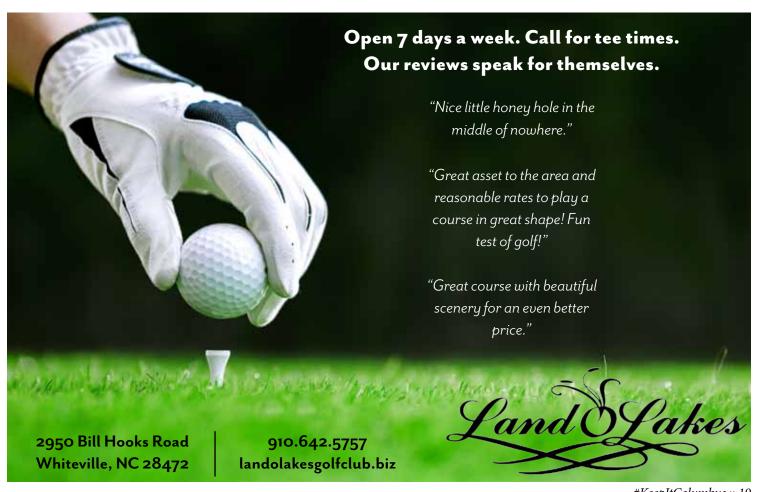
"After having lived elsewhere, Columbus County means so much more to me. It is a wonderful place to grow up and to raise children. The dedication and love we have for "our own" is shown through community service participation. Someone is always ready and willing to help."

- Lacie P. Jacobs, "fifteen under 40" Class of 2017

"Columbus County is an excellent place to raise children. My husband and I are thrilled with the education my son receives at White-ville Primary and the Southeastern Community College Child Development Center my daughter attends. I feel confident they are getting top-notch schooling from educators who genuinely care. Aside from school, they have the opportunity to learn sports fundamentals through Columbus County Parks and Rec, or take lessons in dance, piano, karate or any other interest they may have. My children can participate in the wonderful children's programs in area churches or attend local camps. They can go to the Museum of Natural Sciences or to the public library. They can celebrate local agriculture during our area's festivals. The list goes on and on. Columbus County has rich and varied opportunities for young people."

- Anna H. Richardson, "fifteen under 40" Class of 2016





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Mike Waddell Agent 910-654-1100

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TAKE MEQUT, BALL GAME









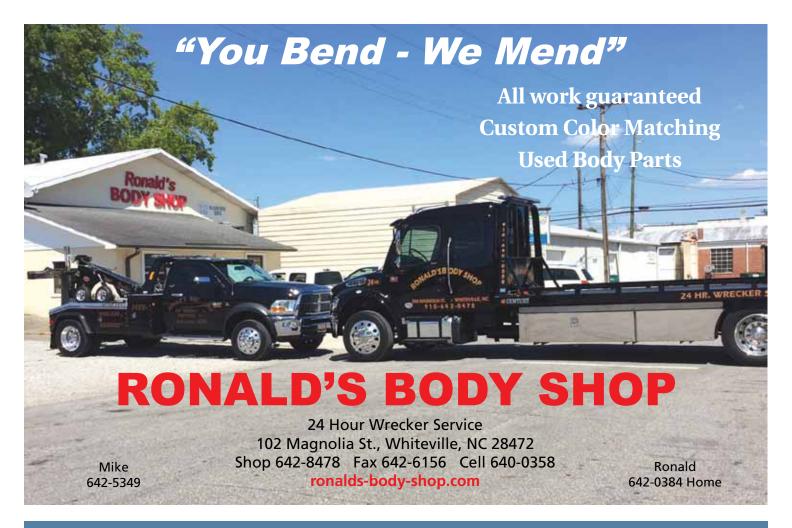
Columbus County has a rich history of outstanding sports teams and athletes. This is especially true in the game of baseball. Numerous teams at a variety of levels have won state championships and been successful in national tournaments.

Dixie Youth teams from the Columbus County and Wolfpack (formerly Whiteville) Optimist leagues are competitive each season and lay claim to multiple state titles. Columbus County claimed the 1993 Dixie Youth Majors World Series championship.

Columbus County Junior Dixie Boys and Dixie Majors teams won World Series titles in 2001 and 2007 respectively. Whiteville Post 137 lays claim to four NC American Legion State Championships.

On the high school level, Whiteville High baseball has been dominant over the past seven seasons. The Wolfpack won state titles in 2012, 2014, 2015, 2017 and 2018. Whiteville was state runner-up in 2016. Whiteville also won state titles in 1983, 1985, 1989 and 1991. East Columbus (2011) and West Columbus (1970) baseball each have one state championship. West Columbus was the 1A state runner-up in 2018.

These programs have spawned MLB players Otis Nixon, Tommy Greene, Donell Nixon and Patrick Lennon in addition to numerous players who had stellar collegiate careers. Whiteville's MacKenzie Gore, the third pick overall in the 2017 MLB draft by the San Diego Padres, is the latest in a continuing line of outstanding young players.





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RECREATION
City of Whiteville Parks
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Columbus County Parks
and Recreation Department910-640-6624
• Lake Waccamaw State Park910-646-4748
• Bolton Senior Center910-655-4166
• Bug Hill Senior Center910-640-3791
• Chadbourn Senior Center910-654-4423
 East Columbus Senior Center910-655-4754
 East Columbus Senior Center910-655-4754 Fair Bluff Senior Center910-649-6881
• Fair Bluff Senior Center910-649-6881



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Health Department......910-640-6615

of Aging......910-640-6602

EDUCATION CHILDCARE

Columbus County is home to two first-class school systems, Columbus County Schools and Whiteville City Schools, and an assortment of public charter and private schools to give parents and students ample choices for education for their children.

Education

Columbus County Schools operates 19 individual schools, including nine elementary schools, and four high schools serving more than 6,100 students with a student-to- teacher ratio of roughly 15:1. Columbus

County Schools is accredited by AdvancED.

Columbus County Schools 817 Washington St. Whiteville, NC 28472 (910) 642-5168 www.columbus.k12.nc.us





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Whiteville City Schools operates five individual schools including primary, elementary, middle, high, and alternative schools that serve more than 2,200 students with a student to teacher ratio of approximately 14:1.

Whiteville City Schools is accredited by AdvancED and participates in a One-to-One Technology Program that provides laptops to all students in grades 6-12.

Whiteville City Schools 107 W. Walter St. Whiteville, NC 28472 (910) 642-4116 www.whiteville.k12.nc.us

Higher Education

Southeastern Community College is a public, comprehensive community college that has provided occupational and liberal arts curriculum certificates, diplomas and degrees to area adults for more than 50 years.

Accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, SCC serves more than 7,000 students annually with more than 1,800 enrolled in college-credit courses. The 246-acre campus is located between Chadbourn and Whiteville.

Southeastern Community College 4564 Chadbourn Hwy. Whiteville, NC 28472 (910) 642-7141 www.sccnc.edu

Columbus County residents are within commuting distance to three of the 17 institutions of the University of North Carolina System: the University of North Carolina at Pembroke, Fayetteville State University, and the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, as well as Coastal Carolina University in nearby Conway, South Carolina.

Childcare

Private child care and day care offerings are available through various religious institutions in the county as well as public child care facilities through the NC PreK program in the public schools system.

SCC graduates enjoying the moment //
Whiteville United Methodist
Church has a preschool program that has been a local tradition since the 1980's //



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Schedule a tour: 910.641.4042 or email lbenton@rogerbacon.net



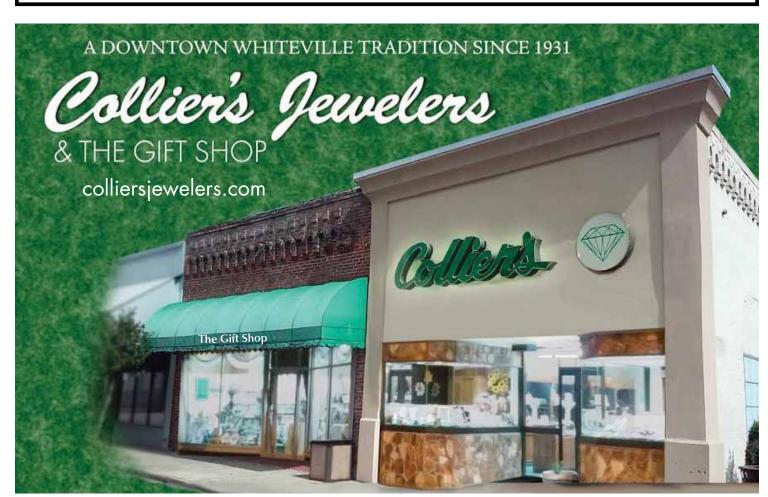


Columbus Charter School is currently and consistently the top-scoring school in Columbus County on End-of-Grade tests. Our school is tuition-free and welcomes all students, regardless of income or ability. Our school provides a rigorous and proven classical education while offering various athletic programs, student clubs, and academic competitions.

> Columbus Charter School 35 Bacon's Way, Whiteville, NC 910.641.4042









COLUMBUS COUNTY BLADEN COUNTY Morth Carolina PENDER COUNTY to US 421 to Elizabethtown to Clarkton 211 Andrew Jackson Hwy 74 76 Andrew Jackson Hwy to Wilmington accamaw LAKE WACCAMAW Swamp Rd SWAMP Green Mon Hwy E to Southport **LOCAL LINGO** Madison Mile -A walking path along Madison Street from Vineland Village in downtown Whiteville to the historic Columbus County Courthouse. COUNTY The College -Southeastern Community College between Chadbourn and Whiteville. The Lake -Lake Waccamaw, the body of water referring to the Carolina Bay lake that is 3X5 miles large and is rarely more than 8 feet deep. to Shallotte Depending on where you live, "the river" can mean either the Lumber River to the west, the Waccamaw River to the south, or the Cape Fear River to the east. WACCAMAW all the same of the s Anywhere between Myrtle Beach and Wrightsville Beach. One of the great things about Columbus County: you're seldom more than 30 to 45 minutes from "the Shag -Also known as the "Carolina Shag." It is a six-count, eight-step partner dance done primarily to beach music. Barbeque -It involves cooking the whole pig. The sauce is made with vinegar around these parts. to Ocean Isle Beach The Green Swamp -Thousands of acres of forest land that is home to rare plants, including the flesh eating venus fly-trap. Heartbeat Bridge -The lonely stretch of road, near Nikana, where a young couple lost their lives and you can still hear their hearts beating if you listen closely, late at night. Crusoe Island -The small community off of the Waccamaw River that many believe that are descendents of the Lost Colony.

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Sam's Pit Stop - Hallsboro 4236 Sam Potts Hwv Phone: 910-646-4908

Sam's Pit Stop - Lake Waccamaw 106 Old Hwy 74 / 76 West

Phone:910-646-1200

Sam's Pit Stop - Delco 27157 Andrew Jackson Hwy E Phone:910-655-3548

Sam's Pit Stop - Bolton 1128 Green Swamp Rd Phone:910-655-8611

Sam's Pit Stop - Whiteville 1707 S. Madison Street Phone:910-642-0385

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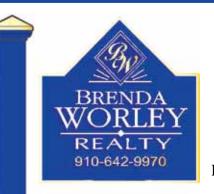
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OUR COMMUNITIES

COLUMBUS COUNTY IS HOME TO MORE than 58,000 residents who call the small towns and communities in the county home. A moderate climate, friendly atmosphere, picturesque natural environment, and historic ambience make the county a perfect home for families and those searching for a peaceful retirement location.

Chadbourn

Incorporated in 1883, Chadbourn began as a railroad town centered around a station formerly known as Timberville. Nicknamed 'The Sunny South Colony," the town was named after the Chadbourn family of Wilmington, and was an important railway center between Wilmington and Florence. Strawberries were the crop that brought the town into prominence, and in the first three decades of the 20th century, long lines of farmers awaited turns at the town's auction shed. Chadbourn is host to the North Carolina Strawberry Festival, the longest running agricultural festival in the state. Held the first weekend of May, this event draws more than 10,000 people, who also explore the historic Chadbourn Depot Museum.

Fair Bluff

Nestled against the banks of the nationally recognized Wild and Scenic Lumber River, the community of Fair Bluff was incorporated in 1873. The town's earliest inhabitants were turpentiners, lumbermen, and merchants. The Fair Bluff Depot, built in 1887, is now a museum and filled with treasures and relics of the town's history. The town boasts a beautiful elevated river walk that follows the course of the Lumber River and offers a stroll with nature. Each April, the town hosts BBQ on the Bluff, a barbeque cooking competition featuring some of the finest cooks in North and South Carolina.

Lake Waccamaw

Established in 1911, the town of Lake Waccamaw is a small community on the shores of the largest natural freshwater lake in North Carolina. In less than 4 square miles, the town offers access to a prehistoric lake, a rich Native American history, an abundance of fish, reptiles, birds, and endangered plant species, and warm, friendly neighbors. A historic train station built in 1904 by the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad serves as the town's depot museum. Every Labor Day weekend, hundreds of participants from across the southeast flock to the town for Take The Lake, a series of personal endurance challenges for swimming, paddling, running and biking.

Tabor City

Founded as a rural market town on the Atlantic Coast Railroad in 1905, the town of Tabor City borders the state of South Carolina. Within 30 minutes of the beaches of the Grand Strand in Horry County, SC and Brunswick County, NC, the town is home to award-winning campgrounds, muscadine wines, and family values. Visitors can tour a historic one-bedroom schoolhouse from 1870, see the historic Tabor City Railroad Depot that maintains artifacts of the town's rich tobacco and lumber industries, or spend time at Lake Tabor, a 100+ acre recreational lake home to fishing, boating, picnics, and ball fields. In the mid 1930s Tabor City became known as the "Yam Capital of the World." The North Carolina Yam Festival takes place in the town annually in October to pay tribute to the sweet potato.

Whiteville

With a population of more than 5,000 residents, the City of Whiteville serves as the county seat for Columbus County. Named for the original owner of the town site, James B. White, in 1810, the

bustling city lies along major thoroughfares U.S. 74 between Lumberton and Wilmington, U.S. 76 from Florence, SC to Wilmington, and U.S. Route 701 from Elizabethtown to Conway, SC. The city is home to the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences and has a vibrant downtown, Vineland Village, home to unique restaurants and shops. Vineland Station, built in 1903, is one of North Carolina's original brick depots and serves as the town's civic center. The Columbus County Courthouse in Whiteville is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The North Carolina Pecan Harvest Festival takes place in the city each November.

Other communities

From the small towns of Bolton, Sandyfield, Cerro Gordo, Boardman and Brunswick to the communities of Mount Olive, Buckhead, Hallsboro, Riegelwood, Evergreen, Nakina, St. James, Old Dock and Williams Township, Columbus County offers locations that fit the lifestyle of any family. Bolton, on the eastern end of the county, is home to the annual Pine Tree Festival. Buckhead, near Bolton, is home to the Waccamaw Siouan Tribe, one of eight state-recognized Native American tribal nations in North Carolina. Williams Township, south of Whiteville, is a farming community anchored by Williams Township School, the largest public school in the county, serving kindergarten through eighth grade. Mount Olive, north of Whiteville, is a community organized around the historic Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church, founded in 1872 by African-American pastor Rev. John Washington Worley. Cerro Gordo, on the western end of the county along U.S. 76, has the highest elevation in the county and according to legend was named after the "Battle of Cerro Gordo" in the Mexican-American War.

ARTS/CUTURE

Celebrate the Arts enjoyed by families of Columbus County students // Kathryn Caine Ogden performs with her children, Isabel and Evans Humphreys //







A THRIVING ARTS COMMUNITY STARTS early in the lives of Columbus County residents, as shown by the annual Celebrate the Arts Festival (above), that features visual and performing arts by more than 1,000 Columbus County students, the largest student arts festival in the state.

Local artisans showcase their work at festivals and craft fairs. Live theatre and music can be seen and heard at various venues throughout the county. The county's history is rich with gospel, jazz, and bluegrass music, and we celebrate numerous accomplished local authors.

34 :: thecolumbuschamber.com

Southeastern Oratorio Society - classical performance // NewSong performs at the Very Merry Christmas concert // Krystal Hawkins sings one of her original songs // U.S. Poet Lawrete Tracy K. Smith recites poetry at SCC by the invitation of the Reuben Brown House Preservation Society //



Reuben Brown House Preservation Society Corner of Franklin and Columbus Street Whiteville, NC 28472 (910) 642-7367 reubenbrownhouse.com

Columbus County Arts Council 822 S. Madison St. Whiteville, NC 28472 (910) 642-2787 columbuscountyarts.com Richard F. Burkhardt Performing Arts Series and Wyche Gallery at Southeastern Community College 4564 Chadbourn Hwy. Whiteville, NC 28472 (910) 642-7141 sccnc.edu

Southeastern Oratorio Society 301 East Oliver Street Whiteville, NC 28472 (910) 840-5833







FAMOUS NAMES

After graduating from West Columbus High School, the highly recruiting lineman played four seasons for N.C. State. The Philadelphia Eagles drafted Singletary in 1986. Singletary played five seasons for the Eagles. He ended his playing career in 1991 after one year with the Green Bay Packers.

Jane McNeill-Balter

A stage, film, and television actress from Whiteville who is best known for her role as Patricia on the second season of AMC's The Walking Dead. In 2015, she served as Queen of the North Carolina Pecan Harvest Festival in Whiteville.

MacKenzie Gore

Gore was a three-time NC State 1A baseball championship series MVP. Gore was named the Gatorade National Baseball Player and Athlete of the year in 2017. He was the third overall pick of the 2017 MLB draft by the San Diego Padres.

* Patrick Lennon

Lennon was selected 8th in the first round of the 1986 MLB draft out of Whiteville High School by the Seattle Mariners. Lennon played in the majors for four clubs between 1991 and 1999.

Eric (EJ) Jenkins

Jenkins, a product of West Columbus High School, was selected 45th overall by the Texas Rangers in the 2015 MLB draft. Jenkins is currently in the Rangers minor league system.

Chester McGlockton

McGlockton was a high school football All-American at Whiteville High. He led the Wolfpack to a 15-0 record and the 2A State Championship his senior season. After his collegiate career at Clemson, he was picked 16th in the 1992 NFL draft by the LA Raiders. McGlockton played 12 seasons in the NFL and was selected to the Pro Bowl four times.

Roger Soles

The former president and CEO of Jefferson Pilot Insurance grew up in the Pleasant Plains community between Whiteville and Nakina.

Max Lennon

Of Evergreen, former chancellor of Clemson University

Edolphus Towns

Who served in the United States House of Representatives from 1983 to 2013 as a Democratic representative for New York's 10th and 11th congressional districts is from Chadbourn.

Otis Nixon

From Evergreen, the former MLB player was a center fielder and switch-hitter who played from 1983 to 1999. He holds the record for the most stolen bases for a player that has never appeared in an MLB All-Star game since the game was inaugurated in 1933.

Chris Wilcox

From the Mt. Olive community, the former NBA power forward and center last played for the Boston Celtics in 2012 after playing for the Los Angeles Clippers, Seattle Super-Sonics, Oklahoma City Thunder, New York Knicks, and Detroit Pistons. Wilcox won an NCAA Championship at The University of Maryland.

Maggie Will

The Whiteville native grew up competing on the Boys Golf teams in high school. After graduation, Will attended Furman University and was a key contributor to the 1987 Paladins Womens Golf team's NCAA runner-up finish. Will was a member of the LPGA tour for 11 seasons, winning three tournaments.

William "Bill" Valentine

From Whiteville, an architect and Chairman Emeritus of HOK, the largest architectural, engineering, and planning design firm in the world.

Donell Nixon

The Evergreen native played four seasons in the major leagues, appearing in the 1989 World Series for the San Francisco Giants. Nixon stole 144 bases for Bakersfield in 1983. This is the second highest total in probaseball history.

Archie Ammons

A poet from Whiteville who won the annual National Book Award for Poetry in 1973 and 1993. He was elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1978.

Tommy Greene

Former MLB pitcher from Whiteville who played with the Atlanta Braves, Philadelphia Phillies, and Houston Astros. He pitched a no-hitter while playing for the Phillies. He is currently a post-game studio analyst for the Philadelphia Phillies.

. **≭** Joe Gore

East Columbus High School class of '11.
Played right tackle for Clemson and is currently a free agent with the Washington Redskins.

Willard Cole & Horace Carter

Cole and Carter were the editors who won the 1953 Pulitzer Prize for Public Service at The (Whiteville) News Reporter and The Tabor City Tribune, respectively. These were the first non-daily newspapers in the nation, and the first newspapers in North Carolina, to win journalism's top prize.

Millie-Christine McKoy

Conjoined twins who went by the stage names "The Carolina Twins" and "The Two-Headed Nightingale" were born on a farm outside of Whiteville in 1851. Sold as slaves from their owner to a showman, they were exhibited at North Carolina's first state fair in 1853, traveled to Britain, and were provided an education and learned to speak five languages, dance, play music, sing, and even appeared with the Barnum Circus.

EJ Jenkins

West Columbus High School class of '15 playing centerfield for the Hickory Crawdads in the MLB South Atlantic League Ricky Benton Racing has been a success in the Southeast for more than 30 years. RBR competes extensively in the USAR Pro Cup. Benton is CEO of Black's Tire, a national tire and auto service repair company. The company's headquarters is in Cerro Gordo, where many members of the Benton family reside and are heavily involved in school and civic causes. Look out for the Ricky Benton Racing truck and Black's Tire car #92 in the upcoming race season and cheer on the Columbus County racing team.



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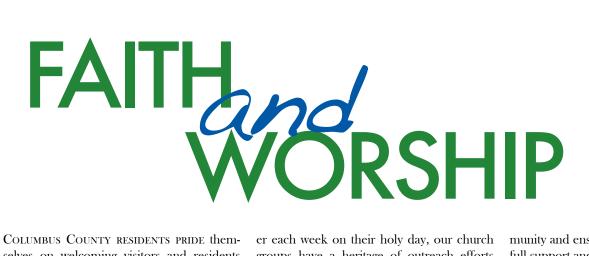


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COLUMBUS COUNTY RESIDENTS PRIDE themselves on welcoming visitors and residents of all faiths and belief systems. Our spiritual community includes a diverse blend of Protestant denominations as well as Catholic parishes and a synagogue.

With more than 175 congregations that gath-

er each week on their holy day, our church groups have a heritage of outreach efforts and serving and assisting others throughout the community and the world. Many church groups support Habitat for Humanity building projects, donate to area shelters and food pantries, and provide support systems and counseling services to strengthen our community and ensure each resident receives the full support and assistance Columbus County has to offer.

Many of the local churches offer childcare and after-school programs along with group ministries, activities for adults and sports teams for children.

Religious Denominations in Columbus County

```
Baptist...87
Buddhist...1
Catholic...2
Churches of Christ...1
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints...2
Episcopalian...1
Holiness...2
Jehovah's Witness...2
Jewish...1
Lutheran...1
Methodist...36
Non-Denominational...12
Pentecostal...24
Presbyterian...5
Seventh-Day Adventist...4
```



Area restaurtants serve up local specialites at Hometown New Year's Eve event held at Vineland Station// Tubing is a right of passage for lake loving youngsters // Steamed oysters ready at the annual Shuck 'n Shag event sponsored by Columbus Chamber of Commerce & Tourism // A groovy performace at The Lip Sync Battle for Families First and The Columbus County Arts Council //









FOCOL FUN

Participants are dressed for the part and ready to wobble at the annual Turkey Trot 5K // Creative hats on display at the Whiteville Rotary Club's Kentucky Derby Party // Harvestsed from area pecan tree groves, pecans are ready for the NC Pecan Harvest Festival // Kids have fun practicing milking a cow at Maze Craze //









The lobby at the Airborne and Special Operations Museum near Fort Bragg // A calm sunset on one of the close beaches // The NC Aquarium at Fort Fisher



North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher

Located just 66 miles from Whiteville at Kure Beach, visitors to the aquarium can experience stunning exhibits that showcase a variety of aquatic environments and wildlife. From and waterfalls, bays, swamps to salt marshes, tidal pools, and an open ocean exhibit, aquarium guests get the opportunity for close encounters with wildlife.

A rare albino alligator, whales, a bottlenose dolphin, sharks, eels, and loggerhead sea turtles are just a few of the features of one of North Carolina's most popular attractions.

900 Loggerhead Road Kure Beach, NC Toll Free: (800) 832-3474 ncaquariums.com/fort-fisher

Airborne and Special Forces Operations Museum

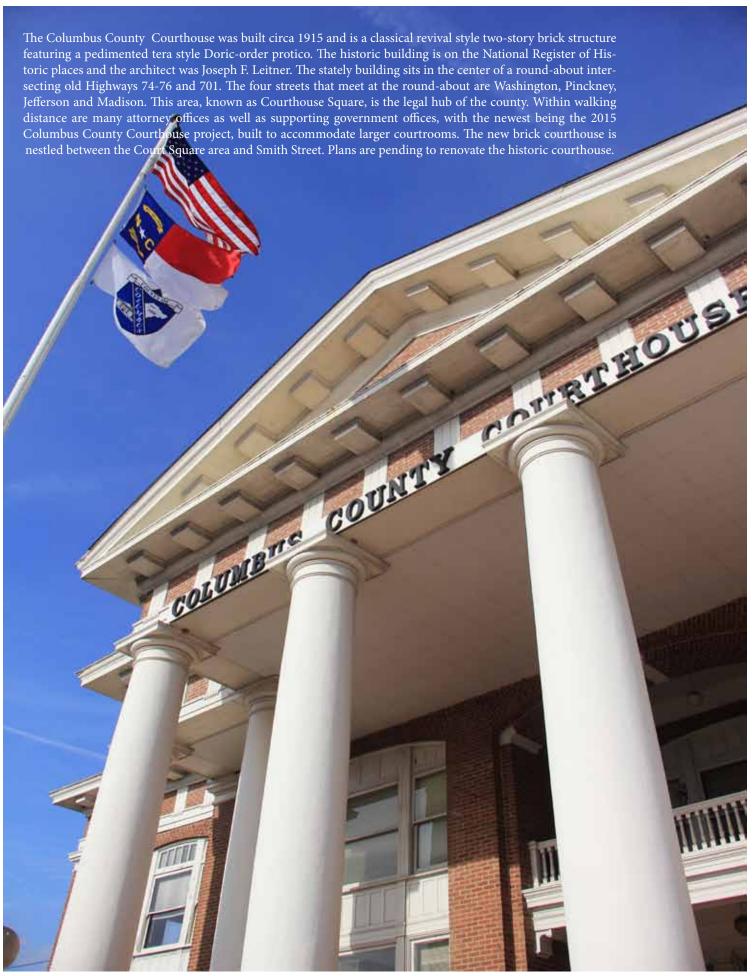
Located just 55 miles from Whiteville near Fort Bragg in Fayetteville, this free museum offers a main exhibit gallery, a rotating temporary gallery, four-story tall theater, and a motion simulator ride. The main gallery, opened in 2000 on the anniversary of the original Test Platoon's first parachute jump, is designed as a self-guided tour through the history of airborne and special operations soldiers from 1940 to the present.

Past temporary exhibits include Korea: A War Remembered, Crossing the Rhine: The 17th Airborne, Soldiers: The Global War on Terrorism, and The Animal Called POW.

100 Bragg Boulevard Fayetteville, NC Phone: (910) 643-2778 asomf.org







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