



# Chamber Connections

24 November 2015

A Weekly Resource For Warren County Business

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## Email Address Update

**In the past we've had several email addresses for the Chamber. In order to ensure that I get all of your communications, effective 1 December 2015 the official email address for the Chamber will be: [info@warren-chamber.org](mailto:info@warren-chamber.org)**

## Warren County Online

[Warren Record Column](#)

[Warrenton City Site](#)

[Norlina City Site](#)

[Warren County Site](#)

## Warren County: "Did You Know...?" Celebrating Outstanding Things Unique to Our County



"Who would have thought that a handful of men in Warren County could have saved an entire species!" That was Frank Newell's parting statement to me last Monday when I stopped by The Eastern Bluebird Rescue Group to watch them put together bluebird houses (they built 1,350 in just 2.5 hours). And it has stuck with me.

If someone ever tells you that we don't have the money or the resources or the manpower to make a difference in the world, well, let me tell you a little story that should make every Warren County resident beam with pride.

More than 30 years ago when Frank Newell returned home to Warren County he started building bluebird houses for the place he loved. He learned that in the 80's the bluebird population was down to 11% of peak and they were on the endangered species list. So Mr. Newell started building on his own...it took him a week to turn out just 25 houses...but he kept building. Then around 1989 volunteers joined him and they began to build a business.

As demand increased, more volunteers joined him. Working, growing and learning ways to improve the speed with which they build houses, these local heroes have created an assembly line that makes any line in Detroit look like it's moving in slow motion.

But what kind of difference have they made? Well, let me tell you...today, the bluebird population has increased to 64% and they are off the endangered species list. Since they started counting in 1989, Mr. Newell and his volunteers have built and sold more than **265,000 bluebird houses and shipped them to nearly every State in the Union.** No one in the entire country has built more houses. The Eastern Bluebird Rescue Group says that they make "The World's Best Bluebird Houses...Certified by Bluebirds"...and I believe them. Every single one of the 300 State Employee's Credit Unions in the State sell their houses and are constantly clamoring for more houses.

## Upcoming Member Events

Warren FoodWorks  
**Saturday 28 November**  
**Live Music with Cliff Jackson & Friends**  
**7:00pm until...**

Warrenton Rural Volunteer  
Fire Department  
**Thursday 26 November**  
**Thanksgiving Day Breakfast**  
**Fire Station 236 S. Main St.**  
**5:00am – 10:00am**

Prelude To Christmas &  
Parade  
**Saturday 12 December**  
**Parade, Tree Lighting, Santa**  
**Claus & More**  
**4pm – 8pm**  
**Historic Courthouse Square**  
**Warrenton**

## Contact Us

Warren-chamber.org  
info@warren-chamber.org  
252-257-2657

It doesn't take a big city to make a difference, it just takes good-hearted people who find a need and keep working to fill that need.

Congratulations to everyone at the Eastern Bluebird Rescue Group and the dozens of volunteers for accomplishing something that every Warren County resident can be proud of.

I have a number of other things I've found that are unique to our wonderful Warren County and will be sharing them...but if you have one you'd like me to share, please send me an email with all the details at [info@warren-chamber.org](mailto:info@warren-chamber.org).

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## Santa's Christmas List Generosity!



Santa's Christmas List is starting off as I knew it would...with lots of love and generosity. There's the local woman who shops for "deeply discounted toys" all year long who just dropped off the first batch of toys...10 large dolls, some board games and more (and she has another room at her house full!)...then there are the people already asking every one of our drop-off locations about what is needed. I know we're going to be able to make hundreds of Warren County children smile this Christmas.

As you're out and about shopping this weekend, please consider picking up a new, unwrapped gift or two to help our local children.

Just a reminder that we're accepting toys (both fun & educational), clothes, hats, gloves, stuffed toys, books, candy and gift cards for 13-16 year olds.

### Drop Off Locations:

#### WARRENTON

Warren County Chamber Office  
Warren Record  
WARR 1520 AM  
Time Out Sports Bar  
First Citizens Bank  
Milano's  
BB&T  
Warrenton Town Hall  
Pete Smith Tire & Quick Lube

#### NORLINA

James White Barbershop  
Norlina Town Hall  
Norlina Auto Parts  
Rural Health Group  
The Whistle Stop Café  
Diamond's Hair Studio

#### LAKE GASTON

Lake Gaston Chamber of Commerce

Our sincere thanks go out to **Warrenton Furniture Exchange** for providing collection boxes and to **Lin's Everything Business** for printing services. Look for the large wrapped boxes at the above locations to donate. Santa's Christmas List is a joint project of **The Chamber of Commerce of Warren County, The Warren Record, WARR 1520 AM & The Lake Gaston Chamber of Commerce.**

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## The Chamber Featured Business: H&R Block

Showing Off Our Local Business Treasures...



**Calling all Warren County Chamber Members...Remember, send your advertorial (roughly 200 words) about your business to [info@warren-chamber.org](mailto:info@warren-chamber.org) and I'll help tell your story!**

**H&R Block. From Paulette Lobdell:** "H&R Block is offering you the opportunity to apply for the Emerald Line of Credit. This line of credit is worth \$350-\$1000 and any one can apply. The opening date is November 23, 2015 through January 8, 2016.

What is needed: Your last wage and earnings statements from all jobs, other income sources such as disability, social security and unemployment. If you are currently working, the wage and earnings statement must be less than 30 days old. This does not apply to a statement of a job that you had and need the very last one.

Other items needed: You will need a current photo ID. If you haven't been to H&R Block before you will need one of the following: Bank statement, utility bill or any income statement that has your address.

Please call us at **252-257-2297** to schedule an appointment at the **H&R Block** office in Warrenton at 305C East Macon Street. The office is located in the Just Save shopping center along with Subway and others. Look for the street sign."

Remember, we have plenty of businesses here in Warren County that are treasures. The more we support them with our business, the better we'll make our own community.

**Tell me about your treasured business at [info@warren-chamber.org](mailto:info@warren-chamber.org) and I'll include you as our next Featured Business.**

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## Chamber Project Updates

### Main Street Showcases...

Initial response from interested "off Main Street" businesses has been brisk. I currently have 9 businesses who have requested information and are considering leasing a store front in downtown Warrenton.

We will be working with building owners in downtown Warrenton as a broker for this program. For a modest monthly rental price they can make the window spaces in their vacant buildings available to "off-Main Street businesses" in Warren County.

We can create 3 winners with this program. **#1:** The building owners will receive a monthly income until they either sell the building or lease it to a new business. **#2:** The "off-Main Street" businesses will receive prominent advertising and promotion for their business. **#3:** The town will benefit

when visitors come to town...they'll find vibrant, engaging Main Street windows the length of our downtown.

If you're interested for your business or know someone who would be interested, please contact me at [info@warren-chamber.org](mailto:info@warren-chamber.org) or 252-257-2657.

Once we begin to get visitors noticing all of our storefronts, we could spur interest from new businesses to come to downtown Warrenton.

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## Chamber Membership Benefits

### \$25 Referral Rebate...



### \$25 Referral Rebate

If you know of a business that would be a valuable addition to our Chamber, please email me at [info@warren-chamber.org](mailto:info@warren-chamber.org) or call at 252-257-2657. If they are new to the Chamber or not a member for the past 3 years, when they join I'll send you a check for \$25 as a rebate on your current 2015/2016 dues.

### Free Conference Room...

From time to time, I'll bet each of your businesses has the need for a meeting room. Somewhere to meet with vendors or staff...instead of gathering around the counter. Effective immediately, we're opening the conference room at the Chamber office at 130 N. Main Street, Warrenton to all members for those meetings. You'll have seating for up to 8 people in a private room. To reserve this space, please email me at [info@warren-chamber.org](mailto:info@warren-chamber.org). Available times are Mon-Fri 9a-4p.

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## What's Going On

### News from your fellow Chamber Members...

Here's a brief rundown of special offers or events from Chamber member businesses. If you'd like your business or event featured just send me an email with all the relevant information to [info@warren-chamber.org](mailto:info@warren-chamber.org). I'll add it to next week's newsletter.

- **Warrenton Woman's Club Thanksgiving Meals.** This Thanksgiving the Warrenton Woman's Club will be providing meals to 22 shut-ins in Warrenton and Norlina. This is an annual tradition of the club and the recipients look forward to their meal each year. It's more than the food...it's the personal contact made when they deliver the meals. Also, many thanks to all of you who enjoyed the Soup & Salad Fundraiser on 5 November. They raised over \$1,100 to be used to support Newspapers in Education and other needs in our schools.
- **Warren FoodWorks Live Music w/ Cliff Jackson & Friends.** From 7:00pm until this Saturday it's fun & great music. Take a break from the malls and relax in historic downtown Warrenton.
- **Robinson Ferry Restaurant & Spirits.** With Thanksgiving upon us, Robinson Ferry will be serving an outstanding, but limited menu

on Black Friday. As for the rest of the week... Angela, Michael and the staff say, Happy Holidays Y'all!!!! This week's hours: Wed 5pm-9pm (bar open later); Thu **CLOSED**; Fri closed for lunch, reopen 5pm-11pm; Sat 11am-3pm & 5pm-11pm

- **Warrenton Rural Volunteer Fire Department Thanksgiving Day Breakfast.** It's an annual tradition...head for the Fire Station on Thanksgiving Morning for a Southern Style Buffet Breakfast. Choose from eggs, bacon, sausage, grits, baked apples, biscuits, pancakes and beverages! They'll be serving from 5am until 10am. Donations are accepted. If you're hunting that day, stop by before you head to the woods.
- **The Prelude to Christmas & Parade.** If you've never seen this parade, don't miss it this year...and if you've seen it before, come on out for another genuine celebration of the season Warren County style. This year's event is on the Historic Courthouse Square in Warrenton and runs from 4pm-8pm. We'll kick things off with a hometown parade down Main Street. Then join your neighbors for the lighting of the Courthouse Christmas tree. Santa will be there at the Christmas Hut to receive visitors and share a few laughs. Enjoy the Vance-Granville Community Band and Holiday Tunes with DJ Lee Burrows Solid Sound Productions. The Prelude to Christmas and Parade is presented by The Town of Warrenton, Warren County Jaycees & The Warrenton Revitalization Committee.
- **Warren FoodWorks Holiday Meat & More Box.** There's not a better way to entertain friends and family this Christmas than with a genuine taste of Warren County. Order your choice of an Economy Box or Prime Cut Box by 11 December for pickup on 22 December online at <http://bit.ly/1NpSAI8>. In addition to the pre-packed boxes, you can add more meat, mouthwatering treats from the Bakery, Prepared food additions like Veggie soup and Veggie Lasagna & fresh Warren County Produce. Stop by FoodWorks on Main Street in Warrenton or contact Tim Williams at 252-257-0205 & [tim@workinglandscapesNC.org](mailto:tim@workinglandscapesNC.org).
- **Warren County 4-H: Old School vs. New School Rescheduled.** The basketball game to raise money for the Warren County 4-H Program will not be held on 4 December due to a conflict with a Warren County High School home game. Tentative date is now March.