



Chamber Connections

8 December 2015

A Weekly Resource For Warren County Business

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Email Address Update

Can you believe 1 December 2015 has already come & gone?! Moving forward the official email address for the Chamber is: info@warren-chamber.org

Warren County Online

[Warren Record Column](#)

[Warrenton City Site](#)

[Norlina City Site](#)

[Warren County Site](#)

Santa's Christmas List Final 5 Days!

Still time to help the children of Warren County



Words can't express how thankful I was last Friday when Cindy at the Norlina Town Hall called and asked me to come pick up the toys that had been dropped off..."Bring a big truck," she said. She wasn't kidding! Thank you to each of you who have given gifts and money for children of Warren County.

We are still accepting toys (both fun & educational), coats, hats, gloves, stuffed toys, books, candy and gift cards (for 13-16 year olds) thru this Saturday 12 December. If you can give even a small gift it will help us ensure that we have enough for the more than 400 children in need.

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.

Shop Local: Warren Wednesdays

Local Resident Rewards Begin 6 January 2016

Upcoming Member Events

Warren FoodWorks
Thursday 10 December
RAFI Farm Grants Info
Session
6:00pm – 7:30pm

Warren FoodWorks
Friday 11 December
An Evening With Steve Hyman
6:30pm – 9:00pm

Warren FoodWorks
Saturday 12 December
Live Music With Cliff Jackson
& Friends
7:00pm – until

“Miracle on 34th Street –
The Musical”
10, 11 & 12 December @8pm
12 December @ 2:30pm
Lakeland Theatre
Littleton

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

Working Landscapes
Honors Local Farmers
Thursday 17 December
5:30pm – 7:30pm
Warren FoodWorks
Warrenton

Lakeland Singers
Christmas Concert
Saturday 19 December
8pm
Lakeland Theatre
Littleton

Cherry Hill Christmas
Concert
Sunday 20 December
3pm
Cherry Hill Plantation - Inez



A number of people I've talked with this past week are excited about the upcoming Warren Wednesdays campaign...count me in that group too! It's a first small step in ensuring that our local businesses remain strong and then we can begin to attract new ones.

The idea is fairly simple and hopefully memorable. Beginning 6 January 2016 we will launch **Warren Wednesdays!** Each Wednesday, just by being a resident of Warren County, local shoppers can save at participating local businesses. That's it...one day a week...one consistent message...designed to slowly change shopping habits and grow our local business community.

It starts with looking for the Green “Local is Best” in merchant windows...then, find the counter cards inside listing the business' special that week. Finally, show them you're a Warren County resident and the special is yours.

Warren Wednesday Specials



What are the specials? Well, that's up to each business to determine. Since a generic “percent off” discount is hard to coordinate across businesses (not to mention, unexciting for shoppers) we will leave the offer up to each participating business. It can change weekly or stay the same...you know what your customers would appreciate and what makes sense for your business. Stay tuned between now and Christmas for more information from me for all Chamber of Commerce of Warren County members.

Stay tuned...If you have any questions, please email me at info@warren-chamber.org or call at 252-257-2657.

The Chamber Featured Business: Integritax

A New Business is Opening in Norlina



I'd like you to extend a warm welcome to the Chamber of Commerce of Warren County's newest member & Warren County's newest business, Integritax. Local resident, Tammy Mentzel will be managing this office.

“Integritax Income Tax Solutions is coming to Warren County! We are pleased to announce that the newest location of our full service Tax Preparation Company will be opening January 1, 2016 at the Old Landmark Inn, located at 133 US Highway 1 North (Roost Crossroads). We are excited to bring life back into the beautiful and historic building

Contact Us

Warren-chamber.org

info@warren-chamber.org

252-257-2657

and to be offering financial services to the citizens of Norlina and surrounding communities.

Integritax offers income tax preparation for no out-of-pocket expense. All fees are paid from your tax return so no money is needed upfront to process your return. This sets us apart from our competitors in a major way. We also offer up to \$750 advance for those clients who qualify. As a way to celebrate our first tax season in Norlina, we will be holding door prize drawings for a free Tablet each week during tax season.

This Friday evening, December 11, from 5-8pm, our staff will be hosting an Open House. We would love to meet local residents and business owners. Please stop in and enjoy some refreshments, meet our staff of tax experts, and enter your name in the drawing for a free Tablet.

Integritax is a North Carolina owned and operated business with roots in Durham, Greensboro, and Burlington. We offer a variety of financial services beginning with income tax preparation and that is what we are most excited about bringing to Warren County. Integritax is a new choice, with no money up front, and cash advance options. Come and see us and let us prepare your income tax return."

Keep those featured business write-ups coming! I received several last week, but we always need more. When you have a few minutes today, please send your advertorial (roughly 200 words) about your business to info@warren-chamber.org and I'll help tell your story!

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.

Working Landscapes to Honor Local Farmers

17 December @ Warren FoodWorks

During the past year, Warren FoodWorks, the Main Street Warrenton eatery, store, and community kitchen operated by local non-profit organization Working Landscapes, has sourced produce, meats, and eggs from 44 area farms for inclusion in their café menu and retail selection. FoodWorks/Working Landscapes will recognize these farmers at a celebration on **Thursday, December 17, 5:30-7:30 PM at FoodWorks.**

"We are so fortunate to have talented farmers and gardeners in the Warren County area who grow a variety of delicious crops," said Gabriel Cumming, Working Landscapes' Associate Director. "This Farmer Celebration gives us an opportunity to honor our grower partners—without them, we would not have locally-sourced products to provide to the community."

Warren FoodWorks purchases a large proportion of the food it serves from local farms. Years ago this was the norm, but today most food reaches local plates via national distributors. Meanwhile, many smaller local

farmers have limited opportunities to sell their products. Through its Food Hub (which includes FoodWorks, as well as a regional farm-to-school program), Working Landscapes establishes connections between food producers and consumers as way of boosting the local economy.

At the Celebration, which also serves as the one-year anniversary of FoodWorks under Working Landscapes' management, participating farmers will receive certificates recognizing their contributions. A representative of RAFI (Rural Advancement Foundational International; <http://rafiusa.org/>) will also be in attendance and will provide information about a grant opportunity for local farmers. Interested members of the public, including farmers who have not yet supplied FoodWorks but might be interested in doing so, are encouraged to attend. Complimentary heavy hors d'oeuvres, tea, and hot chocolate will be provided, with additional menu items and alcoholic beverages available for purchase.

Chamber Project Updates

Main Street Showcases...

We'll have the first two windows decorated around the first of January as we kick off Main Street Showcases. Still plenty of opportunities for your business to get a "Main Street Presence" in Warrenton and help bring downtown to life!

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

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

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 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. Someplace 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. Available times are Mon-Fri 9a-4p.

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. I'll add it to next week's newsletter.

- **Lakeland Theatre Company: "Miracle on 34th Street – The Musical"**. The classic Christmas story immortalized by the 20th Century Fox Picture will be brought to life on the Lakeland stage this December. Set in the 1940's, the curtain opens on Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, where a substitute Santa appears to be the real thing. When he begins sending customers to other stores, a spirit of good will and love takes over New York City as never before. But Christmas comes to a standstill when Santa stands trial to determine his sanity and identity. This musical rendition includes songs written by Meredith Wilson, writer and composer of the Broadway hit, "The Music Man". It's a show that promises to bring Christmas to your heart. **December 10, 11 & 12 @ 8pm; December 12 @ 2:30pm. Come visit Santa prior to the Matinee performances from 1:45 until opening.** Get your tickets at <http://www.etix.com/ticket/v/4382/lakeland-theatre->.
- **Warren FoodWorks RAFI Farm Grants Info Session.** From **6:00pm – 7:30pm this Thursday** 10 December head for Main Street Warrenton & Food Works. This session is designed to let farmers in the area know about their grant program and to offer assistance with applications.
- **Warren FoodWorks.** Stop in for an evening with Steve Hyman this **Friday from 6:30pm – 9:00 pm.** Hear local performer Steve Hyman sing soulful songs.
- **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 on **12 December** 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.** After the parade and Prelude to Christmas on Saturday 12 December, stick around downtown Warrenton for **Live Music with Cliff Jackson and Friends.** Enjoy live acoustic music played by local musicians...bring your own instrument to join in! From 7:00pm until...
- **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.

- **Lakeland Theatre: Lakeland Singers Christmas Concert.** Gather your friends and family and head for Littleton on Saturday 19 December at 8:00pm for this wonderful Christmas concert featuring many of your favorite songs. Get your tickets online at <http://www.etix.com/ticket/v/4382/lakeland-theatre->.

- **Cherry Hill Christmas Concert.** The Oakwood Waits, an a cappella group from Raleigh, will perform at Cherry Hill Plantation in Inez on **December 20th**. The event will begin at 3:00 pm and will feature the group, dressed in antebellum costume, for the 8th year. The performance of traditional carols and songs has been given from the Executive Mansion to the White House and has become a holiday tradition at the 1858 home of the Alston family. The board of directors of the Cherry Hill



Foundation presents the singers as a Christmas gift to the community and cordially invites everyone for an afternoon of entertainment and refreshment. For further info visit www.cherryhillconcerts.com.