

Warsaw Chamber of Commerce

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Warsaw Chamber of Commerce

“Together Anything is Possible”

Dear Friend of the Chamber,

The Warsaw Chamber of Commerce would like to welcome you to our organization.

We are comprised of over 80 members who represent a diverse group of retailers, medical and legal professionals, service professionals, government and elected officials, and other members of our community. Our goal is to help insure a brighter future for the businesses and promote community growth.

Throughout the year, we promote events, programs, and community projects that help strengthen our businesses and town. It gives you the chance to network with other area businesses. We hope you will take advantage of the opportunities that our organization has to offer.

Sincerely,

Warsaw Chamber Board of

Directors

Dennis G. Riley
Executive Director
Warsaw Chamber of

Commerce

Chamber Board of Directors

Frank Rhodes President
Villari Foods

Norwood West, Vice President
The West Agency, LLC

Dean Johnson, Treasurer
Agent for Farm Bureau

Shirley Benson- Secretary

Jim Harris
Cardinal Coach

Joe Villari
The Pork Company

Al Searles
Smithfield Hog Production Division

Stan Turbeville
James Sprunt Community College

Ken LaCoe – Board Member Emeritus

What is A Chamber of Commerce

A Chamber of Commerce is a voluntary organization. It unites businesses and professional leaders and firms, thus creating a central agency which lends itself to improving business and building a better community.

It must be understood that a Chamber of Commerce is people. There is a place in the Chamber of Commerce for all who share the desire to improve the community and the conditions under which business is conducted. It directs the energies of those who believe that a community worth living in is a community worth improving.

A Chamber of Commerce enables these people to accomplish collectively what no one of them could do individually. Its strength lies in attracting the greatest number of individuals and firms into membership, thereby creating a pool of resources from which can be drawn ideas, energy and finances.

A Chamber of Commerce comes in existence to give expressions to the business person's natural instincts to improve the market and the community of which a person is a part. Originally, its function was to protect commerce in transit, in the marketplace and to promote the sale of goods and services.

Today, Chambers of Commerce have become organizations for the total community. Currently, the successful Chamber of Commerce is the one which recognizes all the factors which affect the community and adjusts its programs accordingly. Even though the Chamber is not an advertising or marketing service, we do publish Quarterly Newsletter (and your business articles are earnestly solicited), Membership Directories which list each

business by type in hard copy and on the Chamber's new website . Business websites can be linked directly to the business from the Chamber website, providing easy access to your business for anyone searching the Warsaw Chamber website. The Chamber also maintains "Facebook" pages for the Chamber of Commerce and for the Warsaw Veterans Day Parade (which is an intragal part of the Chamber's Veterans Day Committee).

Chambers are often mistaken as a department of the city, county and in some cases, even state government. Your Chamber is totally unaffiliated with any political bodies and maintains a neutral position on any political campaigns, issues, officials or candidates at the federal, state or local level.

Warsaw Chamber of Commerce Programs & Committees

Annual Banquet Committee

The Warsaw Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet is held in February of each year. The Chamber takes this opportunity to recognize an outstanding Warsaw Volunteer Fireman as the "Fireman of the Year" and an individual who has made significant volunteer efforts to better the community through a "Community Service Award" for their involvement in the Chamber and the community. The committee is a group of Chamber member volunteers who collaborate to plan the Chamber's Annual Banquet. The committee meets November through January to make arrangements for the banquet. There are other Chamber meetings during the year and are announced when dates are established.

National Day of Prayer

Always held the 1st Thursday in May, at noon, at Veterans Park or the Warsaw Community Center in Warsaw. We, along with many other cities and towns across the nation pause for a few minutes to give the opportunity for people of all faiths to join together in prayer for our town,

our citizens, our military, and our nation. All are encouraged to attend this service.

Memorial Day

The Chamber of Commerce partners with the Town of Warsaw in a memorial service also held in Veterans Park or the Warsaw Community Center, to recognize and remember those who have given themselves and their lives to keep this nation Free.

Reverse Drawing

The Reverse Drawing Committee is a group of Chamber members and volunteers who collaborate to plan the Annual Reverse Drawing. The event is held on a Thursday night in June. Members sell/buy tickets for a steak dinner for two, with all the trimmings. Participants have dinner while enjoying a live and silent auction and then a **Reverse Drawing that offers a chance to WIN \$5,000.**

Veterans Day Committee

Warsaw is the home of **“The Oldest Consecutive Veterans Day Celebration in America”** & now the **“The North Carolina Official Veterans Day Parade”**. We take great pride in the hosting its annual Veterans Day Parade. The Veterans Day Celebration Committee is a group of members and volunteers, who help to plan, organize and facilitate the Veterans Day Celebration. Meetings are called once a month between April through November for planning. **In 2020, we will observe the 100th Warsaw Veterans Day parade.**

Lighting of the Christmas Trees

The third Friday night, in November, the Chamber partners with the Town of Warsaw in sponsoring the Lighting of the Trees and the Town Christmas tree. The community is invited to come and participate in this joyous holiday tradition and enjoy holiday music, hot chocolate and

cookies and more, while they wait with anticipation to see Santa Claus who pays a special visit to Warsaw each year.

Chamber Member of the Month

The Chamber Member of the Month is awarded this distinct recognition for their involvement in promoting business and community activities in the area. The recipient is photographed and printed in the business section of the *Duplin Times*.

Ribbon Cuttings / Grand Opening Celebrations

The Chamber will help advertise and celebrate a new opening, relocation or expansion of your business. Please contact the Chamber Director, so that we can help schedule the event. Our office will send out e-mails, Facebook notices, web notices as well as participate, and help in the event. A free "group" photo of the participants (usually including the Mayor of Warsaw, the Warsaw Town Manager & other Chamber & Town representatives) is taken by the Duplin Times newspaper to be run in the paper's "Business Section" usually at the end of each month.

Member Profile Sheet

The following information will be used to promote your business on the Chamber Member Directory and Website www.townofwarsawnc.com (this web address will be joined by the new Chamber of Commerce Web Address when it stands up in late August 2017). There will be two places on the website that your business can be located by visitors. You will be listed in the Chamber Business Directory by Alphabetical Order and in the Chamber Business Directory by Category. Please notify us if changes need to be made. Please bear with us as the Chamber of Commerce web

page is being reconstructed and updated but will ultimately far more, user friendly to the person or persons looking for Chamber member businesses.

Name of Company:

Number of Employees:

Contact Person:

Mailing Address:

Physical Address:

Phone Number:

Fax Number:

E-mail Address:

Website Address:

Please explain the services that your company has to offer, so that we can better promote you on our website.

Website Information

A new website for the Chamber of Commerce is “under construction” to better serve you, the member. It is our goal for the new site to be “up & running” by the end of September 2017. Currently the Chamber of Commerce website is part of the Town of Warsaw’s site, but having our own website opens many opportunities to better assist

YOU.