

Monroe awarded The Order of the Long Leaf Pine

The Robeson Art Guild was honored to nominate Richard Monroe for membership in the Order of the Long Leaf Pine on May 14, 2021. Nila Chamberlain, Executive Director of Development, and Jim Tripp, Executive Director of Membership and Marketing, worked for several months prior with Senator Danny Britt and Mickey Gregory, Guild member and avid advocate of all things good for Robeson County, to prepare the written documentation for submission to North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper. Senator Britt and many friends surprised Richard at his home with this award on the evening of August 12, 2021.

On August 19, the Lumberton Area Chamber of Commerce recognized the awarding of this honor at their monthly Board meeting. In quotes below, is an excerpt of the presentation written and spoken by Mickey Gregory. Mickey's speech is included so that our County's citizens can share this good news and take pride in knowing we have such an outstanding citizen such as Richard Monroe.

"It is my honor to formally present a distinguished award to a person who has served and volunteered for years in different capacities on the Chamber Board as well as on just about every board and organization in our County. Senator Danny Britt, along with many friends, surprised him with the award over a week ago. Today, we again honor him in the presence of friends and business associates. Before asking



L to r Mickey Gregory, Image committee Co-chair, Richard Monroe, Maureen Metzger, Chamber Chair and Cindy Kern, Executive Director

Richard Monroe to come forward, I would like to share some history on this AMAZING man who is such an asset to Lumberton, Robeson County and the Great State of North Carolina. His accomplishments and awards are numerous and focused on the advancement of others to improve our quality of life and to provide access to cultural experiences for all of us.

For 28 years, Richard taught junior high and high school social studies and English, mostly at Lumberton High School. Following his teaching career, Richard served for twelve years as Personnel Specialist for the Public Schools of Robeson County. For 27 years, he served on the adjunct faculty of

Robeson Community College. When the Robeson County schools merged in 1989, he was a founder and first President of the Robeson Association of Educators serving 3 terms in that office. He was elected as District President of the North Carolina Association of Educators, serving on several committees, as well as a delegate to both state and national conventions.

Before retiring and continuing to this day, Richard has served his church and his community. His service includes Past-President and currently Vice-President and docent of the Robeson County History Museum; Board of Directors of

See MONROE | 2

THE LUMBERTON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Maureen Metzger - Chairman - Happenings on Elm

Bryan Britt - Past Chair - Cakes & Pastries of Lumberton

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Allen Elks - Postnet

John Hendren - Walmart

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Beth Terranova - Air Production & Service, Inc.

Betsy Wilson - UNC Health Southeastern

BeBe Wright-Williams - Comfort Inn/Country Inn & Suites

Lumberton Area Chamber of Commerce Image Committee's **WALL OF FAME**

David Hammond keeps the Hampton Inn running smoothly, inside and out. He is the chief engineer for the 105-room hotel. His primary responsibility is to keep the HVAC, plumbing and electrical systems running at peak efficiency.

However, he was spotted recently by Suzanne Abbott picking up trash outside the Hampton Inn. For his work over and beyond the call of duty, Abbott nominated Hammond as the first recipient of the Lumberton Area Chamber of Commerce Image Committee's Wall of Fame. Hammond does not want a customer's first impression to be trash along the curbs and parking lots.

He offered the following remarks: "The litter gets so bad, there are times I jump in to help. It is a constant battle but keeping the property clean is critical to the hotel's success. Keeping up this property is hard work, but we have a dedicated staff. Image is important! With a sanitation grade of 99, the Hampton Inn has enjoyed close to a 100 percent occupancy rate this spring and summer."

Hammond is one of the reasons for that success. The Chamber challenges all of us to follow the example Mr. Hammond is setting by doing our part to keep our County clean, green and litter free.



Monroe

From page 1

Robeson County Arts Council, Board of Directors of Communities in Schools, President of Rediscover Downtown Lumberton, Chair and currently Co-Chair of the Lumberton Area Chamber Image Committee and Finance Director of the newly formed Robeson Art Guild located in our Downtown.

During his career, he has received many awards. Let me just name a few - Excellence in Cultural Education Award; NC Friend of the Arts Award; Teacher of the Year EIGHT times and first runner-up for NC Teacher of the Year; Fulbright Hayes Fellowship, two-time recipient of the Chamber's Community Volunteer Award, Better Carolina Award sponsored by Mountainair Farms and Southeastern Health Life Time Commitment Award.

Yes, we have in our midst a man of outstanding character, superb leadership, unending volunteerism, passionate community service and steadfast involvement in all things good for OUR community. Two of his most rewarding accomplishments for all of us and for our Downtown Lumberton revitalization stand out in my mind. One was his determination to have the land and building where OUR Robeson County history is stored deeded to the Robeson County History Museum. Thanks to Richard, in 2015, Helen and Cliff Sharpe gifted the land and building to the Museum. Richard also wanted a home in downtown

for the Robeson Art Guild. Through Richard's unending persistence and the County's generosity, a building at 109 West Ninth Street in Downtown has been deeded to the Guild to advance the Arts in Robeson County.

It is no wonder that this new Art Guild wanted to spearhead the movement to award the Order of the Long Leaf Pine to Richard Monroe since a goal of the Guild is to promote all the good and positive in our County through the Arts and partnerships. There is no greater cheerleader for our community than this man who has dedicated his entire life to educating its citizens in the public schools and who continues to provide a cultural and historical context for our citizens. His speaking ability is admired by all who know him and his ability to connect with people from all walks of life leaves a lasting impression.

He listens, he cares deeply and he makes you feel good just to be in his presence. The relationships Richard has built and continues to build are a true reflection of his great leadership and these relationships have made and continue to make a positive impact. Richard Monroe makes our community a better place and inspires all of us to shine a little brighter and give a little more. The Order of the Long Leaf Pine is an honor granted by the State of North Carolina to individuals who have shown extraordinary service to the state. It is the highest award for state service granted by the Office of the Governor. I can think of no one who deserves this more than Richard Monroe.

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CAROLINA PEDDLERS CUTS THE RIBBON

What began as a small side business for a local couple quickly turned into a 21,000 square foot store featuring over 100 vendors. Local artists showcase their work of handcrafted jewelry, furniture, candles and more! Vendors from across North & South Carolina came together to bring the best unique finds to you! Carolina Peddlers is located at 3540 E. Elizabethtown Road in Lumberton. Owner Stephanie Barnes invites everyone to stop and shop with her. Hours of operation are Monday-Saturday 10:00 am-6:00 pm & Sunday 1:30 pm -6:00 pm.



Pictured are L to R: Maureen Metzger, Chamber Chair, Bo Biggs, Kenny Biggs, Chelsea Memory, Stephanie and Jason Barnes, Tyler Coker and Kelsey Barnes.

UNC Pembroke and the Town of Pembroke invite you to the 31st annual



PEMBROKE DAY

September 30, 2021
3-7 p.m.
UNCP Quad



Rain Date: October 7, 2021 (3-7 p.m.)
Location: UNCP Quad
(between Old Main and the Bell Tower)

This year, Pembroke Day will include entertainment featuring **Mark McKinney & Co.** from 5-7 p.m.

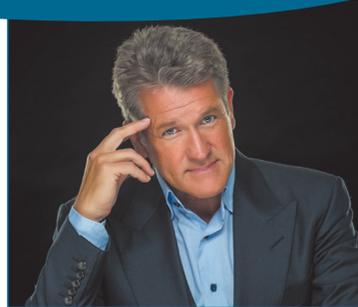
We have added more food vendors, arts and crafts and a host of exciting new merchants. Treat yourself to an evening at UNCP for the new **Pembroke Day** experience!



This publication is available in alternative formats upon request. Please contact the Accessibility Resource Center, West Hall, Room 110, or call 910.521.6695.

GPAC News

Mentalist Craig Karges is coming to GPAC!
September 10th @ 8 pm
For information call 910-521-6361



Welcome NEW Chamber Member!

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City/County Map ad sales begin

Dear Chamber of Commerce Members:

August 23, 2021

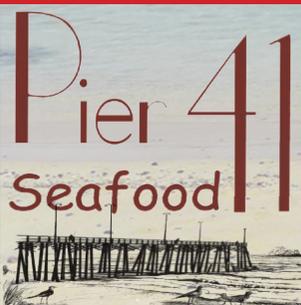
The Lumberton Chamber of Commerce is pleased to inform you of our partnership with Spring Hill Press, to produce the 2022 edition of our area street map. This map will be a 2' x 3' size in full color and includes both a detailed city and area overview map. The map itself will be produced digitally, allowing both the legibility and accuracy to meet high standards.

Representatives from Spring Hill Press will be contacting members beginning on August 23, 2021 with a delivery of the maps to the Chamber office by November 8, 2021. Advertising opportunities are only available to chamber member businesses. Spring Hill Press will produce all artwork for the ads at no cost to the client and will present proof copies prior to publication to ensure accuracy. Each advertiser will receive one complimentary copy of the map and the Chamber will distribute the maps as requested by advertisers, visitors, residents, etc.

Spring Hill Press continues to offer Online Maps that display your advertising until the next edition. Go to www.springhillpress.net to view samples. Spring Hill Press will also provide the Chamber a link that will take web visitors to the online map. Users can select any category of interest and advertiser(s) within that category will be displayed with their contact information and location. Users may click on the link to the advertiser's website or when the page is viewed on a smart phone, users may click on their business phone number and it will auto-dial that advertiser. All at no extra cost!

The Lumberton Chamber of Commerce is the best source of community information and receives many requests for maps, information & relocation packets each month. A good City/County map is a primary request from inquiries. This map will allow member businesses to put their name, product or service in front of a large audience of interested people. For any questions pertaining to this project, you are welcome to call Spring Hill Press at 1-800-627-8141 or the Chamber office at (910) 739-4750.

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