Lumber River

Visitors Center

The Lumber River Visitors Center, opened January 3, 2011 as a place where locals as well as visitors can get information about Fair Bluff and the Lumber River.

Information and brochures are found in the Visitors Center telling about great places to visit in Fair Bluff, like our River Walk and our Depot Museum.

Established through a grant from the N.C. Tobacco Trust Commission, operated under the Guidelines of the N.C. Department of Transportation, aided by the Town of Fair Bluff and the Greater Fair Bluff Chamber of Commerce, the Visitors Center is located at 1140 Main Street, right in the middle of town. Two main Highways pass by the Center making up Fair Bluff’s Main Street, N.C. 904 and US Hwy 76.

The Visitors Center is set up for meetings and special events. Tours of the River Walk are featured and the history of the City and the Lumber River.

Please stop and visit us as you come through our beautiful town at 1140 Main St., Fair Bluff, N.C. Call us at 910-649-7202, or email us at visitfairbluff@tds.net. Join us on Facebook at Facebook/Fair Bluff N.C.

Visit Beautiful Fair Bluff

Calling All Cookers!

6th Annual

SAVE THE DATE!
April 28-29
2017

Presented by the Greater Fair Bluff Chamber of Commerce
For More Information, go to http://www.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. 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 outdoor 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.

-Jennie Holcomb
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On the cover:
Kayaking at Lake Waccamaw, children at NC Museum of Natural Sciences, family bike ride, Southern hospitality at one of our B&B's

Photo credits:
Fuller Royal
Les High
Mark Gilchrist
Doug Sasser
Jennifer Holcomb
Shalon Smith
Liz McLean
Grant Merritt
Emily Batchelor

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Jennifer Holcomb
Shalon Smith
Liz McLean
Grant Merritt
Emily Batchelor
Columbus Country is one of the Southeast’s premier hunting and fishing locales. Covering nearly 1,000 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.
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.
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.
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, fishermen will not go home disappointed.
# Accommodations

## Bed & Breakfast

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accommodation</th>
<th>Rooms</th>
<th>Pool</th>
<th>Laundry Facilities</th>
<th>Meeting Space</th>
<th>Non-Smoker Rooms</th>
<th>Pets Allowed</th>
<th>Internet Access</th>
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<td>The Madison House Bed &amp; Breakfast Inn</td>
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<td>Yes</td>
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<td>Weaver’s Landing</td>
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## Hotels & Motels

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## Campgrounds

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<th>Pool</th>
<th>Laundry Facilities</th>
<th>RV Spaces</th>
<th>Arcade</th>
<th>Store/ Snackbar</th>
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<td>Carrollwoods RV Campground</td>
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<td>Boys and Girls Home Exhibition Center</td>
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A DOWNTOWN WHITEVILLE TRADITION SINCE 1931

Collier’s Jewelers & THE GIFT SHOP
colliersjewelers.com

The Gift Shop @ Collier’s Jewelers
On every page, in every story, there’s an opportunity to leave your mark.

At International Paper, we embrace the opportunity to be good neighbors, particularly when it comes to educating children in the communities where we live and work. By being heavily involved in programs that support environmental education and literacy, we’re helping to create places where children from all walks of life can dare to dream big.

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FESTIVALS and EVENTS

SPRING
BBQ on the Bluff
- Fair Bluff

NC Strawberry Festival
- Chadbourn

Farmer’s Market Fun Run
- Whiteville

Tabor City Spring Festival

Relay for Life
- Columbus County

SUMMER
NC Watermelon Festival
- Fair Bluff

Take the Lake
- Lake Waccamaw

A family paddles their cardboard boat at the N.C. Cardboard Boat Championships // Beautiful berries at the N.C. Strawberry Festival in Chadbourn // Enjoying a fresh slice at the NC Watermelon Festival in Fair Bluff // Columbus County Industrial Golf Tournament
FESTIVALS and EVENTS

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

WINTER
St. James Siouan Festival
- Buckhead
Celebrate The Arts
- Columbus County Schools
Southern Farm Days
- Lake Waccamaw

Swinging high at the Columbus County Agricultural Fair // The Pecan Festival Luncheon // Yam Man at the Tabor City Yam Festival // A fancy dancer at the annual Waccamaw Siouan Pow Wow // Showing off a handmade quilt at the St. James Festival
Local wildlife photography: “A songbird on sunflowers” // Horned Owl // Eagle
WHY MIGHT YOU WANT TO STOP BY OUR CENTURY 21 OFFICE IN WHITEVILLE?

TO ASK A QUICK QUESTION. TO SEE WHAT’S GOING ON AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD. TO GET SOME REAL ESTATE KNOW-HOW. BUT WE WON’T BE OFFENDED IF YOU JUST STOP BY TO SHOOT THE BREEZE AND SHARE A CUP OF COFFEE. PEOPLE DO IT ALL THE TIME.

CENTURY 21 Pro Realty
1009 North J. K. Powell Blvd
Oliver Plaza
Whiteville, NC 28472
910-642-6137
910-642-0135
http://c21 prorealty.com
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.
Lily pads at Lake Waccamaw

Local wildlife photography.
Lily pads at Lake Waccamaw
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 facilitated by Columbus County Airport’s (CPC) 5,500-foot runway just south of Whiteville.

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 Riegelwood, 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, high-speed internet, and rail.

Honest, Knowledgeable, Trusted... WE ARE THE TEAM That Delivers

Jackie Ray Pierce 910-641-2676
Ann Walters 910-640-7473
Eric Hill 910-625-8199
Ricky Harrelson 910-770-4130
Stephanie Wilson Office Manager

www.jrayrealty.com
910.642.8111
101 Courthouse Sq.
Whiteville, NC 28472
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, up-grading skills of the presently employed and retraining others for new employment in occupational fields.
The property features towering trees, a fully restored house built in 1880, a barn and a pond, creating a tranquil, rustic setting for unforgettable events. Capable of accommodating up to 400 guests, it provides the perfect backdrop for any style of wedding or your next special event. Ample on-site parking is available.

Pine Log Plantation's heritage has been preserved to retain its original charm while being updated to today's standards of comfort. Walk through the property to view the remains of the dam built on Pine Log Branch to help power mills producing flour and corn meal, and see relics found on the property. The home is air-conditioned and provides the perfect location for bridal parties to get ready on wedding day.

1264 Pine Log Road, Whiteville, NC 28472 • 910-640-7346

Pridgen Brothers Contractors
Since 1953

Our Equipment, Service, and Quality Product make the difference

Jerry Pridgen, Donald Pridgen and Jeff Pridgen
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720 Davis Avenue, Whiteville • 642-8174
Enjoy some of the sights Columbus County has to offer as you travel to, through, and away from your visit here. There are landmarks and views along our thoroughfares featured on Instagram with the hashtag #KeepItColumbus showcasing the area. Join in on the fun by taking your own photos and uploading to the app with #KeepItColumbus, the official local campaign of Columbus County Chamber of Commerce & Tourism.
JOE’S BBQ
Open Daily Monday - Thursday 10 - 8
Friday & Saturday 10 - 9
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Eat-In buffet only

Monday - Saturday
Lunch Buffet 11 - 2
Friday & Saturday
Supper Buffet 4:30 - 8:30

Bulk Order BBQ
Monday - Saturday
910-642-3511
910-642-2025

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serving Columbus County since 1875

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(910)642-3065
mcneillspharmacy.com
PUTTING DOWN ROOTS

EMERGENCY
For any fire, public safety or medical emergency, please dial 9-1-1.
  • Emergency Services.................910-649-6610
  • Highway Patrol.........................910-642-7169
  • Sheriff’s Office.........................910-642-6551
  • Whiteville Fire Department
    Administration........................910-642-3112
  • Whiteville Police Department
    Administration........................910-642-3111
  • Whiteville Rescue Unit..............910-642-2712

BUSINESS
  • Greater Fair Bluff Chamber
    of Commerce.............................910-649-7292
  • Columbus County Chamber of
    Commerce and Tourism................910-642-3171
  • Greater Tabor City Chamber
    of Commerce.............................910-377-3012

EDUCATION
  • Boys & Girls Homes of NC
    Flemington Academy
    Charter School........................910-646-2237
    • Carolyn T. High Memorial Library -
      Main Library, Whiteville...............910-642-3116
    • Chadbourn Community Library..........910-655-3322
    • Columbus Charter School..............910-641-4042
    • Columbus Christian Academy............910-642-6176
    • Columbus County Joblink
      Career Center...........................910-642-7141
      ex261
    • Columbus County Partnership
      for Children - Smart Start.............910-642-8226
    • Columbus County Schools
      Administration........................910-642-5108
    • East Columbus Branch Library -
      Riegelwood..............................910-655-1157
    • Fair Bluff Community Library...........910-649-7098
    • Robe McCray memorial Library -
      Lake Waccamaw........................910-646-1616
    • SCC Small Business
      Center....................................910-642-7141
      ex419
    • Southeastern Community
      College....................................910-642-7141
    • Tabor City Public Library............910-653-3774
    • Whiteville City Schools
      Administration..........................910-642-4116

GOVERNMENT
  • Animal Shelter................................910-641-3945
  • Board of Elections........................910-640-6609
  • City of Whiteville.........................910-642-8046
  • Columbus County
    Administration............................910-642-6600
  • Columbus County
    Transportation.............................910-642-3930
  • Columbus County
    Economic Development.....................910-642-6608
  • Columbus County
    Municipal Airport........................910-642-6187
  • Cooperative Extension......................910-640-6606
  • Department of Aging........................910-642-0146
  • Employment Security
    Commission.................................910-642-0146
  • Families First................................910-642-5996
  • Public Utilities...........................910-642-5257
  • Social Security Administration...........910-877-7757
  • Social Services............................910-642-2800
  • Soil & Water Conservation
    District.......................................910-642-2196
  • Solid Waste..................................910-641-3953
  • Tax Office...................................910-642-6553
  • Town of Boardman..........................910-649-6580
  • Town of Bolton..............................910-642-8945
  • Town of Brunswick.........................910-642-6711
  • Town of Cerro Gordo.......................910-654-5387
  • Town of Chadbourn.........................910-642-6148
  • Town of Fair Bluff..........................910-649-7246
  • Town of Lake Waccamaw......................910-642-3700
  • Town of Sandyfield.........................910-653-9877
  • Town of Tabor City...........................910-653-3458
  • United States Postal Service
    Columbus County Post Offices
    USPS office locator........................910-800-ASK-USPS
  • Waste Management of Whiteville.........910-642-6099

HEALTHCARE
  • Columbus Regional
    Healthcare System........................910-642-8011
  • Columbus County
    Health Department........................910-640-6615
  • Columbus County Department
    of Aging.....................................910-640-6602

LICENSES & REGISTRATION
  • Driver’s License...........................910-642-2017
  • DMV office..................................910-642-7500

MEDIA
  • The News Reporter........................910-642-4104
  • The News Times................................910-642-4104
  • Tabor-Loris Tribune.......................910-653-3153
  • WENC 1220..................................910-642-2133
  • WECT-TV 6..................................910-791-8070
  • WTAB 1370AM.................................910-653-2131
  • WTXY 1540AM.................................910-212-7702
  • WVOE 1590AM.................................910-654-5261
  • WWAY-TV 3..................................910-762-8381
  • WZCO 89.9..................................910-499-0999

RECREATION
  • City of Whiteville Parks
    and Recreation............................910-642-9052
  • Columbus County Parks
    and Recreation Department................910-640-6624
  • Lake Waccamaw State Park...............910-646-4748
  • Bolton Senior Center.....................910-654-1166
  • Bug Hill Senior Center....................910-640-3791
  • Chadbourn Senior Center..................910-642-4423
  • East Columbus Senior Center.............910-655-4734
  • Fair Bluff Senior Center...................910-649-6881
  • Tabor City Senior Center..................910-653-3063
  • Whiteville Senior Center..................910-640-6602

UTILITIES
  • Brunswick Electric Membership
    Corporation (electric).....................910-642-7081
  • CenturyLink (telephone, internet)......800-672-0242
  • Progress/Duke Energy (electric)........800-452-2777
  • Time Warner (cable, telephone,
    internet).................................910-642-7171
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.

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

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.
#KeepItColumbus

K-2 Growing strong readers as a foundation for student success

Central Middle School

Whiteville High School

2015 High Growth School

College and Career Promise program offered with Southeastern Community College - 87% Graduation Rate

“Empowering all students to reach their maximum potential for lifelong learning and productivity”

Breakfast and Lunch at no cost to children Gr. Pre-K thru 12

Whiteville High School

Edgewood Elementary School

2015 High Growth School

College and Career Promise program offered with Southeastern Community College - 87% Graduation Rate

Alternative School

80% Graduation Rate

Columbus Christian Academy

Where students are nurtured emotionally, challenged academically, and encouraged spiritually.

Contact 910.642.6196
columbuschristianacademy.com
Email: office@columbuschristianacademy.us

623 Warrior Trail
Whiteville, NC 28472
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 barbecue 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 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.
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LOCAL LINGO

Madison Mile – A walking path along Madison Street from Vineland Village in downtown Whiteville to the historic Columbus County Courthouse.

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.

The River – 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.

The Beach – 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 beach.”

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.

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 descendants of the Lost Colony.
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A thriving arts community starts early in the lives of Columbus County residents, as shown by the annual Celebrate the Arts Festival, that features visual and performing arts by more than 1,000 Columbus County students. Local artisans showcase their work at festivals and craft fairs; live theatre and music can be seen 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.
The Columbus County Arts Council is the primary coordinator for arts events, and its facility is regularly open for classes, exhibits, and performances. A gallery of local artists’ works is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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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.

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.

Chester McGlockton
The former NFL player who played for the four teams Whiteville High School, leading the Whiteville Wolfpack to a 15-0 record and a State Championship his senior year, as a defensive tackle between 1992 and 2003 grew up in Whiteville and was a High School All-American at Whiteville High School leading the Whiteville Wolfpack to a 15-0 record and a State Championship his senior year.

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 SuperSonics, Oklahoma City Thunder, New York Knicks, and Detroit Pistons. Wilcox won an NCAA Championship at The University of Maryland.

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

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.

Ben Vereen
From Chadbourn, a Tony award-winning and Emmy nominated actor, dancer and singer who appeared in numerous Broadway shows, television, and film. He is well known for his role of ‘Chicken’ George Moore in Alex Haley’s miniseries Roots.

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

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.
A long straight drive down U.S. 74/76 was the first time Christopher Petrone, 46, had visited Columbus County. “I got a good feeling from the rural living style which reminded me of my time growing up in rural New York,” he said.

His wife, Janice, had switched from active duty in the Air Force Reserves so they and their two daughters, Janelle, 8 and Juliana, 6, could settle down somewhere. They were looking for a place to open Janice’s orthodontics office and discovered a location in Whiteville.

“We had spent 13 years moving around with the Air Force and finally settled down close to my parents in Leland. The support of grandparents helping with the kids is priceless!” Christopher said.

After being a teacher for 15 years Christopher decided after their move, he would work with his wife as an office manager and lab technician at her office, Timothée Orthodontics, a job he said was pretty secure as compared to teaching.

Growing up in an Italian family, food is very important to Christopher’s happiness. He was delighted to discover plenty of places to eat from specialty restaurants to sandwich shops. He is excited about the opening of the seasonal farmer’s market.

“When we were in Leland, we were close to downtown Wilmington and many shops, restaurants, and parks that we will miss, but I am slowly finding replacements here in Whiteville,” he said.

Staying local and finding replacements have also inspired Christopher to try some local favorites you may not find on a menu in Wilmington.

“I must try a banana and mayo sandwich!” he said.

Dr. Janice Timothée and Christopher Petrone & Family

My very first visit here was to look at places to live—my first impression was great and the people were very friendly.

-Liz McLean

Christopher, Janice and their girls have been in Columbus County for two years.

Originally from San Diego, California, Southeastern Community College’s Director of Marketing and Outreach Liz McLean, 40, married Matt, from neighboring Robeson County. Matt, 40, was familiar with Columbus County and Liz had not once set foot in it.

They were living in Southport with her husband commuting back and forth to work as an accountant and licensed financial advisor in the county where they made the decision to locate.

“My very first visit here was to look at places to live—my first impression was great and the people were very friendly,” Liz said.

For the young family, moving came with a few challenges. “Our boys were settled in their childcare situation, which had been the same since our oldest son was born, so find new childcare where they were comfortable was important,” she said.

Liz had worked in advertising and marketing for about 17 years and was concerned there wouldn’t be a market for her specific skill set when they got to town. She was optimistic she could find employment doing something, and after a couple of years of working in the accounting office where her husband worked, Southeastern Community College hired
“The position I'm in now opened up when our daughter was almost a year old and it felt like the perfect time to get my career back on track,” she said.

Almost five years later, Liz, Matt, Layton, 8, Luke, 5 and Madison, 3 are still in Whiteville and very active in the community. “Most of the people we know have long-standing ties to Columbus County, so it is great to feel so welcomed,” she said.

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Pieces of advice that Christopher and Liz would share with the next wave of trailing spouses that come to the area are fairly simple to follow.

Christopher says to not stress it. Life is what you make of it. Happiness comes in many forms. You will enjoy the people you meet and places you discover.”

Liz recommends getting involved in the community. “I’m not saying you should say ‘yes’ to everything but find an area that fits your skills and where you can contribute and get involved. Volunteering is a great way to meet people and learn about a new place.”

While areas around us have changed with hasty growth, suburban lifestyles, and traffic jams, Tabor City has maintained our identity as a true southern town.

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With more than 175 congregations that gather 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.
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.
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http://wbs.whiteville.k12.nc.us/

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ASHLEY ELECTRIC, INC  
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http://www.CarolinasStaffing.com

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(910) 763-1787  
http://nc.eastersealsucp.com

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https://www.nccommerce.com/workforce

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http://www.vocationalrehabilitation.com

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(910) 642-3157  
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http://www.paittractor.com

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http://www.wendys.com

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http://www.ncpecanfestival.com

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http://www.ncyamfestival.com

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https://www.cardinalfinancial.com/

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http://www.dennisdjones.com

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(910) 418-4609  
http://www.OVMFinancial.com/

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http://www.OVMFinancial.com/RussellSmith

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http://www.landolakesgolfclub.biz/

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http://www.whitevillecity.com/
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http://www.boltontown.us
TOWN OF TABOR CITY
(910) 653-4141
http://www.taborcitync.org
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