

CHAMBER UPDATE



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As the holiday season is fast approaching, businesses all over Greenville and Spartanburg Counties are gearing up for a profitable season.

Greer based businesses have experienced a great year between August of 2018 and August of 2019 and this holiday season should show promising business sales numbers.

The Greater Greer Chamber of Commerce is interested in the trend of business growth in the past few years and we are excited to support the next year of business growth.

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The City of Greer in 2018 had nearly 30,000 residences and is expected to top more than 33,000 in 2019. Business growth has been between 2% and 4% for the past five years as well with 2.0% growth from August 2018 to August 2019.

The gross retail sales in the City of Greer rose from \$1.28 Billion in 2018 to a record high \$1.35 Billion in 2019. With all this growth, consumers need goods and services locally.

The Greater Greer Chamber of Commerce is working hard for you to keep up with the changing demands of the consumer as well as recognizing the challenges and successes of our membership (and future members).

From all of us at the Greater Greer Chamber of Commerce, we wish you and yours a happy and safe Thanksgiving!

Sincerely,

David Merhib
President/CEO

Visit Our New Website
www.greerchamber.com

Save the Date **UPCOMING**

'TIS THE SEASON FOR GIVING.

FIRST FRIDAY

First Friday Luncheon



WHEN: Friday, December 6
TIME: 11:30 am – 1:00 pm (Program begins at 12:00)
WHERE: Greer City Hall
TICKETS: www.greerchamber.com
864-877-3131

Join the Greater Greer Chamber of Commerce for December's First Friday presented by PRISMA Health Greer Memorial Hospital. One of the Chamber's signature events, this luncheon includes a networking lunch, chamber updates, and an informative speaker. This month, we're excited to welcome the return of our Annual Non-Profit Showcase!

To celebrate the season of giving, local non-profit organizations will take the podium to share how businesses and the community can give back this holiday season.

The event is \$10 for Chamber members, and \$15 for guests. Pre-registration is required by December 4th.

Economic Forecast Lunch Featuring Dr. Bruce Yandle

Join the Greater Greer Chamber of Commerce for a 2020 Economic Forecast Lunch, sponsored by Countybank. The event will feature an exciting presentation from Dr. Bruce Yandle, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Economics at Clemson University.

With changing interest rates, an election and so much more uncertainty, come hear why the economy is cooling, even though temperatures are rising!

The event is \$25 for members and includes lunch.

WHEN: Wednesday, December 11
TIME: 11:30 am – 1:00 pm (Program begins at 12:00)
WHERE: Thornblade Club
TICKETS: www.greerchamber.com
864-877-3131



THE TEMPERATURE IS RISING, BUT THE ECONOMY IS COOLING- WHAT'S THE 2020 OUTLOOK?

A Special Presentation By:
DR. BRUCE YANDLE
Distinguished Professor of Economics Emeritus, Clemson University

December 11, 2019
12:00 PM
Thornblade Club



GREERCHAMBER.COM

Greenville Health System is now



SPOTLIGHT

Leadership Greer Class 40 had their Public Safety Session this month and enjoyed learning about the City of Greer Police and Fire Services. The day included many hands-on demonstrations, simulations, and time learning about both agencies.



Junior Leadership Class 31 learned about the history of Greer this month by starting the day with a riding tour to many historical spots, time at the Greer Heritage Museum, and then ended the day with a scavenger hunt throughout downtown Greer.

#SHOPSMALL



SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 30

GREER CHAMBER EXECUTIVE BOARD

- Jack Lucas - Chairman of the Board
- Brent Garrett - Chair Elect
- Mikelle Porter - Immediate Past Chair
- Waye Bobo - Vice Chair, Membership Excellence
- Lee Dumas - Vice Chair, Community Events
- Kevin Duncan - Vice Chair, Finance
- Chris Forrester - Vice Chair, Leadership Development
- Timothy Joner - Vice Chair, Public Policy
- Ben Waldrop - Vice Chair, Business Development
- Daniel Hughes - General Counsel
- William Grady - Director
- Tony Kouskolekas - Director
- Jennifer Jones - Director
- John Mansure - Director
- Larry Wilson - Partnership for Tomorrow Liason

JOINING THE COMMUNITY **MEMBERSHIP**



Members enjoying our Dale Carnegie Session- Communicating Across Generations

Businesses involved with the Greater Greer Chamber of Commerce have been extremely busy as of late! On November 19th, the Dale Carnegie Series wrapped up with a session titled "Communicating Across Generations." Attendees learned about generational differences, similarities, and traits that, when understood, can be used to build strong teams and lasting relationships.

The Chamber is also excited to promote our reworked membership benefit structure that starts in 2020. After 10 years, it was time to look at our benefits and ask if they are still working for our members. We have made some tweaks and believe we are now continuing to offer benefits to our members that help them grow and be involved in an amazing business community. If any current Greater Greer Chamber of Commerce members have questions, please call 864-877-3131. If any businesses are interested in being a part of the Greater Greer Chamber of Commerce, call 864-877-3131 or visit greerchamber.com.

Niche Networking Dates for the first quarter of 2020 are being filled now! If any of our current Chamber members are interested in hosting a Handshakes and Hashbrowns (Greer), Tailored for Taylors (Taylors), or Pelham Power Breakfast (Pelham Road area) email josh@greerchamber.com or call 864-877-3131.

OCTOBER NEW MEMBERS

Northside Auto

1342 W. Wade Hampton Boulevard, Greer, SC 29650

Abcumby Enterprize

www.abcumbyenterprize.com

SouthStar Capital

www.southstar.com

Harley Law, LLC

108 B Trade Street, Greer, SC 29651

MEET THE STAFF



David Merhib
President & CEO

Favorite Thanksgiving Food:
Green Bean Supreme



Debbie Bateman
Director of Accounting

Favorite Thanksgiving Food:
Hashbrown Casserole



Patty Cornelius
Director of Administration

Favorite Thanksgiving Food:
Turkey



Nikki Huber
Director of Membership Engagement

Favorite Thanksgiving Food:
Sweet Potato Casserole



Lynn Pascazio
Director of Leadership Development

Favorite Thanksgiving Food:
Pumpkin Cheesecake



Josh Shaffer
Director of Membership Development

Favorite Thanksgiving Food:
Turkey & Stuffing

PRISMA HEALTH®