



The Arrowhead

O L D F O R T C H A M B E R O F C O M M E R C E

HISTORY OF OLD FORT

- Cherokee attack the settlers in McDowell County June 20 1776
- General Rutherford leads militiamen against Cherokee Aug 1776
- Davidson's Fort built Aug 1776
- Catawba Vale established 25 January, 1872
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OKTOBERFEST 2008



October 1993 the first Oktoberfest Festival took place. By 1994 the committee was getting better at setting up and running a large scale festival. The Chamber actually cleared \$2,387.84 from their second festival, not bad for beginners. From the beginning Tony Yacovelli has made this festival his prime responsibility, every year he is making sure all the little parts of the Festival are taken care of. 1994 showcased our Ruritan Club selling Hotdogs and Hamburgers, Otis Keaton with his famous fish, Hunter's Liver mush giving out free samples and The Lucky Strike showing people how to pan for gold. Now we jump to the future, Starting on Friday at 9am, vendors start setting up for a three day festival of

food, arts, crafts and games. This small town festival provides area craftsmen and local non profit groups a chance to show and sell their wares to the many visitors that come every year. Every year the Old Fort Ruritan Club sets up their cookers and offers their food to the public, these funds help the club provide needed services to local families in need. Along with some well know local food vendors the festival offers every type of food for a well rounded belly by the end of the day. Crafts of every sort are offered here, from wood birdhouses to intricately carved jewelry, even horse drawn carriage rides. Local musicians play in the amphi-

theater on the grounds of the Mountain Gateway Museum. Local non profit groups and political parties set up their tables and offer their views and advise to all who will listen. This festival offers reduced rates for non profit groups, most festivals have forgotten about these groups, this festival offers a wonderful slice of Americana. The Mill Creek Duck Race is fast becoming an annual tradition, buy a rubber duck with a number on it and those ducks are placed in the river, the first duck across the finish line wins. This is one festival that has not fallen into the big city fair atmosphere, a small town local festival that keeps bringing back visitors to this quaint small town. For more information visit their website at www.oldfortchamber.com or call 828-668-7223.

FEB 20, 1990

The first meeting of the Old Fort Chamber of Commerce was held at the Four Oakes Fish Camp. Some of the business to be covered was:
 Charter is Approved!!!
 Check over proposed by laws.
 Paul Grindstaff discusses Officers and Board.

Woody Grant discusses signs, stoplight and crosswalk.
 Joe Johnson discusses Catawba Falls Committee.
 Board of Directors were:
 Woodrow Grant
 Paul Grindstaff
 Bill Wood

Lou Wasson
 Steve Servais
 Bob Oakes
 Stephen Painter
 Joe Johnson
 Dave Sheaffer

P I S G A H Y A R N & D Y E I N G C O

Elmore-Pisgah was founded in 1920, after Mr. Elmore had returned from World War I. Having built our former site as an ice house in 1916, Mr. Elmore observed Allied refrigerator ships and realized that his ice house would succumb to modern technology. On his return he immediately began the transformation into a textile mill, Elmore Corporation, which dyed and packaged yarns for the hand knitting, crocheting and apparel

trade since the early 1940's. Elmore corporation was a premiere thread manufacturer from 1920 to 1974, then in 1975 Belding Heminway, a parent company to the famous Lily Company, bought the facility. In 1989, a holding company purchased the Elmore property. Pisgah Yarn and Dyeing Company, Inc. produces specialty cotton, rayon craft and apparel yarns for retail, industrial, haute couture, and individual users. We are known by

our brands of Peaches & Crème, American's Best, and Honeysuckle Yarns.

In March of 2006 we moved our entire facility to the home of our parent company Pisgah Yarn and Dyeing Company, Inc. in Old Fort, North Carolina. We are now located 30 miles east of Asheville, in the foothills of the beautiful Smokey Mountains.

Our sole mission is to produce the highest quality craft and specialty yarns. As one of the last surviving American textile mills we have to be nimble in providing service, most often shipping orders on the same day we receive them.

Our product line is proud to be 100% USA grown and produced.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to show you our high quality yarns and for supporting American jobs.

P R C I N D U S T R I E S , I N C

“One might even say that remanufacturing is the ultimate method of recycling.”



The Old Fort Chamber of Commerce welcomes PRC Industries to its membership. They began nearly twenty years ago under the vision of Founder and CEO Arthur

Krantz. Since the beginning, Krantz's interest in the environment has been a major influence of his mission as an entrepreneur. Already a success in the close-out business, Krantz began work to develop a broader, more efficient means of recycling durable consumer goods.

What Krantz and PRC developed was a new method of recycling whereby returned products could be "re-manufactured" into high

quality market alternatives available throughout North America. In the past 15 years, PRC and its partners have pioneered and revolutionized the remanufacturing industry. PRC ideology is reflected in their desire to keep products out of the nation's overflowing waste stream. To do this, they recycle hundreds of thousands of products each year. One might even say that remanufacturing is the ultimate method of recycling.

History of Old Fort Part 1 1700-1800 by Anne Swann

The history of the "old fort" began with the continuing threat of hostilities between the Cherokee Indians and the first Europeans to encroach on Cherokee lands. The history of the "old fort" began with the continuing threat of hostilities between the Cherokee Indians and the first Europeans to encroach on Cherokee lands. From 1700 to 1800, many violent conflicts would erupt along the boundaries of present day McDowell County, especially in the northern and western portions.

Prior to 1750, only explorers, traders and trappers ventured into this wilderness at the foot of the Blue Ridge. Few Cherokee villages remained, though the tribe continued to claim the area as hunting territory. First contact between the Native Americans and the white settlers had been for the most part amiable. Trade patterns developed, with both groups benefiting. However, as more white families began to push toward the mountains, taking more and more of the desirable land for homesteads and farms, the Cherokee resentment began to increase.

When the struggle for control of North America erupted into the French and In-

dian War, both the English and the French contended for the support of the Cherokee Nation. Because of their already growing hostility toward the English settlers, most Cherokees allied themselves with the French. It was during this period that the few intrepid pioneers, who had already established themselves in present day McDowell County, began to construct forts for protection against the Cherokee. Perhaps two of the more than one dozen McDowell County forts were constructed during this time period; Cathey's Fort near present day Woodlawn, and McDowell's Fort near Pleasant Gardens.

N E W C H A M B E R M E M B E R

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C H A M B E R M E M B E R F O R 1 8 Y E A R S

Take an afternoon drive to 745 Roy Moore Rd., in Old Fort and you will come upon Painter's Greenhouse Painter's is a spring seasonal greenhouse and nursery, located in the mountains of Western North Carolina, 30 minutes east of Asheville. Painter's has been well known established business for the past 35 years. With a great reputation for having fresh healthy plants at affordable prices, Painter's keeps their costs down, by having their customers come to them. Growers of herbs, perennials, annuals, bedding plants and hanging baskets, Stephen Painter is considered one of the top "niche growers" in North Carolina. After selling to the "big box" stores for a number of years he and his wife Susie, decided to drop the stores, sell their trucks, and sell to the public, during the spring season.

"Agritourism" is a new word which means, bringing tourism business out to the country. Painter's has several special events that really draw people out to their place. Their annual Open House, is the kick-off for their spring season. They serve free refreshments and provide live local music. This event helps local people who are thinking about starting a business, or just selling a few things to support their hobby. Locals and out of state visitors have come back for years to purchase their yearly planting needs. This interesting statement was found on the internet." This weekend Kassie and I went to Painter's Greenhouse (yes, we all agree it really should be Planter's) in Old Fort. The herb festival was so homey, I felt all warm and fuzzy, sans drinky drinky. We each walked away with about \$40 worth of amazing plants. I felt so guilty, I asked a woman if she realized we were robbing her? Painter's is like crack for backyard gardeners! "The Franz Blog" Stephen and Susie Painter were one of the founding fathers of the Old Fort Chamber of Commerce. Stephen remembers joining forces with Steve Servais, Dave Sheaffer, Bob Frisbee, Susan Elliott, Tony Yacovelli and the late Ed Kline of Catawba Falls Campground to name a few. Everyone was so eager to get a Chamber of Commerce started here in Old Fort. It was a great group of people to work with, and we are glad to see most who still live here are still involved. Independent businesses are the real backbone of America, and we want to keep that friendly, down home feeling in our businesses here in Old Fort.

Check out Painter's website www.paintersgreenhouse.com for operating hours. You can call 828-668-7225 or email them at info@paintersgreenhouse.com with any questions you may have. Remember, **Support your local Businesses, helping them helps you.**

P R E S I D E N T ' S C O R N E R

I would like to thank the members of the Old Fort Chamber of Commerce for putting their faith in me by electing me to the presidency of the chamber. I look forward to working with you and for you. It's going to be an exciting and rewarding term. First on my agenda will be "communication" we must communicate the needs of

our local businesses. I feel we are a unique community and we as chamber members can prove this to the area residents and new members. We will need more involvement in the chamber and its activities to bring all of us closer and supportive of our needs and make changes together for the good of our town. So in

closing I hope to see each and every one of you at our next meeting, join us every 2nd Tuesday of the month 6:30 pm at the depot. Have a great Labor Day! Stop in and see Deb and I at our campground any time, our gates are always open. Thanks again, Jerry Wheeler





**OLD FORT
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE**

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Established February 1990

The Old fort Chamber is organized to achieve the objectives of:

Preserving the competitive enterprise system of business by creating:

- A better understanding and appreciation of the importance of the business person and a concern for their problems.
- Creating a more intelligent business and public opinion regarding city, county, state and national legislative and political affairs.
- Preventing controversies which are detrimental to the expansion and growth of business and the community or adjusting them if they arise.
- Creating a greater appreciation of the value of a more liberal investment of substance and self on behalf of the interests of competitive business.

Promoting business and community growth and development by:

- Promoting economic programs designed to strengthen and expand the income potential of all business within the trade area.
- Promoting programs of a civil, social and cultural nature which are designed to increase the functional and aesthetic values of the community.
- Discovering and correcting abuses which prevent the promotion of business expansion and community growth.

E M P L O Y M E N T S E C U R I T Y C O M M I S S I O N

Discussion with Sara Williams, the newly-appointed Labor Market Developer for the Employment Security Commission of North Carolina. I serve 28 counties in the Mountains and Foothills of western North Carolina, and my main priority is to provide value-added business services to the employers of our state.

Labor Market Developers provide a range of direct personnel and consultative services to private and public sector employers and businesses. Many of these services parallel those offered by private consulting firms; however, are available to qualifying North Carolina employers, often at no additional cost.

Specific services include:

- reviewing employer handbooks, policies and procedures
- assisting employers with drafting or revising personnel policy manuals
- conducting seminars and workshops on a variety of employer-related issues
- consulting with employers on position description and job classification matters
- conducting reviews of job duties and skills assessments
- assisting employers with establishing pay rates based on prevailing wage and compensation data

- conducting a variety of surveys (including employee opinion and post-exit surveys), analyzing collected data, and making appropriate reports to the requesting employer or agency administrator
- conducting professional development training on a number of topics related to human resource management and employee relations matters

If you would like to hear more call 828-668-7223.