







We are blessed with a charming Main Street. In fact, when you follow Main Street, you'll see the historic Chester County Court House, our excellent public school system, Freed-Hardeman University (a private, four-year, liberal arts college), our famous BBQ restaurants, and even Chickasaw State Park. With a rich history rooted in the beginnings of the Mobile and Ohio Railroad, we continue to grow and prosper.

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We at the Henderson/Chester County Chamber of Commerce are dedicated to supporting businesses and shaping a better community. Each fall our largest event, the Chester County BBQ Festival, fills the

> HENDERSON | CHESTER COUNTY Chamber of Commerce

Many fall in love with our community and retire or raise their families with us. Whether you love historic or new homes, you can find them here. We have an abundance of recreational activities like horse back riding and hiking, and our citizens work with a number of community organizations to serve those in Chester County and around the world.

We at the Henderson/Chester County Chamber of Commerce are proud to welcome you to our home! Stay a while, and come back often. It won't take long for you to find out why this is a great place to live, work and play!

mily Shelton

Executive Director

Heure Hulps Board President



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2010

Freed-Hardeman University's Horizons July 4-9 – Youth Camp at FHU

Freed-Hardeman University's Christian Training Series – July 11-15

BBQ Festival Pageant - August

Chester County BBQ Festival September 30 – October 2

Chickasaw Craft Fair - October

Henderson Christmas Parade – December 2

Lighting of Chickasaw State Park - December

Freed-Hardeman University's
Annual Benefit Dinner Featuring
Former President George W. Bush – December 3

Chester County Tour of Homes to benefit Carl Perkins Center – December

2011

Annual Lions Club Implement Sale – January 29

Freed- Hardeman University's Annual Bible Lectureship – February

Annual Chamber of Commerce Membership and Awards Banquet – February

Exchange Club/ Carl Perkins Center Annual Dinner and Auction – March

Freed –Hardeman University's Makin Music – April 1 & 2

Egg Hunt at Chickasaw State Park - April

Chamber of Commerce Annual Golf Tournament – April

Chester County Quarterback Club Annual Golf
Tournament – May

Relay for Life Events – May

Lions Club Pancake Breakfast - May 14

39th Annual Walking Horse Show – June 24



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	Calendar of Events	3	Credits
	Important Numbers	30	Discover Chester County Project Committee
	STORIES		110,000
	Love in Stereo	6	Tony Altman - Chairman
	Walking Tall Tour	8	Erin Adams Emily Ashley
		10	Jason Bramblett
	Well Known Chester Countians	12	Debbie Grantham Patricia Jones
	Barbeque Festival		Susan Kimpel
	Friends of Chickasaw	16	Billie Noles Vicki Zamata Rainey
	Henderson Arts Commission	18	Emily Shelton
	Sweetlips: Modern Commerce	20	Chamber Board Membe
	Storytellers	22	Tony Altman
	Community Glimpse	26	Mark Barber Craig Casey Randy Crouse Vicki Dickson Jim Edmonds Russell Epperson
	The Discover Chester County book is produce Bramblett Group and printed by Brothers Printwo local business that work and make their hin Chester County.	ting, ome	Eddie Fuller Brian Henson Tony Hysmith Patricia Jones Troy Kilzer Bobby King Linda Patterson Renee Phelps John Pipkin Trent Scott Barry Smith
	To submit or suggest information for next year's issue, please e-mail the Chamber of Commerce: discover@chestercountychamber.com		Neal Smith
	Book Online at www.chestercountychamb	per.com	Cover Credit Photo by Jason Bramblett Special Thanks to
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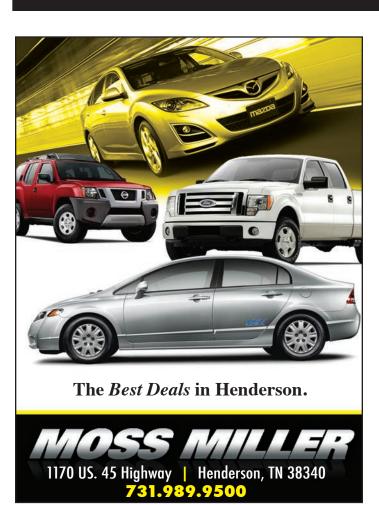
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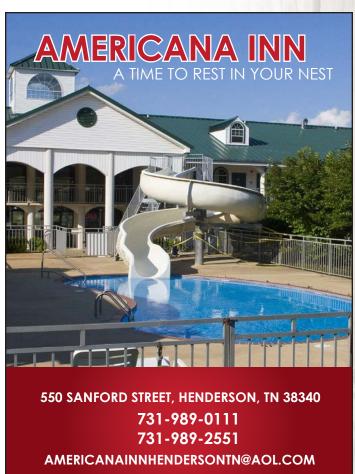


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Together, We're Louder.

That's the slogan of Love In Stereo, a Henderson organization bringing together artists and citizens to raise awareness of needs in the world that can be met through a little work and a lot of love. Love in Stereo was the brainchild of Brad Montague and Jonathan Newberry, and has been making itself known both in Chester County and in the region.

"This is young," Montague states. "We're growing and exploring what this organization can do. We have [Freed-Hardeman] University students that bring ideas from their hometowns. And talented folks live in this area. We aren't Nashville or Memphis insiders where they already have these kinds of organizations, so Henderson is a great place to coordinate Love In Stereo from. If you can do it from here, you can do it anywhere."

Love In Stereo raises awareness of humanitarian needs across the world through their website, www.loveinstereo.com, the creation of music cds, and hosting regional events. "We are trying to help young people use art, music, video, and their own kind of creativity to address a need," Montague shares. "We've already created one album, "My Heart is in Haiti" to benefit the victims of the January earthquake there." Big and small-town acts contributed songs to the album, with all proceeds going to the Sonlight Children's Home and Nutrition Center in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Nashville acts Canon Blue and Shaky Voices, Chicago artists The Bears of Blue River, Denver's Oh Starling, Memphis' Jeffrey James & the Haul, perform alongside Wilmore, Kentucky's Eugene and Doris and Manasquan, New Jersey's Second Floor Stories to bring some meaningful music to the story of Haiti.

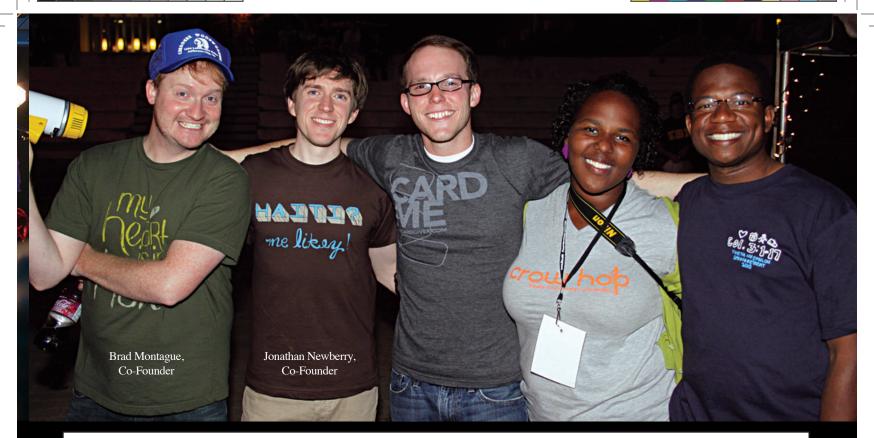
And in case you doubted that Chester County is the perfect place to coordinate Love in Stereo from? To kick off the

project, Love In Stereo launched the album by bringing two of the artists — Shaky Voices and Joel Rakes — to Henderson to perform a free concert. In support of the organization's efforts, the Southwestern Tennessee Electric Membership Cooperative agreed to turn on the electricity in the empty building long enough to host the concert. Album sales have been successful, and more than 120 children in Haiti are receiving hot meals daily.

Now that the Haiti album has taken off, Love In Stereo has no plans to sit on their success. "We have been going steadily uphill. We are trying to move this beyond being just two friends who thought it was a good idea to developing a passion in others to get involved. We encourage people who see a need, anywhere, to contact us," says Newberry. The group's upcoming projects include a children's album for the West Tennessee Special Needs Baseball Foundation. Musicians will join campy favorite They Might Be Giants on "One For the Team," a children's album. Future projects are in progress to bring awareness and assistance to the disproportionate amount of homeless teens in Portland, Oregon and Miami, Florida.

Volunteers are needed to raise awareness of humanitarian needs. And of course, donations are always appreciated. Love In Stereo is a not-for-profit organization that operates under the umbrella of the West Tennessee Healthcare Foundation.

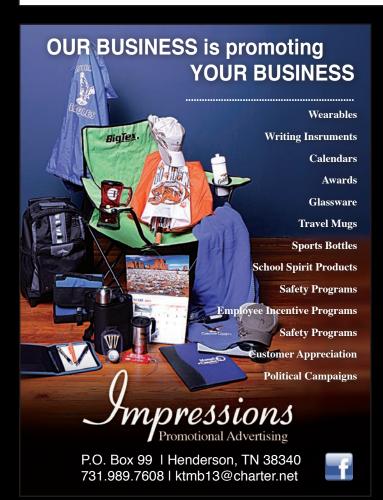








Keep up with their events and album productions at their blog and website (www.loveinstereo.com) or you can follow their activities on Twitter under @love_in_stereo. Join the conversation!



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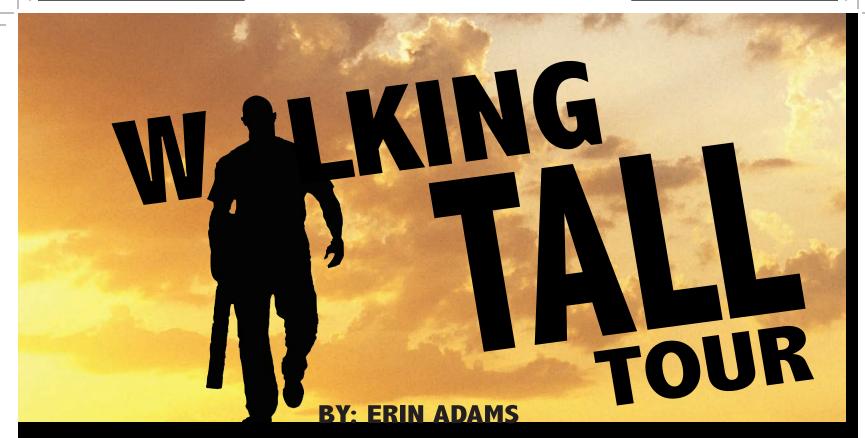


2009 CHESTER COUNTY BUSINESS OF THE YEAR



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Crime. Intrigue. The Mob. Meet Sheriff Buford Pusser. The life and exploits of the McNairy County lawman define hit movies. Curious eyes watched Phil Karlson's 1973 film *Walking Tall* bring Pusser's legendary story to an eager nationwide audience. Chester County was looked at as a neutral alternative to McNairy County, where unresolved community feelings about Pusser's work prompted a change of filming location. Such was the scene in the summer of 1972, and again in 1975, when *Walking Tall* and *Walking Tall Part II* were filmed. Locals served as extras and acted in smaller roles, and many community landmarks can be seen in the film. Visit these Henderson sites for a "behind-the scenes" tour of the movie! Your walk today forms an easy-distance loop, perfect for seeing the town and enjoying a stroll.

1. HISTORIC FRONT STREET

Park along Historic Front Street which was once the site of a Mobile & Ohio Railroad depot. Henderson's first businesses were buildings along Front Street that housed supplies intended for the Confederate armies. Today, Front Street boasts thriving and unique shops like LaVon's Timeless Treasures, Happy Kids Consignment Shop, and Robertson's Trading Post. From here, direct your steps eastward towards Main Street.

2. CHESTER COUNTY COURTHOUSE & MAIN STREET

Some of the original storefronts are now gone, but the architecture of this Reconstruction-era downtown still give the flavor of an old Southern town. Envision 1970s era automobiles lining Main Street, with locals shopping at stores like City Drug Store and socializing on sidewalk benches, sipping cold drinks. Karlson shot many of Walking Tall's scenes here. Enjoy the many attempts at restoring the appearance of this area as you head toward the Chester County Courthouse.

The current courthouse was built in 1914 after the first two courthouses burned in 1891 and 1913. It is one of only two Chester County buildings on the National Register of Historic Places. Additions were made in 1959, and it was refurbished in 2003 to return it to its original splendor. Several of the Walking Tall scenes were filmed here, including the memorable courtroom scene. The Courthouse is open Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

3. FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

131 North Avenue

After strolling up and down Main Street, turn right at the Frix-Jennings Clinic and walk up the hill to the First United Methodist Church. The Methodist Church was organized and built on the current lot in 1872, just ten years after the founding of the city. In 1890, the church building burned and the present structure was completed in 1892. The building was damaged during a 1952 tornado that wreaked devastation on Henderson. After repair and remodeling, the exterior of the church was used for the Walking Tall funeral scenes. Several members of the congregation participated in the filming.

4. HENDERSON CITY CEMETERY

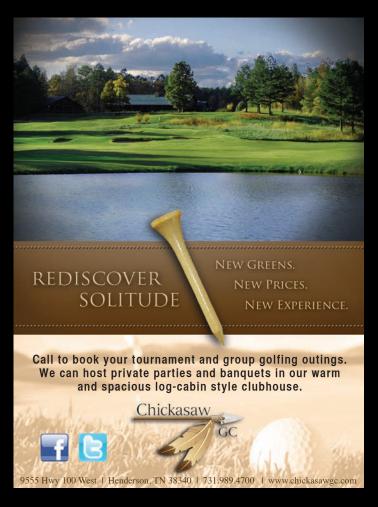
150 N. Church Avenue

After taking time to look at the church and the charming architecture of the houses surrounding it, continue on to the Henderson City Cemetery, featured in several Walking Tall scenes. Walk back down the hill to Main Street, cross the bridge and turn right at North Franklin Avenue, between the Handy Hardware Store, Chester County Bank, and Highlights Salon.

Nestled between Church and Franklin Avenues, the cemetery is open to the public from dawn to dusk. Dr. J.D. Smith, Sr., who is credited with developing the city of Henderson in 1871, is buried here in the northwest quadrant. This cemetery is also the final resting place of several veterans; Freed-Hardeman University's namesake, N.B. Hardeman; and Hubert T. McGee, architect of Memphis' Pink Palace.









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Well-Known Chester Countians

y Erin Adams



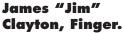
Eddy Arnold, Henderson. Called the "Tennessee Plow Boy," country music legend Eddy Arnold was born on a farm just on the edge of Henderson. After the death of his father, Arnold got his musical breakthrough with a group called the Golden West Cowboys that appeared regularly on the Grand Ole Opry. Arnold had his own program on Nashville's WSM Radio, and scored commercial success with his hits "Make the World Go Away" and "What's He Doing in My World." Arnold was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1966.



Jack H. Boone, Henderson. Boone made his name as a pulp fiction writer in the early-twentieth century. His best-known works, *Big Singing* (1931) and *Dossie Bell is Dead* (1939) were collaborations between himself and other writers and explored life in the Tennessee hill country. His career also included time spent as a literature professor at Nashville's Vanderbilt University.

Juanita Sikes Canada, New Friendship. Canada has published five volumes of poetry, with themes covering aging, community, friendship, and world events. Her work with the elderly and volunteers led her to be honored by the National Association of Meals Programs' National Conference. Her poem, "The Invitation," has been featured in the association's publications since 1993. She serves as the Poet Laureate of Chester County, and became the first woman in Chester County to be named a member of the Lions Club and to be elected to the City of Henderson Board of Aldermen. Canada also designed the official City of Henderson seal.

Edith Hooper, New Friendship. Hooper was honored by Governor Don Sundquist in 1995 after being crowned Ms. Senior Tennessee. Her whirlwind year on the pageant circuit began after she was crowned Ms. Senior Barbeque Festival in Henderson in 1994. She was awarded the Age of Elegance award in the Ms. Senior America Pageant in 1995.



The community of Finger spreads across the Chester/ McNairy County line and is home to Clayton, founder of Clayton Homes the nation's top producer and retailer of manufactured housing. Clayton's autobiography, First a Dream, inspired Warren Buffet to purchase



the company. Clayton's business ventures extend into banking and finance, and his family operates the Clayton Family Foundation, which has awarded millions of dollars in grants to non-profit institutions all across the state of Tennessee.

Nicholas Brodie Hardeman, Milledgeville.

Milledgeville straddles the Chester/Henderson County line and was home to Chester County's most famous educator and horseman, Nicholas Brodie Hardeman. As the namesake of Freed-Hardeman University,



Hardeman commanded an international audience with his roof-raising Tabernacle Sermons, presented at Nashville's Ryman Auditorium in 1922, 1923 and 1928. Hardeman counted Lyndon B. Johnson and William Jennings Bryan among his many friends. His training and breeding of Tennessee Walking Horses secured him numerous awards, particularly for his mares Maid of Cotton and Sun's Dark Lady.









Waynell Jones, Henderson. Jones, a longtime employee of FHU, was best known in the community for his authentic blues musicianship. Songs like "Jaybird Boogie" and "The Chicken Song" were originally improvised for passersby, but they drew the attention of several musicologists from what was then Memphis State University. Jones recorded one album, Jaybird Boogie, in 1984 at the world-famous Ardent Studio in Memphis and then was a featured performer at the Smithsonian Institution's 1986 Folklife Festival, which explored Tennessee's music culture.

Blake Hopper, Henderson. Banjo player and comedian, Hopper is a 2000 graduate of Chester County High School and was the 1999 Tennessee State Banjo Champion. He has worked with several professional musicians, appearing on CMT and the Grand Ole Opry. He travelled on a summer tour with Brooks and Dunn, and has opened for Brad Paisley, Rascal Flatts and many other musicians. Hopper is currently endorsed by the Gibson Banjo Company and plays nightly at the Tennessee Shindig Theater in Pigeon Forge. His newest CD is called "When There Was Time."

Hubert Thomas McGee, Jacks Creek. Born in Jacks Creek in 1865, McGee was educated at Henderson Masonic Male and Female Institute (now FHU) before receiving his architectural education in Jackson, Tennessee and St. Louis, Missouri. McGee is best known for his architectural masterpiece, Memphis' Pink Palace Museum. Several of his works are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Thirteen buildings he designed still stand in Chester County, including seven on FHU's campus, the County Courthouse, the N.B. Hardeman House, and several private residences.

Jimmy Melton, Henderson. Melton was one of the youngest performers ever to appear on the world-famous Grand Ole Opry stage. He appeared with Chet Atkins on "Pop Goes the Country," and played guitar and banjo with Bill Monroe and Earl Scruggs. He secured a songwriting career in 1996 with legends Roger Murrah and Harlan Howard. Melton has worked as a session musician and songwriter for many of country music's top acts, such as Hank Williams, Jr., Trace Adkins, Kenny Rogers, Reba McEntire, Dierks Bentley, George Jones and others.

Sue Shelton White, Henderson. White graduated from Georgie Robertson Christian College (now FHU) in 1904. From 1913 to 1919, White served as the Tennessee liaison to the National Woman's Party—the organization that secured the rights

of suffrage for all American women with the passage of the 19th Amendment. For the NWP, White edited *The Suffragist*, and was imprisoned for her actions. Since Tennessee was the final state to ratify the amendment, White's work was crucial in swaying the decisions of the state's lawmakers.









1 Melcome

TO THE COUNTY'S LARGEST FAMILY PICNIC

Just take a drive around our community any day of the week and the enticing smell of open pit barbeque will help you understand why Chester County is the self-proclaimed "barbeque capital of the world."







Chester County's small community whole hog barbeques can be traced back into the 1800s and are a tradition that has continued into the 21st century. These small community barbeques provided an inspiration for the Henderson Jaycees in the late 1970s. The Jaycees were looking for a fund-raiser that reflected the heritage and culture of the county. So in June of 1978, the Chester County BBQ Festival was born. The Chester County Young Democrats kicked off the first BBQ Festival on Thursday, June 22 by crowning the official Festival King and Queen. On Friday morning, June 23, the Chester County Civitans hosted a pancake breakfast at Chester County High School, with Tennessee's then-Lieutenant Governor John S. Wilder addressing the crowd. Dale Evans, a country-western music star and wife of Roy Rogers, performed a special concert on Friday night, as the highlight of the weekend. Mayor Gene Record and County Judge Harold Garland welcomed Ms. Evans with a dozen roses and the key to the

city. At that time, she conceded that the West did not have barbeque of the type that the fine cooks of Chester County produced.

The Old Timers' Parade kicked off a fun-filled Saturday, June 24, with old wagons, antique cars and horses. Downtown merchants, in cooperation with the chamber of commerce, took their wares to the sidewalks for an all-day sidewalk sale. Saturday night featured an old-fashioned street dance on the parking lot directly behind

the courthouse. There were also activities for the younger generation, including a hog-calling contest, greased pig contest, and relays and games at the Chester County Fairgrounds. An arts and crafts show on the courthouse square featured handmade items by several local artists and senior citizens. The Pee Wee Football League set up a dunking booth that helped cool off those on the "hot seat" on that 95-degree summer day. Baked goods and ice cream cones were also sold.

Many local and state politicians came to Henderson to take advantage of the huge crowds to do a bit of hand shaking. On hand were Republican gubernatorial candidate Lamar Alexander and Democratic hopeful Bob Clement. Another fun feature of the first BBQ Festival was a tour guided by John Pusser, brother of McNairy County Sheriff Buford Pusser, of filming locations from the 1972 Walking Tall film. Countless volunteers donated their time, efforts and

money to start the BBQ Festival. At the heart of their cause was the desire to do something positive for the county and its residents. In the 1980s, the chamber of commerce took over planning the festival.

Today the Chester County BBQ Festival welcomes more than 10,000 visitors each year on the first weekend in October. The main festival activities still center around our historic courthouse and Main Street. Entertainment is still an





important feature of the festival. An entertainment stage is set up on the courthouse lawn, and a full schedule of talent is set. Locals and visitors set up their lawn chairs and enjoy the entertainment as they sit in the shadow of the beautiful Chester County Courthouse. The highlight of the entertainment venue is the talent show sponsored by Thomas Media, Inc. and Chester County Bank, which includes both youth and adult divisions. The festival entertainment concludes on Saturday night with the closing concert. At the 2009 festival, Kimberlie Helton, Chester County resident and West Tennessee Idol winner, and her band performed for the festival patrons. Some newer features to the festival include a pet show, children's tractor pull contest, and a Heroes' Parade. In 2009 Main Street was closed to traffic and vendors set up booths on the street, reminiscent of the first festival's sidewalk sale.

The festival is made possible because of the hundreds of volunteers who work together for three days to be a part

of Chester County's largest event. When visiting with the long-time volunteers, one can sense the love and passion they have for the festival and its traditions. Tony Hysmith, festival volunteer for more than 30 years, says, "I have always referred to it as the County's Big Picnic!" Another long-time festival volunteer, 2009 BBQ Festival Committee Chairman Craig Casey, said, "I recall one year when it rained seven inches on the first day of the event, and we still sold out of barbeque. That was a team effort!" Local businesses and supporters sponsor the event, so there is no admission fee. Without the support of the volunteers and sponsors, this event would not be possible. Even though to most guests the festival is about barbeque, fried treats and entertainment, to the locals it is about the memories, traditions and a strong spirit of community. Planners invite you to share famous barbeque and the community spirit that surrounds the entire event. See you in October on the Courthouse lawn!



Visit www.chestercountychamber.com See you September 30 – October 2 on the courthouse lawn. Join the conversation on Facebook.

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by Erin Adams

Friends Chickasaw



"Back this winter, the lake froze deeper and more solid than I've ever seen it, and that's been some time. As I looked at the lake, I could see snow along the edges, and the darker water in towards the center. Then about 300 Canadian geese landed on

what I had thought was water. I got a surprise! The water had frozen solid, all across the lake. That's probably one of the most incredible things I've ever seen."

Roy Lee McKinnon is privileged to regularly see what millions of visitors have witnessed over the years: the diverse and fascinating range of sights, sounds, and experiences at Chickasaw State Park. Located in southwestern Chester County, Chickasaw—as the locals call it—is one of the most popular of Tennessee's 53 State Parks. Last year it was visited by more than 380,000 people.

This park, established in 1934, was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Cabins, lakes, lodges, and trails were built to attract visitors from all over the region to West Tennessee. Maintaining all these offerings makes for a long year's work for the park staff. Special projects can present a financial challenge to the park. Solution? The Friends of Chickasaw State Park.

The Friends of Chickasaw State Park was founded in 1995 at the urging of former Park Superintendent Guy Garner, to supplement the state's funding of the park through volunteer service and fundraising. Their high-impact programs include two major fundraisers held annually. The Craft Fair takes place every October. Woodworkers, jewelers, floral arrangers, ironworkers, and other artisans offer their creations over a Saturday and Sunday, rain or shine. Usually 16 or 18 vendors are on-hand to educate the public about their crafts and sell their wares. Santas, stockings and steamboats light up the park every second weekend in December as part of the Annual Christmas Lighting. Both of these events attract 9,000 to 10,000 visitors annually from the surrounding region of West Tennessee and North Mississisppi.

One example of how the friends have made these events even more meaningful to the visitor and to the park is shared by McKinnon: "Every year we have lit the roadways with candles. I'm talking 2,000 candles in milk jugs or paper bags. You can't keep that up if it's raining or in high wind. Too much risk for danger. We have gradually incorporated LED lighting to reduce the cost to the park and to enhance the displays without the risk of fire or the disappointment of a 'no-show.' Last year, a couple came from Memphis who had been to the Shelby Farms 'Starry Nights' Christmas lighting show. They said we got them beat.

We try to make other changes annually to keep the displays interesting and keep folks coming back."

But really, isn't one Christmas lighting like all Christmas lightings? "We start planning for the next year the day after the show closes. I need the time to build the next year's special surprise." I'm intrigued. "Last year it was a 48-foot steamboat, all lit up." How do you top that? "Well, you'll just have to come out to see this year's addition. Let's just say it involves a really large bird. Got a metal worker down in McNairy County working it out for me." Dear reader, this is not to be missed!

Smaller events and projects are carried on all year long, but not always in the public eye. An Easter Egg Hunt held on the Saturday before Easter offers prizes and rewards for children in three age groups: four years and younger, four to six years, and six to eight years. And then there is the labor: flowers and shrubs are planted and mulched. Plank bridges are rebuilt across washed out trails. Trail maintenance, especially along the Lakeshore Trail, must be performed to prevent run off into Lake Placid and protect the fragile ecosystem around the lake's perimeter. Signage and markers are erected to keep park visitors informed and oriented.

Chickasaw
State Park is
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acres of the
area's total
coverage and
with the addition
of the Chickasaw
State Forest, the
site covers more
than 14,000 acres.
The public can
enjoy this area for
hunting, ATV riding



and horseback trail riding. Visitors are encouraged to remain on marked, authorized trails at all times for their safety and that of the site. A group camp is located at Lake LaJoie, in the Hardeman County section of the park. Volunteers are welcome to contact the Friends of Chickasaw State Park through the park's main office at 731.989.5141 or http://www.state.tn.us/environment/parks/Chickasaw/.

"That day, seeing the geese land when I expected them to fly. I guess when you're on the levee, looking over the lake, enjoying the sound of water and birds? That's your beauty."



Chickasaw State Park 20 Cabin Lane 731.989.5141











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Revitalization # Henderson Arts Commission



Recognizing, Educating, Enriching and Entertaining through the Arts in Henderson, Chester County and the Surrounding Area

Chester County is revitalizing the arts! In February 2010 a group of artists, teachers, shop owners and patrons came together to re-establish an arts commission in Chester County. This beginning came from a desire within the chamber's tourism committee to showcase the many talented artists in this area.

A variety of arts are included in the scope of the Henderson Arts Commission. Those already involved include stained glass, metal sculpting, wood turning, acrylic and oil painting, photography, and performing arts.

Initial projects for the Henderson Arts Commission are varied. Members attended the Chester County High School's mystery theater to help raise money for the program. Plans are being made to sponsor local bands for upcoming events, as well.

by Emily Ashley

Perhaps most importantly, the Henderson Arts Commission hopes to recognize local artists and their achievements by providing activities in which the community can interact. A project with that goal in mind is Arts in the Alley, a free event offering music and a chance to peruse and purchase art.

The Henderson Arts Commision seeks to educate the community on the importance of the arts for children and adults. Local demonstrations, open workshops and public meetings are being implemented to meet this goal.

The Henderson Arts Commission invites you to *A Closer Walk with Patsy Cline*, produced by Springer Theatricals. Co-sponsored with Freed-Hardeman University, the program is scheduled for February 25, 2011.



facebook.

www.hendersonartscommission.org





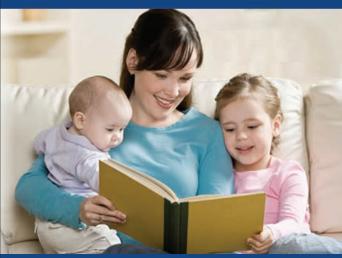
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MODERN COMMERCE

how a community grocery is harnessing the power of social media

Sweetlips is a small, tightly knit community located in the southeast corner of Chester County. The origin of the name dates back to the Civil War. Legend has it

that a thirsty soldier drank from the spring behind the present day store and uttered, "This water is so sweet to my lips." The name stuck. The heart of the community, Sweetlips Store provides residents with gas, milk, bait and a mighty helping of the latest gossip. "In a place like Sweetlips, the community depends on the store, and the store depends on the community," says Lou Williams, who owns

Sweetlips Store with his wife, Dianne. What sets the Sweetlips Store apart from hundreds of other similar stores in hundreds of other similar communities is its use of social media. Social media is a phrase being tossed around a lot these days, but it can sometimes be difficult to answer the question

of what social media is. The best way to define social media is to break it down. Media is an instrument of communication, like newspaper or radio, so social media would be communication based on networks or groups. Sites like Facebook and Twitter have allowed individuals to communicate with one another for some time, but businesses are quickly adopting social media as a powerful tool to communicate with consumers. "Social media is effective, targeted and cheap," says Dianne Williams, co-owner and Facebook updater. "It is a tool businesses would be mistaken to ignore." Most posts update followers on the daily lunch special or the contents of the "dessert thingy," but others simply inform the community.

"We use the Facebook site to update the community," says Dianne. "We post

anniversaries, a list of those sick and prayer requests." Since the store is a deer check station as well, it is not uncommon for Dianne to post photos of a young boy's or girl's first kill. Even with 188 followers, Dianne admits that Facebook has not had a dramatic impact on the bottom line. But she is quick to point out that it is a valuable tool for the

community. "It is simply exposure," says Lou. You can find the Sweetlips Store online at sweetlipsstore. com or search for Sweetlips Store on Facebook.



Sweetlips Store facebook

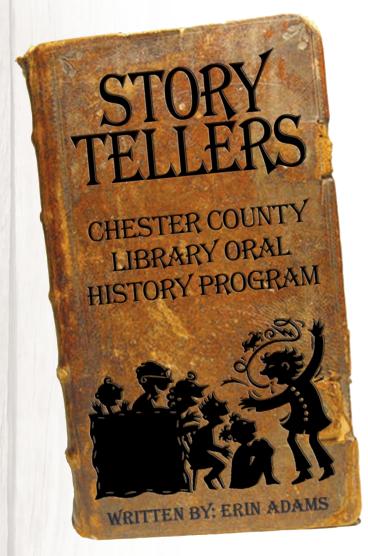




Bro. Printing







Ask Nancy Canada what one of Chester County's biggest needs is, and her reply is simple: "People need to know what happened here to make Chester County the way it is today." Changes in the economy and job market have had an inevitable impact on the local community, and Canada and the Chester County Public Library is out to keep the Chester County of the past meaningful for future generations.

The Chester County Public Library's Oral History Program was the brainchild of Canada. "Our Friends of the Library organization sponsored an event for our local schools, in which several area first-responders discussed the dangers of severe weather. As they visited all our local schools, I went with them to introduce the program. The children remembered the tornado at Union [University in February 2008] but they knew nothing about the tornadoes that almost wiped out Henderson in the 1950s. So I thought, 'Why don't they know about this tornado? They need to know that our community was affected by a storm, even worse than Jackson's tornado.' It became one of my two New Year's Resolution for 2010!"

As the Oral History Program developed, the Library staff looked to other public library systems for guidance. Sevier County in East Tennessee was particularly supportive of Chester County's endeavors. The Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. also was able to provide a model and other ideas for conducting oral history interviews. The staff decided to narrow its scope of stories

to the tales particular to the area by identifying specific categories of stories. Stories by, for or about Chester County and its residents have been solicited and recorded.

"At first, we thought to take everything. In order to keep from

getting overwhelmed, a staff member recommended creating categories for stories. Some of our categories are simple things like family history or childhood memories. We have also asked for family legends like Civil War stories, stories about the tornadoes of 1952 that killed 53 people, and stories about folks getting married in Corinth." Getting married in Corinth? "Sure," Canada laughs, "For a long time, marriage in Mississippi was a lot faster process than in Tennessee. Folks did not have to have blood tests and teenagers did not need parental consent. Corinth was so close, it became the place to get married."

The library has tried to attract storytellers by sending out notices to churches, nursing homes, and assisted living residences in the county. A monthly column in the Chester County Independent has shared information about the project. Although it is in its early stages, the Oral History Program has collected several speakers and hours of interviews. And what sorts of stories have been especially interesting or touching? "Mr. Hopper, of Deanburg, was part of the American troops who met the Russians at the Elbe River at the conclusion of World War II. He really did not think people would be interested in that story. Other folks have shared stories that tell how cannon fire at the Battle of Shiloh could be heard in Jacks Creek. I'm so eager to hear others." Any tough or controversial subjects? "We certainly do invite people to share stories about these things as well. Stories about life on public assistance or the challenges of integration are stories that should be saved for the future, because they talk about changes in attitude the community has had to face. What happened in Chester County is part of a larger story. Understanding our regional and state history can begin right here in the community."

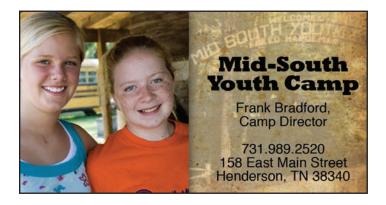


The Library celebrated Oral History Day on April 7, 2010. The program is designed to draw people in to record their stories. It is hope that this celebration will become an annual event that brings people from around the region into Chester County to learn something new or to share their own stories. If you have stories to share explaining memorials or historic markers in the area, you are especially requested to contact the library. You will be requested to sign an official

release, granting ownership of the interview to the library for future use. "We hope to maybe one day publish a book or sell a CD of these stories as a fundraiser for other library services and programs."

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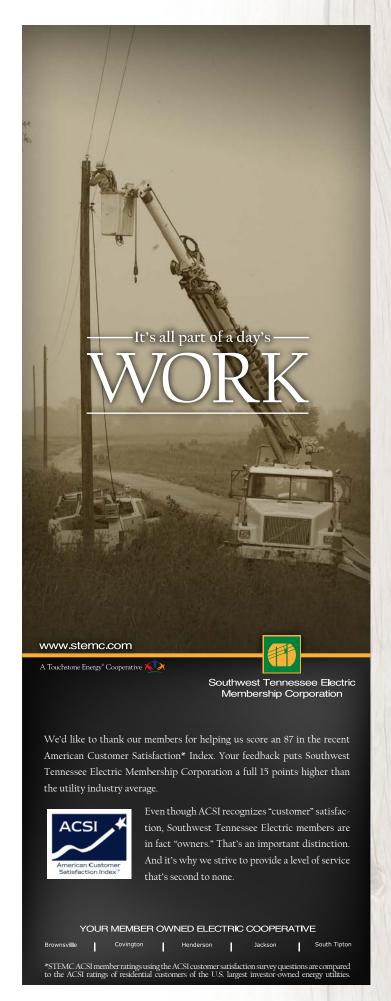




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So what was that second New Year's Resolution? Canada smiles, "We started a Teen Advisory Board." Children from Chester County Junior High School meet every couple of months and talk about the issues and needs of their age group and how the library can best meet those needs. "The kinds of books we have for teenagers and older readers have really advanced. We have even had visitors spending vacations at Chickasaw State Park come by and take advantage of these resources for their children."

Tourists and residents alike will find many exciting resources at the library. All public programs and computer services are available to visitors. "Out of town visitors have been spotted in the parking lot, taking advantage of the free WiFi. The Tennessee Room contains a number of rare resources focused on genealogical research of the area. The cemetery indexes and community histories have been especially popular. Reproduction services are available. And we have several small artifacts visitors can see, such as Native American relics and the 1923 "Signature Quilt" created by one of Henderson's original families," Canada describes.

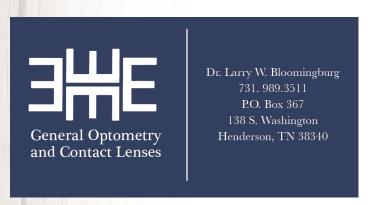
Other regular events include the Friends of the Library Brown Bag Book Club every second Wednesday. A story time is hosted every second Tuesday. Pre-kindergarteners can join in for a story, a craft and other seasonal activities. "We make a point of drawing on regional resources, so that visitors and residents alike can learn something that is unique or important to the Chester County area. The local game warden usually brings animals and is always a big hit!" The library never requires registration for public programs. Several community organizations take advantage of the library's meeting space, and visitors are welcome to those activities, as well. The Word Weavers and the Quilters Without a Clue are among groups who meet there.

Be sure to stop in at the public library for a look at life in Chester County. And do not leave without a souvenir: Christmas ornaments, cookbooks, and community histories are available to help you preserve a memory of your visit!



www.chestercountytnlibrary.org Chester County Public Library (731) 989-4673

facebook.











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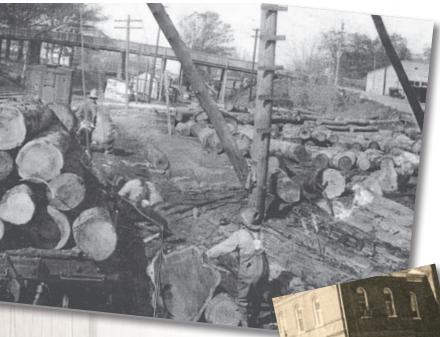
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Henderson

The surrounding counties of Hardeman, Henderson, Madison, and McNairy sacrificed land to make Chester County in 1879 by an Act of the Tennessee General Assembly. Henderson was quickly established as the county seat, since the 1857

construction of the Mobile & Ohio Railroad brought settlers to this tiny hamlet then-called Dayton. A depot, built on Front Street by the M&O, was the center of the town's businesses. After the Civil War's conclusion, the population of the community exploded, with half a dozen businesses and about 20 residences established by 1871.

Henderson first made its name on the national stage during the Civil War when Confederate guerillas attempted to burn the M&O depot. Several local women banded together to extinguish the fire and saved the depot. General U.S. Grant extended these women the protection of the Union Army against property loss and personal injury a n d

against property loss and personal injury entered their names in a roll of honor listing civilians whose activities preserved the Union. Other nationwide attention-grabbers have been *Walking Tall*, and its sequel *Walking Tall Part II*, a movie based around the life of legendary McNairy County Sheriff Buford Pusser. Bill and Minnie Howard and Waynell Jones represented Henderson barbeque culture and blues music at the Smithsonian Institution's Folklife Festival in 1986. Visit FHU's Roland Historical Room to listen to recordings of Mr. Jones' performances.

A few must-visits for the visitor and resident alike: Bell's Drive-In, six-year winner of the Tennessee Electric Cooperative's "Best Burger This Side of

Heaven" award; Chickasaw State Park; Chickasaw Golf Course; historic architecture and cemeteries; Besso's for gelato and espresso; and the annual fall Barbeque Festival.

Like all small communities, Henderson has seen its share of advancements, setbacks, and colorful characters.

Sweetlips

In 2003, author Gary Gladstone included Sweetlips in his book, Passing Gas and Other Towns Along the American

Highway. Sitting just off Highway 100,

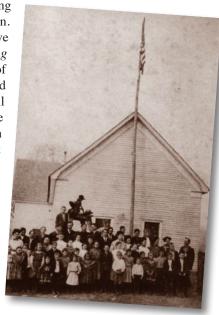
the oldest residents of Sweetlips claim the community existed well before the Civil War. Legend tells us the name of the community was bestowed by a very weary, thirsty traveler who proclaimed the region's water "sweet to my lips." The hub of this tiny community is the Sweetlips Store, located at 3870 Sweetlips Road or on its Facebook Fan Page. The store sells memorabilia including t-shirts, cookbooks and postcards. Historical photos of many vanished homes and buildings are

displayed here. While browsing, snack on a sandwich, pizza or slug burger. In addition to the community center and fire station, Sweetlips' major businesses are the Sweetlips Greenhouse (www.sweetlipsgreenhouse.com) and the Cross Timbers Sawmill. Places of worship, historic cemeteries and outdoor activities enrich this vibrant community.

Enville

Enville is the only other incorporated community in Chester County. Frederick Sewell established a claim on land slightly west of the present location of Enville in 1826, when the land was still a part of McNairy County. A log home built by the Sewell family is still lived in by that family. The community

went through several name changes before "Enville" was chosen to honor B.A. Enloe, a representative from the 8th Congressional District. Today the community straddles the Chester/McNairy County line and has been a center of agricultural production in the county. The Enville Baptist Church, built around 1900, is only one of four buildings in Chester County on the Tennessee Register of Historic Sites.



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Talley Town
Talley Fown stands halfway between Finger and Sweetlips, east of Henderson. Talley Town's claim to fame is the Plunk House and the Talley Store and Gin, both used in the 1970s Walking Tall films. Today, new housing developments are springing up across land settled by families from Hardin County in the 1890s. Three historic cemeteries—Oak Grove (old and new) and Robertson-peacefully reside near the Plunk House.

Jacks Creek Local legend gives us the name of this community. A young man named Jack traveled with early settlers from North Carolina. He disappeared after being sent to a nearby creek to bring water back to the camped settlers. Several accounts

that residents could not escape the sound of cannon fire from the Battle of Shiloh, about 35 miles to the southeast. Later in 1863, a small skirmish between Confederate guerillas and a Union outpost occurred close to the present intersection of Highway 100 and Highway 22A. Once a bustling hub of blacksmithing ginning, and agriculture, Jacks Creek has changed with the

times. For many years, the Ruby Masonic Lodge served the needs of Masons in the area. In 1938, an emergency airfield was installed on the Smith Farm, and was the second largest landing field in the US. Jacks Creek has one of only two National Register of Historic Places sites in Chester County: the Hamlett-Smith House, a privatelyowned 1840s Greek Revival home. Today, Jacks Creek has an award-winning elementary school, Jacks Creek BBQ, C & R Grocery, Siler's Old Time BBQ, the Jacks Creek Community Club, a post office, and several places of worship.

Mifflin
Being established in the early 1800s, Mifflin has the honor of being the first community in what is today Chester County. Stores, dwellings, schools and churches were located in this bustling town. Union Army soldiers bivouacked in the front yard of the Buckley-Turner House and were fed and entertained by the townsfolk. Today, Mifflin is home to Jimmy Wells' "Biggest Little Store" and the Mifflin Community Mall. A street festival is held on "Mifflin Day" the first Saturday of every August. Memorial Park and the Ruritans Center are used frequently for community activities.

Hickory Corner, located in the extreme southwestern part of the county is primarily an agricultural area. The area was originally settled by North Carolinians. Like many small communities, the small schools in the area served the residents for social and civic activities. Today all schools are consolidated in Henderson. Recently, a community center was built to restore that function to Hickory Corner.

Deanburg

Deanburg, formerly known as Pultite, is located to the extreme western edge of the county along the Chester/Hardeman County line. Once a more bustling community, a cyclone devastated the small community in 1923. Large sections of Deanburg were purchased by the federal government in order

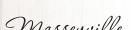
> to create the Chickasaw State Park and Chickasaw State Forest. Several buildings, lakes, and recreation areas were built by the Civilian Conservation Corps and the Works Progress Administration to stem the tide of erosion and drought in the area. The Park is visited by thousands of visitors, annually. Several churches, a convenience store, a volunteer fire department, and a community center serve the needs of the community today.





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Masseyville, a small community located along the Chester/McNairy County line, was settled before part of McNairy County was included in the formation of Chester County. Early settlers in the community were primarily African-American sharecroppers. The Hatchie Church served as both church and school for the community.

Woodville

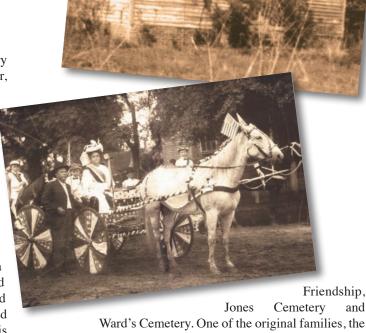
Like Masseyville, Woodville was also once part of McNairy County. Woodville was a hotbed of strife during the Civil War, as the population was evenly split between support for the Union and the Confederacy. Eventually, Colonel Fielding Hurst formed a cavalry regiment of Union soldiers and established what historians have called the "Hurst Nation" due to the Colonel's dictatorial management of this group of soldiers.

Montezuma

The community of Montezuma was originally known as Wambles Store, for the family who first began to settle the area west of Henderson. A town was eventually laid out and renamed Montezuma for the Aztec emperor. Documents of the period record the very rich wildlife of the area. Citizens established the Montezuma Male and Female Academy, but the Memphis Conference of the United Methodist Church eventually relocated it to Jackson. Montezuma narrowly lost out to Henderson when the decision to establish a county seat was made. Today, Montezuma has several farms, churches, housing developments and a community center.

New Friendship

The New Friendship Community is about six miles northeast of Henderson. Friendship Church was founded on a land grant from the State of Tennessee signed by Governor N.L. Brown in 1846. There were seven acres in the grant, with a meeting house and a spring on the property. The present building was erected in 1905. A bell that hung in the steeple was to announce services and to summon men to dig a grave when a death occurred in the community. There are three cemeteries in New Friendship:



Ward's Cemetery. One of the original families, the Brays, hosted a bivouac of soldiers headed towards the Battle of Shiloh. A diary was found in the old house in 1950, written by Mary Bray in 1876-77, that provides tremendous insights about the activities in the region. The New Friendship School is the only two-room school building still standing in Chester County and is used as a community center. Hill Top Fire Station serves New Friendship, Mifflin and Glendale.



www.chestercountychamber.com www.hendersontn.org www.volunteervoices.org







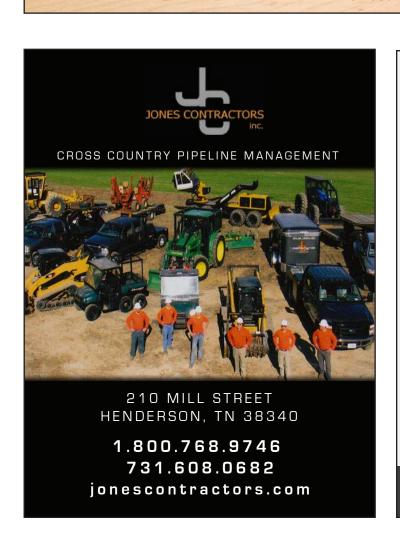




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Important Numbers

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CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	989-5222

I AW ENDODOED WINE			
LAW ENFORCEMENT		CHESTER COUNTY OFFICIALS	000 2102
Emergency Dial 911		Agricultural Agent 159 East Main Street Clerk and Master 126 Crook Avenue	989-2103 989-7171
Chester County Sheriff's Office		County Court Clerk 133 East Main Street	989-7171
126 Crook Avenue	989-2787	County Mayor's Office 159 East Main Street	
Henderson Police Department		Elections Commission 133 East Main Street	989-4039
126 Crook Avenue	989-2201	Health Department 301 Quinco Dr.	989-7108
Chester County Drug Task Force		Juvenile Office 133 East Main Street	989-7938
305 Record Dr.	989-2993	Property Assessor's Office 159 East Main St.	
		Register Of Deeds - Courthouse	989-4991
FIRE DEPARTMENTS- RESC	CUE	Veterans' Service Office 133 East Main Stree	
Emergency Dial 911		veterans bervies office 133 East Main Stree	1 707 507 1
Chester County	002 5570	CITY OFFICIALS	
823-A East Main Street	983-5570		002 2157
Henderson Fire Department		Henderson City Hall 121 Crook Avenue	983-3157
505 Sanford Avenue	Emergency 989-2359	Mayor's Office	989-4628
303 Bainora Avenae	Business 989-5664	Recorder's Office	989-4628
Rescue Squad			
Highway 100 East	989-3939	PUBLIC WORKS	
		Highway Department 1069 Main Street	989-2689
SCHOOLS		Supervisor's Office	989-7311
Freed-Hardeman University	989-6000	Garbage Collection Centers	
158 East Main Street		Cabo Springs	
Superintendent of Schools		305 Moss Loop	989-7244
970 East Main Street	989-5134	Cave Springs	
		1340 Cave Springs Road	989-9326
Chester County Schools		Chickasaw Center	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
High School Office	000 0125	6345 State Route 100	989-0551
552 East Main Street Adult Basic Education	989-8125	Henderson Center	707 0331
123 N. Church	989-2404	315 Talley Store Road	989-9436
East Chester Elementary	303-2 4 04	Hilltop Center	707-7430
708 East Main St.	989-8145	120 New Friendship Road	989-9990
West Chester Elementary	707-0143	Solid Waste Director	969-9990
1243 W. Main St.	989-8150		000 0055
Jacks Creek Elementary	707 0130	315 Talley Store Road	989-9855
65 State Rte 22-A S - Jacks (Creek 989-8155	TABLE TOTAL	
Chester County Middle School		UTILITIES	000 2502
634 East Main St.	989-8110	Henderson Utility Dept 121 Crook Avenue AT&T 1-888	989-3503 3-757-6500
Alternative School			
186 Luray	989-8144	STEME WWW.	stemc.com

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