

WELCOMETO County

The board of directors and staff of the Henderson/Chester County Chamber of Commerce welcome you to Henderson and Chester County, Tennessee! As the largest business organization in our county, we are honored to share the great story of our community and businesses with visitors, members and residents in the area.

Since the Henderson/Chester County Chamber of Commerce was established in 1976, we are thrilled to be celebrating 40 years of collaboration and support in our community! We realize the chamber's success is due to great local leadership, outstanding businesses and industries, strong educators and committed residents, who take great pride in their hometown. We hope that as you look through the pages of this 8th Edition of Discover Chester County Magazine, you'll learn even more about our community's great strengths.

Henderson's downtown has a rich history rooted in the beginnings of the Mobile and Ohio Railroad, and our charming downtown continues to grow and prosper. In Henderson, guests and residents will find the reliability and speed of gigabit fiber, unique shops, famous restaurants and even a peaceful downtown park that offers free wi-fi with picnic tables and beautiful landscaping.

If shopping isn't your thing and you want to spend some time in the great outdoors, Chickasaw State Park offers hiking trails, canoes, paddle boards, horseback riding, camping and serene beauty that naturally draws people. Gene Record Park in Henderson is a beautiful, green gathering place for walkers, joggers, soccer players, families and students.

If you love mom-and-pop eateries, you are in the right place; Chester County is famous for Barbecue! (Learn about the Barbecue Trail in this issue.) Not only do we have barbecue joints scattered throughout our county, we are home to the Chester County BBQ Festival, which will celebrate its 39th anniversary September 23-24, 2016. For those two days, thousands of participants will gather around Main Street to enjoy famous Chester County barbecue, live entertainment and fried treats. You can also find a thriving arts community on the third Thursday of each month from March through September at the Henderson Arts Commission's Arts in the Alley in Downtown Park.

Our 2016 magazine will highlight some of what makes our great county thrive — high-tech agriculture and connectivity initiatives, businesses driven by people who are passionate about their work and our thriving theater arts community.

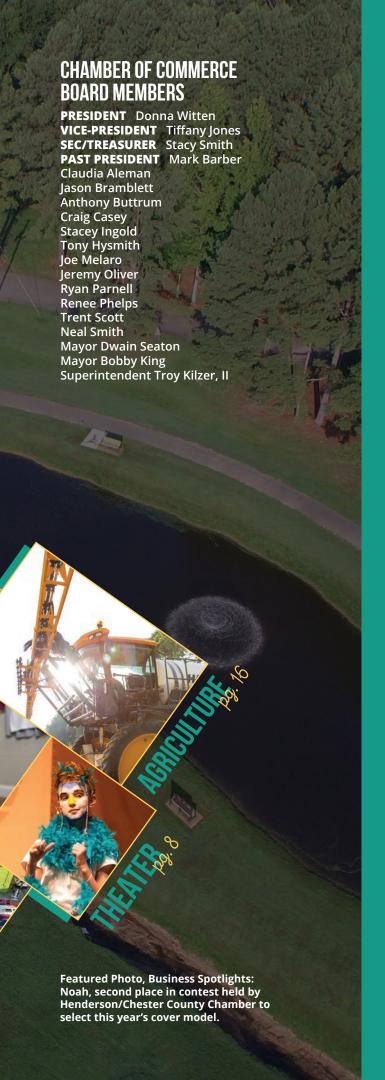
Welcome to our hometown! Please stay awhile and come back often. It won't take long to find out why Chester County is a great place to live, work and play!

Donna Butler Witten
Chamber Board President

Emily Aunte Mason

Emily Hunt Johnson Chamber Executive Director





COMMUNITY Calendar

2016

MISS CHESTER COUNTY BBQ FESTIVAL PAGEANT AUGUST 20

ARTS IN THE ALLEY SEPTEMBER 22

39TH ANNUAL CHESTER COUNTY BBQ FESTIVAL SEPTEMBER 23-24

CHICKASAW FRONTIER DAYS/ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR SEPTEMBER 23-25

HENDERSON HEE HAW HOOTENANNY NOVEMBER 4-5

HENDERSON CHRISTMAS PARADE DECEMBER 1

LIGHTING OF CHICKASAW STATE PARK DECEMBER 9-11

2017

ANNUAL LIONS CLUB IMPLEMENT SALE JANUARY 28

FREED-HARDEMAN UNIVERSITY'S ANNUAL BIBLE LECTURESHIP FEBRUARY 5-9

EXCHANGE CLUB/CARL PERKINS CENTER FOR THE PREVENTION OF CHILD ABUSE DINNER AND AUCTION MARCH

FHU'S MAKIN' MUSIC APRIL 7-8

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT APRIL 28

CHESTER COUNTY RELAY FOR LIFE MAY

ARTS IN THE ALLEY EVERY THIRD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH MARCH - SEPTEMBER

DISCOVER CHESTER COUNTY IS PRODUCED BY

Discover Chester County is produced by the Henderson/ Chester County Chamber of Commerce in association with Bramblett Group.

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CHESTER COUNTY

286 square miles elevation 446 feet

POPULATION

- City of Enville
- City of Henderson
- Chester County

CHESTER GO

WEATHER



51.1 inches of rainfall



4.7 inches of snowfall



69.8 degrees average high temperature



45.5 degrees average low temperature

SCHOOLS

Chester County School System Freed-Hardeman University Tennessee College of Applied Technology (Crump & Jackson Extension Campus)

DISTANCE

uniu Jackson, Tenn.

88.5 Memphis, Tenn.

135 Mashville, Tenn.

218 Birmingham, Ala.

mmmmmmmm St. Louis, Mo.

INDUSTRY

Agriculture Manufacturing **Education Services** Retail Healthcare

LABOR FORCE

8,040













THANK YOU DREAMERS!

#TeamHenderson



Your willingness to pay your dues and put in the long hours to realize dreams makes our community strong.

Because of your investment in our community, we enjoy ThreeStar certification, a low cost of living, networking in the region and world, a prepared workforce, gigabit fiber unheard of in a town our size and excitement about our future.

Thank you for dreaming and strengthening #TeamHenderson!



hendersontn.org | chestercountychamber.com



Travel 1,000 miles away from Chester County, Tennessee to watch a Broadway show in New York City? No wav.

With Chester County's vibrant art community, residents have access to quality productions that showcase local talent. There are various opportunities to catch a play, whether it's from Freed-Hardeman University's theatre department, which produces four to six shows a year, or Chester County High School's two productions a year. Interested in children's theater? Attend the production from the summer theater camp, an intensive, week-long program that requires students to learn their lines, music and choreography of a selected play. The camp debuted with a performance of Disney's "The Lion King Kids Experience" this year.

If the stage is calling, adults can always audition for the Chester County Hee Haw Hootenanny Show held annually in October. Scarlet Cord Productions is in the early stages of creating a community theater group for interested residents. They launched this summer with a performance of "10 Ways to Survive in the Zombie Apocalypse" during Arts in the Alley, a local initiative sponsored by the Henderson Arts Commission to promote fellowship and fun on the third Thursdays of March through September.

Chester County has supported theater arts in its public schools, at Freed-Hardeman University and among local residents who believe in the benefits of creative arts. "I love how it [the theater] brings all of these different people together at the same time to hear/listen in the same space and the same time for a similar experience," Cliff Thompson said. Thompson is FHU's theatre director.

School, Community Productions

Theater education begins in a kindergarten through third grade program and continues in high school through Chester County Schools. Although students in the fourth through eighth grades do not have theater education, the new summer theater camp is intended to bridge the gap between middle and

high school.

Productions have involved students and members of the community. Some of their productions include "Steel Magnolias," "Annie the Musical" and "Deceiving Granny." Many people credit former theater teacher Ricky Mitchell for making the local program a success. Mitchell directed plays, including musicals, at the middle and high school levels. He was also involved in community theater. Under his leadership, a theater club was created; through the club students entered theater competitions. "What he did at the high school – especially during "Annie" by bringing community members in the cast and the rehearsal process really put theater in Chester County in better shape," Thompson said.

The Lion King

A dark stage warmed to a sunrise as the sound of drums and bells echoed in the auditorium. Children adorned in bright costumes waived streamers and sang "One by One" in the Zulu language.

Summer had officially started and vacations were underway, but on a Tuesday night in June, nearly 400 people were watching Disney's "The Lion King Kids" in FHU's Loyd Auditorium in Henderson. The event raised more than \$2,000 for Chester County's Fine Arts program and provided its 26-member cast a taste of the thespian life during a week-long summer theater camp.

Becky Hartle served as the director, while her father, Cliff Thompson, was the producer. Her mother, Sherry Thompson, designed and crafted the costumes and her brother, Jon Michael,

CONTINUED ON PG 22









MODERN WOODMEN OF AMERICA

J. Bradley McDaniel and Ronnie Geary Jr. | 731.989.4857

What services does your business offer?

"We are a full financial service provider that educates our clients on how to plan through all stages of life. Our planning for life helps our clients make educated decisions as they begin the process of protecting their loved ones, having a saving and retirement strategy, properly drawing upon their retirement and preserving their assets. For business owners, we help ensure the ongoing success of the business and provide benefits to help attract and retain employees." — McDaniel

How has the small-town atmosphere of Chester County benefited your business?

"I have lived here all my life and love our town. I am passionate about the small-town way of life. This atmosphere has helped by allowing me the opportunity to build ongoing personal relationships and trust with my clients, which, in return, has made us friends. Our families get to see each other and hang out at community events and gatherings throughout the year." — McDaniel

"Our biggest attraction for most people is our love for the community. We do what will benefit the individual, not what will benefit the company. Our members come first, and once people see this first hand, then they want to be a part of this great culture." — Geary |r.

Explain the works of Modern Woodmen's Youth Service Club.

"Modern Woodmen Youth Service Club teaches children the importance of helping in their communities. The club meets monthly and engages in service activities that include planting flowers and trees, picking up trash in the parks, donating food, spending time with senior citizens and helping at animal shelters. With all of the negative influences that face children, Modern Woodmen Youth Service Clubs provide positive experiences by promoting the importance of a willing heart and a giving spirit." — Geary Jr.

EDITORS NOTE: We asked 13 people questions about their business and their experience in Chester County. We received replies from 11 of them, and excerpts from their answers follow. We hope to feature different businesses in Discover Chester County each year. Many of those featured have held ribbon cuttings during the past year and serve on the Henderson/Chester County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.



THE RICKARD CLINIC

557 West Park Place | 731.989.1007

What is your favorite thing about running a business in Chester County? "We've served patients in our current location since September

1998. We love the relationships we have with our patients and their extended families. We have several families whom we have treated for generations."

How has the small-town atmosphere of Chester County benefited your business?

"Many of our patients know our staff outside of our clinic and are able to reach us whenever there is a need. That is a huge advantage to living in a small town like ours. We are open six days a week and have an on-call provider available after hours."

Has your business made any additions or changes recently?

"We are in the process of upgrading our current services, while we continue to offer a variety of services including lab work, x-rays, EKGs, physicals, DOT physicals, etc. We accept all Medicare, TennCare and most commercial insurance plans, and we have same-day appointments available. We provide an array of services for children and families through nursing home care."



■ SOUTHERN GRAFIX FLORIST & MORE

219 Appel Street | 731.435.1116

What services does your business offer?

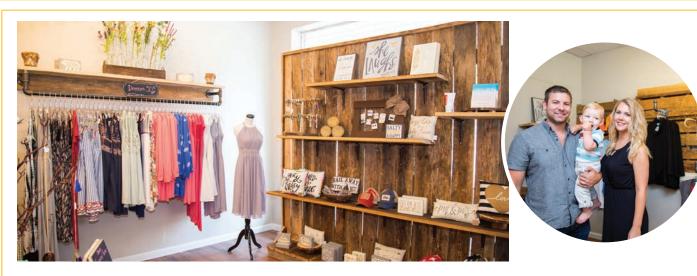
"Southern Grafix Florist & More offers a variety of products: silk flower arrangements, hand-made crafts, wooden crosses and gifts, t-shirts and leggings. We have hanging baskets of flowers in the spring and mums in the fall, along with wheat straw. We also offer garden supplies, such as seed, fertilizer, feed and mulch. We are not just a flower shop."

What is your most memorable story about running a business in Chester County?

"The first day that my business opened, a lady came in my shop and handed me a dollar. She said that she did not want to buy anything; she just felt led to give me a dollar. So that was the first dollar my shop made. I have not seen that lady since, and, yes, I do believe in angels."

Where do you hope to see your business in the next five years?

"I would love to see my business growing over the next five years and add more items to my shop, especially the farmer supply items."



WILDFLOWERS BOUTIQUE ^

130 East Main Street | 731.435.1800

How and when did you start your business?

"Owning a clothing boutique has always been a dream of mine; but, being in the medical profession, I never knew how to do both and make it work. Last summer, my mom was laid off from her job of 30 years. So, I started reconsidering the idea of opening my own store. It would allow me to do something I had dreamed about as well as create a job for my mother. I talked to my mom about the idea, and the rest is history! We opened Wildflowers Boutique March 18, 2016."

What services do you offer?

"Wildflowers Boutique offers women and children's apparel, accessories, candles and other gift items."

How have the various networking opportunities in Chester County helped your business grow?

"Having a business in a small town means always running into someone you know. This has greatly benefited the boutique because people have been so supportive of this new business venture. Various networking opportunities have also allowed me to meet other business owners, and we are able to discuss different ideas to help grow our businesses."

Where do you hope to see your business in five years?

"In five years, I hope Wildflowers will be thriving and attracting customers from surrounding cities. I hope that it will be a fun place to shop with the best fashion finds. I also hope to bring a positive influence in the community and support local and international mission efforts through the store. I hope to be able to offer scholarship opportunities for our seniors. I hope to give back to the community. I hope to make a difference in this world."



ZACH HANNIS — REALTOR, DEVELOPER

731.608.6804

How has your business benefited by being a member of the Chester County Chamber of Commerce?

"The chamber is very active in our community. They are key to promoting growth. One part of my real estate business includes commercial lots and developments. I remodel old buildings, as well as build from the ground up. The chamber has sent me commercial leads in the past on several of my projects."

What additions has your business made recently?

"In the past 18 months, we have begun to focus on commercial developments. We have remodeled three buildings on Front Street. Coming soon to these buildings are Rejuvenate Weight Loss and Wellness, which will open in September, and a law office. The first Front Street building we worked on is an antique market, a must-see with a variety of antiques and furniture vendors. We are in the beginning stages of building 100 storage units on North Church Avenue. It will offer temperature-controlled units and regular storage units in a variety of sizes, as well as camper, boat and trailer parking."

How has your business adjusted over the years while seeing the growth of Chester County?

"My business grows as Chester County grows. I enjoy giving back to my community by promoting growth in our county. I believe that growth in our county helps all aspects of Henderson/Chester County. It brings new customers for small businesses, restaurants and all local businesses."



TEACHERS

Written By: Nancy Bennett and Sierra Lewis

If the mark of a good school is quality teaching, Chester County schools are an exceptional school system. Last year, Cathy Whitehead was named Tennessee's Teacher of the Year. She teaches third grade at West Chester Elementary. She has been involved in many leadership roles in her district and community, and she also heads professional development for her colleagues. A member of Governor Haslam's Teacher Cabinet, Whitehead is one of 18 teachers who meet several times a year with the governor and commissioner to review education policy.

"She teaches all of us to look for the best, work hard, smile often, and do our best for students every day," West Chester Elementary Principal Amy Wooley said.

This year, Chester County Middle School's Christy McManus is one of nine finalists for the honor.

Can lightning strike twice in the same county? We'll know in September when the state's top teacher is announced. As a fifth grade English and language arts teacher, McManus hosts weekly book clubs in her home, inviting fifth grade students to read and discuss children's novels. She is also a member of the district writing team that developed a writing curriculum created for use by all schools in the county.

"I have often said there is a difference between teaching 10 years and teaching the same year 10 times," CCMS principal Jill Hodum said. "Mrs. McManus is constantly reflecting on her teaching and seeking out resources to make each year better than the one before.

She understands that each year her students come to her with different needs and levels of ability. Mrs. McManus provides a classroom environment that adapts to those needs and brings out the gifts and talents her students possess without compromising on the rigor of the standards."

A strong believer in collaboration, Hodum said, "Competition has no place among teachers. I believe an environment that is strong in collaboration benefits all involved: students and teachers alike." She praised McManus' work as a teacher leader. "She shares research-based practices, effective instructional strategies, and resources with the entire faculty on a regular basis... she is willing to research and share information with administration that supports the learning environment."

This year's nine finalists will serve on the Tennessee Education Commissioner's Teacher Advisory Council, a 12-member committee dedicated to improving teaching practices in Tennessee. They will be honored with a September banquet where the state's top teacher will be named. All of them will receive certificates of appreciation from the governor. The state awards program began in 1960.



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#WeOnlySmokeBBQ #NoButtsAllowed #ButILikePigButts #AndICannotLie

CCHS Student Health Council Anti-Tobacco Campaign





Making Things Full of Wisdom, Wonder and Whimsy

Written By: Tajuana Cheshier

Husband and wife team Brad and Kristi Montague operate Montague Workshop, a small business with global outreach. They specialize in media content — writing, editing, directing and producing projects for print, video and digital media to enrich the lives of children.

The couple began their business unofficially 17 years ago when they started dating. "We've always collaborated on things together and have found our best work comes when we're having fun and creating something we are both passionate about," Kristi said.

After gaining attention through Kid President videos created with Kristi's brother, Robby Novak, the KP team began a collaboration with Soul Pancake. In 2013, they created a YouTube video titled "A Pep Talk." After going viral within hours, the video's reception brought an avalanche of opportunities. Soon the KP team had more invitations than they could accept, and their work included making a video for the White House and traveling there to meet President Barack Obama, interviewing Beyoncé, Tom Hanks and many other celebrities and appearing by invitation at the Cannes Lions International Festival of Creativity in France. They have appeared on national talk shows and have been interviewed by national news outlets. Their work inspired their book, "Kid President's Guide to Being Awesome," which spent several weeks on the New York Times bestseller list. There is also a Kid President line of plush toys, coffee mugs and inspirational cards carried by Hallmark.

"With Kid President, we were able to tap into something that was culturally relevant and embraced by a wide audience. We're most proud of the fact that it engaged people in conversations that went beyond the usual online discussions," Brad Montague said.

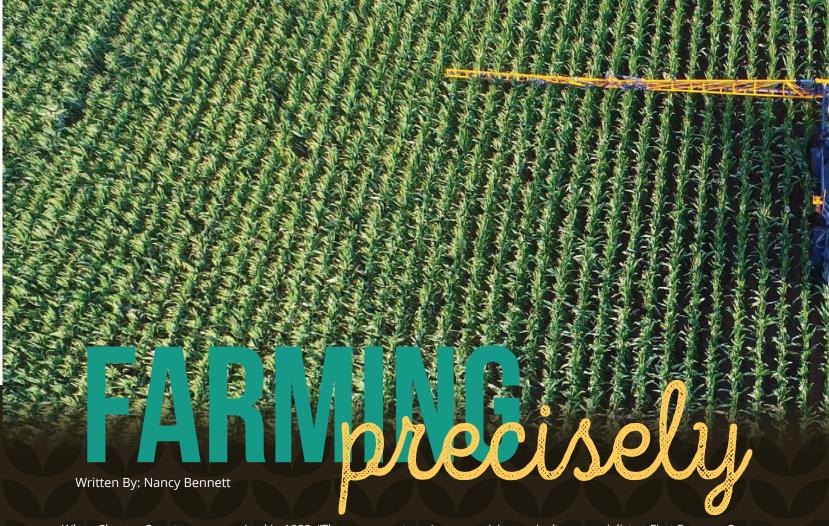
In 2015, the couple stopped working out of their home and purchased an old music shop that they converted into a studio and workspace. The new office allows the couple to write, film and shoot projects close to home, instead of traveling to major cities.

"We've been able to welcome brands and creative partners, who up until now, had never visited our wonderful town," Kristi said, adding that there are countless benefits to living and working in a small town. "There has been a constant sense of camaraderie. It's as if we all want each other to succeed because we all want Chester County, our home, to thrive."

While the team's resume includes work for the United Nations, Sesame Workshop and Fred Rogers Center, Brad is clear on their mission. "Our highest honor comes from the young people and teachers who interact with the content we create on a daily basis," Brad said. "To be invited and seen as valuable by an educator into a classroom is one of the highest honors."

The couple never dreamed a global audience would view their work but, Brad added, "It's a testament to the fact that small towns can have big voices. We hope that with the presence of our creative space here in Chester County, we can also start to have more of an impact locally."





When Chester County was organized in 1882, "There were not a dozen two horse plows in this territory. Not a corn planter, a stalk cutter, or a disc harrow," S.E. Reid wrote in "A Brief History of Chester County Tennessee."

Reid describes the state of row copping this way: "Then, it took a man with two or three boys, large enough to plow and work in the crop and if they made four or five bales of cotton and corn enough to feed his stock through the winter ... they had done well." Thousands of acres were left to sage grass, since the land was deemed "too poor to pay the expense of cultivation."

Four decades later (1924), Reid was pleased to say, "Many of our farmers now have electric lights and water works in their homes..." And that land left to sage grass had become "the most valuable lands in the county." It was producing a bale to a bale and a half of cotton and 50-75 bushels of corn to the acre.

Safe to say, Reid would be duly impressed by the county's current harvest. In 2015, 3,000 acres of corn were harvested, yielding 150 bushels per acre for a total of 450,000 bushels. Cotton, the crop that Joseph Buckner Killibrew in 1874 called the "Grand Mogul of all the crops," has virtually vanished from the scene. Soybeans are now the major crop with 17,800 acres harvested in 2015 at 48.5 bushels per acre.

Reid would, however, understand why the harvest has grown. In 1924, he wrote that more than half of the farmers in the county read the very best agricultural journals and "profited by the advice of the experts" who wrote for them. "The result," he said, "has been perfectly amazing....This increase in production has been brought about by more scientific methods of farming."

In 2016, some, in fact most, Chester County farmers now embrace the use of technology to increase yields. Wesley

Long, precision agriculture specialist at First Farmers Co-op, estimates that 70 percent of local farmers use technology to some degree. He works with farmers who are investing in "precision agriculture," technology to manage inputs of seed, fertilizer and chemicals to increase production and profits.

When precision ag technology is utilized, it pays for itself in benefits about 80 percent of the time, according to the Precision Ag Institute Crop Life Group. Those who hope to spend less are likely to be disappointed, however, Long said. Precision agriculture costs more, but it also makes more money. "It's the old adage," he said. "You've got to spend money to make money."

Although the term covers a wide range of applications, precision agriculture typically begins with grid soil sampling. This analysis of the soil and software available at Co-op help the farmer to set a yield goal for his acreage, as well as the amount of fertilizer and seed required to meet the goal.

Next, the farmer purchases a yield monitor for his combine. That identifies the better areas of a field. He is then equipped to variable rate plant. His goal is to use better seed at a higher number on the better ground. Long then takes the data and creates a prescription for the field to reach the desired yield.





It can be individualized to an acre or less. Co-op trucks equipped with GPS spread the prescribed fertilizer at the appropriate coordinates.

Now the farmer knows how much to plant where and what kind of nutrients he needs to add to the soil, but for a good yield, he still needs cooperation from the weather. If that doesn't happen, moisture sensors can recognize the water availability at different depths and report it to a web site, which tells the farmer when and how much he needs to irrigate his fields.

Essary-Cherry Farms, operated by Ricky Essary, Kevin Essary and Jason Cherry, work 3,800 acres in the Enville area. They are heavily into precision agriculture. "Every acre we have is cultivated using variable rate technology," Cherry said. "In addition, all of our vehicles have auto-steer and on-board computer systems that monitor what we are doing." The advantage is the equipment does not over or under apply seed, fertilizer, chemicals or lime, which has a positive effect on the environment. "It eliminates human error," Cherry said. It also allows the farmer to focus more on what his equipment is doing and reduces driver fatigue.

Precision agriculture started in the mid-1990s, Long said, but it really took off between 2010 and 2012. Essary-Cherry Farms began using the technology in 2002-2003. Still relatively new, the technology changes every day, and it gets outdated quickly, according to Cherry. He says they stay current by attending farm shows and seminars, in addition to the information they gets from the co-op.

In addition, 21st century farmers are still seeking to improve the soil "by more scientific methods of farming," as Reid said back in 1924. Chester County farmers enrolled in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) are trying new cover crops to improve the soil. Among these are brothers Tim and Tommy Colbert ,who farm approximately 2,000 acres in the Jacks Creek-Plainview area.

According to a Natural Resources Conservation Service

video posted on YouTube (www.youtube.com/
watch?v=8lixjxVezJU), they have planted five different cover crops: tillage radishes, cereal rye, wheat, turnips and crimson clover. The first four mine the soil for nutrients, and the clover stores it. The

Colberts were looking for something that would add porosity to the soil and store water for the summer. The radishes, whose roots can extend six feet into the ground, seem to fit the bill. They, along with the turnips, have been described as "excellent scavengers of nitrogen." In addition, they hope the cover crops will help with the weed problem and add nitrogen to the soil.

Essary-Cherry Farms also plants more than 2,000 acres in cover crops. Some are planted by airplane before harvest of the main crop. The mixture they use includes oats, radishes, clover, Austrian winter peas and canola. They utilize no-till farming to plant over the cover crops.

Improving the soil with radishes and turnips, using computer software that tells farmers not only how much seed, but also the additional nutrients needed, and trucks that follow the instructions within 2-4 inches accuracy--the advances are mind-boggling. "There have been more advances in the last 15 years than in the previous 100. Either you stay up-to-date, or you get left behind, and if you're left behind, you can't catch up," Cherry said.

Soon, keeping up may require farmers to fly drones for detailed views from the air, giving them additional ways to improve yields. Increasingly, agriculture is data-driven, and drones equipped with advanced sensors and imaging capabilities are a relatively inexpensive way to gather that data.

Although they may not think of themselves as revolutionaries, Chester County farmers, equipped with all the data they can muster, are waging a war against weeds, waste and weather in a technological revolution.



Partnerships Key to Community Improvement

Business, government and education leaders in Chester County have created a rich environment for growth and improvement. Main Street revitalization, gigabit-speed internet, excellent educational opportunities and entrepreneurial action have combined to make Henderson a winner at the state level.

Award-Winning Progress

After years of grant-seeking and planning, the city and county completed a downtown enhancement project Spring 2016 through the work of local company E&T Contracting. In April, their efforts were rewarded when the improvements received the John S. Wilder Rebuild Tennessee Award, a statewide recognition given during the Tennessee Development District's annual meeting in Murfreesboro. Several communities were eligible for the 2016 award; it was the collaboration and coordination of Henderson's downtown enhancement project that made it stand out, said Joe Barker, executive director of the Southwest Tennessee Development District. The award is given annually in each of the state's nine development districts.

Gigabit Internet Speed

In mid-2015, Aeneas, a West Tennessee internet company, began offering gigabit internet access, allowing area companies to conduct business at speeds rivaling that offered in larger metropolitan areas. Aeneas selected Chester County as its first area to begin offering gigabit internet. They began serving Chester County in 1996 with dial-up services. In 2000, the company expanded to offer broadband internet and voice over the internet. Businesses in Henderson and Chester County said the internet upgrade expanded their reach to their customers and made downloads much faster.



Beneficial Collaboration

"All of the partnerships made this happen," Henderson Mayor Bobby King said. "I'm a firm believer that when everyone works together, we can accomplish great things in our community."

U.S. Congressman Marsha Blackburn and Commissioner Randy Boyd, from the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development, visited Henderson and Chester County to tour and discuss local progress at different times during the spring. They both praised local collaborative efforts.

"I'm grateful for the community's 'can do' attitude," Blackburn said. "That's what is necessary to make development take place. There's value in entrepreneurship and what it means for the community."

Boyd called Henderson's effort inspiring. "People see a need, take action and make the community better," he said. Boyd described the work in Henderson and Chester County as part of a rural renaissance.

Impacting Education

Community leaders hope more graduates will begin and continue their careers in Chester County, which offers a lower cost of living, fewer traffic concerns than larger metropolitan areas and a growing commitment among residents to live healthier lives.

Henderson native and Chester County Director of Schools Troy Kilzer II's goal is for all students to have viable career options after graduation. Numerous efforts in the public school system offer students opportunities such as computer coding classes, job shadowing opportunities and introductions to career options during the junior high's annual career day.

Kilzer and Aeneas CEO Jonathan Harlan are advocates for students exploring local career options. "I love this community and want viable career options for the children of Chester County," Kilzer said.

"It's important that youth see a future here, and I want to be part of it," Harlan added.



Healthy Living

In 2016, Chester County was listed in the state's Top 10 for healthy living, and this spring the chamber launched its "Step It Up, Chester County" wellness program. Efforts to promote healthy living habits for Chester County residents started with the work of the area health council, School Coordinated Health, UT Extension Office, Gene Record Parks Board, Chickasaw State Park and the health department. Together, they promote the use of family friendly outdoor spaces at the Downtown Park, a free wi-fi spot, and Gene Record Park, which features soccer fields, walking trails, a children's play area and pavilions.

Continuing Progress

With downtown vacancies practically nonexistent, at least five businesses have opened or moved to the area in recent years. Businesses that have moved into existing or renovated downtown spaces in recent years include: 8th Day Software, a company specializing in web development, mobile design, specialized software and creative solutions; Bramblett Group, a marketing, advertising and public relations firm; La Di Da, a women's clothing boutique; Sweetly Ever After, a restaurant specializing in cupcakes and lunch; and Wildflowers Boutique, offering women's and children's clothing, jewelry, candles,

Additionally, Zach Hannis is providing face-lifts to several Front Street buildings, and Freed-Hardeman University is near completion of a campaign to restore the Old Main Administration Building on Main Street. Old Main is on the National Register of Historic Places.

monogramming and gifts.

Henderson/Chester County Chamber of Commerce Director Emily Johnson said business growth in Henderson is a result of community investment in economic development. "Mayors from other towns have reached out to us to find out how we were able to do what we've done," Johnson said.

Freed-Hardeman alumni Nathan and Lauren Warf moved to Chester County this summer. "When we moved to California after graduating from FHU in 2008, it was the first time either of us had lived outside rural Tennessee, and neither of us imagined the extent to which our college town would follow us," Lauren Warf said. In 2010 Nathan was hired to research possibilities for expanding access to high-speed

internet. At that time, Chattanooga had

just become the first "Gig City" in the

western hemisphere. "Imagine

our surprise when, shortly

after, Henderson joined those ranks, becoming the first city in West Tennessee and one of the first cities nationwide with internet speeds up to 1GB," she said.

News of Henderson also reached the Warfs when Kid President became an internet sensation. "At that time, we were attending Baylor University," Warf said. "There I learned that several professors were using KP's now world-famous 'Pep Talk' in their freshman composition classes."

Much has changed in Henderson in the last few years, according to Warf. New events like Arts in the Alley have become mainstays on the community calendar, and innovative tech companies have set up shop on Main Street. "While the things I loved about this place while I was in college are still very much present, it is not the same small town I left eight years ago," she said. "Henderson is redefining the rural community, and I'm excited to be part of it again."

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHTS



QUALITY METAL STAMPING

845 East Main Street | 731.989.2262 | gmstamping.com

What services does your business offer?

"Quality Metal Stamping is an innovative industry leader in the manufacturing of custom metal stampings and automated assemblies."

How and when did your business start in Chester County?

"Business pioneer David Serling, in accordance with Chester County, built the manufacturing facility in 1960 as part of the shoe last manufacturing industry."

Have you made any additions to your business recently? What are your plans for the future?

"Quality Metal Stamping continues to invest in innovative stamping, machining and assembly technology to provide cost effective custom metal components. Quality Metal Stamping's ownership and senior leadership team have a vision of continued growth and ambitions to continue employing members of Chester Country for many years to come. With our enthusiastic workforce and innovative mindset, we are confident that we will continue to grow as a national industry leader in the metal stamping industry."

How has the small-town atmosphere of Chester County benefited your business?

"Quality Metal Stamping is a fourth-generation familyowned and operated business. Henderson's small town atmosphere is aligned with our family culture and values! The dedicated workforce is the backbone of the company's successful past and future!"

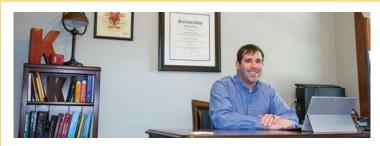


E&T CONTRACTING

3615 N, US 45 | 731.989.2470 eandtcontracting.com

"First and foremost, being an active business in the chamber is important. It allows you to build relationships with other businesses and individuals. It gets the name of your business and services you provide

out there. For example, our relationship with Bramblett Group made it possible for us to be contractors over the renovation of their new office, to do a small project for the school system, and to work for the city and county. Other businesses are aware of our presence, and they contact us when they have projects available. The chamber provides networking opportunities to bring businesses together, and we work off each other's ideas."



KING LAW A

587 East Main Street | 731.439.9870 | kinglawtn.com

How and when did you start your business in Chester County?

"I started my business in December 2014 in Jackson. I was working out of my living room. I know most start-ups work out of their garage, but I lived in an apartment. I worked on growing my business, and I outgrew my living room. I needed a real office and more space. My wife and I moved to Henderson in December 2015. I began to look for office space, and I was told at my family Christmas that the chamber wanted to rent out part of their building. I jumped at the opportunity, and I moved my business to Chester County. I officially moved into my office in March 2016."

What services do you offer?

"King Law provides legal services. We focus on the areas of employment law, business law, estate planning and business planning. We now provide a subscription service to the business community. Whether you own an existing business or are starting a business, there is a subscription package to fit your needs and budget."

What is your favorite thing about running a business in Chester County?

"I love the business-friendly climate. The local government works to bring in new businesses and to renovate the town to make Chester County an attractive location for businesses."



CASEY REALTORS

456 East Main Street 731.989.5166 "I love being part of the chamber. I know how good it has been to me. As a business owner, you have to be involved and get out into the community. It's amazing how much business we do just from being a part of the barbecue festival or the Christmas parade. You have to be out there with the public." — Craig Casev, owner



SOUTHERN CHIC

615 West Main Street 731.989.5900 "The chamber has been great about providing information that makes our business stronger, including opportunities for publicity and general support. I was introduced to the Tennessee **Small Business** Development through the chamber. In 2015, we were named Rural Small Business of the Year." — Stacey Ingold, owner



HENDERSON ATROPHY & IRON EAGLE DESIGNS

417 East Main Street 731.989.4400 | 877.989.4404 "Owning a business in Henderson and doing business with people I grew up with is a really neat experience. It brings a very satisfying feeling to now see the joy it brings to everyone that receives a trophy, plaque or recognition apparel. Being a chamber member strengthens bonds and connections within the business community. Making those connections take the "small" out of small town business.— Jeremy and Tanya Oliver, owners



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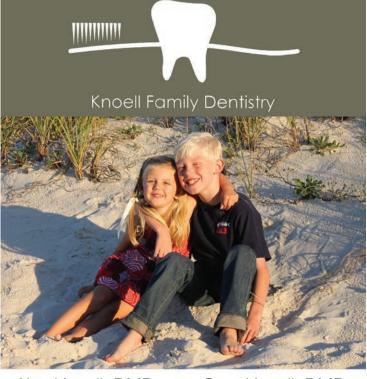


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helped to build sets. "We are hoping that our numbers will grow each year and we will continue to put on a production for the community at the end of each camp. We all agreed that this is the beginning of something great for the children of our community," Hartle said.

The intense week of rehearsal was a big sacrifice for the students and their families. But the investment, Hartle said, was evident during the anticipated performance. "It's amazing how theater can bring so many people together," she said. "My favorite thing is seeing the campers who were so shy at the beginning of camp, who hardly talked and even stayed away from the crowds as much as possible, blossom throughout the week by making friends, volunteering to participate in class, and even performing on a huge stage in front of hundreds of people!"

Music director Lauren Malecha said she was so impressed by Chester County's fine arts teachers. During rehearsals,

Malecha encouraged the cast to enunciate in songs featured in the musical. "It was exciting to see what can happen when you have passionate people working towards a common goal," she said.

Eighth-grader Luke Noles was cast as young Simba in the production. He credited all of the instructors for making kids "work hard enough to where you know you're still having fun." "It's crazy that we learned all of that in a week," he said. His favorite performance was "I Just Can't Wait to Be King" because "there was a lot of movement and it was people just having fun." Although he wants to become an architect or computer technician, Noles said acting would always be a hobby. "The teachers were amazing and I hope they keep on doing it,"

Zombies!!!!

he said.

FHU alumna Rachel Geiser expected to receive some hesitation from the Henderson Arts Commission when she appeared before its members. Her request? To find out if her newly formed community theater company, Scarlet Cord Productions, could perform the 30-minute play "10 Ways to Survive the Zombie Apocalypse" during Arts in Alley.

But she didn't receive hesitation.

"The goal was to make theater, and the Henderson Arts Commission made that happen for us," Geiser said. Geiser was very intentional in selecting the name for her organization. "I went through the Bible and found Rahab, a story about finding light in a dark place. I feel that theater can be that," she said.

"10 Ways," by Don Zolidis, is interactive and comedic; its two narrators speak directly to the audience. They count down the 10 ways to survive, as the remaining cast acts out each scenario. The zombies even infiltrate the audience during a portion of the show, much to the surprise and delight (maybe horror for some) of the crowd who stayed after the regular Arts in the Alley program to watch.

Geiser was one of the narrators, and members of the cast were FHU alumni. "It was a good first show; it didn't require too much of the actors, and it was easy to find practice space," Geiser said.

For her, being behind the scenes is her favorite aspect of theater. "I like directing because you get to be all of the characters. As the director, you are focusing on all of the stories that the audience sees."

Geiser said she is researching and

contemplating trying many forms of theater in Chester County. "I haven't decided what type of theater, but I think it should be used to reach people on more than just an entertainment level. One method is playback theater. It allows for audience members to tell their stories, and then actors perform it back to them. It's used to reach different populations, such as prison ministries and abuse survivors. It is meant to be a therapeutic experience. It could be used in a church setting, too.

Theater can be a tool," she said.

When residents go to the theater locally, they are watching a shy child blossom on the stage, their neighbor fulfilling a dream or Freed-Hardeman University theatre majors perfecting their craft. In Chester County, even though the show must always go on, it's the real people behind the characters who keep the creative community alive and well.

ARSchedule

FREED-HARDEMAN UNIVERSITY

Broadway After Class: Featuring Laura Osnes and

Special Guest Tyce | October 25

You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown | October 13-15

Greater Tuna | January 26-28, February 2-4

Eleemosynary | March 9-11, 16-18

Blithe Spirit | April 20-22, 27-29

COMMUNITY

Arts in the Alley 2016 | September 22

Henderson Hee Haw Hootenanny | November 4-5

Arts in the Alley 2017 | Every third Thursday of the month March - September 2017

Children's Theater Camp | Summer 2017





Frank Bell
407 West Main Street
Henderson, TN 38340-0243
731.989.5159
frank.bell.b10w@statefarm.com

Providing Insurance and Financial Services



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facebook.com/Silers-Old-Time-BBQ-170048679856579

In Chester County, we love barbecue so much we not only eat it for lunch and supper on a regular basis, we also celebrate it with a weekend festival near the end of September. First held in 1978, the festival is the perfect way to end summer and look toward fall. The smell of hickory smoke draws locals, university students and visitors to Main Street for fun, food and fellowship.

By the sandwich or by the shoulder, you can get your fill of pork slow-cooked over an open pit and sold on the courthouse lawn. You can also shop, enjoy some hometown entertainment, and eat any number of other festival delicacies. But, make no mistake about it, barbecue is the star of the show!

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#madeintn

@tnvacation

*Chamber of Commerce member

Aleneas+HENDERSON

MAKING GREAT EVEN GREATER

It was March 23, 2015 when Aeneas Internet and Telephone turned up their first customer on their Henderson gigabit fiber network, the first of its kind in West Tennessee. Aeneas, a home grown West Tennessee company offering a wide range of services from Internet security and off-site cloud data storage to local network support and other IT offerings, chose Henderson to be the first "Gig City" in West Tennessee for many reasons. Aeneas CEO, Jonathan Harlan, explains, "One of our goals at Aeneas is to serve communities that aren't prioritized by the big, corporate broadband providers. We knew that even though Henderson isn't the biggest city in West Tennessee, it is a growing community with an outstanding young workforce. Its leaders are forward-thinking and dedicated to growing and improving the community, and the business community in Henderson embraces new technology and new possibilities." The partnership between Hendrson and Aeneas has proved to be beneficial to the entire community, as many community leaders attest. Now, with Aeneas gigabit fiber, Henderson is able to offer the faster Internet speeds, more stable connections, and advanced communications infrastructure that businessess need, making it competitive with much larger cities and spurring economic growth.



"While having Aeneas's gigabit fiber in Henderson is important to existing businesses and residents, it is also a key factor as we welcome prospective residents and entrepreneurs. The availability of such high-speed internet sets us apart from other towns." - Mayor Bobby King, City of Henderson



"Thanks to Aeneas' commitment to providing gig fiber to the business district of Henderson, we are able to attract new businesses, boost existing business and industry and provide a wide array of educational, economic and social advantages to our community." - Emily Hunt Johnson, Henderson|Chester Co. Chamber of Commerce, Director of **Economic Development**



"Aeneas has provided Neo Products Corporation with exceptional fiber optic internet and telephone service for over a year. Our business has benefited from the fast internet speeds and their customer service is top notch. We feel moving to Aeneas was a wise business decision, and we are glad they are now able to provide service to the Chester County area." - Thomas Frye, President, Neo **Products Corporation**



"Since our business depends upon technology and reliable internet access as we work with clients around the country, we're grateful for the gigabit fiber, consistency and customer service Aeneas provides us." — Dawn Bramblett, Bramblett Group



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867 Premier Way Henderson, TN 38340 731-989-3700

Quality Metal Stamping

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The Eagle Warehouse and Distributing, Inc.

823 East Main Street Henderson, TN 38340 731-983-5400

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Crye-Leike Elite Realtors

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Regions Bank

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113 Whitley Avenue Henderson, TN 38340 731-989-9737

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Knoell Family Dentistry

136 South Washington Street Henderson, TN 38340 731-435-1253

Dr. David A. Magee

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Quinco Mental Health Center

925 East Main Street Henderson, TN 38340 731-989-3401

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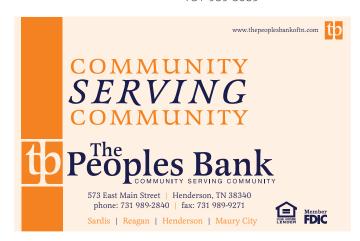
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Chester County Independent

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Modern Woodmen of America/ Brad McDaniel

731-608-12345

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Tennessee College of Applied Technology

3070 Highway 64 Crump, TN 38327 731-632-3393

Tennessee Music Highway

Henderson, TN 38340 731-217-2347

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Workforce Essentials

525 North Church Street Henderson, TN 38340 731-983-0886

INDIVIDUALS

Alex Beene

Henderson, TN 38340 731-608-2475

Terry Bell

731-343-4879

Shane Connor, Chester County School Board

Henderson, TN 38340 731-217-2603

Justin Emerson/Chester County Circuit Court Clerk

333 Eric Bell Drive, Suite D Henderson, TN 38340 731-989-2454

Alderman Johny Farris

Henderson, TN 38340

Jim Garland

365 Meadow Brook Drive Henderson, TN 38340 731-983-5000

Zach Hannis

731-608-6804

Dr. Ronald Johnson

Henderson, TN 38340 731-989-7777

Mayor Bobby King

731-989-4628

Rep. Steve McDaniel

615-741-0750

Beverly Morton/Chester Co. Property Assessor

133 East Main Street Henderson, TN 38340 731-989-4882

Trent Scott

731-989-4281

Keith Smith. CPA

Henderson, TN 38340 731-989-7491

Stacy Smith

731-608-0790

Sheriff Blair Weaver

333 Eric Bell Drive , Suite 1 Henderson, TN 38340 731-989-2449

Leslie Weaver

Henderson, TN 731-989-2449

Michele Whitt-White/ Administrator of Elections

133 East Main Street Henderson, TN 38340 731-989-4039

Donna Butler Witten

Henderson, TN 38340



party, banquet, luncheon or reunion at the

Historic Hardeman House

Event catering and/or house rental available through the Freed-Hardeman University Associates. Join us for our Victorian Tea Party every first Saturday in May.

For more information, contact us at (731) 435-1091 or associates@fhu.edu.

HENDERSON HEALTH CENTER

1132 Industrial Dr. | Henderson, Tennessee | 38340 731.983.3175





We are proud to offer care from Chester County native and Board Certified Family Practice Physician, Dr. Candice Jones.

Open Monday to Friday • Late Appointments Available
Accept Most Insurances • Offer Discounts to
Uninsured Patients that Qualify.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

HENDERSON/ CHESTER COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE www.chestercountychamber.com	731-989-5222
EMW ENFORCEMENT Emergency Chester County Sheriff's Office 126 Crook Avenue Henderson Police Department 126 Crook Avenue Chester County Drug Task Force 305 Record Dr.	Dial 911 Dispatch 731-989-2787 Office 731-989-2449 731-989-2201 731-989-2993
FIRE DEPARTMENTS- RESCUE Emergency Chester County 823-A East Main St. Henderson Fire Department 505 Sanford Ave. Rescue Squad Highway 100 East	Dial 911 731-983-5570 Business 731-989-5664 731-989-3939
Freed-Hardeman University 158 East Main St. Chester County Schools Superintendent of Schools 970 East Main St. High School Office 552 East Main St. East Chester Elementary 708 East Main St. West Chester Elementary 1243 W. Main St. Jacks Creek Elementary 65 State Rte 22-A S - Jacks Creek Chester County Middle School 634 East Main St. Alternative School 186 Luray Henderson-Chester Co. Tech. Center 1449 White Ave. Chester Co. Adult Education 1449 White Ave.	731-989-6000 731-989-5134 731-989-8125 731-989-8145 731-989-8150 731-989-8155 731-989-8110 731-989-8144 731-989-9407 731-989-8188
COMMUNITY Chester County Senior Center	731-989-7434
CITY OF HENDERSON OFFICIALS Henderson City Hall 121 Crook Ave. Mayor's Office Recorder's Office	731-983-5000 731-983-5000 731-983-5000

CHESTER COUNTY OFFICIALS	
Agricultural Agent 159 East Main St.	731-989-2103
Clerk and Master	751 505 2105
126 Crook Avenue	731-989-7171
County Court Clerk	
133 East Main St.	731-989-2233
County Mayor's Office	
159 East Main St.	731-989-5672
County Trustee	704 000 0000
159 E Main St.	731-989-3993
lections Commission 133 East Main St.	731-989-4039
lealth Department	731-303-4033
301 Quinco Dr.	731-989-7108
uvenile Office 133	731 303 7100
East Main St.	731-989-7938
Property Assessor's Office	
159 East Main St.	731-989-4882
Register Of Deeds - Courthouse	731-989-4991
'eterans' Service Office	
126 Crook Ave.	731-989-0795
Emergency Management Agency www.chestercountytn.org	731-989-5674
PUBLIC WORKS	
Highway Department	
1069 Main St.	731-989-2689
Supervisor's Office	731-989-7311
Sarbage Collection Centers	
Cabo Springs	
305 Moss Loop	731-989-7244
Cave Springs	
1340 Cave Springs Road	731-989-9326
Chickasaw Center	701 000 0551
6345 State Route 100	731-989-0551
Henderson Center 315 Talley Store Road	731-989-9436
Hilltop Center	731-303-3430
120 New Friendship Road	731-989-9990
Solid Waste Director	731 303 3330
315 Talley Store Road	731-989-9855
UTILITIES	
Henderson Utility Dept.	
121 Crook Avenue	731-989-3503
AT&T	1-888-757-6500

AT&T STEMC

www.stemc.com





731-989-2236

www.hendersontn.org



Chester County Bank, "the bank that brought progress to Chester County", is committed to progress and communication with the people we serve. We are proud to offer Telebank (731-983-0909), Online Banking, and Bill Paying to accommodate the banking needs of our community at (http://www.chestercountybanktn.com). CCB offers ATM services at the Main Branch and in Millers Big Star. We continually strive to serve and meet the needs of CCB customers for the new millennium.

CHESTER COUNTY BANK

Home Town Bank



For Home Town People.

Member FDIC

224 West Main St. Henderson, TN Main Office 989.4684 Enville Branch: 688.5218 | Big Star Branch: 989.4161 | East Branch: 989.9089





THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO IS A PART OF #TEAMHENDERSON

Your commitment to our community — from educating tomorrow's leaders to welcoming today's entrepreneurs — is the reason Henderson and Chester County continue to thrive!



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