

**Erwin Area Chamber of
Commerce
Vision for 2016**

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Who is Erwin?

The town, the zip code, the community? Erwin is the Mill, where so many members of our family — or even ourselves — worked. It is Good Hope Hospital where so many were born or nursed back to health. It is Erwin High School (now Erwin Elementary) where us, our parents and many of our grandparents were educated and now where our children and grandchildren attend elementary school. It is the Cape Fear River where as kids, so many waded or swam, camped out or went fishing.

When the Erwin Mill operated, everyone worked together and went to church together. Their children went to school together and played together. The Erwin community was a family. Although the mill has closed, we didn't lose anything. It is and will always be a part of our history. Erwin is much more than the corporate limits of the town, more than the mill or the downtown area. It is our history that includes denim and the Duke family that originally built our town. But there is history before and after the mill. Erwin is a family. It is a feeling. It is an attitude. It is caring for one another. It is being a friend. It is our home, our parents' home, our grandparents' home and hopefully the home of our children and grandchildren. It is our past and will be our future. We have "Pride in our Past" and "Faith in our Future." To borrow the term used on shirts from Erwin Elementary "***We are Erwin***".

Mission of the Erwin Area Chamber of Commerce

During 2015, the EACC adopted a new mission statement which we believe will guide our efforts in service to our community.

Our mission is to unify the community through celebrating our heritage, advocating for our businesses and promoting Erwin's unique small town appeal.

Tell The Story- Erwin has many advantages and resources. We must recognize what we have and be proud of it. The Erwin Area Chamber of Commerce plans to highlight not only our history but the many resources and advantages that Erwin has to offer. One of our goals for 2016 is to make sure we tell our unique story.

Recreation- Within or adjoining the corporate limits of Erwin are many opportunities for recreation: a golf course, a bowling alley, the River Park, Al Woodall Park, Porter Park, Rail Trail and the Cape Fear River.

History- Besides the history associated with Duke and Erwin that started in 1903, within the town of Erwin is the Town of Averagesboro, which was the second North Carolina town chartered in 1791. In colonial times it had the third-highest population in the Cape Fear Region and legend has it that it was in the running for the state capital. Near Erwin lies the Averagesboro Battlefield and Museum that brings many tourist through our town on their way to visit.

Businesses- Many businesses are located within the corporate limits, including Lowes, CVS, Carlie C's IGA, BB&T, First Federal Bank, Zaxby's, Buffalo Lanes, Good Hope Behavioral Health, Erwin Business Complex, Chicora Golf Course and many other small local businesses, doctor's offices and attorneys. Within the Erwin zip code is located Walmart, the Rivers Edge Shopping Center and the Harnett County Airport. Erwin has businesses that no one else in the county or our area has.

Education- Within the corporate town limits are three public schools; Triton High School, Erwin Elementary and Gentry Primary. No other municipality in the county has a high school located in its corporate limits. Also within Erwin's zip code is a private school — Cape Fear Christian Academy. Campbell University lies just eight miles west of Erwin and the Harnett County campus of Central Carolina Community College is just 10 miles away.

Safe Place to Live- The 2015 SafeWise Report ranks Erwin in the top 50 safest places to live in North Carolina, in 41st position. SafeWise states about Erwin: *“If you’re a people person, you’ll love the friendly and inviting community of Erwin. Whether you’re exploring Cape Fear River Park and the Dunn-Erwin Trail, or perusing downtown shops, locals say “you never meet a stranger in Erwin” ... Erwin cited just nine violent crimes according to the latest FBI Crime Report, and its violent crime rate is almost half the national average.”*

Goals for 2016.

- Increase member involvement beyond the board and officers by utilizing committees and subcommittees. Solicit volunteers for ambassadors and increase number of ambassadors.
- Build membership from all businesses in the Erwin Zip Code as well as those in the corporate limits of Erwin and surrounding areas.
- Increase Chamber membership of Regular and Associate Members to at least two hundred.
- Increase Church involvement by sponsoring the development of a Council of Churches and sponsor Community Gospel Sings and Revivals and other Church related events.
- Hold a Spring Festival (sometime in the month of May) highlighting the historical significance of Averagesboro and our connection to the Cape Fear River. Feature recreational and fitness events such as Kayak and Canoe Races on the Cape Fear River, Community Walks and 5K Races utilizing the Rail Trail, golf tournament at Chicora, bowling tournament at Buffalo Lanes, Fishing Tournament on the Cape Fear River. Partner with the Erwin Historical Society, Averagesboro historians, the Averagesboro Battlefield Museum to develop living history exhibits and seminars regarding Erwin, Duke and Averagesboro. Coordinate spring event so as to complement the Wilderness Challenge.
- Increase Chamber Office operating hours.
- Increase Community opportunities and activities for youth and college students.

Erwin Area Chamber of Commerce 2016 Officers and Board

Officers

President	Michael R. Jackson, Sr.
President Elect	Norman Avery
Vice President	Shannon Johnson
Treasurer	Oscar Aylor
Immediate Past President	Kaye Tyndall

Directors

	<u>Expiration of Term</u>
Barbara Cameron	2016
Keith Williams	2016
Tom Backus	2016
Frank Taylor	2017
Morgan Norris	2017
Melissa Stancil	2017

Ex-Officio Directors

Patsy Carson	Mayor-Town of Erwin
Richard Hicks	Erwin Town Manger

At Large Director

Oonagh McQuarrie	Reporter-Daily Record
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Standing Committees

	<u>Chairperson</u>
Finance	Oscar Aylor
Membership and Organization Development	Tom Backus
Events Committee	Melissa Stancil
Education, Community / Economic Development	Patsy Carson
Public and Governmental Affairs Committee	Richard Hicks

Council of Churches

The Chamber is sponsoring the development of a Council of Churches during 2016. This effort is being led and organized by Reverend Frank Taylor

Ambassadors and Volunteers

The work of the Chamber cannot be carried out without volunteers. If you or anyone you know is interested in becoming an ambassador, serving on a committee or simply helping in the Chamber office. Please call or stop by the Chamber office at Town Hall.

Chamber Calendar of Events for 2016

- Erwin Business Expo
- EACC Prayer Luncheon
- Spring Festival
- First Responder Recognition
- Denim Days
- Tree Lighting and Christmas Parade
- Annual Chamber Banquet