

Having been in operation for only a few years, the 2007 winner of the Small Business of the Year is a relative newcomer to Alexander County. However, in this short time this business has been able to make a large impact upon the people of this region.

The founder of this business is very involved with numerous local activities such as the Rotary Club and the Chamber of Commerce. This person is quick to volunteer whenever needed. This person is sought after by any organization that needs a reliable, hardworking member who can take a project from start to finish.

The 2007 Small Business was founded on the belief that Alexander County is one of the most beautiful places on Earth. The founder hoped to share this belief with others throughout the country. This goal has been achieved, as the business has marketed both locally and nationally and has attracted people from no less than 20 states to share the peace and warmth that you can find nowhere but in Alexander County.

You may ask how this winning business has managed to achieve so much in such a short time. There are several reasons:

- 1) This business has utilized technology by building an attractive website that introduces visitors to all of the advantages that Alexander County has to offer. The website is visited by hundreds of people a day who are shown the beauty of Alexander County through the eyes of someone who has not lived here all their lives.
- 2) The members of this firm have stayed with the basics, going door to door in the county and introducing themselves to prospective clients.
- 3) The employees stay busy six days a week working with individual clients, construction companies, and businesses seeking help in relocating employees to Alexander County.

The 2007 winner has stayed true to the spirit of Alexander County. When this business needed a larger office space, they chose to preserve and renovate a quaint older home rather than to construct a new building. This renovated space serves as a wonderful and attractive addition to the community.

The sales and listings of the 2007 Small Business of the Year was recently ranked in the top ten of the 540 realtors in the Hickory Multiple Listing Service for Alexander and surrounding counties.

It is my pleasure to award the 2007 Small Business of the Year Award to Cooper Southern Properties.