

## **2010 Large Business of the Year**

The Large Business of the Year award is sponsored by Duke Energy. We thank them for their support of this award.

This year's recipient is a vital employer and contributor to the local economy who enhances the diversification of the manufacturing base of Alexander County. The company began operations locally as a maker of textile yarns and a world leading manufacturer of cordage and twine. In 1955, company management started a tape division to capture a growing demand for basic crepe and flat back paper tapes. That year they opened a small pilot plant tucked into a corner of their facility in Hickory, North Carolina. Encouraged by two decades of steady growth and profitability, they expanded tape production and its offering to include adhesive-coated cloth tapes in 1972. The company converted its Stony Point Yarn Mill to a duct tape factory in 1981. Today this facility provides employment to over 150 people.

Throughout its production facilities, the company produces 700 million square yards of tape annually – enough to wrap a two-inch strip around the world more than 280 times. With facilities in the United States, Canada, Germany, Mexico, Peru, United Arab Emirates and China, this business is a designer, developer and manufacturer of pressure sensitive tape and tape products. The company services numerous markets including industrial, packaging, HVAC, professional paint, auto, marine, aerospace, arts and entertainment, and retail. Cloth and duct pressure sensitive tapes are manufactured at their Alexander County facility. You can find their tapes in plants, offices, homes and worksites, and at familiar retail stores as Ace Hardware, Lowe's, Office Max, Sears, Staples, Wal-Mart, and many more.

In June of 2009, the company acquired the Duck, Painter's Mate Green and Easy Liner brands in the U.S. and Canada from Henkel Corporation. The brands acquired by them are the do-it-yourself line of tapes, office and houseware products, including Duck brand duct tape and stationery, mailing and shipping, and kitchen and bath products. This acquisition strengthens the company and will help their staying power in the local community.

The company is also a vital partner to the local community and has served as the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) serving Alexander County. The CERT Program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills. Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. Their willingness to accept this responsibility highlights their reinvestment into the community.

Please join me in congratulating Shurtape Technologies as the Alexander County Chamber of Commerce 2010 Large Business of the Year.