

# Tyrrell County's Smaller Communities



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## Kilkenny

Yes, there's a little corner of Ireland right here in the southern part of Tyrrell County! Early settlers, many of Irish descent, named the area Kilkenny, supposedly in honor of Ireland's Kilkenny Flats.

## Gum Neck

This skinny "neck" of land covered by gum trees inspired the name for this community. Early settlers were mostly Scots.

## Frying Pan

Another case of geography-inspired names, this community along a somewhat rounded lake, with its panhandle-shaped outlet to the Alligator River is often just called "the Pan".

## Alligator

The Alligator is North Carolina's northernmost river inhabited by alligators. The inhabitants of the Alligator community, situated alongside the river, are predominately of English descent.

## **Riverneck**

The Riverneck community was so named because of its position along the neck or head of the Scuppernong River.

## **Soundside**

Along the south side of the Albemarle Sound, this sprawling community extends to Hidden Lake, where it becomes Alligator community.

## **Scuppernong**

The area's Native Americans named the river and this community along its banks and later settlers adopted the name for both. One legend also connects the name with the phrase "Winding Spoon", thought to refer to the river's winding path and narrowing width as it approaches the town of Creswell in neighboring Washington County. Another notes it as "the place of the green bay tree", because of the many bay trees growing there.

## **Old Bay Post Office**

The site is located in the Scuppernong community and was named for the profusion of Bay Trees in this particular area.

## **Creeks**

Riders Creek flows through this community named for that body of water.

For more information on Tyrrell County's communities and history, try the following contacts:

### **Tyrrell County Genealogy & Historical Society**

PO Box 686

Columbia, NC 27925

252-796-5921 and ask for Zelda Pledger

Ask for *Tyrrell County—Past, Present & Future* by Virginia Haire in the Tyrrell County History Book, Bridging Generations

For more see <http://patriot.net/~cpbarnes/TYRRELL.HTM>

Also see [North Carolina Manual](#), page 1018

### **Tyrrell County Library**

<http://www.pettigrewlibraries.org/Tyrrell.asp>

Branch Head: Douglas Hoffman

414 Main Street

P.O. Box 540

Columbia, NC 27925

Phone: 252-796-3771

Fax: 252-796-1167

Email: [dhoffman@pettigrewlibraries.org](mailto:dhoffman@pettigrewlibraries.org)

See this web site's page <http://www.visittyrrellcounty.com/AboutTC/History.htm>

# Government Contacts for Tyrrell County

## Tyrrell County Government

### Tyrrell County Administrative Office

108 S. Water St.  
Columbia, NC 27925  
252-796-1371

### Tyrrell County Courthouse

403 Main Street  
Columbia, NC 27925  
Register of Deeds 252-796-2901  
Clerk of Court 252-796-6281

### Tyrrell County Board of Education

106 S. Water St.  
Columbia, NC 27925  
252-796-1121

## Columbia Town Government

Columbia is the county seat of Tyrrell County and has an alderman-manager form of government. Terms are staggered and elections are held in odd years.

### Columbia Town Hall

103 Main Street  
Columbia, NC 27925  
252-796-2781

## Federal Representation

### Senator Elizabeth Dole (R-NC)

120 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
202-224-6342  
<http://dole.senate.gov/>

### Senator John Edwards (D-NC)

225 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
202-224-3154  
<http://edwards.senate.gov/>

### Congressman Walter B. Jones (NC Third District)

Rep. Walter Jones  
422 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
<http://jones.house.gov/>  
DC Phone: 202 225-3415  
DC Fax: 202 225-3286  
N.C. Phone:(252) 931-1003  
1(800) 351-1697 toll-free for NC residents  
N.C. Fax:(252) 931-1002

## State Representation

### [Senator Clark Jenkins](#)

409 Legislative Office Building,  
Raleigh, NC 27603-5925  
919-715-3040

### [Representative William T. Culpepper, III](#)

404 Legislative Office Building,  
Raleigh, NC 27603-5925  
919-715-3028

## **COLUMBIA - COMMUNITY INFORMATION**

### **History**

*“Columbia—the town I’ve imagined in my dreams but never believed existed.”* So wrote Cora Barksdale during the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, after she moved to Columbia to become the editor of *The Tyrrell Times* newspaper. Her unabashed adoration for the town shone through in her writing, as she greeted the townsfolk in her inaugural address, writing, “I wish for once that I still believed in fairies, and could meet one who could touch her magic wand and transform me into a gifted writer so that I could tell all the world what my impressions of this lovely little town are.”

Situated along the eastern shore of the Scuppernong River estuary, Columbia (originally known as Elizabeth Town) was chartered by the North Carolina General Assembly in 1793. In 1799 the town was selected as the seat of Tyrrell County, which was established in 1729 as a precinct of Albemarle County. The name of the town was changed to Columbia in 1810, to avoid confusion with another Elizabethtown in North Carolina. The 1870 Federal census suggests a population of slightly over a hundred people, who subsisted on livelihoods such as commerce, milling, county administration and maritime occupations including fishing, sailing and boat building. Columbia’s postbellum population increase was largely the result of the expansion of the local lumber industry. Approximately 900 residents now call Columbia home.

Columbia’s proximity to the Outer Banks makes it a popular stopping-off place for tourists looking for a chance to stretch their legs after a long ride along Highway 64. What better way to spend a morning or afternoon than walking along the tree-lined streets of the Historic District as the gentle breeze of the Scuppernong River transports you back to the days of horse-drawn carriages and ladies with parasols, nickel soda pop and penny candy.

The Columbia Historic District was formally listed on the National Register of Historic Places in March of 1994. The District consists of a collection of buildings dating from the 19<sup>th</sup> century to World War II. Residential dwellings and commercial buildings comprise the 35-acre district, and construction details such as Victorian sawn and turned ornament and decorative brickwork blend distinctiveness to the historic building stock. Architecture styles range from Victorian to Craftsman, Tudor Revival to Romanesque. There’s something of interest for everyone in Columbia on the Scuppernong.

### **Population**

Tyrrell County – 4149; Columbia - 820

### **Government**

Columbia is the county seat with Tyrrell County having Chairman/commissioners, and an administrative form of government.

### **Taxes**

\$.99 per \$100 valuation, Tyrrell County

\$.60 per \$100 valuation, Town of Columbia.

### **Utilities/Services**

County Water available throughout most of county.  
Electricity – Dominion NC Power.  
Garbage pick-up throughout county  
Telephone service – Sprint Telephone.  
Water, Sewage, Garbage disposal – Town limits.

### **Education**

Columbia has a high school (grades 9-12), middle school (grades 6-8) located on Main Street; and Tyrrell County Elementary School (grades pre-K – 5) located on Keiser Road.

### **Library**

The Tyrrell County Library is located in Columbia on Main Street with 20,000 books; 33 journals; 10 newspapers, Internet access, audiovisual material, genealogical section, meeting room, computerized card catalog, and a certified public librarian on duty at all times.

### **Religion**

There are approximately 33 churches in the Tyrrell County area. (32 Protestant churches and 1 Catholic Church).

### **Media**

#### **Newspaper:**

Scuppernong Reminder – Weekly  
The Coastland Times – Three times weekly (Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday).

**Radio:** 105.7 FM.

**Television:** Local reception – ABC, CBS, NBC, PBS and Cable TV.

### **Medical**

Columbia Medical Center, Tyrrell County Health Department, Tideland Mental Health Center and a Dentist.

### **Industry**

Agri-business, aqua-business, forestry, and tourism.

### **Banks**

BB&T – Main Street  
Cash Points – Hwy 64 By-Pass  
The East Carolina Bank, also features an (ATM) – Scuppernong Drive

### **Recreation/Entertainment**

A community recreation program operates for ages 6-18 in softball and baseball. Columbia water access provides excellent advantages including canoeing, kayaking, fishing, hunting, swimming, sailing and skiing.

### **Civic Organizations/Clubs**

American Legion, Cooperative Extension Homemakers, Eastern Star, 4-H Clubs, Historical and Genealogical Society, Lions, Masonic Order, Rotary, and Tyrrellinean Club, Veterans of Foreign War, Master Gardeners.

### **Attractions**

Columbia on the Scuppernong Walking Tour	796-2781
Scuppernong River Interpretive Boardwalk	796-3004
Pocosin Art Gallery	796-2787
Columbia Theater Cultural Resources Center	766-0200
Veterans Park & Tyrrell County Courthouse	796-6281
Tyrrell County Visitor's Center	796-0723
Eastern 4-H Environmental Education Conference Center	797-4800
Palmetto Peartree Preserve	919-967-2223
Walter B. Jones Center for the Sounds	796-3198

### **Annual Events & Festivals**

- January** – Martin Luther King March  
Pocosin Arts Craft Retreat I
- February** – Pocosin Arts Crafts Retreat II
- April** – Tyrrell County 4-H Livestock Show
- June** – Columbia Theater Cultural Resources Center & Partnership for the Sounds  
Wildlife Field Day  
Columbia Theater Cultural Resources Center & Partnership for the Sounds  
Annual Potato Cooking Contest
- September** – Pocosin Arts, Art Auction & Crab Red to Blue Dinner
- October** – Scuppernong River Festival
- November** – Columbia Theater Cultural Resources Center & Partnership for the Sounds “Soul Food Celebration”
- December** – River Town Christmas

### **For further information contact:**

Greater Tyrrell County Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 170, Columbia, NC 27925  
phone and fax 252-796-1996 or Tyrrell County Visitor's Center, PO Box 55, 203 S.  
Ludington Drive, Columbia, NC 27925 phone 252-796-0723, fax 252-796-0303, E-mail  
[visitrtc@beachlink](mailto:visitrtc@beachlink)

### **Emergency Assistance**

Columbia Medical Center	796-0689
Columbia Pharmacy	796-2421
Fire Department – Columbia	796-2251
(if no answer dial)	796-2531
Poison Control Center	1-800-848-6946
Rescue Squad	796-2251
Sheriff's Office	796-2251

### **Hospitals**

Albemarle Hospital	335-0531	Elizabeth City
Beaufort Count Hospital	975-4100	Washington
Chowan County Hospital	482-8451	Edenton
Pitt Memorial Hospital	816-4100	Greenville
Washington County Hospital	793-4135	Plymouth

### **Human Services**

Adapt Center – Mental Health	796-1999
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Animal Control	796-1667
Cooperative Extension	796-1581
Focal Point for Aging (Senior Center)	796-0365
Food Stamp Office	796-3421
Health Department, Home Care, and Hospice	1-888-388-9208
Options to Domestic Violence	766-0188
Tyrrell Community Development	796-1991
Tyrrell County Board of Education	796-1121
Tyrrell County Board of Election	796-0775
Tyrrell County Public Library	796-3771
Tyrrell County Social Services	796-3421
Tyrrell County Work Farm	796-1085
Tyrrell County Visitor's Center	796-0723

**Government**

Clerk of Superior Court	796-6281
Magistrate	796-6841
Register of Deeds	796-2901
Town of Columbia (Town Manager)	796-2781
Tyrrell County (County Administrator)	796-1371

**Information**

Chamber of Commerce	796-1996
Tyrrell County Visitor's Center	796-0723

**Schools**

Columbia High School	796-8161
Columbia Middle School	796-0369
Tyrrell Elementary School	796-3881
Smart Start	766-0221