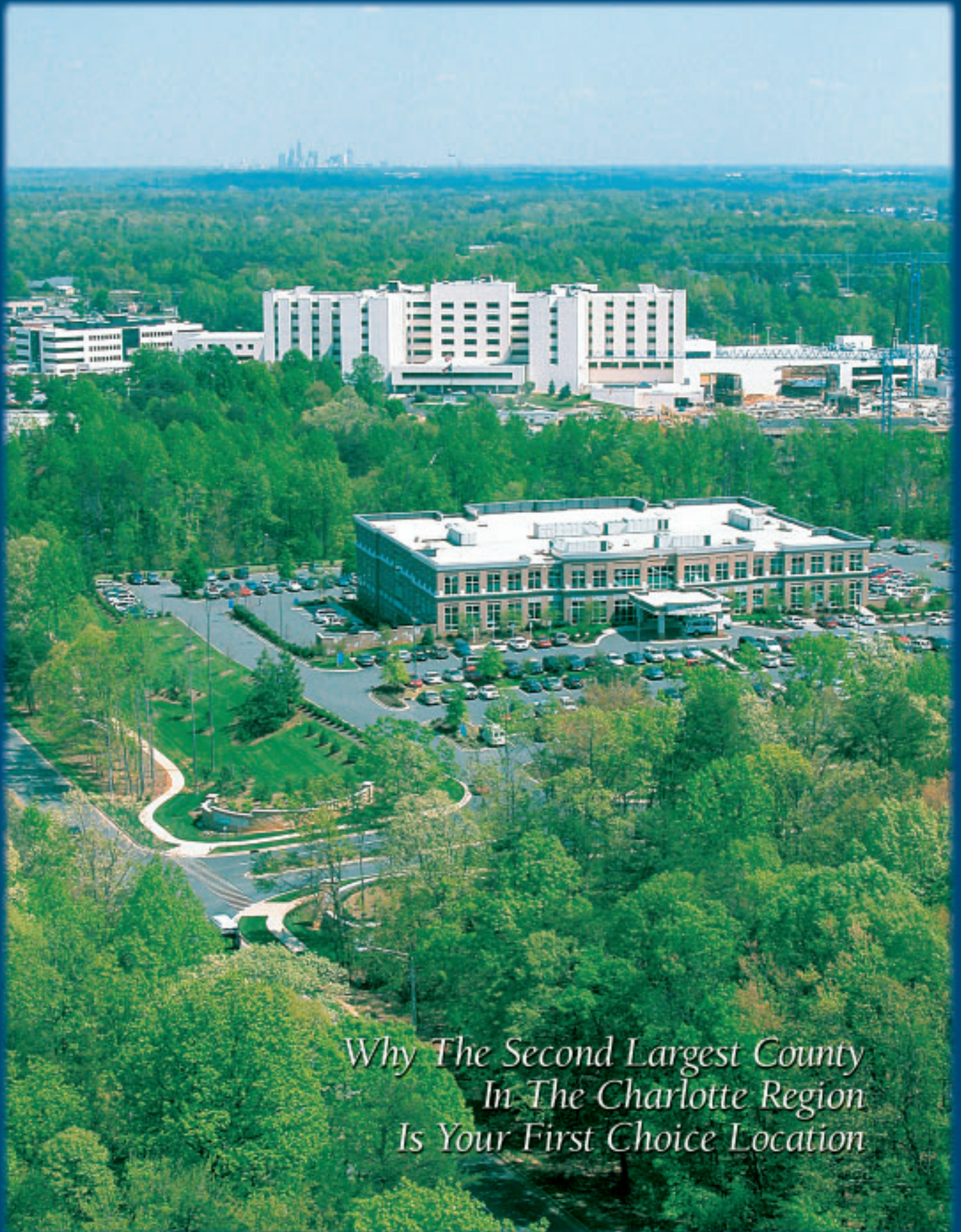
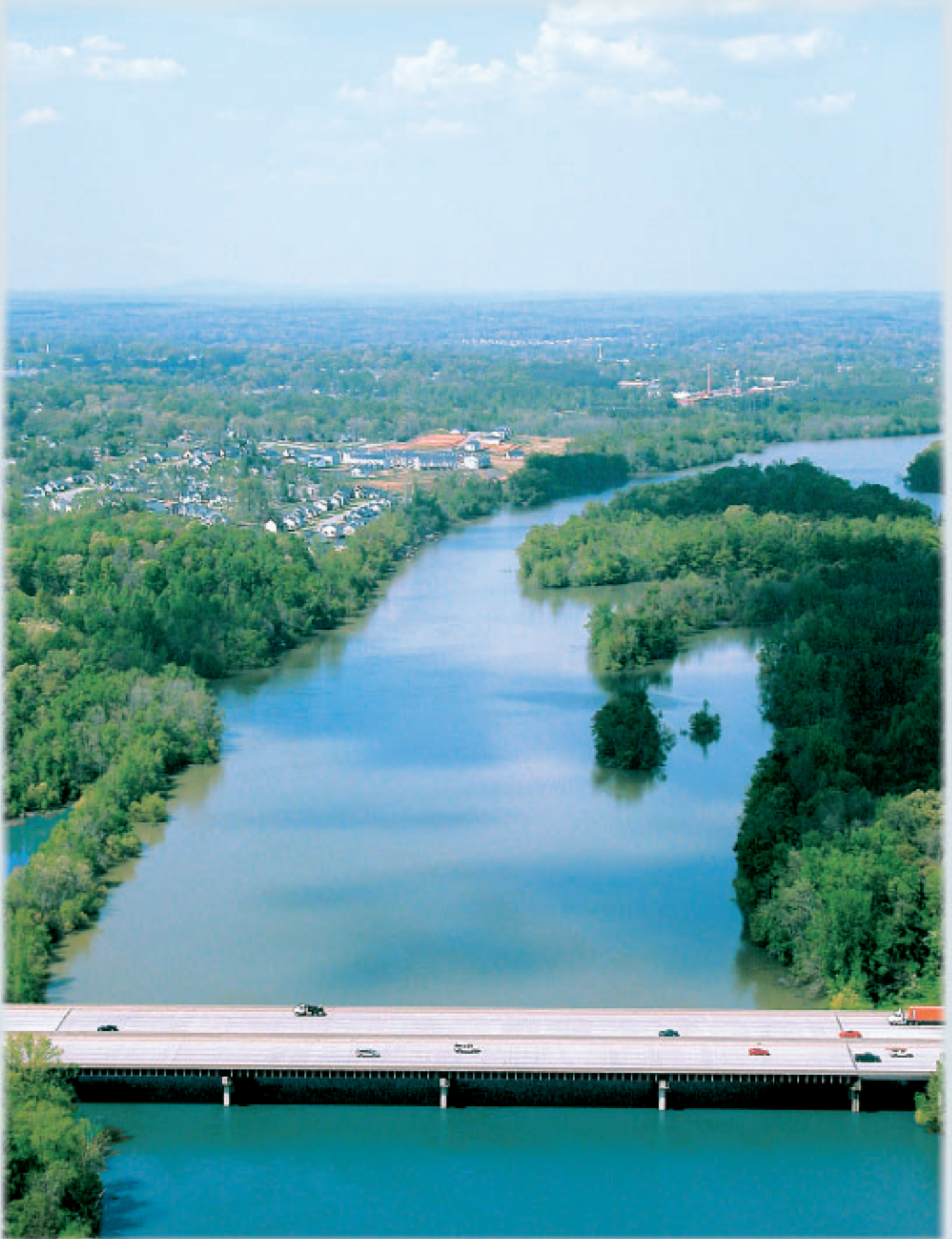


FIRST CHOICE: GASTON COUNTY



*Why The Second Largest County
In The Charlotte Region
Is Your First Choice Location*

CROSS THE RIVER AND DISCOVER...



GASTON COUNTY: YOUR FIRST CHOICE



Cross the Catawba River west of Charlotte and discover the second-largest county in the Charlotte Region: Gaston County, the first-choice location for your business and your people.

Gaston County is a place of great natural beauty, with broad rivers, tall mountains and enormous parks.

Yet here you are minutes from Charlotte's busy International Airport.

You can jump on I-85 and get anywhere in a hurry.

Receive some of the finest healthcare in the country.

Shop in millions of square feet featuring all the big brands.

Link up with leading-edge telecommunications systems.

Enjoy the upside of speed without the downside of gridlock.

Gaston County is your first-choice location for these vital reasons...

From top left: Triathlon competition in a local lake; climbing Crowders Mountain; Charlotte/Douglas International Airport. Center: I-85 transportation, Gaston College on US 321, technician inspecting product, and roadside wild flowers. Bottom: Studying scans at hospital, Westfield Shoppingtown, downtown Gastonia church and All-America City banner.

STRATEGIC LOCATION AND



From top left: Beautiful lake at Crowders Mountain State Park; I-85 crosses into Gaston; nearby Great Smoky Mountains; Charlotte/Douglas Airport; Norfolk Southern train; trucks on I-85.

Gaston County is just west of Charlotte, Mecklenburg County, and Charlotte/Douglas International Airport's 500 daily flights.

I-85 runs right through Gaston, through major Southeastern states, and to nearby I-77 and other major interstates.

Many companies choose Gaston as a strategic center for serving the entire Eastern United States.

Three major railroads and dozens of trucking companies link Gaston businesses with customers and suppliers nationwide. An Intermodal Network car-

ries freight to and from Carolina seaports.

Gaston's geography provides a mild climate, four seasons of outdoor recreation, thousands of acres of natural parks, three mountain peaks, the big Catawba River and its South Fork tributary.

The famous Blue Ridge Mountains and the Grand Strand beaches are just a few hours away.

Gaston is truly a first-choice location for working and living.

TRANSPORTATION



From top left: Serious climbing at Crowders Mountain; Carolina beach scene; jet from Charlotte Airport; Gastonia's mega-retail centers; locator map; Norfolk Southern train crosses Cramerton bridge; beautiful nearby waterfalls.

DIVERSE WORK PLACES AND WORK



Gaston County has one of the greatest numbers of business location options in the Charlotte Region. In addition to more than 15 business parks of varying price ranges and characteristics, the Gaston County EDC can show you dozens of stand-alone buildings and sites.

The EDC (Economic Development Commission) can also help you with permitting, utilities, infrastructure and other business essentials. Gaston has one of the best incentive packages in the Charlotte Region, and the EDC can help your business get all the benefits.

A large, well-skilled and reliable workforce provides a strong business asset, complemented by low taxes, economical utilities and reasonable workers compensation.





GTP
GASTONIA
TECHNOLOGY
PARK

Top row: IDG Building, The Summit, Ortronics plant. Center: Parkdale Mills world headquarters. Other images: Gaston's diverse workforce and utilities.

LEARNING AND EXCELLING IN GASTON

At left: Gaston College offers courses from high-tech machine operation to nationally respected fire safety and highway patrol training programs. Center: Gaston College building, Belmont Abbey science lab. Bottom: Public schools music program, students in library with staff.



Gaston's public school system is the sixth largest in the state and offers a broad range of programs for more than 30,000 students.

Schools are neighborhood based - no competing for admission or other frustrations of much larger systems.

The schools' chief has been named N.C. Superintendent of the Year, and Gaston's Highland School of Technology was recently selected as a "School of Excellence."

Gaston College, a two-year, comprehensive community college, offers vocational

learning and training in dozens of work-related fields, including programs developed for specific employers.

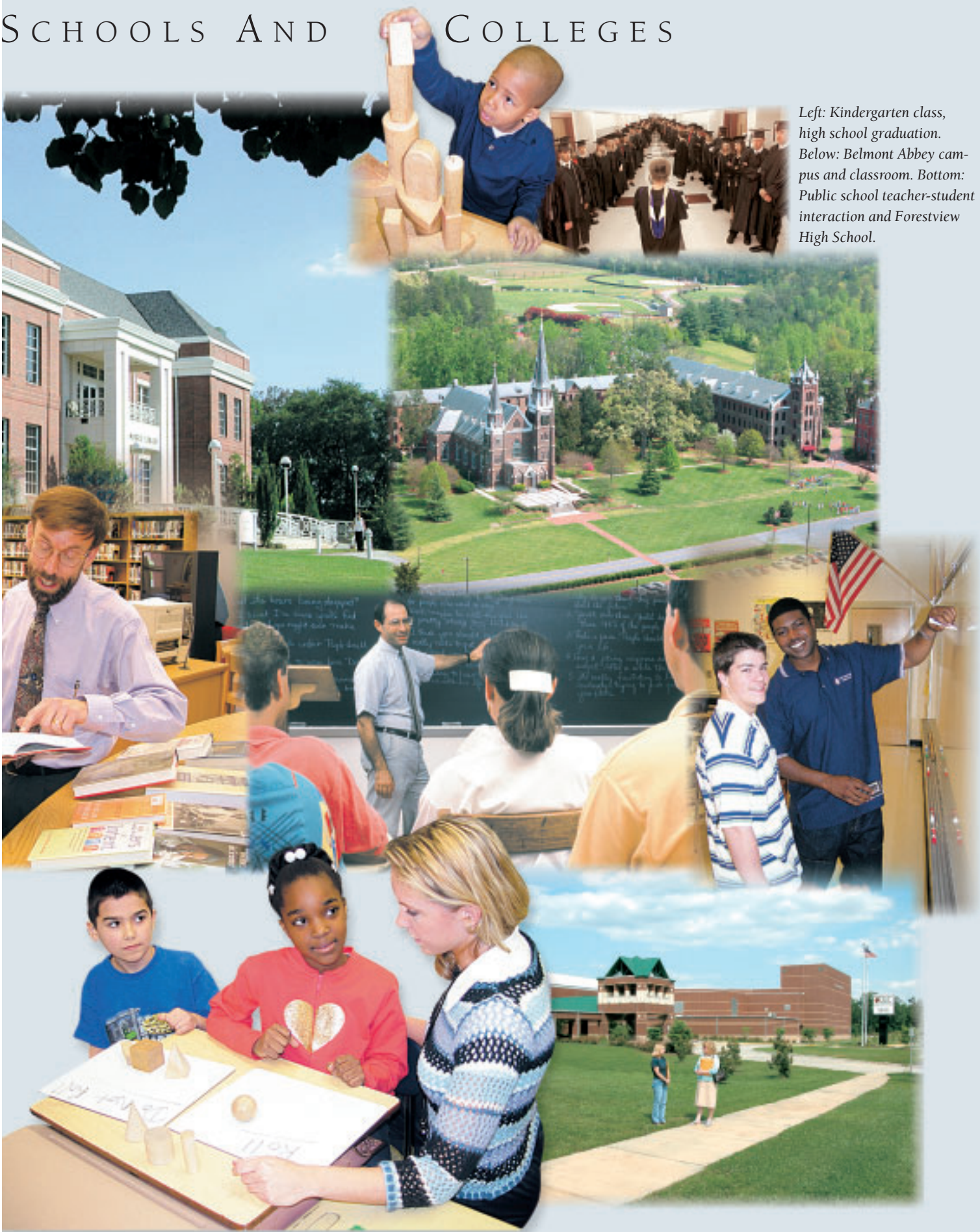
Belmont Abbey attracts liberal arts students from across the nation, plus continuing education and evening classes for adults.

And the NC Center for Applied Textile Technology provides training in Gaston and around the world.

Within 50 miles are more than 30 other colleges and universities.

Superior education is a strong North Carolina tradition.

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES



Left: Kindergarten class, high school graduation. Below: Belmont Abbey campus and classroom. Bottom: Public school teacher-student interaction and Forestview High School.

OUTSTANDING MUSEUMS, GARDENS, ARTS

Gaston County offers some of the finest attractions in the Southeast. You could spend a day at Gastonia's Schiele Museum of Natural History, enjoying hundreds of lifelike animal displays, a planetarium, and a colonial farm village.

The Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden is one of the finest perennial gardens in the South, continuously growing with its blooming plants, spraying fountains and brick paths across hundreds of master-planned acres south of Belmont.

The Museum of Art and History celebrates the region's past and present culture.

The C. Grier Beam Truck Museum is one of three major ones in the country. A railroad museum, a motorcycle museum, the largest flying American flag ... all offer something for everyone who enjoys history.

The United Arts Council and its affiliates provide engaging theater, dance, musical performances and art exhibits throughout the year.

And Uptown Charlotte's cultural and big-league sports attractions are just a half hour away.



AND CULTURE



Far left top: Schiele Museum, Museum of Art and History. Center top: Local dance and drama productions. Right: Railroad Museum in Belmont, Little Theater performers, McAdenville Christmas lights, Belmont Abbey stained glass window.

Center, from left: Colonial Village dancers at Schiele Museum, several scenes from Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden, NFL football in Charlotte.

Bottom row from left: Several scenes from Schiele Museum, Beam Truck Museum, World's Largest Flying American Flag, motorcycle museum, July 4th fun at Daniel Stowe Garden, magnolia vase by local artists, and colonial celebration.

NATIONALLY RATED HEALTH CARE



At top: Operating room and intensive care at Gaston Memorial Hospital (GMH). Center: Pediatric care and GMH aerial, showing large medical complex with inter-connected offices. Below: main entrance to GMH. Inset: eye exam.

Gaston Memorial Hospital has been recently named among the top 100 hospitals in the nation.



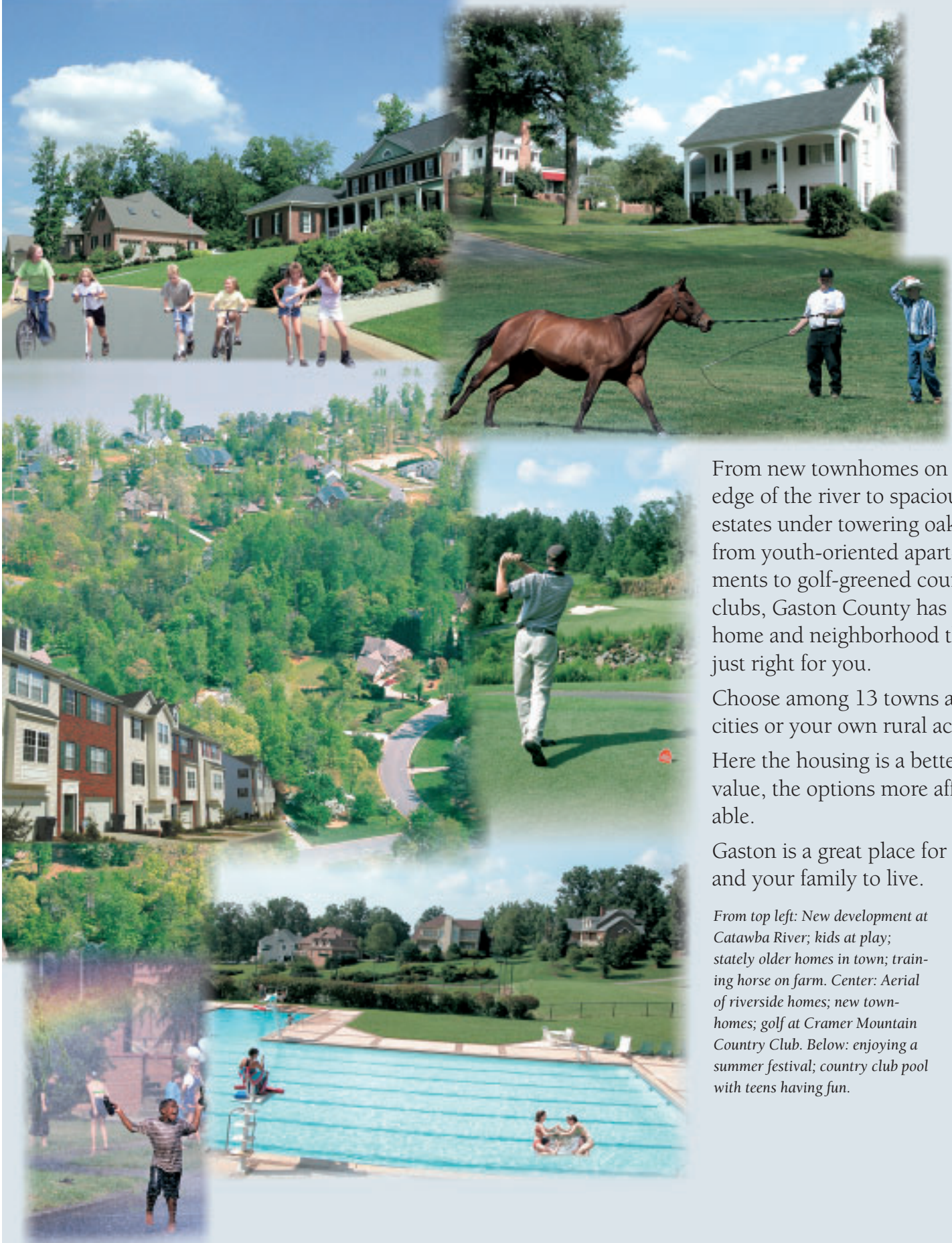
This reflects the advanced technology, highly skilled physicians and staff who provide compassionate patient care.

With 442-beds, Gaston Memorial is one of the largest hospitals in the region and anchor for CaroMont Health, an independent health system. With its nationally recognized Cancer Center, first-class

Heart Center and expert Neurosciences team, Gaston Memorial Hospital offers some of the most advanced diagnostic and treatment technology available.

The system's 300 physicians and 2300 health care professionals provide the region with an unprecedented level of medical services.

A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE



From new townhomes on the edge of the river to spacious old estates under towering oaks, from youth-oriented apartments to golf-greened country clubs, Gaston County has a home and neighborhood that's just right for you.

Choose among 13 towns and cities or your own rural acreage. Here the housing is a better value, the options more affordable.

Gaston is a great place for you and your family to live.

From top left: New development at Catawba River; kids at play; stately older homes in town; training horse on farm. Center: Aerial of riverside homes; new townhomes; golf at Cramer Mountain Country Club. Below: enjoying a summer festival; country club pool with teens having fun.

ALL THE SUPPORT YOU NEED



The Gaston County EDC staff is one of the most experienced in the state, with extensive data, GIS mapping, and other vital information customized for you and all your needs.

We'll make sure your business has the right location, infrastructure, financing and connections to get up and running in Gaston County as quickly and economically as possible.

We will be your partner every step of the way, a part of your team.

For further information, please contact:
Gaston County Economic Development
Commission

P. O. Box 2339
Gastonia NC 28053

704-825-4046

Email edc@gaston.org

www.gaston.org



At top: Gaston EDC staff checking plans for landscape design at The Summit; County Administration Building. Center: New County Human Services and Courthouse buildings. Bottom: EDC research support; new industry construction; County planner with GIS map.

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Concept, Writing & Design By Lawrimore Communications Inc.

Photography By Page Numbers:

Lawrimore Communications - Front cover, inside cover; 1-12

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GASTON
COUNTY ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

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