



**Quarterly Newsletter**  
**Patrick County Chamber of Commerce**  
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*The Official Publication of the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce*  
*Tom Bishop, Executive Director*

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[www.patrickchamber.com](http://www.patrickchamber.com)

**Entrepreneur Express Workshop Planned for November 12**

This is an entrepreneurial business and management workshop with practical hands on lectures and exercises covering key elements of business practice, run by successful practitioners. It includes: How to Start and Operate a Business, Growing Your Business/Marketing Strategy and Financial/Managing Assets. The workshop is free and runs from 9:00am-12 noon at the Patrick Henry Community College branch in Stuart. Call the Chamber office to register.

**New Members Reported as of October 30,-2008**

**The following new members have been added since the last newsletter:**

- Cricket's Country Salon-Woolwine
- Debbie's Signs, Graphics and Lettering-Sandy Ridge, NC
- Hatcher and Hatcher Taxi-Stuart
- Clements Cherry Orchard-Ararat
- Bennett Baskets N Bows-Danbury, NC
- Flower Hill Therapeutic Massage, LLC-Meadows of Dan
- Blue Ridge Builders-Meadows of Dan
- Wally's Pharmacy-Mt. Airy, NC
- Martinsville Media, Inc. (WHEE), Martinsville
- Peppertree Construction -Stuart
- Shooting Creek Quarry-Floyd
- Margrit's Pet B&B-Stuart
- High-End Finish-Stuart
- Stephanie Viperman-Individual-Stuart
- Windy Hill Orchards-Ararat
- By The Creek Inn- Claudville
- Showcase Magazine-Danville
- Wood-N-Garden-Fort Mill, SC
- P. J. Hair and Nails-Stuart
- Blue Ridge Heritage, Inc. - Stuart
- Results of Stuart-Stuart
- Doe Run Builders - Ararat

Welcome to all our new members!

**Thanks to our Major Sponsors for 2008 Virginia State Peach Festival**

The following companies have played an important role in the 2008 Virginia State Peach Festival. They are: Nelson Automotive Family of Martinsville and Henry County, Community Funeral Home of Stuart, Hopkins Lumber Contractors, Wendy's /Sechrist Foods, Carter Bank & Trust, River Community Bank, EMI Imaging, Embarq Corporation, Landmark Assisted Living Center and Blue Ridge Nursing Center and Ashbrook Audiology.

#### **New Corporate Gold Club Members**

The following companies have been added to our Corporate Gold Club advertisers on the Chamber web page: SAMCO Construction of Stuart, and Wanda's Estate Jewelry of Stuart

#### **Chairmen of the Board Headline the Peach Festival Celebration**

General Johnson and Chairmen of the Board was the main attraction for the Friday night concert during Peach Festival Week. The attendance was probably the best in the last 3 years and the concert was immensely enjoyed by all. Thanks to numerous volunteers who worked so hard to make this year's event successful.

#### **Chamber Planned Events**

##### **Business After Hours**

- November 6, at Honduras Coffee Shop, Main Street, Stuart, 5:30-pm-7:00pm
- December 11, at The Reynolds Homestead, "Christmas Social", 5:30pm-7:00pm, while The Homestead is decorated for the Victorian Christmas.

##### **Annual Banquet**

January 23, 2009, 6:00pm, Guest Speaker Dr. Randy Marshall. (Location to be announced)

#### **Recent Chamber Events**

Oct. 28, Business After Hours at Landmark Assisted Living, Stuart  
Oct 16, Ribbon Cutting at the new Advance Auto store in Stuart  
Sept. 5, Open House at the Wellness Cottage, Stuart  
Sept. 22 Ribbon cutting for new greenhouse at Landmark Assisted Living Center, Stuart.  
Sept. 23, Business After Hours at the Reynolds Homestead hosted by Piedmont Magazine  
Aug. 15, Ribbon Cutting at Blue Ridge Propane, Stuart  
Aug. 21, Ground Breaking with Blue Ridge Builders, Meadows of Dan (new home construction)  
Aug. 21, Business After Hours, Swim Party at DeHart Park, Stuart  
July 21, Ribbon Cutting at Country Roads Realty, Meadows of Dan  
July 8, Business After Hours at Aerial Machine and Tool, Vesta  
June 24, Open House at Hatcher's Taxi Service, Stuart  
June 19, Business After Hours at Chateau Morrisette Winery, Meadows of Dan  
June 5, Ribbon Cutting at Cricket's Country Salon in Woolwine

#### **Chamber Provides Tourism Information at Local Events**

The Chamber provided Tourism information at the October Civil War Encampment (Ararat), the Patrick County Fair (September), Kibler Valley River Run in Claudville (July) and the Strawberry Festival in Stuart (May). An information booth will be provided at the senior's Health Fair on Oct. 31. Tom Bishop assisted with Tours of the Mayberry Presbyterian Church by Seniors from Ridgecrest Retirement Community (Mt. Airy, NC) and Christ Wesleyan Church (Greensboro, NC) during October.

#### **Unemployment Rate for Patrick County**

Patrick County, Virginia's jobless rate for June, July, August, and September was as follows: June, 6.4%. July, 8.7%, August, 7.2%, September 7.0%

#### **Patrick County Schools Conducts Ground Breaking**

A ground breaking ceremony for school construction projects was held on the front lawn of Patrick County High School on Sunday, Sept. 21, 2008. This project will cost \$24,000,000 and affect every school in the County.

### **Chamber promotes Litter Clean Up**

Patrick County Chamber has led a campaign to clean up our neighborhoods during the "Community Wide Litter Pick-Up" October 15-31. We thank all the businesses, civic clubs, churches, and individuals who have participated in this program.

### **New Collector Ornaments For Sale by Chamber**

The Patrick County Chamber of Commerce has released the 2008 Christmas ornament and collector mug. It has a picture of Maj. Gen. J. E. B. Stuart, CSA standing with his horse. The picture was painted by famous artist Michael Gnatek. Mugs sell for \$10 and ornaments for \$12. Several local businesses are helping to sell these items.

### **Technology Improvements in Patrick County**

Verizon Wireless has installed a new cell phone tower near Stuart, VA, close to U. S. Route 58 and the Town of Stuart. EMBARQ continues to expand DSL, high-speed, Internet service in various parts of Patrick County, including the communities of Dry Pond, Ararat, Meadows of Dan and Woolwine. Trificient of Mt. Airy, NC is now conducting a study for Patrick County and expects to outline a detailed plan in how best to provide Wireless Technology county-wide. Funding for this study will be provided by the Virginia Tobacco Commission

### **Aerial Machine and Tool Expands**

Aerial Machine and Tool, located in Vesta, VA (Patrick County) is putting in place another small production facility (Hazard Protection Systems) on Ararat Highway in Ararat, Virginia. Production operations are expected to start up about October 13th. This facility will have approximately 30 employees.

### **Piedmont Community Services Builds New Office**

Piedmont Community Services new office building is under construction at Patrick Springs, VA, just off U. S. Route 58 four lane highway. Expected completion date is January 2009. Clark Brothers Company of Stuart, VA is the contractor.

### **Tom Bishop Speaks Out on Tourism**

Tom Bishop, Executive Director of the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce has spoken out recently about the importance of the Tourism Economy in Patrick County, VA. "First of all, the chamber is a very strong supporter of the Tourism industry in our County. It is a part of what we do, day by day. Advertising and promoting our events, celebrations, places of lodging, restaurants, attractions, and things to do list is a critical part of our role. Other activities include: 1. Meeting and greeting visitors. 2. Receive requests for information. 3. Mailing out responses. 4. Keeping our web site fresh and up to date for their viewing. 5. We show up for many festivals with an information table. 6. Finally, we promote our chamber members continually. 30-40% of our members are serving the visitors in the Tourism industry. "

### **2007 New Construction in Patrick County Reaches \$51, 000,000**

New construction in Patrick County, Virginia reached \$51,277,000 in the year 2007. New residential dwellings was 94 homes at the cost of \$13,421,801. Mobile home dwellings was 98 at a cost of \$2,798,046. Commercial and all other construction was \$35,058,000. This is a phenomenal growth in new construction amounting to 219% growth when comparing 2006 to 2007. This illustrates a very important factor in the Patrick County economy. sometimes referred to the "Silent Economy."



### **EMBARQ Partners with the Patrick County Chamber**

Special offer for your home. EMBARQ offers your home phone plus High-Speed Internet for under \$50.00 per month. Applies to up to 786K speed and a \$15 activation fee. Call 866-484-7052 for assistance. EMBARQ partners with our membership to help us succeed. EMBARQ offers member's exclusive discounts in addition to being our single source for voice, data, Internet, wireless and entertainment solutions. They will help your business reach new heights. Chamber members get 2 free months of DSL when you sign up for the "Business Bundle." CALL 866-289-0245 to sign up.

**The Patrick County Chamber of Commerce Office and Visitor Center is located at 20475 Jeb Stuart Highway (U. S. Route 58), Stuart, VA 24171.**