



Quarterly Newsletter
Patrick County Chamber of Commerce
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The Official Publication of the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce

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www.patrickchamber.com*

EMBARQ Mobile Van Coming to Patrick County

On April 28, the Embarq Mobile van will be in the Town of Stuart all day to meet and service local customer needs. It will be located at the top of Main Street near the Post Office on Blue Ridge Street.

New Members Reported as of April 21, 2009

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

- Stuart Painting Service-Stuart
- Paula M. Gray-Individual-Critz
- Handy Mountain Cabin-Stuart
- Joanne Hill-Individual-Stuart
- Verizon Wireless-Roanoke
- Dust to Dawn – Claudville (cleaning service)
- Blessings From Above-Stuart (child care)
- Mayberry Beverage- Mt. Airy, NC
- Leon Jones Enterprises-Stuart (auto and truck repair)
- Pioneer Health Services (replacing R. J. Reynolds Hospital)-Stuart
- VECTEC-Virginia Electronic Technology Center-Newport News
- R & S Stone (replacing Shooting Creek Quarry)-Floyd
- Devine Designs Salon-Stuart

Welcome to all our new members!

VA Secretary of Technology Named as Obama's Technology Officer

On April 18, Virginia's Secretary of Technology, Aneesh Chopra, was named as the Chief Technology Officer by President Obama. On March 25 Mr. Chopra visited the Patrick County High School and observed teachers using digital learning tools and gave a presentation to the Board of Education and School officials.

Congressman Rich Boucher Comes to Stuart for Town Hall Meeting

On April 18, at the invite of the Chamber of Commerce, Congressman Rick Boucher conducted a Town Hall meeting at the Historic Star Theatre. He shared information about the American Recovery and Investment Act of 2009. One area which may be of special help to Patrick County included Broadband (high speed) Internet funding. He confirmed the continued funding of the Blue Ridge Heritage project, impacting Patrick and Floyd Counties. He announced the grant of \$334,000 to the Patrick County Education Foundation.

Recent Chamber Events

- March 3-4 the Patrick County Chamber operated a booth at the Martinsville Trade show, promoting Tourism in Patrick County.
- Mar 23 – Ribbon Cutting for new business, Blessing From Above child care in Stuart
- Jan. 24, Feb. 28 and Mar. 28, The Chamber provided a Tourism Information Table at the Patrick County Music Association Jamborees
- April 3, the Chamber provided an information table at the Blue Ridge Elementary School Career Fair in Ararat.
- April 16, Chamber member Step, Inc. conducted a ground breaking for a new \$1.3 million office on Wayside Road in Stuart.

Litter Pick Up Campaign Considered a Success

The Community Wide Litter Pick-Up in Patrick County, VA was held March 15-April 15. This was a Self Directed clean up along our road sides throughout the County. The Patrick County Chamber of Commerce, working with local businesses, civic clubs, churches, individuals and other organizations encouraged all citizens to help. Everyone was encouraged to clean up their neighborhoods, recognizing the Spring and Summer are when we have a large number of visitors in our County to participate in many activities.

Mary Sue Terry named as 2009 Woman In History

Former Attorney General Mary Sue Terry, a Patrick County native and resident, was honored by the Library of Virginia as one of the 2009 Women in History. According to the news release from the Library of Virginia, the project honors "eight women, past and present, who have made important contributions to Virginia, the nation and the world." Ms. Terry is a member of the Patrick County Chamber.

Mr. John Broughton Gives Speech at Carroll County Historical Society Meeting

On April 20, Mr. John Broughton, President Emeritus, of the JEB Stuart Preservation Trust gave a moving speech in Hillsville at the Carroll County Courthouse, chronicling the life of Patrick County native and Civil War General, J. E. B. Stuart. Text of this speech will be provided upon request.

New Oil and Propane Business Coming to Stuart

Hall Oil and Propane has announced a ground breaking on Friday, April 24 at 11:00am for a new office complex next door to the W & W Produce on JEB Stuart Highway. They will build an office and storage facility. Their company's headquarters are in Walnut Cove, NC.

Spring Events announced for Patrick County

April 25, Second Annual Highland Games and Festival at Laurel Hill-Ararat
May 2 Spring Frolic at The Homestead in Critz
May 16 Strawberry Festival in the Town of Stuart
May 21 Cooking For A Cause-Stuart
May 22-24 Dominion Valley Gospel Sing at Dominion Valley Park near Stuart
May 23 Hit and Miss Engine Show in Meadows of Dan
June 6 Car Show at Fairystone Park near Stuart
June 12-13 Beach Music Festival at Wayside Park, near Stuart
June 20 Covered Bridge Festival at Woolwine
July 4 Car Show and Fourth of July Celebration at DeHart Park in Stuart
July 4-5 Crafts In The Meadows Show at Meadows of Dan

Floydfest Park near Meadows of Dan Announces programs for July

Across-the-Way Productions announces the Floyd Fandango Beer & Wine Festival for July 4 & 5 and the Floydfest Revival on July 23-26 at mile post 170.5 on the Blue Ridge Parkway. Floydfest is the largest Patrick County festival drawing approximately 12,000 in 2008. Their celebration has approximately 50 different bands.

Virginia State Peach Festival Schedule Set

THURSDAY, August 6 – Gospel Music & Singing at the Patrick Springs Fire House, Patrick Springs, VA, hosted by the JEB Stuart Volunteer Rescue Squad.

FRIDAY August 7- Virginia State Peach Pageant at the Historic Star Theatre, Stuart, VA,

SATURDAY, August 8 – Folk Fair at the Meadows of Dan business district. Meadows of Dan Merchants Association will be hosting the 5th annual Folk Fair in the business district

SATURDAY, August 8- join all your friends and neighbors for the traditional evening music celebration at Rotary Field. Bands: Sunset Drive and Upland Express. Gates open at 3:00 pm Music begins at 7:00 pm. Ticket price: \$12 advance, \$15 at the gate. Children 12-under \$5 Variety of food, crafters and exhibits.

Patrick County Board of Supervisors Vote for Referendum

April 14-Patrick County Board of Supervisors voted to take the Restaurant Meals Tax and “Liquor By The Drink” to the voters in the November election.

Patrick County Unemployment Rate Jumps

Patrick County, Virginia's jobless rate for December 2008 was 10.2%, January 2009 it was 11.5% and in February 2009 it was 13.3%. These are numbers reported by the Virginia Employment Commission.

Blue Ridge Parkway will celebrate their 75yr anniversary in 2010 (1935-2010)

Local communities are invited to participate in this celebration and link their festivals and events to the Parkway celebration. To learn how to work with this celebration contact Penny Lloyd at 540-772-2104 or plloyd@ronoakecountyva.gov. The Parkway with 469 miles of roadway, has more than 20 million visitors per year and has a \$2.3 billion economic impact to 29 counties in Virginia and North Carolina.

Chamber Business After Hours at the Blue Ridge Visitor Center

Chamber members and Meadows of Dan businesses will join in the May 12 Business After Hours at 5:30pm at the Blue Ridge Visitor Center on JEB Stuart Highway. Call the Chamber office to make reservations. This is an opportunity to see the Meadows of Dan **Crooked Road Kiosk** and an important Visitor Center that serves Parkway travelers.



EMBARQ offers Business-Class High-Speed Internet- One month of service free with your Chamber discount on 1.5 Mbps plan or higher (Two year agreement required). Also, combine your EMBARQ local and long distance services along with your Internet services on T1 facility. EMBARQ offers member's exclusive discounts in addition to being your single source for voice, data, Internet, wireless and entertainment solutions. 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.