



**Quarterly Newsletter**  
**Patrick County Chamber of Commerce**  
**October 16, 2009, Volume 5, Number 4**

*The Official Publication of the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce*

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

**Chamber Business After Hours Planned**

- Thursday, Nov. 5-5:00pm-7:00pm. at Blue Ridge Nursing Center and The Landmark Center, 227 Landmark Drive, Stuart, VA.
- Thursday, Dec. 3-5:30pm-7:00pm. at The R. J. Reynolds Homestead Continuing Education Center, 463 Homestead Lane, Critz, VA.

**New Members Reported as of October 14, 2009**

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

- Josephine Porter Institute for Applied Biodynamics-Woolwine
- Kibler Valley Post Office-Ararat
- Martha Scott Chaney-Author-Stuart
- Curves-Stuart
- H. C. Harold Orchard-Ararat
- Endeavor Consulting-Patrick Springs
- New Beginnings Retreat-Hillsville
- Town and Country Food Mart-Patrick Springs.

Welcome to all our new members!

**Recent Chamber Events**

- July 4 – Chamber provided a Tourism Information Table at the Stuart Fourth of July celebration.
- July 16 – Business After Hours at Surrey Bank and Trust-Stuart
- July 23-24 – Chamber provided a Tourism Information Table at the Floydfest on the Blue Ridge Parkway.
- July 25– Chamber provides Tourism Information Table at the Kibler Valley River Run-Claudville
- Aug. 13 – Ribbon Cutting at the new Claudville Computer lab.
- Aug. 24 – Ground breaking for the new Patrick County Jail.
- Aug. 29 – Ribbon cutting and grand opening at The Lodge at Primland
- Sept. 14 – Chamber does Tourism demo at the Lambsburg Welcome Center on I-77
- Sept. 17 – Business After Hours at Just Plain Country Store - Stuart
- Sept. 19 – Ribbon Cutting at the Angel Overlook, Squirrel Spur Road, Ararat
- Sept. 22-25 Chamber provided Tourism information table at the County Fair.
- Sept. 30 – Chamber sponsors 2 full page color ads for Martinsville Bulletin-advertising our businesses and October events in Patrick County

### **The Lodge At Primland Holds Grand Opening-Meadows of Dan, VA**

The new Lodge at Primland held a Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting on Saturday evening, August 29, 2009. The opening included a champagne Reception and House Party with special music. Primat family members who led the opening ceremony included: Ms. Bérengère Primat-Serval, President of Primwest and Mr. Harold Primat, President of Primland.

The opening included a multimillion dollar restaurant, lodge, observatory, health spa, and golf pro shop. The Lodge includes 26 luxuriously appointed suites with additional mountain cabins and Fairway Cottages. Other features include an observatory, theater, great room and 2 story wine room are housed in The Lodge. Also included are conferencing facilities, full service golf pro shop, fitness center and indoor swimming pool. Congratulations to owners, management and employees for an exquisite facility!

### **\$3 Million Paving of Blue Ridge Parkway Approved for 2010**

The Blue Ridge Parkway Maintenance Department has announced a paving project for approximately 22.5 miles of the Blue Ridge Parkway in Patrick, Carroll and Grayson Counties, Virginia at a cost of \$3 million. The contract is tentatively scheduled for advertisement in November 2009, with construction scheduled to begin in January 2010. The project is scheduled for completion 160 calendar days starting from the date when the contractor receives the official "Notice to Proceed" letter from the Contracting Officer.

### **Patrick County Unemployment Rate**

Patrick County, Virginia's jobless rate for June was 11.8%, July , 11.5% and Aug. 10.2%. These are numbers reported by the Virginia Employment Commission.

### **Meals Tax Referendum on the Ballot for Nov. 3 Election**

The Patrick County General Election ballot will include a 4% Restaurant Meals Tax Referendum on November 3, 2009. If approved by voters it will be County wide. The tax will be 4% upon food and beverages sold for human consumption by a restaurant as defined in Section 35.1-1 of the Code of Virginia. This will give County government another way of collecting taxes and lighten the burden on real and personal property tax. This meals tax does not include: 1.Boarding houses that do not accommodate transients, 2.Cafeterias operated by industrial plants for employees only, 3.Churches, fraternal, school and social organizations and Volunteer fire departments and rescue squads which hold occasional dinners, bazaars and other fund raisers of one or two days duration, 4.Churches which serve meals for their members as a regular part of their religious observances, 5.Non profit cafeterias in public schools, nursing homes and hospitals, and 6.Vending machines.

### **New Cell Phone Tower in Operation**

The new Verizon cell phone tower went into operation on July 29 near Meadows of Dan, VA. It sits at 3154 ft. elevation and the tower is 300 ft. tall and can be seen from the Blue Ridge Parkway.

### **New Verizon Office In Stuart**

A new Verizon cell phone office has been opened in Stuart, VA. Owner and operator is Terry Dalton. Location is next door to Tony's Pizza in Downtown Stuart.

### **Patrick And Franklin Counties Receive Grant for Smart Beginnings**

Patrick and Franklin Counties will receive a \$50,000 Grant for the Smart Beginnings Initiative which supports Early Education Initiative. The statewide Smart Beginnings initiative brings people together to help Virginia's youngest citizens, ages prenatal to five, to be better prepared for success in school and in life.

### **T U Parks Construction Office Now In Stuart, VA**

In August, Dr. Roger Morris, County School Supt. announced the presence of T. U. Parks, General Contractor, for all the school construction projects. Their office is located at 102 East Blue Ridge in Stuart, VA

### **Landmark Receives Award**

The Landmark Center in Stuart has received the 2009 D. A. "Woody" Brown Community involvement Award in the category of Year Round Program. The award was presented by the Virginia Health Care Association (VHCA) and Virginia Center for Assisted Living (VCAL), the statewide long term care association representing nursing facilities in Virginia as well as a growing number of assisted living facilities and continuing care retirement communities. This honor acknowledges the facility's exceptional programs that benefit residents and the community at large. Congratulations Landmark!

### **Virginia Smoking Ban In Restaurants Coming on Dec. 1-2009**

The Commonwealth's landmark smoking ban goes into effect, on Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>. Since the legislation passed earlier this year, Virginia Department of Health has been working with health care organizations, members of the restaurant and hospitality industry, other state agencies and local governments to develop common sense, cost-effective policies and procedures to implement and enforce the ban.

### **Dow Roofing Plant to Close-Westfield, NC- 100 jobs lost**

100 people will be losing jobs at the Dow Roofing Systems plant just south of the Patrick County Line in Stokes County, NC. Recent reports indicate 50% of the employees live in Patrick County. The plant is located at: 1535 Elastic Plant Road, Westfield, NC. Previously, the plant was Stevens Roofing Systems, prior to being bought by Dow Chemical.

**Blue Ridge Heritage Meeting** On September 29, 2009 The Gap Analysis Study Results were presented at the Chateau Morrisette Winery, in Meadows of Dan. The purpose of this meeting was to publicly report on the results of the Gap Analysis Study conducted by Clemson University and Virginia Tech. The Overall Goal of Blue Ridge Heritage is to develop a sustainable tourism centerpiece near Rocky Knob on the Blue Ridge Parkway, providing economic stimulus for Patrick and Floyd Counties.

The study conducted 312 on site interviews with tourists and used data trackers (GPS units) to determine the places visited while in the area. The study surveyed over 2800 potential visitors from targeted states of VA, NC, Pennsylvania, New York and Florida, and experienced a 29% response rate.

The centerpiece scenario recommendations included several alternatives, but high on the priority list was "Mountain Life" or "Farm Life" Center and Nature Trail. This would combine a visitor center with adjacent new trails, with self-guided travel routes that wander through both counties, and serve both visitors and local residents.

### **Community Artisans Loop Trail Brochure Now Available**

September 23- Patrick County's Community Loop Trail brochure, a project of Patrick County's Tourism Advisory Council and 'Round the Mountain', Southwest Virginia's Artisan Network, has been completed. Patrick County's Chamber of Commerce also supported this project. 10,000 copies will be distributed at welcome centers throughout Virginia and at Heartwood, the new artisans' center in Abingdon.

The full color brochure, part of 'Round the Mountain's' ongoing efforts to promote artisans and tourism in Southwest Virginia, features farms and agri-tourism as well as artists and crafters of Patrick County. A map with listings of Round the Mountain members and a trail to studios, farms and other sites is accompanied by pictures of scenic Patrick County and working artisans.

### **Angel Overlook Ribbon Cutting-Ararat, VA**

September 19 - The dedication and ribbon cutting for the new Angel Overlook was held on Squirrel Spur Road, near Ararat, VA. The Angel family donated access to the land for this overlook park at a very key location looking over a farm valley and mountain range. The park has picnic tables along a wood rail fence, with an informational kiosk and possesses magnificent views of the mountains which include Pilot Mountain and the Sauratown Mountain Range in North Carolina.

### **New Facebook Group For Patrick County**

Tom Bishop has added a new Facebook Group, "Patrick County, VA Friends". Membership is free. There are approximately 600 members. It shows lots of news, pictures and events. It is an opportunity to meet

your friends. Go to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and register.

#### **Mountain Rose Inn at Woolwine Recognized Again**

The Mountain Rose Inn of Woolwine, VA made the "Top 10 pick" for bed and breakfasts across America that cater to birders. Congratulations to Innkeepers, Dora Jane and Mike Barwick! They have scarlet tanagers and Kentucky warblers in the woods. Also, you can hear sounds of the pilated woodpecker and barred owl. You can watch kingfishers and green herons in the creek. *Reference: Bird and Blooms magazine, page 50, October/November 2009.*

#### **Sammy Shelor Inducted Into VA Music Hall of Fame**

Sammy Shelor, member of the bluegrass group, LONESOME RIVER BAND was inducted into the Virginia Music Hall of Fame during the Association's 10th Annual Bluegrass Festival at the Chesterfield, Virginia County Fairgrounds in September. Sammy and his wife, Sue, operate Mountain Meadows Farm and Craft Market in Meadows of Dan, VA.

#### **Christmas Ornaments On Sale Now**

The 2009 Chamber Christmas ornament is now on sale at the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce office, 20475 Jeb Stuart Highway. The price is \$10 each. The ornament is a beautiful picture of the Reynolds Homestead in Critz, VA. The Reynolds Homestead is the birthplace and boyhood home of Mr. Richard Joshua Reynolds, who started R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company. The home was built in 1843. Another member of the Reynolds family, Richard S. Reynolds, Sr., nephew of R. J., founded the Reynolds Metals Company.

#### **Construction Projects Underway in Patrick County**

Numerous construction projects are now underway which include: New offices for Step, Inc. and Hall Propane in Stuart, Rt. 8 Connector in Stuart, County Jail, and the Patrick County Schools construction which includes a new track at the High School. A new U. S. Cellular cell phone tower is planned for the Nettle Ridge area, just off Route 58 East of Stuart.

#### **Rick Boucher Speaks at Ribbon Cutting at Claudville, VA**

Congressman Rick Boucher, spoke at the Red Bank Ruritan Club in August for a ribbon cutting for the new Computer Lab. This Computer Lab will be available to the Claudville Community which is underserved with High Speed Internet Services. It should be very helpful for students, individuals and new businesses in the area.

#### **Gift Presentation - R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company Paintings**

On August 2, 2009, the Reynolds American Inc., Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer, Susan M. Ivey, presented 18 portraits of the Reynolds Tobacco Collection that were commissioned in the 1940's. A reception and presentation ceremony was held at the R. J. Reynolds Homestead at Critz, VA. Present were John E. Dooley, Vice President of Outreach and International Affairs-Virginia Tech, Kay Dunkley, Director, Reynolds Homestead, Susan M. Ivey, and Raymond D. Smoot, Jr. Chief Operating Officer, Virginia Tech Foundation.

#### **Candidates for Governor Visit Patrick County in August**

For the Peach Festival weekend in August, both candidates for governor, Creigh Deeds and Bob McDonnell, met and shook hands at Rotary Field in Stuart, as they talked to the press and local attendees. It was a great picture taking event, with the candidates taking a ride on the horse drawn wagon provided by Infinity Acres, one of our Patrick County Chamber members from Ridgeway, VA.

#### **Senator Reynolds Presents Check to Pioneer Community Hospital**

Senator Roscoe Reynolds presented a check to Joe McNulty, President and CEO of Pioneer Health Services for \$450,000 on July 14, 2009 for upgrades to the Patrick County Pioneer Community Hospital. The money is a grant from the Tobacco and Indemnification Fund and will help pay for the upgrades to the hospital.

**Aerial Machine and Tool Open New Plant in Stuart**

Aerial Machine & Tool has opened a new plant in Stuart, VA, providing 17 additional jobs, producing fire suppression systems, similar their Ararat, VA production facility. Their new plant location is the old Spencer Building, at 649 Johnson Street, Stuart, VA, just off U. S. Route 58 four-lane. The production process makes use of a new Gerber cutting machine, which cuts the Kevlar fabric for the fire suppression systems. Paul Davis is the manager of this plant location. This brings a total of 3 plants in Patrick County, operated by Aerial Machine, which includes the Ararat and Vesta locations.

**Bears Put on A Show at Lover's Leap-Near Stuart, VA**

Wild bear put on video show on **You Tube** web site at Lover's Leap Birdhouse Store, on Lover's Leap Mountain near Stuart, VA to view these videos use this link:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/loversleapbirdhouses>

They are seen reacting to the yard sprinkler system, eating peaches from tree and stealing the bird feeders. Bears have become a great Tourist Attraction for Patrick County in the summer of 2009. **Caution: Don't feed the bears!**



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