



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

For questions call 276-694-6012 Office, or 276-692-6174 Mobile

*E-Mail: patcchamber@embarqmail.com For More information check out our web site:
www.patrickchamber.com*

Griffith Lumber Expansion

Griffith Lumber of Woolwine, VA is doing a \$2.1 million expansion and adding 15 new jobs. They have received a grant of \$70,000 from the Tobacco Indemnification and Community Revitalization Commission. (April 13 Press Release from the Patrick County Economic Development Department)

Shaw Industries Purchases Stuart Flooring-Announcement on April 13

Shaw Industries of Dalton, GA purchased Stuart Flooring Corp. for an undisclosed sum of money. Shaw Industries is a subsidiary of Berkshire Hathaway, Inc.

Chamber Business After Hours Planned

Thursday, April 15, 5:30pm-7:30pm at Chateau Morrisette Winery, Meadows of Dan

Thursday, May 13, 5:30pm-7:00pm at Laurel Hill, Ararat Highway, Ararat, VA

Tuesday, June 1, 5:30-pm-7:00pm at Clement's Cherry Orchard, Ararat, VA

Be sure to call the Chamber office to RSVP for these exciting events!

Steve Helms Speaks at Chamber Banquet

Mr. Steve Helms, VP of Primland, was our speaker for the The Annual Chamber of Commerce Banquet held at Rotary Field. He did a great job of telling the Primland story from its inception to the present. Bennett's Baskets N Bows, Ms. Gail Bennett, did a fantastic job of decorating the banquet hall. Her theme was peach floral arrangements, peach ribbons and fresh peaches. One of our newest chamber members, Quality Catering of Martinsville did a fine job catering the event. Ms. Lisa Martin was installed as our 2010 Chamber President. Ms. Carol Beasley, Chamber President for 2009 was presented a plaque recognizing her work last year.

After Hours at Primland a Big Hit on March 18

Our After Hours event at the new Primland Restaurant was a tremendous hit with approximately 160 attendees. It was a great opportunity for local businesses to tour the new restaurant, pub, golf shop, hotel and observatory. This is the largest attendance for an After Hours program that we have experienced.

Patrick County Unemployment Rate

Patrick County, VA unemployment went to 13.8% in February, 2010, up from 12.9% in January, 2010. These are numbers reported by the Virginia Employment Commission.

Tom Bishop Reports on Chamber Membership

At the March 25th banquet, Tom Bishop, Executive Director reported that our Chamber membership stood at 319 at the end of 2009. This reflects a decline in membership from 325 at the end of 2008. He reported on business expansions that included the opening of the new Primland Lodge, Restaurant and Observatory, groundbreaking for a new County Jail, groundbreaking for Step, Inc. new office complex, ribbon cutting for the new offices for Hall Propane, expansion of Results of Stuart, building of a new Batting Center, construction of a new Verizon cell tower, Construction of the Rt. 8 connector road, construction of the Farm Market and Amphitheatre in Stuart, Uptown Stuart Revitalization project, several new business owners, and other business expansions.

Bishop talked about some of his passions for Patrick County which are:

- 1. Completion of the four-lane Rt. 58 from Stuart to Hillsville**
- 2. Providing handicap accessibility for the Stuart Post Office**
- 3. Keeping the membership and the general public informed through our Chamber News, Calendar of Events and Area Attractions on our Chamber web site.**
- 4. Repairing pavement on the Blue Ridge Parkway, Patrick County**
- 5. Tourism promotion. Tourism provides jobs and economic development. Tourism is an important business. Many of our members are largely in the tourism industry**

New Members Reported as of April 12, 2010

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

- Dr. Gregory Hutchens, DDS-Stuart
- Mary D. Hill-Individual-Ararat
- Partnership for the Arts-Stuart
- Devine Designs-Collinsville
- Wayne M. Kirkpatrick-Individual-Stuart
- My Home, Home Inspections, LLC – Martinsville
- Patrick County Alzheimers Group, LLC-Stuart
- Phoebe's Window Cleaning – Lawsonville, NC
- Edward Jones Financial Services – Woolwine
- Two By Two Barbeque-Meadows of Dan
- Hazelwood Rental Apartments-Stuart
- Hazelwood Homes Construction – Stuart
- Patrick County Taxpayer Watchdog Group-Claudville
- Natural Awakenings Magazine-Floyd
- Boy Scouts of America-Patrick Henry District-Martinsville
- Mechanical Designs of Virginia-Patrick Springs
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Welcome to all our new members!

Patrick County Board of Supervisors Approve 2010-2011 Annual Budget

On the evening of April 12, 2010 the Patrick County Board of Supervisors approved the annual budget of \$42.6 million for the upcoming fiscal year. The final vote came on a 3-2 vote with Roger Hayden, Dan River District and Crystal Harris of Smith River District voting no. The final budget included a \$5000

Tourism Budget Allocation to the Patrick County chamber of Commerce. This is a \$13,000 reduction from the \$18,000 allocated in the 2009-2010 budget year.

Patrick Powell Appointed to the Tourism Advisory Board

The Board appointed Patrick Powell, Dutchie's View Bed and Breakfast, in the Smith River District to the Tourism Advisory Committee for a 3 year term on April 12, 2010.

Personal Property-Machine and Tools Tax Rate Stays at \$1.71 per Hundred

At the April 12 Patrick County Board of Supervisors meeting, Roger Hayden, Dan River District Supervisor, made a motion to reduce the Personal Property and Machine and Tools tax rate from \$1.71 per 100 to \$1.53 per 100. This would have reduced County income by more than \$200,000. The motion failed. Then a motion was made to approve the rate at \$1.71 per hundred and it passed by a 3-2 vote.

Patrick County Visitors Come From Many States

Tom Bishop recently reported that 30 different states were visiting in our County, for the period of April 1-15. Tom calls this his "License Check" on visitors to Patrick County. During the course of his work day he meets lots of people from out of state and assists them with their travels. During the first quarter of 2010 the Chamber has mailed out Visitor Information packets to people as far away as Ft. Lauderdale, FL and Milwaukee, WI.

Karl Weiss Wins Drawing for Beautiful Birdhouse

Mr. Karl Weiss, Chairman of the Patrick County Board of Supervisors, representing the Blue Ridge District won the beautiful birdhouse at the Annual Chamber banquet on March 25, 2010. The birdhouse was donated to the Chamber for fund raising purposes by Henrietta Crafters from Lover's Leap Birdhouse store, on U. S. Route 58, near the community of Vesta.

Retail Sales For Patrick County over \$79 Million

For the time period, Feb. 1, 2009 to Jan. 31, 2010, Patrick County Taxable Sales Tax Revenue was \$79,025,075. This up by approximately \$1.3 million for the previous one year period

Small Business Forum Considered Success

On April 6 a Small Business Forum, "The Small Business Approach to Social Media Marketing" was held at the P. H. Community College with Ms. Melissa Richards as the presenter from Virginia Tech. It was a very well attended event with approximately 50 people in attendance. The event was sponsored by the Reynolds Homestead, Patrick Henry Community College and the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce.

THANKS TO OUR CORPORATE GOLD CLUB MEMBERS

They are: Angels Above Design, The Reserve at Fairystone, Lambert United Country Realty, SamCo Construction, Brian Jessup, CPA, River Community Bank, Primland Resort, Fun Facts Radio, Clark Gas & Oil, Patrick County Dancing Arts, The Landmark Center and Blue Ridge Nursing, Workforce Career Center, and Parkway Technology Solutions. These businesses place ads on the Chamber Web Page.

Mountain Valley Hospice Will Dedicate Memorial Brick Walkway

Mountain Valley Hospice & Palliative Care will dedicate a memorial brick walkway at a special ceremony on June 26, from 11:00am until 2:00pm, at the Hospice Memory Garden at DeHart Park in Stuart, Virginia. There is still time to purchase a memorial brick and have it inscribed with the name of a loved one or friend. The deadline for ordering bricks is April 23, 2010. Each brick costs \$25. For additional information, contact Sue Jones, 276-694-2277 or Connie Casagrande at 276-694-4416.

Jeb Stuart Preservation Trust Offers Opportunity to Purchase Memory Bricks

Would you or anyone you know like to order a brick to honor or in memory of some Loved one for the floor of the Pavilion at Jeb Stuart's Birthplace, Laurel Hill, Ararat, VA? The dead line for ordering the bricks is April 20th and the cost is \$50.00. If you are interested call Ms. Shirley Keene, at telephone: 276-694-6429, e-mail address: mkeene@embarqmail.com

Patrick County Chamber Office Is An Information Location for US Census

The Patrick County Chamber of Commerce is a "Be Counted" site where U. S. Census information can be disseminated. Questionnaires can be picked up at a Point of Sale display. This will be the case for a 4 week period, March 19-April 19, 2010.

County Wide Litter Pick-Up Campaign

The Community Wide Litter Pick-Up in Patrick County is underway now through May 31. This is in conjunction with the statewide Stewardship Virginia campaign with projects that enhance and conserve Virginia's natural and cultural resources. Everyone join in and volunteer to help in this "Self Directed" clean up along our road sides. The Patrick County Chamber of Commerce, Soil and Water Conservation District and the Town of Stuart, are working with local businesses, civic clubs, churches, and individuals to make our community look brighter. Be safe!

Peach Festival Sponsor Candidates-Let Us Hear From You

Any business or organization wishing to become a sponsor for the Virginia State Peach Festival held during the week of August 16-21, in Patrick County, please get in touch with the Chamber office for more details.

Highland Games and Festival On April 24th At Ararat, VA

The J.E.B. Stuart Birthplace Preservation Trust will host the 3rd Annual Laurel Hill Highland Games and Festival on April 24th, 2010, rain or shine. There will be a wide variety of activities for the whole family to enjoy. Scottish Heavy Athletics, best known for the throwing of the tree, bagpipes by the Jamestown Pipes and Drums, music by Reenee Henry Harvish and local favorites the CeltHix. Other attractions include living history exhibits, Scottish and other craft vendors, axe and tomahawk throwing demonstration and competition, petting zoo with a wide variety of animals provided by Infinity Acres, and a strongman demonstration. There will also be a large selection of food available. Starts at 9:00 and ends at 5:00 pm. Admission is \$6:00 for adults and children 12 and under are free. Parking is free. Laurel Hill is located at 1091 Ararat Highway near Ararat VA. For more information go to www.jebstuart.org , or email at laurelhill@jebstuart.org or call 276-251-1833.

Highland Golf Course Pictured on the Virginia Golf Guide

Primland's Highland Golf Course graces the cover of the 2010 Virginia Golf Guide. Golf lovers can receive a free copy of the 2010 Virginia Golf Guide from the Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center. Primland's Highland Course was named best new course by Golf Digest in 2008 and is located in the Meadows of Dan Community of Patrick County.



CenturyLink™

Contact Anthony Porch Business Sales Consultant with CenturyLink (formerly Embarq) for all of your small business telecommunications needs. CenturyLink sells and services Nortel, Cisco, and Avaya business telephone systems. CenturyLink bundles its services on your bill for high speed internet, voice, local and long distance to save you money. All of your personal or business telecommunications needs can be met with CenturyLink.

CenturyLink continues to roll out high speed internet in various communities in Patrick County. They are committed to reach 90% of our residents by the end of 2010. Many thanks to CenturyLink for helping our residents with high speed service which is extremely valuable for students and home based businesses.

Businesses may Contact Anthony.S.Porch@CenturyLink.com or call 276-666-4253 for a free consultation or visit www.CenturyLink.com!

CenturyLink was a sponsor for the Annual Chamber Banquet and the Annual Virginia State Peach Festival.



Good Technology = Investment

Bad Technology = Expense

Good technology doesn't come from a box that your "computer guy" picked up at the local retailer.

Good technology comes from planning, research, and thorough investigation of your needs.

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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.