



Quarterly Newsletter
Patrick County Chamber of Commerce
February 28, 2010, Volume 6, Number 1

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*

Chamber Business After Hours Planned

Thursday, March 18, 2010, 5:30-pm-7:00pm at Primland, Meadows of Dan

Thursday, April 15, 5:30pm-7:00pm at Blue Ridge Propane, Main Street, Stuart

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

Chamber Banquet Rescheduled for March 25

The Annual Chamber of Commerce Banquet is now scheduled for Thursday, March 25, at 6:30pm. The location is at the John D. Hooker Building (Rotary) in Stuart. For those who have already registered for this event, please call the Chamber office to confirm you reservation. For those who had not reserved for this event, you still have opportunity to make the reservation list. Call 276-694-6012

Results of Stuart Adds 135 New Jobs-Stuart –Nov. 23

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony was held at Results of Stuart and an announcement of 135 new jobs. The Ribbon Cutting acknowledged a new “build out” of the In Bound Call Center of 6000 sq. feet.

New Construction Cost Reaches \$28.1 Million In Patrick County-2009

The 2009 new construction costs reached \$28.1 million in Patrick County, VA showing a 23% increase over 2008. Commercial construction outpaced new home construction. Commercial Construction costs showed a 262% increase in 2009 as compared to 2008 reaching \$18.8 million (2008 was \$5.3 million.) New Home construction was down by 45.8%, with 2009 only reaching \$6.5 million, whereas 2008 was \$12.0 million

Daily Bread Diner Opens In Downtown Stuart

Elaine and Andy Shouse have opened the Daily Bread Diner in downtown Stuart at 312 Patrick Avenue. A ribbon cutting ceremony will be held on Friday, March 5, at 10:30am.

Norris Funeral Services Begins Service in Patrick County

Norris Funeral Services has taken over the funeral business previously run by Community Funeral in Stuart, VA. A ribbon cutting and opening ceremony was held on March 1st.

Lemont Bryant Receives Iron Man Award-Stuart

In December, Stuart Fire Captain Lemont Bryant received coveted 'Iron Man' Award at the Stuart Volunteer Fire Department Christmas Banquet. The award is given to the firefighter who responded to the most dispatched calls. Lemont is co-owner of Fun Facts Radio, a 24 hour a day Internet radio station.

Tom Bishop Receives Community Service Award From Stuart Rotary

On Dec. 14, Tom Bishop, Executive Director, Patrick County Chamber of Commerce, received a Community Service Award from the Stuart Rotary Club. Janice Wilkins, President of the Stuart Rotary Club, presented Community Service Awards to Tom Bishop, Former Sheriff David Hubbard and Wilbur Walker.

New Members Reported as of February 8, 2010

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

- C & F Mortgage-Roanoke
- Gammons Excavation-Ararat
- Skyscape Cabins-Martinsville
- Ten Oaks-Stuart – Re-instatement
- PuroClean-Martinsville
- Holiday Inn Express-Martinsville
- Anderson Plumbing-Danbury, NC
- Dalton Communications (Verizon)-Stuart
- Dry Pond Café-Stuart
- The Perfect Pair-Hillsville
- Orkin Pest Control-Danville
- Home P18 Batting Center-Stuart
- The White House-Stuart
- Stifel Nicholas-Martinsville
- Layman's Tire Service-Patrick Springs
- Grace Baptist Church-Stuart
- Hunter's Chapel Assembly Church-Ararat
- Middle Cross Baptist Church-Stuart
- Warren Rodgers Music-Stuart
- Quality Catering-Martinsville
- Smoky Mt. Alpacas-Stuart
- Blue Ridge Furniture-Stuart
- Martinsville Mustangs-Martinsville
- Norris Funeral Services-Stuart
- Daily Bread Diner-Stuart
- Good News Journal-Lambsburg

Welcome to all our new members!

Recent Chamber Events

- Oct. 3-4 Tourism Information Table at the Civil War Reenactment-Laurel Hill
- Oct. 13- Business After Hours at The Hollow History Center-Ararat
- Nov. 6 – Chamber provided an Information Table at the Senior's Health Fair
- Dec. 3 – Business After Hours at The Homestead, Critz
- Feb. 4 – Business After Hours at Pioneer Community Hospital, Stuart

Richard Rogers of WHEO Interviews Gov. Elect Bob McDonnell-Dec. 16

Richard Rogers, morning talk show host of WHEO 1270AM in Stuart, VA interviewed Governor Elect Bob McDonnell on Dec. 16, 2009 at the Pre-Legislative Luncheon in Martinsville, VA. On hand also for this event were Lt. Gov. Bill Bolling, Del. Ward Armstrong, Sen. Roscoe Reynolds, Del. Danny Marshall and Del. Don Merricks. The event was hosted by the Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce.

Mary Jordon Receives Community Service Award-Henry County

Dec. 16, Spencer-Penn Centre Executive Director Mary Jordon had just presented an update about the center to the Henry County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday night when she got a surprise: The board presented her with the 2009 Jack Dalton Community Service Award. Jordan was the driving force in the transformation of Spencer-Penn from a closed elementary school to a vibrant community center, a county news release states.

Morgan Shepherd Ministries Donates \$20,000 to PARC Workshop

Morgan Shepherd, representing Victory in Jesus Racing Ministries, NASCAR car number 89, presented a \$20,000 check to Henry Ayers, Director of PARC Workshop in Stuart, VA on Dec. 14, 2009. Various celebrities were on hand for the event including, Dennis Setzer, No. 8, Nationwide Series Truck Racer, Brett Rowe, car no. 75, NASCAR Nationwide Series, Mark Garrow of PRN (Performance Racing Network), Radio Broadcaster, Barry McGee, Entertainer, and David Browning "Mayberry Deputy".. Barry McGee represents Barry McGee Ministries (Many Characters for Christ) and is the ICM Comedian of the Year.

Roger Hayden Sworn In As Member of Patrick Board of Supervisors

Roger Hayden of the Dan River District, Claudville, VA was sworn in as a new member of the Patrick County Board of Supervisors in the Historic Patrick County Courthouse, December 15, 2009. He used the Bible of his mother, Peggy Hayden Tilley. He is a lifetime resident of the Dan River District in Patrick County, Virginia.

Step, Inc. Awarded \$1.2 Million Grant-Head Start

Jon Morris, Executive Director of Step, Inc. announced they had been awarded a \$1.2 million grant to provide Early Head Start for Franklin and Patrick Counties. This grant will allow them to serve 80 infants, toddlers, and their families. Jon said, "In Patrick County, we will be constructing a new Early Head Start classroom building on our property, behind our current building, at 4559 Wayside Road, Stuart."

December Ribbon Cuttings in Patrick County

- Layman's Tire Service on U. S. Route 58 East of Patrick Springs. New owner is Daren Layman
 - Endeavor Consulting at 22059 Jeb Stuart Highway, Patrick Springs. New owner is Joshua Martin
 - Town and Country Market in Patrick Springs. New owners are Brian and Misty Ratliff.
- We congratulate the new business owners and wish them great success.

Claudville, VA First Community In America to Use White Spaces-December, 2009

It's called white space, industry lingo for the unused TV spectrum left after the switch from analog to digital. And now that the transition is almost complete, technology companies are hoping to use the freed space to transmit high-speed broadband signals to some of the most isolated parts of the country. The pilot project in Claudville, is headed by Florida-based technology firm Spectrum Bridge. It could bring high-speed Internet access to a population that currently has little, a phenomenon that Patrick County officials claim has exacerbated the problems of industries and schools.

Roger Hayden, supervisor-elect of the Dan River district, added at a press conference recently that in 2004 he called every Internet carrier he could find, but no one was willing to offer high-speed Internet access to Claudville.

This is the first white-space test in America. Claudville Computer Center, the hub of this pilot project, is hosted by the Red Bank Ruritan Club. The center, which offers high-speed Internet service and five computers, was launched in September thanks to a grant from the TDF Foundation.



Consulting & Advice--Cost Cutting Open Source Solutions

Need to digitize health records? Need to buy a new server? We open the doors to open source - save thousands by not paying a cent for software! Conveniently located at 22059 JEB Stuart Highway,

Patrick Springs, VA, Telephone: 276-692-2043, Email: info@endeavorcorp.com

Website: www.endeavorcorp.com

Virginia Smoking Ban In Restaurants

The Commonwealth's landmark smoking ban went into effect, on Dec. 1st

Patrick County Unemployment Rate

Patrick County, Virginia's jobless rate for Dec. 2009 was 11.4%, November 2009, 10.6%. These are numbers reported by the Virginia Employment Commission.

Meals Tax Referendum Rejected on Nov. 3 Election

The Patrick County General Election ballot included a 4% Restaurant Meals Tax Referendum on November 3, 2009. It was rejected by the voters.

Town of Stuart Constructs Crooked Road Kiosk-Stuart, VA

The Town of Stuart has constructed a new Crooked Road Kiosk and wayside sign on Blue Ridge Street, next door the Post Office and the County Courthouse. It was completed on February 19, 2010. Thanks Town of Stuart for entering into this partnership with the now famous Heritage Crooked Road Music Trail

Layoffs Announced at RotoMetrics in Meadows of Dan, VA

Employees at the RotoMetrics plant at Meadows of Dan were notified of layoffs on Friday, Feb. 12, 2010. Reportedly, 88 people were laid off. The company is idling one portion of the Meadows of Dan plant, consolidating activities in their St. Louis, MO location. Layoffs are effective April 20, 2010

Ararat Forms Tourism Committee

The Ararat Community has formed a Tourism Committee dedicated to celebrating Agricultural Heritage and Music annually in May. The first celebration will be on May 22nd, 2010 and will include a farm parade, antique cars, local foods, and agricultural/heritage demonstrations. For more information call 276-251-8287

Fish Virginia Organization Meets at Fairystone Park-Stuart

The Fish Virginia First organization held their monthly board meeting at Fairystone Park, near Stuart, VA on Feb. 12. This organization is working on a project to heavily promote fishing in over 40 Western counties in Virginia where fishing is a great tourism attraction.

Virginia State Peach Festival Planned for 2010

The Virginia State Peach Festival will be held in Patrick County during the week beginning August 15. The Peach Pageant will be on August 16, The Gospel Sing on August 19, Friday night Music Celebration in Stuart on August 20 and the Annual Folk Fair at Meadows of Dan on August 21. Musicians for the Friday night celebration will be Sunset Drive and Poverty Level. Look for more announcements soon!

Patrick County Chamber Office will be Information Location for US Census

The Patrick County Chamber of Commerce will be 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.

Patrick County, VA Winter Weather Has Been Severe

On February 5, 2010, Patrick County experienced another winter storm. Heavy wet snow, rain, and sleet. It was messy with trees falling and tree limbs all over the road. Much of Patrick County lost power on evening of February 5. This has been the worst winter in many years.



Make your new year's resolution! 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 is excited to roll out our newest high speed internet area located on Route 1003 in the Ararat exchange.

They are working diligently to continue to bring high speed internet to Patrick County residents. The following sites are slated for 2010!

Stuart Exchange - Claudville / Cox Ridge Area - Turning up in February 2010 Bassett Exchange - County Line Rd. area - Turning up February 2010 Woolwine Exchange - Highway 57area - Turning up in March 2010 Spencer Exchange - Stella area - Turning up in April 2010

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

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