Downtown Stuart Farm Market Construction Complete
On October 22, 2010, the new Farm Market structure was initiated and put into use for the “Pumpkin Palooza”. It is a great facility for locally produced products to be sold. Congratulations, Town of Stuart!

Chamber Business After Hours Planned
- November 16, Mountain Valley Hospice and Palliative Care, Patrick Springs, VA, “Open House and Chamber After Hours”, at 5:30pm.
- December 2, Business After Hours, at 5:30pm, at The Reynolds Homestead, “Victorian Christmas”, Critz.

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

Annual Chamber Banquet Planned
The Annual Chamber Banquet is planned for Friday, January 14, 6:00pm, Rotary Field, J. D. Hooker Building, Stuart. (Our back up date is February 11 in case of bad weather)

2011 Virginia State Peach Festival Schedule Announced
The 24th ANNUAL VIRGINIA STATE PEACH FESTIVAL is set for: Friday, August 19 in Stuart and Saturday, August 20, in Meadows of Dan (Folk Fair)

New Members Reported as of October 25, 2010
The following new members have been added since the last newsletter:
- The Insurance Shop-Stuart
- The Alzheimer’s Association of Central and Western Virginia-Charlottesville
- Debbie Bennett-Beauty Consultant and Gospel Singing Artist-Danbury, NC
- Rotometrics – Meadows of Dan
- The Longbranch Saloon-Lawsonville, NC
- Mom and Pop Antique Mall-Stuart
- Jake’s Barber Shop-Stuart
- Clyde Turner’s Cars and Trucks-Stuart
- Virginia Tourism Corporation-Lambsburg
- WSGR 47 & 44 TV- Star News-Martinsville

Welcome to all our new members!
Chamber Advertising Programs Available
We will be signing up Corporate Gold Club web advertisements for year 2011 soon. Cost is $750 per year. Also, any business interested in advertising in the Blue Ridge Visitor Center in Meadows of Dan, we can post your sign, 24” X 36” for $350 per year. Anyone interested in these two advertisement programs, contact the Executive Director.

Chamber Web Site Now Has Community Videos
To view Patrick County Community Videos, go to the Chamber web site, in the 2nd column, near the bottom of the Home Page and select the video you wish to view. www.patrickchamber.com

Chamber Has Facebook Site
Anyone wishing to become a member of our Chamber Facebook Groups, we encourage you to select them. They are as follows:
- Patrick County, VA Friends (currently has 693 members)
- Virginia State Peach Festival (currently has 136 members)
Facebook now has 500 million active members. Half of these member log on daily. Wow!

Patrick County Visitors Ranking-Top States
Here is the ranking of the highest count of Visitors to Patrick County by top 10 states:

“Dick and Willie” Birdhouse Drawing Winner Announced.
The winner of the drawing for the beautiful “Dick and Willie” birdhouse was Anita Prutting, employee of Piedmont Community Services (Horizons’ office). Crafters for this birdhouse were Mr. and Mrs. Henry Mickles of Henrietta Crafters at Lover’s Leap. Drawing was conducted at the Virginia State Peach Festival in August. This birdhouse helps us remember the Danville and Western train that used to run from Danville to Stuart.

Citizens Telephone to Build 186 Miles of Fiber Cable
Citizens Telephone Cooperative of Floyd, VA will build 186 miles of fiber cable across seven Southwest Virginia Counties to up-grade high-speed Internet access in the New River and Roanoke Valleys. The project is being underwritten by $9.2 million in Federal Funds over a 3 - year period. Another $6.9 million will provide a similar expansion in the Lexington area. Source: Roanoke Times and the Virginia Business magazine, October 2010

2010 Chamber Collector Ornament Now Available.
The Patrick County of Chamber Commerce has announced the release of the 2010 Collector Christmas Ornament which is a picture of the “Peaches” the Patrick County bear from Lover’s Leap Mountain. The ornament shows a picture of “Peaches” the bear, and colorful pictures of Patrick County peaches. The photo of “Peaches” was made by Jessica Robinson, of Henrietta Crafters. The photo of the peaches was made by Chamber Executive Director, Tom Bishop. “Peaches” has been observed by the owners of Henrietta Crafters over a period of 3 years, and is very easily identified by the brown spots over her eyes. “Peaches” got her name from when she was younger and was climbing a peach tree and eating Patrick County peaches. She also has peach dots over her eyes. “Peaches” has been seen this summer with 2 bear cubs. Ornament Price is: $10.00. Other items available with “Peaches” the bear are the Collector Mug ($8.00) T-Shirt ($10.00) and Window Decal ($5.00).

Locations to purchase the ornaments are: Surry Bank and Trust, Sun Trust Bank, Wanda’s Estate Jewelry, Christmas In The Meadows, River Community Bank, BB&T Bank, Henrietta Crafters, Four Rivers, Town of Stuart and the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce.

Jake’s Barber Shop Holds Ribbon Cutting
A ribbon cutting ceremony was held for Jake’s Barber Shop on Orchard Street, Stuart, on September 14, 2010, recognizing this new business in town. The owner and barber is Carrie Atchley. The barber shop is located just off Main Street, next door to Swails Insurance.
Bishop Writes Governor McDonnell About Completing Rt. 58
Sept. 27–Tom Bishop, Executive Director of the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce, has written Gov. McDonnell about using the money now available for road construction for U. S. Route 58 from Stuart to Hillsville. “Press reports say there is more than $800 million available for new construction projects for highways in Virginia by December 2010. I am delighted to hear! We have a great need here in our community for the completion of the missing link of Route 58 between Stuart in Patrick County and Hillsville in Carroll County. Due to the high unemployment and the depressed economy we think this would be a great project to boost economic development in this area of Virginia. This would open up this corridor up for new businesses, add to local businesses for lodging, food sales, and other economic benefits. I speak on behalf of our businesses and residents in this area, and recommend that you promote completion of this critical segment of 4-lane highway. I look forward to your response.”

Patrick County Chamber of Commerce Continues to Provide Tourist Info At Festivals
The Patrick County Chamber has provided a Tourism Information table to the following events since our last news letter:

- Kibler Valley River Run, July 31, Claudville
- Patrick County Fair, September 21-25, Stuart
- Civil War Reenactment, October 2-3, at Laurel Hill, Ararat
- Patrick County Music Association, Fall Fest, October 23, Stuart

These events continue to be great opportunities to reach out to the Tourists visiting Patrick County.

Patrick County Chamber of Commerce Recognized by U. S. Census Bureau
The U. S. Census Bureau has recognized the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce being a partner in the 2010 Census.

"The U. S. Census Bureau hereby recognizes Patrick County Chamber of Commerce as a valued partner and offers appreciation for your support in raising the awareness and inspiring participation in the 2010 Census."

"Your efforts to help achieve a complete and accurate census count have made a lasting impact on the nation."

Signed: Dr. Robert M. Groves, Director, U. S. Census Bureau, July 14, 2010

Patrick Springs Water and Sewer Project Holds Ground Breaking
The ground breaking for the Patrick Springs Water and Sewer Project was held August 17, 2010. Congressman Rick Boucher led the groundbreaking for the project near Four River Realty in Patrick Springs, VA. Senator Roscoe Reynolds and Del. Ward Armstrong were also on hand.

U. S. Department of Agriculture through its Rural Development Agency provided a total or $5,010,000 in federal funds. Of that amount, $1,467,000 was a federal grant and $3, 543,000 was low-interest loans. This system will bring water to more than 210 homes, businesses and the Patrick Springs Elementary School and provide sewer services for more than 55 homes and businesses. It will also enable new residential growth in this part of Patrick County.

The Reynolds Homestead Holds Ribbon Cutting for Tobacco Barn
The Reynolds Homestead at Critz, VA held a ribbon cutting for the newly constructed Historic Tobacco Barn on October 13, 2010. Leading the ceremony was Kay Dunkley, Executive Director of The Homestead. On hand for the ceremony was Noah Reynolds, 9th generation member of the Reynolds family, John Dooley, VP of International Affairs at Virginia Tech, Ben Davenport from the Reynolds Advisory Committee, Senator Roscoe Reynolds (D) - Ridgeway, Honorable Mary Sue Terry, Former VA Attorney General from Critz and other Reynolds family members.

River Bank Holds Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at New Building in Stuart
On September 21, River Community Bank, N. A. held a ribbon cutting ceremony at their new bank location in Stuart, VA. The ribbon included $400 in $20 bills which were donated to the Patrick County Food Bank. Those on hand for this event included River BankCorp Inc. Corporate officers/directors and Patrick County Government Officials. The new location is at 48 Animal Clinic Road, just off U. S. Route 58 East of Stuart.
Southern Living Tells of Patrick County Businesses in October Edition
Southern Living, October, 2010 did an article on "Secret Spots On The Blue Ridge" and included these Patrick County Businesses: Mayberry Trading Post, Mabry Mill and Poor Farmer’s Market of Meadows of Dan, VA. Also mentioned was the Blue Ridge Music Center at Milepost 213. Here is a Quote from the magazine article: “Route 66 may be the Mother Road, but the Blue Ridge Parkway is America's Motor Road, our most popular National Park.”

Mom and Pop Antique Mall Holds Ribbon Cutting
Mom and Pop Antique Mall in Downtown Stuart, VA held a ribbon cutting ceremony on October 18, 2010, acknowledging the re-opening of the store under new management. The new owners are Howard and Roxanne Dowell. The Patrick County Chamber assisted them in the ribbon cutting ceremony with Chamber Directors in attendance and Tom Rose, Acting County Administrator. The store is located at 301 S. Main Street in downtown Stuart.

Primland Continues to Receive More Publicity
JetsettersMagazine.com recently published a colorful article about Primland at Meadows of Dan. Here is what they had to say: “It may be described as secluded, quiet, and peaceful, but Primland is perhaps the only resort of its kind where a luxurious atmosphere is matched with pampering at no extra cost. This resort in Virginia also borders North Carolina and can be recognized as a hidden paradise where the quiet atmosphere is sometimes interrupted by the cool breeze that passes over the plateau of the mountain top on which it was constructed.”

Reynolds Homestead Creates Leaf Trail
The Reynolds Homestead Continuing Education and Forest Resources Research centers have partnered together to create a new experience for visitors to the property: A LEAF Trail Self-Guided Interpretive Forest Tour. LEAF (Links to Education About Forests) is a partnership with the Virginia Cooperative Extension and the Virginia Department of Forestry’s Conservation Education Program. The trail is 1.0 mile and combines learning about natural resources use and heritage tourism. The trail is open dawn to dusk, daily.

Tom Bishop Represents Patrick County at Blue Ridge Parkway 75 Year Celebration
Tom Bishop was the Patrick County representative at the 75th Anniversary Celebration at the Blue Ridge Music Center on Sept. 11, 2010. He along with 28 other bordering counties to the Blue Ridge Parkway National Park, were properly represented and made commemorative speeches. During the afternoon at the Amphitheatre stage a Community Roll Call was made allowing each county Honor Representative to speak. Tom presented the quilt patch to Parkway Supt. Phil Francis which was the Patrick County emblem. He also presented the Patrick County proclamation celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the Parkway.

Patrick Springs Primary School Named Blue Ribbon School
Patrick Springs Primary School, Patrick Springs, VA has been named a Blue Ribbon School, by the U. S. Department of Education. The School Principal is Mrs. Andrea Cassell. The U. S. Department of Education has recognized 304 schools as National Blue Ribbon Schools. They will be recognized in an awards ceremony November 15-16 in Washington, DC.

Jay Scudder Resigns as County Administrator
Jay Scudder resigned as Patrick County Administrator on September 13. He has taken a job in Fluvanna County, VA. Temporarily, Tom Rose will be Interim County Administrator until a new person is selected.
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.