



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

**New Members Reported as of December 8, 2011**

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

- Kanawha Valley Arena – Dugspur, VA
- Dr. David Jones, Orthodontist-Martinsville
- Tin Pen Alley – Stuart
- Cabins Off The Parkway-Willis
- American Red Cross- Stuart/Martinsville
- A Cabin On Hilltop Farm-Ararat
- Willis Gap Community Center-Ararat
- The Foothills Times- Westfield, NC
- Meadows of Dan Insurance Company-Meadows of Dan
- Springs of Life Camp-Patrick Springs
- Best of Patrick County Magazine-Floyd

Welcome to all our new members!

**Anonymous Donor Gives Christmas Bonus to 10 Patrick County Residents**

**Due to the generosity of an anonymous donor, the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce has been granted a fund to give 10 hardworking fulltime Patrick County citizens who have worked for a company for at least three years and make \$45,000 or less a \$250 Christmas bonus. Businesses should go to the Chamber web site, [www.patrickchamber.com](http://www.patrickchamber.com), and log in with e-mail address and password to register their employees. Deadline is 12 midnight on December 12, 2011. Call the Chamber office if you have questions.**

**U. S. Route 58 Corridor Improvements**

Governor Bob McDonnell has made this announcement on December 6. “VDOT negotiated a \$119.75 million amendment under its existing PPTA contract with Branch Highways Inc. to build the next phase of Route 58 improvements along the 36-mile corridor between Hillsville and Stuart. Under the PPTA agreement, construction is expected to begin in spring 2012 to widen 8.2 miles of Route 58 between Meadows of Dan and Laurel Fork. This project is referred to as the Tri-County (3.2 miles) and Laurel Fork (5 miles) sections of Route 58.”

**Chamber Banquet Planned-2012**

The date is February 3, 2012, at John D. Hooker Building, Rotary Field, Stuart. The guest speaker will be Dr. Liam Lieghtley from The Institute for Advanced Learning & Research in Danville.

### **Pioneer Medical Holds Ribbon Cutting for Clinic-Spencer**

Pioneer Medical held a ribbon cutting and opening ceremony for their new family medical clinic on A. L. Philpott Highway, Spencer, VA on December 5, 2011. The new clinic is operated by Pioneer Community Hospital of Stuart, VA

### **Recent Ribbon Cuttings**

Sept. 10 at Middle Cross Baptist Church, Stuart

Sept. 28 at EMI, Stuart (announcing new jobs)

Sept. 30 at Mayo River Trail, Stuart

Oct. 11 at Griffith Lumber Company, Woolwine (re-opening of the sawmill)

Oct. 13 at Stanburn Winery, Stuart

Oct. 16 at Grace Baptist, Stuart

Nov. 4, Mountain Mill Gifts, Meadows of Dan

Nov. 17, Tin Pen Alley bowling center, Stuart

Dec. 5, Pioneer Family Medical Clinic, Spencer

Dec. 8, Patrick County High School, Stuart (building improvements and renovation)

### **Stuart, VA Now Listed In Sign Post Forest-Yukon Territory**

The sign, "Stuart, VA" has been posted in the historic Sign Post Forest, in Watson Lake, Yukon, Canada, thanks to Richard Lawson a local resident of Stuart (Patrick County, VA). The sign was provided by the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce. Richard Lawson and his wife, Ruth, made an extended trip to Alaska, traveling through Canada. They visited the Sign Post Forest in Watson Lake, and posted the new sign in behalf of our town and County. The number signs posted at Watson Lake probably exceed 60,000. The Lawson's posted a sign for Dry Pond, VA too.

### **EMI Adds 25 New Jobs In Patrick County-September**

According to Adam Wright, President of EMI in Stuart, VA, EMI has been in the process of revolutionizing the way information can be retrieved from numerous legacy formats. This has created 25 new jobs in Patrick County, VA.

### **AT&T Cell Towers Under Construction-Patrick County**

Three new AT & T Cell Phone towers are under construction in Patrick County on the U. S. 58 Corridor. The towers will be 250 foot tall and will be the lattice style. These towers will permit co-location by other Cellular Phone companies. The 3 sites are identified as follows: 1. Stella Road, in the Stella Community, 2. Vernon Drive near Patrick Springs and 3. South Fork Loop, near South Fork Farm.

### **Griffith Lumber Re-Opens Sawmill-Woolwine**

Griffith Lumber Company of Woolwine, VA held a ribbon cutting celebration on Tuesday, October 11, 2011, conducted by the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce. Griffith Lumber of Woolwine, VA received a grant for \$70,000 from the Virginia Tobacco Indemnification Fund on May 26, 2010 to rebuild the saw mill that was destroyed by fire. They have saved approximately 50 jobs in Patrick County and added even more. The sawmill was destroyed by fire on April 23, 2009. This business has been in existence since 1933.

### **Roger Anglin Recognized as "Super CPA"**

Roger Anglin, former resident of Stuart, VA and member of the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce has been recognized as 2011 Super CPA by the Virginia Society of Certified Public Accountants. Roger Anglin works for Brown Edwards, in Roanoke, VA.

### **Job Fair Held In Stuart**

A Job Fair was held On October 14th, 2011, in Stuart, VA by the Workforce Career Center.

The following businesses participated: EMI Imaging, Primland, Narroflex, Basic Linens, Results of Stuart, Worley's Machine, Patrick County Building Supply and Shaw Industries.

### **Patrick Chamber Member Receives Recognition**

Debbie Bennett, of Debbie Bennett Ministries, was chosen as "Woman of the year 2011" from the American Biographical Institute. The International Board of Research chose Debbie based on research from studies of over 1 million individuals throughout the world who have excelled in their professions.

### **Grace Baptist Church of Stuart, VA Holds Grand Opening**

Grace Baptist of Stuart, VA, just off U. S. Route 58 held a grand opening and celebration and ribbon cutting for their new sanctuary, October 16, 2011. The new church is located at: 14087 Jeb Stuart Highway Intersection of Highway 8 and Highway 58, Stuart, VA 24171

### **Hometown Hero Honored**

The Ararat community held a homecoming picnic at Dan River Park, honoring Marine CPL. J. B. Kerns on September 25. CPL Kerns was severely injured in Afghanistan with the loss of both legs and one arm. He was further honored as the Grand Marshall of the Stuart Christmas Parade on December 3.

### **Unemployment for Patrick County**

The August, 2011 unemployment rate for Patrick County, VA went to 9.0%. It was 9.1% in September 2011 and 8.1% in October, 2011. As reported by the Virginia Employment Commission

### **Chamber Gives Tourism Report**

The fall colors have been spectacular this year on the mountains and hills showing the extreme colors of red, yellow, orange and brown, which is a major attraction to our tourists and this makes October our biggest month as far as Tourists. For the months of Sept. and Oct. we have had visits from 44 States. The month of October statistics show twice as many visitors as any other month in the year.

Our Chamber operated Visitor Centers have been very active in giving out travel literature of maps, travel guides, County brochures, and rack cards on our attractions. The Chamber is a source of tourism literature to our local businesses and attractions. The leading foreign countries visiting us are Ontario, Canada, England, and Quebec, Canada.

The tourism industry is extremely important to our small rural county, providing an important addition to our industrial economy. We are thankful for all our businesses, churches and civic club volunteers who keep the celebrations and festivals going, which bring in important tourism traffic to our community.

### **2011 Christmas Ornament – Cooper's Mill at Critz**

The 2011 Patrick County Christmas Ornament is now on sale. The price is \$10. See your local Chamber of Commerce to purchase one. This year's ornament has the picture of Cooper's Mill at Critz, VA which was started in 1871 by William Herbert Cooper. At the point of this writing, supplies are running low. Please contact your Chamber office to purchase one of the collector mugs.

### **Newly Remodeled Bowling Center Open For Business-Stuart**

The Tin Pen Alley, a bowling and entertainment center is now open for business, with bowling leagues, concessions, newly paved parking, new rest rooms and new kitchen, at their West Blue Ridge Street address in Stuart. They offer the following additional services: birthday parties, pool tables, electronic games and a juke box.

### **Live Bluegrass Music on Saturday Nights at Mill House Pizza**

Located at 65 Blue Ridge Passage in Meadows of Dan next to the Cockram Mill Complex, they serve pizza, subs, burgers and more. Their music program is held on Saturday nights. Call 276-952-1041 for more information.

### **Pioneer Hospital Names New Administrator-Stuart**

Pioneer Community Hospital of Patrick County has selected Mr. Jerry Howell to be the Interim Hospital

Administrator. Mr. Howell has been temporarily located in Stuart by the company headquartered in Mississippi. The company is doing a nationwide search to find a permanent Hospital Administrator.

**Town of Stuart Contributes \$10,000 to Mayo River Trail**

At the Nov. 16 Town Council meeting, the Stuart Town Council voted unanimously to contribute \$10,000 toward the Mayo River Trail. The money will be used to assist in improvements to the trail. Patrick County High will do a project to label flora and fauna and provide information for the kiosks. Landscaping will be done by the Master Gardeners. An Eagle Scout project will work on installing park benches



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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.**