



**Quarterly Newsletter**  
**Patrick County Chamber of Commerce**  
**September 14, 2011, Volume 7, Number 3**

*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 Sept. 8, 2011**

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

- Thomas and Wall Real Estate-Floyd
- Appalachian Title Company-Stuart
- Woodland Salon and Day Spa-Patrick Springs
- Freelance Companion-Computer Repair-Claudville
- Slate's – Stuart
- Bruce and Gina Trent-Music Entertainment-Patrick Springs
- Danny Foley-Individual-Patrick Springs
- Café of Claudville-Claudville
- Sarah Reyburn-Farming and Artist-Meadows of Dan
- Williams Logging and Chipping-Spencer
- Contact of Martinsville
- Stuart United Methodist Church
- Gingerbread Creations-Patrick Springs
- Mill House Pizza – Meadows of Dan
- Katie's Thirty-One-Stuart
- The Butcher Block-Stuart

Welcome to all our new members!

**Chamber After Hours are as follows:**

October 13, 2011, Chamber After Hours, Stanburn Winery, 158 Conner Drive, Stuart, 5:30pm

December 1, 2011, Chamber After Hours, The Reynolds Homestead, Critz, 5:30pm

RSVP required.

**Rural Services of Claudville Maintains Contract for Trash Pickup**

Rural Services of Claudville, VA has been awarded the exclusive contract for trash pickup in Patrick County for another 3 years. On September 12, the Board of Supervisors voted 4-0 on this matter, with Board Member Crystal Harris of Smith River District absent. Petitions were signed by 1500 Patrick County residents in support of Rural Services. Rural Services is a member of the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce and provides jobs for 7 employees in Patrick County.

#### **The Reynolds Homestead Names New Director**

The Reynolds Homestead of Critz, VA has named a new director, Julie Walters Steele, who moves to Critz, VA., after five years at Virginia Tech in the Division of Student Affairs. She replaces Kay Dunkley who was recently named director of the Virginia Tech Roanoke Center.

#### **Bids Sought for Jack's Creek Covered Bridge Rehabilitation**

County of Patrick is now seeking sealed bids for rehabilitation of the Jack's Creek Historic Covered Bridge at Woolwine, VA. A legal notice was published in The Enterprise on September 14, 2011.

#### **Sammy Shelor of Meadows of Dan Wins Steve Martin Prize**

As reported by the New York Times, the Steve Martin Prize for Excellence in Banjo and Bluegrass, which comes with \$50,000 prize, was won by our own Sammy Shelor. Sammy heads up the Lonesome River Band and is from Meadows of Dan.

#### **New Water Line to Patrick County High School**

Currently, there is a new water line being constructed, serving the Patrick County High School, just South of the Town of Stuart.

#### **New Construction – Patrick Building Supply**

New construction of the retail store, Patrick Building Supply, is making good progress lately with foundation, concrete floor and steel structure coming up on the landscape. The new store complex is being constructed on JEB Stuart Highway, U. S. Route 58, next door to Stuart Tire and Auto, Sheppard's Body Shop and the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce, Stuart, VA. Congratulations to Patrick Building Supply.

#### **JEB Stuart Art Show-Critz, VA**

The annual JEB Stuart Art show opened on September 6th. It is hosted by the Bull Mountain Arts, Inc. The show features original artwork in media including watercolor, oil pastels, collage, photography, woodworking, pottery, fiber, glass and jewels. The location is at The Reynolds Homestead, 463 Homestead Lane, Critz, VA.

#### **Patrick County Tourism Advertises for New Visitor's Guide**

Patrick County Tourism has placed a legal ad for proposals to prepare a 2012 Visitor Guide. (See The Enterprise, dated 8/31/11, Legal Notices, page 19). Chosen vendor will provide all creative design labor and proofs and will subcontract printing and will oversee the project through delivery. The Contact is Wilma Pendleton, [wpendleton@co.patrick.va.us](mailto:wpendleton@co.patrick.va.us)

#### **Bicycle Tour-Fun Race Planned at Woolwine**

The Patrick County Bicycle Club and the Patrick County Sheriff's Office is hosting the 1st annual 100K, 50K, and 25K- Cops and Cogs for College Bicycle Tours at the DeHart Park Trails, on October 15, Woolwine, VA. The Contact is: Sgt. Eric J. O'Connell, 276-692-5636, Web site: [www.copsandcogs.org](http://www.copsandcogs.org), E-mail: [ejocconnell5@gmail.com](mailto:ejocconnell5@gmail.com). Registration is \$35 advance and day of race is \$40.

#### **Special Fall Events in Patrick County**

Rodeo, Stuart, Sept. 16-17, Patrick County Fair, Stuart, Sept. 20-24, Civil War Encampment and Living History, Ararat, Oct. 1-2, Woolwine October Fest Woolwine, Oct. 8, Indian Summer Days, Meadows of Dan, Oct. 15-16, Pancake Days, Oct. 16 & 23 at Meadows of Dan, and Apple Dumpling Festival, Stuart, Oct. 22.

#### **Willis Gap Community Center Gets Media Attention**

Willis Gap Community Center of Ararat, VA gets magazine coverage from the prestigious Smithsonian Magazine in the September edition. The magazine article covers an extensive story about Southwest Virginia's Historic Crooked Road Music Trail, which includes the Willis Gap weekly music attraction.

### **Peach Festival Sponsors**

The Patrick County Chamber of Commerce wishes to thank all our sponsors for the 2011 Virginia State Peach Festival Celebration held on August 19-20. They are as follows:

**Major Sponsors: Wal-Mart-Stuart, Primland-Meadows of Dan, Nelson Automotive Family-Martinsville and Henry County, Carter Bank and Trust, River Community Bank, WHEO 1270 AM-Stuart, and CenturyLink**

Other sponsors were: Mt. Valley Hospice and Palliative Care, Super Country 99.9 FM-Rocky Mount, Stuart Communications –U. S. Cellular Authorized Agent, Danville Distributing, BB&T Bank-Stuart, Stuart Tire and Auto, Pioneer Community Hospital of Patrick County, Surrey Bank and Trust, Appalachian Power, Sun Trust Bank, BTW 21 Your Neighborhood Network, Econo-RV of Bassett, Virginia, Historic Star Theatre-Stuart, WHEE Martinsville Media, Angles Above Design, Clark Gas & Oil-“On The Run”, Chateau Morrisette Winery, The Enterprise, Brian Jessup, CPA, and “Cooking With Paul”-Paul Farrar, WLOE/WMNY Rockingham County Radio, Star News-Martinsville, Bennett's Baskets N Bows, and Fun Facts Radio.

### **Meadows of Dan Elementary Suffers Extensive Fire**

On August 13 the Meadows of Dan, VA Elementary school was destroyed by fire. It began in the 2nd floor. 54 firefighters from 17 different departments responded. The call came in 3:46AM Saturday morning. The fire originated in a second story classroom. The school has 115 students in Pre-Kindergarten through the 7th grade. Except for missing one day of school, the classes have continued using the gymnasium and later portable buildings.

### **Unemployment for Patrick County**

The July 2011 unemployment rate for Patrick County, VA went to 8.7%. It was 8.6% in June 2011 and 8.3% in May 2011. As reported by the Virginia Employment Commission

### **Lt. Gov. Bill Bolling Speaks to Gathering in Stuart, VA on August 13**

Lt. Gov. Bill Bolling, made an appearance at a Republican rally at DeHart Park in Stuart, VA as he came to support Sen. Bill Stanley (R) of Franklin County. He says the Southern Virginia Alliance, involving Patrick, Henry, Pittsylvania, Franklin and Halifax Counties and cities of Martinsville & Danville, is up and running. He spoke of "mega-sites" in the region for economic development that are about 1500 acres each. Near Martinsville is Commonwealth Crossing and in Danville-Pittsylvania County is Berry Hill. Others sites are being developed in Greensville and Wytheville, VA. He says the Tobacco Commission funding in this region is an incredible ally when offering incentives to new company capital investment. Plus the Commonwealth and the local governments are contributing funding.

### **Lt. Gov. Bill Bolling Meets Our Chamber Executive Director**

August 12, Lt. Gov. Bill Bolling and his wife were visiting Meadows of Dan business district in Patrick County and stopped by the Blue Ridge Visitor Center and the local business, Meadows Mercantile. Lt. Gov. Bolling was also attending the Fiddler's Convention at Galax, VA.

### **Former Governor George Allen Stops At Stuart-Virginia**

On August 12, former Virginia Governor George Allen (and former Senator from Virginia) stopped by W & W Produce on his campaign tour of Southwest Virginia, making other stops in Carroll County, Wythe and Bland Counties.

### **Primland Holds Ribbon Cutting for Tree House-Meadows of Dan**

Primland of Meadows of Dan, VA held a ribbon cutting for the new tree house on July 23, 2011, in conjunction with the opening of a 6 mile section of the Old Appalachian Trail.

### **Virginia Tourism Provides Help Desk at Patrick Henry Community College in Stuart**

Virginia Tourism Corporation held a special help desk seminar on July 12<sup>th</sup> in Stuart. Numerous representatives were here to assist with Grant Funding and teach Marketing and Development Strategies.

#### **Stuart Rotary Clubs Holds Ribbon Cutting For Building Expansion-Stuart**

The Stuart Rotary Club, held a Ribbon Cutting ceremony for the remodeling and additions to the Rotary Memorial Building on Woodland Drive on the evening of July 18, 2011. This was a special evening with Rotary Hosting a Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours on the same evening as their Ribbon Cutting ceremony, opening the remodeled larger auditorium building, new rest rooms, and concession rooms.

#### **Mill House Pizza Open For Business-Meadows of Dan**

Mill House Pizza is now open for business on Jeb Stuart Highway, near Meadows of Dan, VA at the historic Cockram's Mill Complex. They will offer a music program each Saturday night. They offer pizza, Stromboli, lasagna, sandwiches, and subs. Their grand opening was held on July 2<sup>nd</sup>.

#### **Slate's Re-Open Downtown Restaurant-Stuart, VA**

Harold and Susan Slate have re-opened the downtown restaurant. The new name of the business is: Slate's. The location is at 312 Patrick Avenue, next door to the Historic Star Theatre and across the street from the Downtown Farmer's Market.

#### **Mayo River Trail is Open-Downtown Stuart**

Phase I of the Mayo River Trail (multi-use) has just been constructed in downtown Stuart, VA, just off Commerce Street following the path of the Danville and Western Railway ("Dick and Willie"). This trail is good for walking and bicycling. It has an asphalt smooth level surface 2250 linear feet. Parking lots are on both ends of the trail, with handicap accessibility parking. The Mayo River is in view all along the trail.

#### **Mayo River Trail 2nd Phase Delayed**

The Patrick County Board of Supervisors voted 4-0, to postpone work on the 2nd phase of the Mayo River Trail on Monday, September 13, 2011. Board member Crystal Harris was absent. This action was done at the recommendation of County Administrator, Tom Rose due to potential changes in the federal transportation enhancement funds, which is administered by the Virginia Department of Transportation.

#### **Workforce Career Center Relocates to the Former Sheriff Office Building**

The Patrick County Workforce Career Center has relocated to the new location at 103 West Blue Ridge Street in Stuart. The old building is now listed for sale by Patrick County.

#### **Moriah Dollarhite is Named New High School Principal-Patrick County**

Moriah Dollarhite, former Patrick County High School teacher, has been named to replace E. G. Bradshaw as the principal of Patrick County High. Mrs. Dollarhite comes from Fieldale-Collinsville Middle School where she was principal for the last 6 years.



#### **The Future of Integrated Communications**

With our exceptional service portfolio, rich history, strong foundation and unique way of doing business, CenturyLink is far more than simply a "phone company." Our broad range of integrated services – including voice, data, Internet, wireless and entertainment services – is designed to help make your business more productive. And our promise of practical ingenuity is designed to deliver technology that truly works for you.

Businesses may Contact [Anthony.S.Porch@CenturyLink.com](mailto:Anthony.S.Porch@CenturyLink.com) or call 276-666-4253 for a free consultation or visit [www.CenturyLink.com](http://www.CenturyLink.com). CenturyLink is a sponsor for the Annual Chamber Banquet and the Annual Virginia State Peach Festival.

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