



Quarterly Newsletter
Patrick County Chamber of Commerce
January 23, 2013 Volume 8, Number 4

The Official Publication of the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce
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www.patrickchamber.com

New Members Reported as of January 22, 2013

The 5 new members have been added since the last newsletter:

Darkroom Photography LLC-Stuart
Elizabeth Pizza-Patrick Springs
Total Fitness-Stuart
Rania's Restaurant-Martinsville
God's Cooking Crew-Stuart
Welcome to all our new members!

Chamber Banquet –“Sparkle and Shine Be My Valentine”

The Annual Chamber Banquet will be held on Friday, February 8, 6:30pm at the John D. Hooker Building, Rotary Field, Stuart, VA. Reservations required. Price: \$18 per person. Guest Speaker: Joe Tennis, Author. CenturyLink and Appalachian Power are major sponsors for the banquet. The florist of choice is Bennett's Baskets N Bows and we will emphasize Valentine decorations. Debbie's Catering will cater the event. **Should be an exciting evening!**

Patrick County Plans for New Multi-Million Manufacturing Facility

Jan. 14-Stuart - The Patrick County Board of Supervisors are preparing for a multi-million dollar manufacturing facility coming to the county bringing some well paying jobs (as reported by Tom Rose, County Administrator). The Tobacco Indemnification Commission will provide \$375,000 toward this project. At this point the new business to Patrick County is un-named.

Business Names Changes

Dr's Law and Gonzalez is now Patrick County Eye Associates – Stuart
Southside Business Technology is now The Launch Place-Danville

Meadows of Dan Celebrated The Re-Building of Elementary School

Jan. 4-The Meadows of Dan Elementary School celebrated the beginning of the new school construction today with Sen. Bill Stanley as the key speaker. Principal Jeannie King led the ceremony. It was a great day of celebration as the reconstruction of the burned out school begins. The fire destroyed the school in August 2011.

Patrick County Partnership For Arts Holds Cabin Fever Classes

Classes will be offered on Valentine Card Collage, Feb. 8, for 6-8 graders, Art of Cornhusk Dolls, Feb. 9, adults and children, and Feb. 16, Twining on an embroidery hoop. Call Arts on Main at 276-229-7733.

Christmas Bonus Drawing Winners Announced

Dec. 13-Winners of the 2012 Christmas Bonus announced by the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce. Due to the generosity of an anonymous donor, the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce was granted a fund to give 10 hardworking fulltime Patrick County citizens who have worked for a company (or County Department) for at least three years a \$500 Christmas Bonus check.

A random drawing was held to pick the winners on December 13, and checks were awarded to the following persons:

- Annette Harbour- Patrick County School Bus Garage-Stuart
- Aaron Hubbard –Howell’s Grocery - Stuart
- Sheldon Burcham – VHB Financial - Stuart
- Bobbie Alderman – Poor Farmer’s Market – Meadows of Dan
- Debbie Hill – Carter Bank and Trust - Ararat
- Angela Hiatt –VA Department of Juvenile Justice - Stuart
- Rebecca Plasters – Surrey Bank and Trust - Stuart
- Stacy Dillon – Griffith Lumber Co. - Woolwine
- Rhonda Ray – Patrick County Sheriff Department - Stuart
- Teri Lewis – Aerial Machine-Vesta

SPECIAL THANKS for the donor **and CONGRATULATIONS** to the winners!

PARC Workshop Receives \$11,000 Check From Morgan Shepherd

Dec. 17-PARC Workshop of Stuart, VA received a check for \$11,000 from Nationwide NASCAR race car driver, Morgan Shepherd at their annual Christmas Party. The donation comes from the Morgan Shepherd Charitable Fund. This is an annual event that Morgan Shepherd conducts to benefit the workshop in Stuart, VA for some very special people.

Chamber Seeks Replacement For Tom Bishop

The Patrick County Chamber of Commerce is seeking candidates for the Executive Director position now available since Tom Bishop announced his retirement effective March 31st.

Candidate will operate and maintain the Chamber Office located in Stuart, VA. Other duties include:

- >Maintaining the Blue Ridge Visitor Center in Meadows of Dan
- >Supervise staff, both employees and volunteers
- >Represent Patrick County at events throughout the year.

Stanburn Winery Receives Awards in Atlantic Seaboard Wine Competition

Stanburn Winery of Stuart, VA has won several awards in the 8th Annual Atlantic Seaboard Wine Competition. Stanburn was awarded five medals during this competition. Bronze medals were awarded for the Chardonnay, Cabernet Franc and the Meadow Breeze wines. Winning silver medals were the Chambourcin and the Big A Red wines. These wines were all from the 2011 vintage. Stanburn Winery is a family owned farm winery which started wine production with the 2009 vintage, after beginning as a commercial vineyard in 1999.

Chamber Business After Hours Schedule – Winter-Spring 2013

March 19-Mt. Valley Hospice-Patrick Springs-5:30pm

May 14 – Patrick Springs Christian Church-Patrick Springs 5:30pm

Banjo – Rama Planned At The Reynolds Homestead

A special music series will be held on the Second Sunday, March 10 at The Reynolds Homestead at Critz, VA at 2:00pm. All the famous Patrick County banjo pickers will be featured including Meadows of Dan’s own Sammy Shelor. \$12 at the door. The Patrick County Chamber is the sponsor for this event.

Peach Festival Dates Set for 2013

The 26th Annual Virginia State Peach Festival will be held at Stuart's DeHart Park on Friday, August 16 and the 9th Annual Folk Fair will be held in Meadows of Dan on Saturday, August 17. For more information call the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce at 276-694-6012.

Patrick County Unemployment Report

Patrick County unemployment was at 7% for both October and November of 2012. This compares to 8.5% in November, 2011.

Fairy Stone Park Visitation Up For 2012

According to the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Fairy Stone Park near Stuart, VA has recorded an increase in attendance for 2012 compared to 2011. (Source: Martinsville Bulletin, January 13, 2013). The 2012 attendance was 96,692 compared to 2011 attendance at 96,354.

Businesses Closed

The sandwich shop, Good Filla's in Stuart closed at the end of 2012. Also, Angie's Nail Salon is now closed (Town of Stuart).

Chamber Collector Ornament and Mug

The 2012 Patrick County Collector Ornament and Mug were extremely popular. The photo of Glen and Leonard Wood are pictured on these items, recognizing their induction into the NASCAR Hall of Fame. Leonard Wood's induction will be in February of this year. We congratulate both Stuart natives for their accomplishments!

Dual Enrollment in Patrick County -Get College Credit Free

Jan. 11-Patrick County High School has announced a dual enrollment where students take high school classes and college classes at the same time and do this free of charge. This is being done in conjunction with the Patrick Henry Community College.

Home Sales Improve in Year 2012-Martinsville & Henry County & Patrick County

Home sales improved in Martinsville, Henry and Patrick Counties for 2012 – 404 homes were sold. For 2011 there was 391 homes sold

Blue Ridge Parkway Association Holds Meeting in Dobson, NC

The Blue Ridge Parkway Association held it's semi-annual meeting at the Shelton Vineyards and Hampton Inn, in Dobson, NC on January 9-10, 2013. Attending from Patrick County was Tom Bishop and Steve Helms. The Blue Ridge Parkway Association is a non-profit organization (not govt.), that partners with the Blue Ridge Parkway (National Park) to market the very best travel and tourism related businesses and communities along the 469 mile roadway. The Association publishes the annual Blue Ridge Parkway Directory and Planning Guide and prints and distributes approximately 350,000 copies. The Blue Ridge Parkway was again the most visited National Park in the United States and boasts of 14.5 million visitors per year. The Patrick County Chamber of Commerce and the Blue Ridge Visitor Center (Meadows of Dan) are proud to be a part of this marketing organization.

Governor McDonnell Announces 50 New Jobs in Patrick County

Nov. 17-HanesBrands is to invest \$1.6 million to add new high-tech equipment operations at the Woolwine plant, retaining 215 jobs and adding 50 new ones! This announcement was made by Virginia's Governor Bob McDonnell. HanesBrands Inc. is a global consumer goods company with more than a century of history and a portfolio of leading apparel essentials.

Fly By Cafe Open for Business-Blue Ridge Airport

Fly By Cafe-At Blue Ridge Airport, 525 Airport Road, Martinsville, VA is now in operation. It is open Sundays 11:00 am - 8:00 pm. Monday - Saturday 8:00 am - 8:00 pm serving breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

Upcoming Special Patrick County Events

Jan. 26- Patrick County Music Association – Featuring Wayne Henderson and Jeff Little.
Feb. 1 – Stuart Farm Market Organization Meeting
Feb. 9 – Gen. J. E. B. Stuart Birthday Celebration at Granny’s Attic-Stuart
Feb. 10 – Second Sunday Music Series – Gospel Singing – Critz-The Reynolds Homestead
Feb. 15– WHEO Friday Night Jamboree-Star Theatre
Feb. 21- Stuart Lion’s Club Pancake Festival-Stuart
Feb. 23 – Patrick County Music Association – Featuring McGhee Brothers & Jason Harris
Mar. 5-6- Annual Martinsville Fast Track Trade Show – Clock Tower Bldg. – Martinsville
Mar. 15 – WHEO Friday Night Jamboree – Star Theatre
Mar. 23- Patrick County Music Association- Featuring – Johnny and Jeanette Williams.
Apr. 6- National Civil War Park Clean Up Day – Laurel Hill-Ararat
May 3 – Radiothon – Relay For Life-Stuart
May 18- Strawberry Festival-Stuart
May 24-26- Dominion Valley Park Gospel Singing – Memorial Weekend
Jun. 1 – Scottish Highland Games – Laurel Hill-Ararat

Patrick County Advertisement for Bids-Water Extension Project

Patrick County Public Service Extension Project is seeking sealed bids as part of the Patrick Springs Phase-2 Water and Sewer project. This will be for a 10,700 LF of 8 inch and smaller water line East of the Town of Stuart.

Bishop Says Patrick County Economic Future Looks Good

Tom Bishop, retiring Executive Director of the Patrick County Chamber, recently spoke about 10 reasons why he thought the Patrick County Economic future looks good, while being interviewed by Richard Rogers on the morning talk show, WHEO 1270 AM. For more details see the Chamber Web Site news.

Tammy Waldron Named Patrick County High Principal

Tammy Waldron has been named at the Interim principal of Patrick County High School, Stuart, VA. She moved from the Stuart Elementary where she served as principal. Tammy is a member of the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

Patrick County Native Ralph Lawson Named Head of Red Cross

Nov. 9-Ralph Lawson of Martinsville and formerly of Patrick County has been named head of the Piedmont Virginia Chapter of the American Red Cross. The Piedmont Virginia Chapter, covers Martinsville, Henry and Patrick counties, Danville and Pittsylvania County.

Willis Gap Community Holds Weekly Open Jam (Patrick County)

The Willis Gap Community holds a weekly jamboree each Friday evening. This is a very popular Crooked Road sanctioned event. It is open to the public and is free. It starts each Friday at 7:00pm and goes to 10pm. It was started in 1995 by Nellie and Otto Hiatt. The Community Center is located at 144 The Hollow Road, Ararat, VA.

Wood Brothers Displays 1963 Car 21

Jan. 22-Wood Brothers Racing had on display the look-a-like of the 1963 Race Car driven by Tiny Lund when he won the Daytona 500 as a substitute drive for Marvin Paunch. This car is on display at the Wood Brothers Race Museum in Stuart, VA but will soon go on display for one year at NASCAR Hall of Fame, after Leonard Wood's induction in February.

Kim Adkins Re-Elected Mayor of Martinsville

Jan 2. Martinsville. Kim Adkins was re-elected mayor of the City of Martinsville. Kim is the manager of the local Workforce Office in Martinsville and former President of the Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce.

Allen DeHart Donates DeHart Botanical Garden to Ferrum College

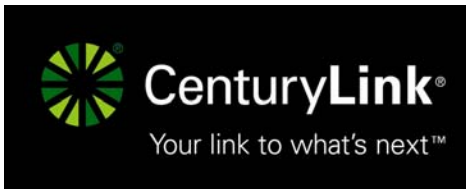
DeHart is a native of Patrick County, an educator, author, philanthropist and Ferrum College alumnus. He has recently gifted the 172 acre DeHart Botanical Gardens on Lover’s Leap Mountain in Patrick County. This park is located on U. S. Route 58 between Stuart and Meadows of Dan. It is a nature preserve and features a diverse population of plants and animal species as well as spectacular views.

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CenturyLink is a proud 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.