

The Village Current

...Serving a community of businesses

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 4

AUGUST 7, 2006

Business After Hours Resumes Tuesday, August 15 Wachovia, Vincent Properties, The Rug Company

Our next Business After Hours will be held as a "block party." Our co-hosts will be Carlos Hernandez and team at The Rug Company, Jay Vincent and the staff of Vincent Properties and Evalyn Suderth and the staff of Wachovia. These businesses are all located on Main Street. Parking is available in the parking lot adjacent to Wachovia. This concept of co-hosting was implemented to involve some of our smaller businesses that individually do not have enough space to host an After Hours event. We are currently booking hosts for Business After Hours events for 2007. We only have June, August, and September available for 2007, so if you are interested in being a host or perhaps a co-host, please call Charles Hardin at 295-7851.

Tuesday's event will be from 5:30—7:00 pm.

Wachovia is a full service financial institution serving Blowing Rock since 1937. The fine staff of the bank is always available to assist you with individual or commercial banking, investments, and insurance needs. Evalyn will be assisted by Kelley Harrison in making you welcome at this upcoming After Hours event. Vincent Properties under the leadership of Jay Vincent has been located in Blowing Rock on Main Street since 1996. Vincent offers a wide variety of spectacular large acreage tracts, lots, farms, commercial and residential properties lo-

cated throughout the High Country. Vincent Properties is a small company with a large inventory offering professional personalized service to their clients. Vincent Properties is also a vacation rental company offering a variety of rentals in the Blowing rock area. The Rug Company deals in fine new and antique oriental rugs from traditional Persians and flatweaves to French aubussons and needlepoints. Carlos Hernandez, proprietor, has been in Blowing Rock at this location for 25 years. This is a significant accomplishment in today's business environment. We will all want to congratulate him on this achievement. Everyone will want to visit all three of these fine businesses. Be sure and bring plenty of business cards and make some new contacts.

Annual Meeting September 26

Please mark your calendars for our 2nd Annual Meeting to be held on Tuesday, September 26 at 5:30 pm. The location for this meeting will be announced closer to the date. Each Board Team (committee) will give a short presentation on what they are doing or are planning in the coming year. We will then open up for questions from the membership. This was very informative last year as we try to let all our members know what this Chamber is all about.

Record Crowd at Symphony at Chetola

The North Carolina Symphony in concert at Chetola on July 21 drew almost 2,000 people this year. This was definitely the largest crowd ever. The Blowing Rock Chamber of Commerce would like to thank Chetola and their fine staff for all of the hard work they did to make this event possible. We also wish to thank the many volunteers who devoted their time to help out in so many ways. We also thank all of the tent patrons without which we would not even be able to host this event. This year's event was a beautiful evening in spite of a little drizzle in the second half. The spectacular fireworks show was provided by Mr. and Mrs. Stanley K. Tanger in recognition of their company's 25th Anniversary. Congratulations Tanger and thanks for the unforgettable gift to our town!

**Next Board
Meeting
Wednesday
September 6
8:00 am
Community
Club**

New Members

Please welcome these new members to our business community:

Carlton Galleries
Toni Carlton - 963-4288
140 Aldridge Road, Foscoe Gallery

Classic Piano & Antiques
Chris Barringer - 295-9057
150 Sunset Drive
Antiques

Dutch Creek Trails
Keith Ward - 297-7117
Hwy 194, Sugar Grove
Equestrian recreation

Dominos Pizza
Ernie Spears - 295-8585
Food Lion Shopping Center
Restaurant

Headliners Salon
Regina Ross - 262-1840
969 Rivers St. Boone
Salon

Abundant Life Resources
Xango Independent Distributor
Ted Henry - 295-7270
848 Wonderland Drive
Distributor

Ungar Realty & Investments
Lawrence Ungar
172 Rambling Road
Real Estate



NOTE:
Articles appearing in this newsletter do not reflect a "position" of the Chamber of Commerce. They are informational only.

New Member Spotlight

Carlton Gallery

Carlton Gallery celebrates 24 years as the largest, most established gallery in the High Country. Widest variety of fine art and upscale handmade crafts. Over 300 artisans. Situated under the gaze of Grandfather Mountain between Boone and Banner Elk on Highway 105. 140 Aldridge Road, Banner Elk, NC 28604 828-963-4288

Visit our Web Site at:

www.carltonartgallery.com

Classic Piano & Antiques

150 Sunset Drive
Blowing Rock, NC 28605
Telephone: (828) 295-9057
Web:

[www.classicpianoestorations.com](http://www.classicpianorestorations.com)

Dutch Creek Trails

Dutch Creek Trails. For those of you that know the place the name will conjure up thoughts of adventure, romance, nostalgia or just plain family fun. Nestled in the heart of Valle Crucis this 200-year-old farm is known to locals as the Frank Baird Place. It has become home to Dutch Creek Trails, the horseback riding experience of a lifetime. The business is owned and operated by Keith and Tammy Ward along with their son Travis. Natives of Watauga County, Keith and Tammy started the business as a second income. It soon became obvious that there was no way to accommodate folks on a part time basis so Keith quit his day job and jumped in with both feet. There has been no looking back. Give Dutch Creek Trails a call at 828-297-7117 and see what they have to offer. These guys love what they do and nothing pleases them better than pleasing you. You will find out real quick that this is not just another horse riding place.

3287 Highway 194 South
Sugar Grove, NC 28679
Telephone: (828) 297-7117

Web: www.dutchcreektrails.tripod.com

The Blue Ridge
Wine Festival
dates for
2007
will be
April 12th-14th



Domino's Pizza

Located in Food Lion Shopping Center,
537 Valley Blvd
Blowing Rock, NC 28605
Telephone: (828) 295-8585

Headliner's Salon

We invite you to come experience a day of relaxation. We welcome the opportunity to take away flat unmanageable or split hair and replace it with modern, radiant, healthy hair. Client bonuses offered for repeat clients. Free consultation for clients.
969 Rivers Street
Boone, NC 28607
Telephone: (828) 262-1840

Abundant Life Resources

"XanGo™" a proprietary whole-fruit juice formula, with phytonutrients called Xanthones. Research shows these potent antioxidants may help maintain intestinal health, support cartilage/joint function, strengthen the immune system, and promote a healthy seasonal respiratory system. Pay wholesale prices. Great tax savings with online business.
848 Wonderland Drive
Blowing Rock, NC 28605
Toll-Free: (800) 337-9548
Telephone: (828) 295-7270
Web: www.getfreejuice.com

Ungar Realty

172 Rambling Road
Blowing Rock, NC 28605
Toll-Free: (800) 962-1762
Web: www.ungarrealty.com

"It has been my observation that people are just about as happy as they make up their minds to be."

Abraham Lincoln

Can you attract happiness? Yes! People who want to be happy have a Positive Mental Attitude. A negative Attitude repels happiness. One of the surest ways to find happiness for yourself is to try to make someone else happy! Happiness is not a matter of luck or chance. Happiness is a choice. It's a fact that you can chose to be happy or unhappy. Now is the time to be happy!

Travel Figures 2005

The 2005 county-by-county economic impact of travel figures are now available. This study was conducted by the Research Department of the Travel Industry Association of America (TIA) for the North Carolina Division of Tourism, Film and Sports Development. The study provides preliminary 2005 estimates of domestic traveler expenditures in North Carolina, as well as the employment, payroll income, state and local tax revenue directly generated by these expenditures.

During 2005, direct domestic traveler spending in North Carolina totaled more than \$14.2 billion, an increase of 7.3 percent from 2004. These expenditures generated almost 185,200 travel-related jobs, and more than \$3.75 billion in payroll. Travel expenditures occurred in all 100 counties in North Carolina.

Watauga County increased 3.1%. Other counties in our immediate area were Ashe 5.3, Avery 1.2, Wilkes 5.6, and Caldwell 6.9%. The county with the highest increase in the state was Madison County with an increase of 16.6%.

Gas Prices Climb Back Over \$3

The nationwide average price for regular gasoline passed \$3 a gallon this week for the first time in more than 10 months and was within pennies of the all-time high, the U.S. Energy Dept. said in a weekly report. The average U.S. price at the pump was \$3.003 Monday, up more than a penny from a week earlier and 71 cents higher than a year ago. In a separate, daily survey, motor club AAA said the average gasoline price was \$2.989 Monday, up 70 cents from a year ago. The two surveys have similar methodologies but use a different pool of stations.

June Hotel Occupancy Highest In At Least Five Years

According to recent Smith Travel Research data, the statewide hotel occupancy rate in June was 66.9 percent; the highest single monthly occupancy since tracking began in mid-2001. This rate was an increase of 5.2 percent over June 2005. Year-to-date occupancy (through June 2006) was reported to be 60 percent, an increase from the 58.2 percent from the same time period in 2005. Room rates through June were up over 7.2 percent from last year and room demand was up over four percent.

20th Annual Performance of Grandfather Mountain Highlanders In Blowing Rock

Sunday Concert in the Park announces the upcoming performance of the Grandfather Mountain Highlanders on Sunday, August 20 at 4 pm. This free performance in Blowing Rock Memorial Park is sponsored by the Blowing Rock Chamber of Commerce and donations from Caldwell Window and Door Specialists, Robert M. Hess, CPA, The Hemlock Inn and Suites and The Cottage Inn.

The Highlanders are celebrating their 32nd Anniversary this year. They are under the direction of Pipe Major Gordon Warburton and Drum Sergeant Tom Kee. The band makes appearances throughout the country and has traveled to Canada and Scotland to compete in international pipe band competitions.

"The Highlanders have performed as part of Sunday Concert in the Park since our very first year of concerts in 1987," states Concert Coordinator Susan Gragg. "They are one of the reasons the series has been such a success and they draw an audience of hundreds each time they perform in Blowing Rock."

It is suggested that those attending the performance bring lawn chairs or a blanket.

Membership Communications

We are requesting the business e-mail addresses for all of our members. We will not be sharing this information with third parties.

In the very near future we will be posting this newsletter on our new website with periodic updates. This will open a whole new arena of opportunities for communicating with our membership. If you change your e-mail address or ISP, please let us know. Please email any address changes to:

membership@blowingrock.com

**Winterfest
January 25-28
2007**



Official Blowing Rock Chamber Visitor Map

The map is at the printers! We should see the all new digitally updated map on the streets in early September. I would like to thank all of the advertisers who made this project possible for all of our visitors. The map has many new improvements and features. We have tried to make it user friendly for the traveling public. We will have them available to all of our members for distribution in their businesses. There are still plenty of the shopping maps produced by the Merchants Association available here in the Visitors Center and at Sassyfras on Main Street. If you need some please drop by either location. These will be distributed while supplies last and will then be replaced with a new "Shopping Map" that is currently in production, for distribution in the Visitors Center. Additionally, the downtown area will soon have a kiosk with a map of all downtown businesses (location to be determined). This will be a part of the new "Way Finding" signage program funded by the town.

Welcome New Board Members

I would like to announce two new Board members installed in July. Representing Business services is Linda Gilleland of Greystone Insurance. Linda has been a long-time friend of the Chamber and resident of Blowing Rock and will fill the unexpired term of Kyle Knight of Blowing Rock Appraisal Service. Kyle just opened a second office in Banner Elk and has precious little time to fulfill the duties of a board member. Linda will complete the six month term and hopefully be re-elected in January. Representing the professional category is Alice Salthouse, CEO of Blowing Rock Hospital. Alice is replacing Rita Davis who has taken a new Regional Managers position in Wachovia in Greensboro. Alice's term will be up for re-election at the end of 2007. We welcome the two new Board members and look forward to their application of talent and energy to our organization. We thank Kyle and Rita for their hard work and creative energy and wish them the best in their future pursuits. Have you ever thought about running for a seat on the Chamber board? The nomination process begins in September, so step up and get involved in the Chamber!

Chamber, TDA Combine Websites

The all new www.BlowingRock.com website was launched last week. This site will reside under the Chamber's domain name which because of its age and natural search engine affinity will attract significantly more hits than the old sites. The TDA has provided most of the funding to re-vamp the site with all the bells and whistles necessary for a strong website in today's competitive cyber world. This site is database driven and is designed to be very user-friendly to the consumer. The site has had very positive reviews thus far.

All business members of the Chamber of Commerce have a seal by their listing indicating that they are members of the Chamber. Each listing has the name of the business, physical 911 address of the actual property or office, (where practical), phone number, toll free number (where applicable), website address with link and a photograph of the business, a logo, or other image representing the business. Some service businesses will have an international symbol for their profession if desired. If you do not have a digital photo and would like to have someone make one for you, please call us.

If you do have an image to put on the site, please email a jpeg format to:

jennifer@visitblowingrock.com.

You will also see several members who have a video icon on their listing. These movies are available to all of our members. If you are interested in this option, please e-mail Tom Santay at tomfilm5@hotmail.com. In addition to the tourism side of the site that features accommodations, restaurants and retail merchants, we have a special section for Real Estate and relocation information. This will be improved as data becomes available. We also have a "Services" section to feature all of the service businesses we have in our membership.

There is also a section for our members where you will find information pertaining to Chamber membership. We have a calendar for our member activities and events as well as featuring new members and other news. The newsletter is there and will eventually replace this printed edition. We will have links to information important to business owners. This is located at:

www.blowingrockchamber.com.

Please go on line and visit your new site. Let us know if you have suggestions or questions. I would like to thank Shawn Miller and Jennifer Cramer for all the many hours they put into this site as well as Heidi Lusk from The Meridian Agency for the design, and Pete Montaldi for the database work.

Blowing Rock Chamber of Commerce

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7738 Valley Blvd.
Blowing Rock, N. C. 28605

Phone: 828-295-7851
Toll Free 800-295-7851
Fax: 828-295-4643
Email :info@blowingrock.com



2006 Board of Directors

Pam Vines– President
295-9886 (Jenkins Realtors®)
Bill Hall-Vice President
295-9861 (Blowing Rock Realty)
Tracy Brown– 2nd Vice President
295-4444 (Shoppes on the Parkway)
Barbara Wright– Treasurer
295-3136 (Blowing Rock Hospital)
Business Directors
Rob Dyer-295-3466 (Best Cellar)
Mark Lavin-295-4272
(Blowing Rock Area Sales and Rentals)
Ken Kay-295-9168
(Blowing Rock Stage Company)
Babette Ford-264-0345
(Carolina Mountain Living Magazine)
Teresa Cody-733-2013
Grandfather Mountain
Donna Summers-295-7987(Hemlock Inn)
William Burgess-295-9819
(Speckled Trout Café)
Nancy Santay– 295-0520 (Cabin Fever)
Steven Love-295-3141 (Green Park Inn)
Keith Neaves-295-0709 (neaco)
Linda Gilleland -264-2626-Greystone Ins
Alice Salthouse - 295-3136
Blowing Rock Hospital
Residential Representatives:
Gisele Weisman-733-8110
Margot Brown Hampton-773-4119
Staff:
Marcia Vaughan
Receptionist, Travel Counselor
Susan Gragg
Events Coordinator
Charles Hardin
Executive Director

www.BlowingRock.com

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

Friday, August 11,-Gallery Stroll, 5-8 pm Lite refreshments served at participating galleries

Saturday, August 12-Art in the Park, 10 am-5 pm

Tuesday, August 15- Business After Hours 5:30 pm, Wachovia, Vincent Properties, The Rug Company

Friday, August 18 Cruise-in-Jammin Park Ave. & Wallingford St. 6:00-dusk

Friday, September 8, Gallery Stroll, 5-8 pm Lite refreshments served at participating galleries

Saturday, September 9 Art in the Park, 10 am-5 pm

Tuesday, September 12 - Business After Hours 5:30 pm, Hayes Performing Arts Center

Friday, September 15 Cruise-in-Jammin Park Ave. & Wallingford St. 6:00-dusk

Saturday, September 16 Chamber of Commerce Pet Show 11:00 am Memorial Park

Thursday, September 21 Chamber of Commerce Litter Pick-up, 3:00 pm Highway 221, Bass Lake horse trailer parking area

Tuesday, September 26 Chamber Annual Meeting Location tba. 5:30 pm

Friday, October 6, -Gallery Stroll, 5-8 pm

Saturday, October 7 Art in the Park, 10 am-5 pm

Tuesday, October 17 - Business After Hours 5:30 pm, Footsloggers

Mitford Days in Blowing Rock

As most of you have heard, The Chamber of Commerce will be producing an all new event in September 2007. This event will celebrate the fictitious town of Mitford which is believed to be Blowing Rock in Jan Karon's famous books. Jan has graciously agreed to work with the Chamber on producing this event and will actually be an important part of it. The Blowing Rock Stage Company will produce the world premier of a stage play based on the series. This play is being written by Bob Inman and will be performed for two weeks during the event. Image materials are currently being produced for the event. There will be a parade, country fair, marmalade cake contests, Barnabus look alike contest, special church services, a tea with Jan Karon (a ticketed event) an afternoon with Jan as she speaks on her inspiration for the Mitford series, music, guided tours, and much more. We are looking for some creative people who are interested in Mitford to be a part of the steering committee to help plan and implement the many details we will be involved with. If you are interested, please call Pam Vines, Chamber President and volunteer for this very exciting project.

Mission Statement

To represent, serve, and promote the common interests of our membership, both business and residential, by contributing to the cultural, social, and economic growth of our community while preserving the charm and character of the Village of Blowing Rock.