



# The Village Current

An e-Newsletter of the  
Blowing Rock Chamber of Commerce

The mission of the Blowing Rock Chamber of Commerce, through the efforts of our membership, shall be to contribute to the cultural, social and economic development, growth and sustainability of Blowing Rock while preserving the charm and character of the village.

## Crippen's Wins Business of the Year 2009



Above: Jimmy and Carolyn Crippen accept the Business of the Year Award. Right: Jimmy and Carolyn hear the news.



Business of the Year is awarded to the business with outstanding community involvement, business promotion, team work and volunteerism. Crippen's Country Inn and Restaurant won Business of the Year, 2009. With a ton of work and more enthusiasm, Jimmy Crippen has worked to transform Crippen's into more than just fine dining. This year, Jimmy worked to move the Grand Tasting of the Wine Festival into downtown, and expanded Fire on the Rock to the two month long event it is now. Crippen's has responded to the past year by developing a new menu to attract new customers and launching a Facebook page to keep fans updated. Nominees for the award were: The Last Straw, United Community Bank, Greystone Insurance and Mountaineer Inn.

## Dell Slack Honored as Volunteer of the Year 2009

2009 introduced Blowing Rock to a new event: The Farm Fresh Market. A rousing success, the Market quickly became an event loved by locals and enjoyed by all. The Market was the brain child of the Economic Development Committee; but that committee is intelligent enough to know that they needed some technical help putting the event together. Into this role came our Volunteer of the Year, Dell Slack. A master gardener herself, our volunteer recruited and organ-

ized the farmers and vendors who participated in the 2009 Market. She worked with the Economic Development Committee, the Watauga County Farmer's Market, Wachovia Bank and the Town of Blowing Rock to establish, organize, move and re-organize the Farm Fresh Market. She was at every market that occurred, working with the farmers and customers to make the event the success that it was.



"In the Spring, there will be blooms," Dell reassured us.

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Friday, February 19, 2010  
Special Awards Issue

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### Reminders:

The Blue Ridge Wine & Food Festival is April 15 - 18, 2010

Farm Fresh Market Begins May 6.





*Billie Rogers was one of our photographers for the evening, she snapped these photos... Thanks Billie!*



### New Construction Award: The Wallingford Street Parking Terrace and the Spa & Conference Center at Chetola



*Gregg Tarbutton (Chetola), Albert Yount (Blowing Rock Town Council), Tracy Brown (Blowing Rock TDA) and Charles Hardin*

Two Construction Projects were honored with the new construction award:

**The Wallingford Street Parking Facility** supported by funding from the Blowing Rock Tourism Development Authority. An infrastructure improvement built with the Occupancy Tax of visitors to Blowing Rock, the new parking facility on Wallingford Street provides much needed parking relief for downtown, beautifies Blowing Rock and provides an unobtrusive home for Art in the Park.

**The Spa and Conference Center at Chetola Resort.** Completed and opened this fall, The Spa and Conference Center at Chetola has already made an impact on the Blowing Rock community. Chetola's beautiful new rooms have hosted the Chamber's Annual Meeting and other important functions. The Spa invites everyone to enjoy a day of relaxation and adds a not before offered service in the town limits, diversifying Blowing Rock business.

### Commercial Renovation Award: First Citizens Bank

The Commercial Renovation Award is given to the outstanding renovation of a business space completed in 2009. The winner in this category was **First Citizens Bank** on Main Street in Blowing Rock. First Citizens Bank added a beautiful new entry way in 2009. The project was completed over the summer, and gives customers a covered ATM area, new entry way and reception, not to mention improving the look and architectural flow of Main Street. Other nominees for 2009 were **Poppy's By Design** on Main Street in Blowing Rock and **The Goldfarb Building** on Valley Boulevard in Blowing Rock.



*Amber Lynn of First Citizens Bank accepts the award.*

### Cultural Contribution: Mountain Home Music



*Mountain Home Music Executive Director Joe Shannon receives the award for Cultural Contribution from host Jimmy Crippen.*

The Award for Cultural Contribution is given to the organization that has made a significant cultural contribution to our community for the year 2009. This year, the Cultural Contribution Award honored **Mountain Home Music**. Working to Bring traditional music performers to the Blowing Rock Stage for the past several years, Mountain Home Music introduces and educates audience members about Appalachian music and performance. First organized as Music in the Mountains in 1994, Joe Shannon and company have produced hundreds of concerts, many of which have been aired on public radio and television. Other nominees in this category were: **Blowing Rock Art and History Museum, An Appalachian Summer Festival, Blowing Rock Appearance Advisory Commission (BRAAC), and Ensemble Stage.**

### Civic Contribution: Blowing Rock Country Club and the Blowing Rock Community Foundation

The Award for Civic Contribution is given to the business which makes positive contributions to the Blowing Rock Community. **The Blowing Rock Country Club and the Blowing Rock Community Foundation** received this award for the Community Golf Tournament. Since 1989, the Blowing Rock Country Club has offered golfers the opportunity to participate in the Charity Golf Tournament. This tournament supports the efforts of the Blowing Rock Community Foundation. The Foundation raises funds for a variety of worthy organizations in Blowing Rock; proceeds from the event will also be used to provide scholarships for college students from the greater Blowing Rock community. In the past, the event helped to raise over \$100,000 for a number of worthy causes. Outstanding Businesses and Groups which also received nominations for 2009 were **The Blowing Rock Rotary Club and The Sunset Stroll**, Maggie Wilson and Chris Brantley, lead organizers.



*Eric Davidson of Blowing Rock Country Club accepts the Civic Contribution Award.*

*Lonnie Webster shot these great photos, along with some of the photos of the winners. Thanks Lonnie!*



## Holiday Decorations Awards

During the Holiday Season, Blowing Rock is alive with lights, decorations and activities. This past year was no exception. Businesses were decorated to the hilt, and the committee had a difficult time choosing the winners for our Christmas Decorating Contest.



Gaines Kiker Silversmith/Goldsmith, left, was honored for Outstanding Outdoor Display. The Mountaineire Inn and Log Cabins, right, was chosen as Best Lighting Display for 2009. Last year, the Chamber awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award in Holiday Decorating to Chetola Resort for its incredible lighting display. This year, Carriage Trade Antiques was honored with the Lifetime



Achievement in Holiday Decorating Award. Carriage Trade's window displays could rival any store window display in country. Every evening during the Holiday season, shoppers can be seen delighting in the yearly display.



## Presentation of Gavel 2009 President Rita Davis

The President of the Board of Directors for 2009 faced several challenging tasks, not the least of which was an enhanced role as an advocate for Blowing Rock businesses. In her role as both the President of the Board of Directors and the Chair of the Community and Government Committee, Rita lead several important initiatives with the town. Rita lead the charge to find a permanent home for Art in the Park. Rita also presented the Chamber's positions to the Town Council on issues such as the Farm Fresh Market, Outdoor Dining, and parking extensions for downtown. Rita also chaired the Blue Ridge Wine & Food Festival for 2009 and 2008.



*Rita Davis receives a gavel and a shining star honoring her term as President.*



**The Blowing Rock  
Chamber of Commerce**

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**Keep Up with the Latest on Issues that Effect  
Your Business.**

**Links to help you Stay in The Know**

[US Chamber of Commerce](#)

[NC Chamber of Commerce](#)

[United States Senate](#)

[United States House of Representatives](#)

*North Carolina General Assembly :*

[Senate](#)

[House of Representatives](#)

**E-Mail Your Elected Officials:**

U.S. Rep. Virginia Foxx – 202-225-2071 - [Web Email](#)

State Sen. Steve Goss – 919-733-5742 – [steveg@ncleg.net](#)

State Rep. Cullie Tarleton – 919-733-7727 –  
[culliet@ncleg.net](#)

**The Blowing Rock Chamber of Commerce  
2010 Board of Directors**

**Officers**

**Nancy Santay, President**

*Cabin Fever*

**Margaret Holder, Vice President**

*Chetola Resort*

**Rita Davis, Past President**

*Wachovia Bank*

**Linda Gilleland, Secretary**

*Greystone Insurance*

**Deborah McDowell, Treasurer**

*Mountaineer Inn*

**Members of the Board**

**John Aldridge**

*Individual Representative*

**Tim Miller**

*Blowing Rock Frameworks & Gallery*

**Betsy Collins**

*Individual Representative*

**Joellyn Gibbons**

*Individual Representative*

**Don Hubble**

*Individual Representative*

**J. B. Lawrence**

*United Community Bank*

**Cathy Robbins**

*Tweetsie Railroad*

**Doug Pegram**

*Village Real Estate*

**Cindy Milner**

*Bistro Roca*

**Dick Goosman**

*Meadowbrook Inn*

**Christopher Brantley**

*Christopher's Wine & Cheese*

**Julie Robertson**

*The Last Straw*

**Genie Starnes**

*Individual Representative*

**Cathy Williamson**

*Kilwin's Chocolates & Ice Cream*

**Jerry Burns**

*Individual Representative*

**Missy Watson**

*Westglow Spa & Rowland's*



*Say Cheese. If you have photos  
you'd like to share, please send  
them to  
[Stephanie@blowingrock.com](#).  
We're especially looking for  
photos from our Business Mem-  
bers in their Businesses!*

**Awards 2009**

**Thank You to the Following Businesses and People who helped  
make our evening special:**

The Events Committee:

*Deborah McDowell*

*Billie Rogers*

*Pat Moser*

*Melissa Pickett*

*Chris Brantley*

*Joan Winkler*

Door Prizes Were Donated By:

*The Gamekeeper*

*The Best Cellar*

*Dewoolfson Down*

*The Spa at Chetola*

*Pleasant Papers*

*Clover*

Décor and Event Planning:

*Pat Moser*

Music and Entertainment:

*Blake Pace*

*Danny Wittington*

Our Photographers for the  
Evening:

*Lonnie Webster*

*Billie Rogers*

**Extra Special  
Sound and Music  
Help:  
Tom Santay**

