



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.

Special 2008 Awards Issue

A Night at the Oscars for Blowing Rock Business

Congrats to all the Nominees!

Tuesday, February 17 was a night to remember for Blowing Rock Chamber members as we spent A Night At the Oscars for 2008 Chamber Awards.

Mountain Times Publications, Publisher of *The Blowing Rocket* Business of the Year for 2008

Pictured at Left: Executive Director Charles Hardin Presents the Business of the Year for 2008 Award to Publisher Bill Morrison and Editor Jerry Burns



Mountain Times Publications were honored, "For their contribution to the Blowing Rock Business community in the areas of promotion and event coverage, in addition to their willingness to lend volunteers and leadership to committees and projects." Other nominees for the honor were First Citizens bank of Blowing Rock, the Hayes Performing Arts Center, Wachovia Bank of Blowing Rock, Village Real Estate, Greystone Insurance, and Tanger Shoppes on the Parkway.

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Special Awards
Issue

Friday,
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Please note that the regular edition of The e-Village Current will return next week!

Pam Jenkins Vines Honored as Volunteer of the Year for 2008

Pictured at Left, Pam Jenkins Vines with Charles Hardin



"This year's honoree has served the Chamber of Commerce in many capacities, as both a member of the board and as a volunteer willing to do the un-glamorous, (low paying) jobs at Art in the Park and the Blue Ridge Wine & Food Festival. She was president of the Chamber Board for 3 years at a critical moment in the Chamber's history. It was under her leadership that both Mitford Days and the Wine Festival were developed. This year, she was chair of the Events committee, which was responsible for securing a location for the 2009 Art in the Park, an often stormy and difficult process, attempting to balance the many interests in our community," said Charles Hardin Tuesday night.

Special Recognitions



"For the past 44 years, he has photographed and reported on Blowing Rock for our town's newspaper, *The Blowing Rocket*. He has served as Chamber President and been involved with Chamber events for his entire career in Blowing Rock. He has been a tireless promoter for the business community, and a champion of our community to the wider world. For these reasons -- and many more yet to come -- the Chamber would like to express our deepest appreciation to Mr. Jerry Burns for these many contributions to the Chamber and to the Blowing Rock business community." **Jerry was presented with a plaque that reads: To Jerry Burns, Editor, The Blowing Rocket, For Recognition of 44 Years Commitment, Service and Steadfastness to the Blowing Rock Chamber of Commerce and the Blowing Rock Community.**

The Chamber presented the **President's Gavel to Bill Hall**, who served as President of the Chamber's Board of Directors for 2008. His leadership, commitment and steady hand have guided our organization to great accomplishments. In addition to the development of a new pair of events, Concierge 101 & 102, Bill presided over the restructuring of the chamber's by-laws and committee structure. He initially led the Economic Development Committee of the Chamber toward the development of the plan for the Wine & Culinary Institute and the development of the commercial space database.



2008 President Bill Hall and his wife Marianne accept the President's Gavel.

Christmas Decorations



Chetola was presented with a lifetime achievement award for their Christmas Decorations



Outstanding Outdoor Display went to Shops at the Martin House

Outstanding Window Display went to Finley House Antiques



Gregory Alan's is New Business of the Year

Honored for their, "significant contributions and service to the Blowing Rock Chamber's Board of Directors, participation in and sponsorship of many Chamber events, as well as contributions to the Blowing Rock Community at large."



Greg Clark accepts the award.

Nominees for New Business of the Year were: Christopher's Wine & Cheese, on Sunset Drive featuring hand selected wines and cheese from around the world. Gregory Alan's on Sunset Drive offering accessories and decor items for your home. Jake's at the Rock, Blowing Rock's "Life is Good" shop, also on Sunset Drive. PJs Almost World Famous Cheeseburgers, bringing great cheeseburgers back to Blowing Rock -- at Tanger Shops on the Parkway. High Country Cabinets, located on Valley Blvd, designing and installing cabinetry for the area's finest homes and businesses.

Construction and Renovation Awards

The **New Construction Award** is given in recognition of the outstanding new building project completed in the year 2008. Three projects were nominated in this category: Blowing Rock Fire & Rescue, Rumble Memorial Presbyterian Church, and the Blowing Rock Historical Society for the Edgewood Cottage. Blowing Rock Fire and Rescue took home the prize.



Kent Graham and Scott Hildebran accept the award for the new Fire and Rescue Building.



Dr. Adam Hill receives his award.



Bob Moore accepts the award for United Community Bank.

Commercial Renovation Award is given to the outstanding renovation of a business completed in 2008. Four businesses were nominated in this category: Food Lion of Blowing Rock, United Community Bank, The Office of Dr. Adam Hill, DDS, The Gamekeeper Restaurant. Two businesses tied for the award: The Office of Dr. Adam Hill, and United Community Bank.

Exterior Enhancement Award is given to the business which made outstanding improvements to the exterior of their building in 2008. Three businesses were nominated in this category: Kilwin's on Main Street, The Rug Company on Main Street, Blowing Rock Investment Properties, US 321. Blowing Rock Investment Properties received the award. (no photo)

Civic Contribution



Brian Crutchfield and Susan Jones accept for BREMCO.

The **Civic Contribution** award is given to the business which makes positive contributions to the Blowing Rock Community. The nominees were: Tanger Shoppes on the Parkway for their many contributions to charities and programs in Blowing Rock and the broader community, such as a donation of \$21,000 to Watauga Relay for Life. Blue Ridge Electric for their service to local organizations, such as the development of the Chamber's Leadership Challenge Program. They also play an active role with the Chamber's Economic Development efforts among other civic and community duties. The Meadowbrook Inn, for their contributions to the Blowing Rock Community as not only a gathering place but as volunteers and supporters of many Chamber programs. Woodlands Barbeque, for their support of the family of Terry Witt, an employee who was tragically killed in a car accident. Woodlands and their employees raised over \$40,000 for the education of Ms. Witt's children. "Operation Mama Gaye" – A McDonald family fund which purchases books for kids at Blowing Rock School in memory of their mother, Gaye McDonald. Gaye and her husband Keith own Blowing Rock BP. Blue Ridge Electric was honored in this category.

Cultural Contribution

The **Cultural Contribution** award is given to the organization that has made a significant cultural contribution to our community for the year 2008. Five nominations were made in this category: The Blowing Rock Stage Company's TOPS Program, for their work with kids and the performing arts. Highland Craftsmen, for the Publication of Christie McCurry's *Bark House Style: Sustainable Designs from Nature*. The Blue Wine & Food Festival, for its support of the arts, culinary arts, wine making and service organizations in the community. An Appalachian Summer Festival for the many arts attractions the program brings to the High Country in the summer. St. Mary's Tour of Homes, for presenting historic and significant architecture in Blowing Rock while raising funds for local charities. Christie McCurry of Highland Craftsmen took the award



A surprised Christie McCurry accepts her award.



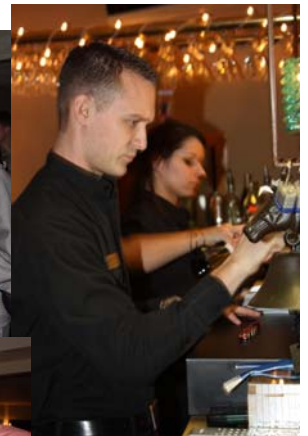
**The Blowing Rock
Chamber of Commerce**

Thanks to all our photographers... Jerry Burns, of the Blowing Rocket provided us with all the award photos (though Jeff Eason took the ones of Jerry), Deborah McDowell and Billie Rogers also snapped some photos of the evening. Enjoy!

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Guest speaker Cindy Wallace challenged us to do work as a team in challenging times.