



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.

New Board Members to Be Seated January 6.

The new members of the Board of Directors will be seated at the January 6th meeting. While we will be featuring them in later editions, we'd like to introduce them now. **Julie Robertson, of The Last Straw**; Julie Robertson has enjoyed living in Watauga County for 25 years. Prior to opening The Last Straw, with her husband Roger, she practiced Dental Hygiene for eight years. This summer The Last Straw, where she is an owner and designer, celebrated its 20th Anniversary! Julie enjoys spending time with her family, traveling and sunny days at Watauga Lake! She has two sons; Jesse and Brock Robertson who both graduate this May from Appalachian State University. **Cathy Williamson of Kilwin's**; Cathy and her husband, Bill have owned Kilwin's of Blowing Rock since 1990. They have two sons, ages 13 and 17. Cathy has served on nu-



Members of the Blowing Rock Chamber Board Of Directors.

merous non-profit boards from the Appalachian Women's Fund to the Blowing Rock Stage Company. **Chris Brantley, of Christopher's Wine & Cheese**; After over 20 years in Heath Care and Public Health Christopher gave up on what he describes as a dream that was a nightmare to indulge in a passion that helps maintain sanity in a world of chaos through quality products at exceptional values Wine & Cheese. **Missy Watson of Westglow Resort and Spa**; Missy has lived and worked in Blowing Rock and Boone for twenty three years. She has been a restaurant manager and co-

owner since arriving from Michigan in 1986. She thoroughly enjoys her profession and looks forward to serving on the board of the Blowing Rock Chamber. **Genie Starnes, an Individual Representative**; Genie has been a full time resident in BR for nine years, but has been a summer resident for thirty. She and her husband are partners in Blowing Rock Real Estate. A former teacher and realtor, Genie is retired and enjoys being a community volunteer. She has been an active participant as a fund raiser for the BR Hospital and the Community Foundation and is co-chairing "Groovy Nights" for the Foundation in August. She currently serves on the BRAAC Board. **Jerry Burns, an Individual Representative**; A native of Blowing Rock, Jerry retired earlier this year after 44 years as Editor of The Blowing Rocket. He is a former Chamber President and has been involved in village affairs all his life. An avid stamp collector, he and his wife Janice, a retired school teacher, enjoy traveling, theatre, and Carolina Tarheel sports.

Awards Nominations Sought

The Chamber is requesting nominations for our annual awards. Each year the Blowing Rock business community honors those who have made a significant contribution to the community. Awards are given to the outstanding businesses and individuals in the following categories: Business of the Year, New Construction, Busi-

ness Renovation, Cultural Contribution, and Civic Contribution. In addition, to these awards, the Christmas Decoration awards are also given. You can make your nominations by printing out [this form](#) and returning it to the Chamber by January 11, 2010.

This is the last Village Current for 2009! We will return in the New Year with our first issue in January.

Have a Peaceful and Warm Holiday Season!

Volume 5, Issue 24

Friday,
December 18, 2009

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Calendar of Events

- Thursday, December 24, Christmas Eve, Chamber Office Closed
- Friday, December 25, Christmas, Chamber Office Closed
- Thursday, December 31, Deadline to Apply for Art in the Park
- Friday, January 1, New Year's Day, Chamber Offices Closed

There are **MANY** Holiday Events going on! From Christmas Movies to Ensemble Stage's Christmas in Blowing Rock, Please see [BlowingRock.com](#) for a complete list.



The town of Blowing Rock would appreciate your time.

Town Seeks Citizens for Boards

As business owners in Blowing Rock, there are many opportunities for participation in town government. It is extremely important that the business community has representation on the boards that make the policies that affect your business. Now is the time to act. The Town of Blowing Rock is requesting nominations for appointment to various boards. Town Boards include the following: **Planning Board**, which

makes recommendations on growth and development in town. Duties include reviewing requests for new developments. There are nine members of the Board. **Board of Adjustment**, this board reviews variance requests of the Land Use Ordinance (zoning). There are five members of the board, plus three alternates. The **Tourism Development Authority** promotes, solicits and encourages tourism in the town of Blowing Rock. This

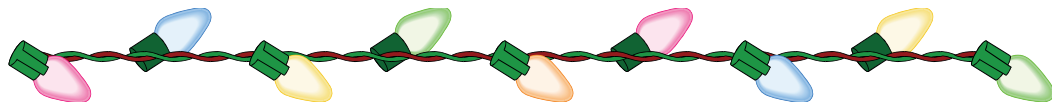
board has five members. The **Alcohol Beverage Control** oversees the operation and management of the Blowing Rock ABC store. If you are interested in serving on one of these boards, send a letter of interest plus pertinent experience to Sharon Greene, Town Clerk, PO Box 47, Blowing Rock, NC 28605.

Holiday Decorating Contest

The Chamber encourages all our members to participate in the **2009 Holiday Decorating contest**. Each year the Chamber honors businesses which have outstanding decorations in the Window Decorating category and in the Outdoor Display category. Last year's winner for

the Window Category was Finley House Antiques for their beautiful windows and The Martin House took the award for Outdoor Decorating with their lovely lights on Main Street. The awards are presented at the February Awards Banquet. **The judging will take place the week**

of December 21st. If your business is located **OUTSIDE THE CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT**, please call the Chamber and let us know that you would like to be included in the contest.



Membership Dues Investment

Thanks to everyone who has made the decision to **renew your Blowing Rock Chamber Membership for 2010**. You know that one payment means that your Chamber Membership works for you all year long. The Blowing Rock Chamber offers many benefits for its members including advertising and sponsorship opportunities, networking with other businesses, referrals, workshops and seminars,

inclusion in the Member to Member Discount Program. Every member has the opportunity to place a rack card in the busy Visitor Center on Valley Blvd. Additionally, each member is listed in the Blowing Rock Visitor Guide and Directory and on BlowingRock.com. The Chamber also represents a combined voice to advocate for business and economic development with the Town Council. Additionally, the Blowing Rock

Chamber designs and executes many events in the town of Blowing Rock which stimulate the economy. If you have not yet made your dues investment for 2009, please do so very soon. Remember that your listing in the upcoming 2010 - 2011 Directory will be jeopardized if your dues investment is not made by January 1, 2010.



The Blowing Rock Chamber is the oldest Chamber in the High Country, founded in 1927.

Thanks for a Great Festive Friday!

The Business Support Committee would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone that participated in "Festive Friday-A Hometown Holiday". While we had both bone-chilling weather and the 321 road closure against us, all in all we created a fun night for our residents and visitors, (at least those that were brave enough to come out in the cold) and we thank you for that! We also are grateful to the churches who provided our Christmas Carolers, Gary

Smith for being our Santa, the Community Club for hosting the reading of The Night Before Christmas, and David and Kim Rogers for reading to the children. Our thanks as well to John and Faye Cooper for allowing the use of the Candy Barrel location for our Santa and Gingerbread House Contest. We are sending the Hospitality House a check for \$150 that was raised through that event. Thanks to everyone who entered the competition as well. The folks from

Appalachian Evergreens braved the weather to offer trees and greenery, and Earl, Carol and Billie...thanks for displaying the Winterfest Inflatables and serving hot chocolate to those in need of something to warm up! Foot-sloggers - the firepit and s'mores were a nice touch on a cold winter night. We appreciate everyone's efforts, participation, and contributions to this event!



'Tis the Season for Great Photos Here are some photos from our recent events!



Turn the page for more photos!



**The Blowing Rock
Chamber of Commerce**

Contact the Chamber:

7738 Valley Blvd Phone: 828-295-7851
PO Box 406 Fax: 828-295-4643
Blowing Rock, NC 28605 E-mail: info@blowingrock.com

**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

2009 Board of Directors

Officers

- Rita Davis, President**
Wachovia Bank
- Nancy Santay, Vice President**
Cabin Fever
- Bill Hall, Past President**
Blowing Rock Realty
- Linda Gilleland, Secretary**
Greystone Insurance
- Margaret Holder, Treasurer**
Chetola Resort

Members of the Board

- Babette McAuliffe**
Carolina Mountain Life Magazine
- John Aldridge**
Individual Representative
- Greg Clark**
Gregory Alan's
- Dan Phillips**
Individual Representative

Tim Miller

Blowing Rock Frameworks & Gallery

Betsy Collins

Individual Representative

Joellyn Gibbons

Individual Representative

J. B. Lawrence

United Community Bank

Heidi Ellis

Tanger Shoppes on the Parkway

Cathy Robbins

Tweetsie Railroad

Doug Pegram

Village Real Estate

Cindy Milner

Bistro Roca

Dick Goosman

Meadowbrook Inn

Deborah McDowell

Mountaineer Inn

John Albright

Individual Representative

This Week in Photos



*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!*



Look out Cobb! Someone hit the naughty list... and it's not even Jimmy!