



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.

Get Your Green On!

Watauga Green Business Plan in Blowing Rock

The Blowing Rock Chamber is proud to report that Blowing Rock is Watauga County's Greenest Business Community, according to participation in the Watauga County Green Business Plan. Of the five businesses which are currently certified as a green business by the plan, four of them are in Blowing Rock and are also members of the Blowing Rock Chamber:

Glidewell's, Crippen's Country Inn & Restaurant, Bob Timberlake Gallery and Canyons of the Blue Ridge. Spearheaded by the Watauga County Economic Development Commission, the Watauga Green Business Plan is a voluntary, market-driven program that:

- Educates and certifies small businesses' for their "green" practices
- Reduces small businesses environmental impacts
- Helps to build a sustainable community



The Blowing Rock Chamber is committed to helping you find ways to Green Up your business.

You can find out more about the Watauga County Green Pan at their web-site: <http://greenbusinessplan.com/>. The Plan will help educate and connect businesses to environmentally responsible choices. These choices include everything from solid waste management to protecting and promoting natural and cultural resources. The Chamber is challenging all of our members to sign up for the Watauga County Green Business Plan, so that we can keep our community green and healthy. (Okay, we also like to brag to everyone about how great Blowing Rock is, we admit it.) The plan was also covered in the Jan. 28 edition of *The Wa-*

tauga Democrat. You can read the full article [here](#). Other organizations are helping specific industries achieve best practices for the environment. The Center for Sustainable Tourism at ECU, in conjunction with the N.C. Division of Pollution Prevention, has put together a list of sustainable practices for both the lodging and food service industries. You can see this list of criteria for sustainable practices by [clicking here](#). Another travel industry web site which focuses on the latest developments in the travel industry by featuring successful case studies is TravelGreen.org. Keeping up with the latest regarding environmental best practices is good business. More and more, consumers are looking for businesses that are environmentally friendly and sensitive to the support of other local businesses.

Business After Hours Returns March 17!

Just in time for St. Patrick's Day, the first Blowing Rock Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours will be held at the Meadowbrook Inn, Tuesday, March 17. The party gets started at 5:30pm

and ends at 7:30pm. Business After Hours are a fun and effective networking tool. If your business would like to host one of these events, please give us a call at the Chamber Office, 295-

7851 or send Charles an e-mail, hardince@blowingrock.com. There is limited availability for 2009.

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Calendar of Events

- *Sunday, March 1, 6:00pm "Toast & Roast" for Jerry Burns, Hayes Center, call for more info, Kim Rogers 295-988 or Ginny Stevens, 295-3021.*
- *Wednesday, March 4, 8 a.m. Board of Directors Meeting, Gideon Ridge Inn*
- *Wednesday, March 4, 12:00pm Lunch Meeting of Leadership Challenge Alumni, Woodlands*
- *Friday, March 6, Leadership Challenge Begins*
- *Tuesday, March 17, Business After Hours Returns at the Meadowbrook Inn, 5:30pm*



Bill Hall of Blowing Rock Realty and Pleasant Papers is the Immediate Past President for 2009.

Meet Your Board of Directors Bill Hall, Immediate Past President 2009

Bill Hall served as President of the Board of Directors of the Blowing Rock Chamber of Commerce for 2008. During his presidency, the chamber developed a new pair of events, Concierge 101 & 102. Bill also 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.

As Immediate Past President, Bill remains on the Executive Board and is an active member of the Business Support Committee. "The Business Support Committee is extremely important," Bill says. "Our purpose is to improve the health of business in Blowing Rock and to help guide it toward our town's goals." Bill, a native of High Point, has an engineering degree from North Carolina State and an MBA from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Bill worked with Carolina Power & Light Company in power plant

engineering and operations, and later as a manufacturers' representative in Charlotte selling power and water and wastewater treatment equipment. He has been with Blowing Rock Realty for the past eleven years. Bill has been active in numerous professional and technical organizations over the years and is involved in the Blowing Rock Community as a member of Rumble Memorial Presbyterian Church and civic clubs such as Rotary. Bill and his wife Marianne own Pleasant Papers located on Main Street.

New Members Join the Chamber

Welcome to our newest chamber member, the Association of Consultants and Event Services, A.C.E.S. You can find out more about their

services at their web-site: <http://www.a-c-e-s.us/>. A.C.E.S is a consultation and planning service for Western North Carolina weddings.

Blue Ridge Wine and Food Festival's Downtown Scavenger Hunt Needs You!

Get involved in the Blue Ridge Wine and Food Festival and bring shoppers into your store at the same time. Like last year, the Festival will be hosting a scavenger hunt in downtown Blowing Rock. This year we will be limiting participation to TWENTY RETAIL SHOPS, plus one drop off point. Rather than shops coming up with clues, we will be placing a Festival Wine Glass in each shop, with a

little clue/answer tucked inside. This will eliminate the need for shops to come up with clues on their own. Shops then stamp or mark the game piece when participants give them the answer in the glass. The participating shops will need to be open Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Extended business hours would be a great idea, given that the Grand Tasting ends at 4pm on Saturday. The committee is currently working to develop some Downtown

events for Saturday evening. If you are interested in participating as either a retail shop or the drop off point, please contact Stephanie at the Chamber at 828-295-7851 or e-mail stephanie@blowingrock.com by March 30, 2009. The drop off point needs to be a place which is open on Sunday morning. The Prize for this Year's Scavenger Hunt will be tickets to the 2010 Festival, Lodging and CERTIFICATES from the Chamber.



The Blue Ridge Wine and Food Festival will take place April 16—19, 2009.

Member to Member Discount Cards On Their Way to Your Mailbox

The Blowing Rock Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce the third year of the Member to Member Discount Program. For 2009, this program gives Chamber members access to special discounts at participating businesses. In the past year, this growing list has included lodging, dining, shopping and many services. Discounts are generally from 5 – 15% for shop-

ping and dining, but can also represent significant savings with realtors, consultants, classes and other services. Some restrictions do apply, and more information can be found at <http://www.blowingrock.com/membertomember.php>. The Member to Member Discount Program is a part of the “Buy Blowing Rock First” initiative. By making use of the wide range of services and mer-

chandise available in the Village of Blowing Rock, we improve the economy of our community. Reports suggest that for every \$1.00 spent locally, \$0.45 of that dollar stays in our local economy – almost three times the amount if we go “off the mountain” for goods and services. We encourage all of our members to make use of this great benefit — watch your mail box for the card.

THE VILLAGE OF
Blowing Rock

2009 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MEMBER

Present this card at participating member businesses to receive discounts and special rates.

Signature: _____

Offers and discounts vary. Please inquire prior to purchase. Not valid with any other coupons or discounted offers. For a full list of participating businesses visit: www.blowingrockchamber.com

Member to Member Discount Cards for 2009 will arrive in your mailbox very soon..

Leadership Challenge Begins

The 2009 Blowing Rock Leadership Challenge is set to begin with an all day retreat on March 6. The fourteen participants are from a range of businesses and backgrounds and were formally announced at the Awards Banquet. The 2009

Class will be: Kelly Henson, of BRAHM; Clarence Stroud of Chetola; Rusty Guenther of First Baptist Church; Joan Winger of Gems by Gemini; Mandy Matthews of the Meadowbrook Inn; Gwen Barfoot of United Community Bank; Peggy Wertz of Wachovia Bank;

Jennifer Williams of Westglow; Wendy McDonald Estes of Wendy Mac's; Elizabeth Sudderth of Boone Drug; Trena Kirby of the USPS; Tammie Jolly, a resident; Linda Wehner, a resident; and Rob Garrett of Village Real Estate .

Toastmasters Getting Started in the High Country

Toastmasters International is starting a chapter in the High Country. An Open House will be held on Tuesday March 17 at 5:30pm. at St. Elizabeth Church in Boone.

Contact: Glenda Teams
Phone: 828-310-8491

Highway 321 Update

The US Highway 321 project status has been updated by the North Carolina Department of Transportation. Currently, the 6.57 mile section between Blackberry Road and Kirby Road (in Caldwell County) is reported to be at 78.16% completion. Work began on the section on February 2, 2005 and

the estimated completion date is now August 15, 2009. Additionally, DOT has put on hold the acquisition of Right-Of-Way along 321 in the town of Blowing Rock. You can always keep up with the latest on the US Highway 321 project at:

<http://www.ncdot.org/projects/BlowingRock321/>



Stay updated with the US 321 project on-line.



**The Blowing Rock
Chamber of Commerce**

*The Blowing Rock Chamber of Commerce
2009 Board of Directors*

Blowing Rock Chamber of Commerce

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**Keep Up with 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](#)

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

Joeyllen 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

Debroah McDowell

Mountianaire Inn

Jim Steele

Individual Representative



Say Cheese. If you have photos you'd like to share, please send them to Stephanie@blowingrock.com.

This Week in Photos

Just a couple more photos from last week's Awards Banquet.

