



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.

It's The Fourth of July!

The Fourth of July is here! This year the celebrating will actually begin on July 3, when the Chamber's Business Support Committee in partnership with the TDA and the Town of Blowing Rock are hosting **some fun in downtown Blowing Rock. From 5 pm – 8pm on Friday, July 3 (YEAH, THAT'S TODAY)**, Mr. Magic and Wacky-Do, a clown balloon artist, will be performing at various stations around downtown. The idea is that family friendly street performers will help keep and entice visitors to stay downtown for shopping and eating. In addition to the magic and the fun, many of our shops are staying open late — past 6pm — in order to take advantage of the customers on the street. Open businesses will be marked with great pa-



The Fourth of July Parade is a Blowing Rock tradition.

triotic Mylar balloons. You'll find open doors at Christmas in Blowing Rock, CrossTrade, Mast Store Candy Barrel, Cabin Fever, Jake's at the Rock, Footsloggers, Traditions Pottery, Christopher's Wine & Cheese, Gregory Alan's, Neaco, The Last Straw, We're Good Sports, and probably many more that have been added since we pub-

lished *The Village Current!* You can get in on the action at any time; just let us know you need a balloon by calling the Chamber office at 295-7851. If you decide to remain open after 6pm, but it is already late in the day, just walk down to Cabin Fever and get a balloon from Nancy. The Celebration of Independence Day will continue throughout the week-end. Activities in Memorial Park begin at 9am and the Independence Day Parade is at 2pm. Music and Fireworks continue in the evening. Sunday will find Diana and Sarvis Ridge in the Park in the afternoon and then the Park Dance begins at 5pm. Print out the a poster with a schedule: [Poster for the Fourth of July](#) Fireworks can be seen from both the Blowing Rock Country Club and Tweetsie Railroad. Parking in the lot at Tweetsie costs \$5 per car.

Blowing Rock Fresh Market Planned for July 16

The Blowing Rock Chamber of Commerce's Economic Development Committee announced on Wednesday that the **Blowing Rock Fresh Market will take place in the Wachovia Bank parking area from 4pm—7pm, Thursday, July 16.** Modeled after other community farmer's markets, the Blowing Rock Fresh Market will feature some of our

areas finest produce, meats, and plants. There are approximately 18 vendors signed up for the inaugural Fresh Market. The Blowing Rock Fresh Market will concentrate only on food and plants and has no plans to expand to other types of items. "The Blowing Rock Fresh Market will take place every Thursday throughout the season,"

said Dan Phillips, a member of the Chamber's Board of Directors who spear headed the group. "We want to get people downtown, enjoying what Blowing Rock has to offer in the evenings." The Fresh Market atmosphere will be made even more festive with live bluegrass music.



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Friday,
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Inside this issue:

Meet Your Board: 2
Doug Pegram

Board Meeting Review 2

Symphony Tents 2

Minding the Store: 3
Trash Talkin'

Parking in Downtown 3

Links to Keep you Informed 4

This Week in Photos 4

Calendar of Events.

- Friday, July 3, 5 pm - 8pm, Entertainment in Downtown

- Thursday, July 16, 4—7pm, Fresh Market, Wachovia Parking Lot

- Friday, July 17, 5:30pm, Grand Opening, Art & Artifacts, 159 Sunset Drive

- Saturday, July 18, 10 am—5pm, Art in the Park

- Sunday, July 19, 4pm Concert in the Park, The Minute Men of the 440th Army National Guard Band

- Friday, July 24, Symphony by the Lake at Chetola

Meet Your Board of Directors

Doug Pegram of *Village Real Estate*

Douglas Pegram of Village Real Estate is a member of the Board of Directors.

Doug Pegram of Village Real Estate may bring a fresh voice to the Blowing Rock Chamber of Commerce's Board of Directors, but it is a voice steeped in the town's history. Originally from Lenoir, Doug graduated from the University of North Carolina with a degree in history. This background gives Doug an appreciation for his ancestral link to the town of Blowing Rock, as he is a descendant of one of Blowing Rock's first seasonal residents, James Harper. He is also related to the builders of the Green Park Inn and related to the builders of the first plank road from Lenoir to Blowing

Rock. Particularly interested in preservation efforts, Doug has served on the Board of Preservation North Carolina and has been involved in renovation and preservation projects. This admiration for the past gives Doug a unique set of skills for his business and for his work with the Chamber. "I have a particular interest in helping to develop the vision to keep Blowing Rock the unique place that it is," Doug says. Of course for Doug, this means being a champion for the valuable historic structures and working to keep the scale and density of the community appropriate to our history and area. Doug is active not only through the Chamber but also with many other com-

munity organizations including the Blowing Rock Historical Society; Chapel of Rest Preservation Society; and has formerly served on the Board of the Blowing Rock Community Arts Center. He is also a charter member of the Blowing Rock Art and History Museum and a member of Rumble Presbyterian Church. Doug has co-owned Village Real Estate for five years and enjoys being a part of Blowing Rock's Main Street community. You might also catch one of his other interests -- his antique '57 Cadillac Fleetwood -- rolling down Main in the Blowing Rock Fourth of July Parade!

Board Meeting Review

The meeting of the Board of Directors on Wednesday, July 1 included important developments for the Blowing Rock Chamber. Committee reports saw work presented such as the unveiling of a new individ-

ual member brochure and the announcement that the first Fresh Market will take place on July 16! Important votes were also taken to approve the creation of the Blowing Rock Chamber Foundation

and Blue Ridge Wine & Culinary Center Foundation 501(c)3 organizations. Billie Rogers was also as the Chair of the Wine Festival Committee. The Board also discussed and approved a new communication strategy.

Symphony Tents are on Sale Now



The Symphony by the Lake at Chetola is the centerpiece event of the summer season.

The Symphony by the Lake at Chetola is a must-do event of the summer season for many of our visitors. This year the Symphony will take place on Friday, July 24. It can also be the highlight of the year for your business. Purchasing a patron tent is a fun option for our business members. Patron tents can be used for many purposes. A business

could choose to host a staff or customer appreciation party. Because many people stop by and "visit" at each tent, it can also be a way to meet and greet potential customers. Single tents come with twelve tickets, chairs, and an eight foot banquet table. Of course, individuals and families are welcome to purchase patron tents as well. Some

patrons really enjoy participating in the tent decorating competition, and show off the creativity of their business or family in this way. Patrons are also granted special parking and can pick up and drop off at the tent for their set-up and breakdown. Please call the Chamber for more details or see the [Symphony web-site](#).

Note on July 4 Mountain Home Music Show

The Mountain Home Music Performance on July 4th is actually at Blowing Rock School and not at St. Luke's as it is listed in Mountain Home's Brochure. Joe Shannon also tells us that the concert will be over BEFORE the fireworks. For more information, please see Mountain Home's web-site at: <http://www.mountainhome.com/music.com/>



Ok, we're gonna do a little 'trash-talkin' here! We would like to reiterate for all Main St. businesses, the town's trash and recycling pick-up schedule. There isn't any reason that trash would have to be put out front of your business at the end of the business day. The town of Blowing Rock Sanitation Department makes pick-ups three days a week - Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. There are two runs each of these days - the

Trash Talkin'

first at approx. 8am, the second around 11am. Trash can be placed outdoors at the curb on Main St. between 7:30am and 10:30am to get into either of these trucks. The recycling truck picks up on Wednesday morning by 11am. The town asks that businesses refrain from leaving their trash and recycling at the curb at the end of the work day. In consideration of our commitment to preserve the beauty of Main Street, and especially at the start of our season, please abide by these time frames.



No Oscar the Grouch here — just some trashy business.

Parking In Blowing Rock

Parking in downtown Blowing Rock has seen some relief in the past few weeks as more and more people are using the new parking facility on Wallingford Street. We've noticed that many people are parking in the lower level of the facility. "The lower level provides a cool place to park. You get in your car at the end of the day, and it's not 180 degrees," said one downtown employee. The facility will be good in the winter as well, protecting your car from rain and snow. The parking facility provides a wonderful alternative to parking on Main Street or any of the side streets. Downtown shops and restaurants would like for the spaces on Main, Sunset and other streets nearest their businesses to be most accessible for customers. Not parking in front of your own shop is obviously a good idea, and a healthy community extends

this idea to all of our neighboring businesses. Now that we have a beautiful alternative to parking on the street, this problem should be alleviated. We had a conversation with Chief Eric Brown of the Blowing Rock Police Department who assured us that the Blowing Rock Police will be strictly enforcing the two hour parking rule. In fact, the BRPD recently hired a Parking Enforcement Officer, Officer Robert Klenotiz, to help enforce parking regulations. If your vehicle is identified as having been parked in a space for too long, the tire will be marked with chalk. Chief Brown was very clear that simply moving your vehicle to another space in a two hour parking zone is still a violation of the parking regulation. "We will be watching for people moving from space to space," he said. "We will also be watching for people remov-

ing the chalk marks." Soon, the BRPD will be making use of a hand held computer that will eliminate the need for the chalk mark. This device will make note plate number of the vehicle in addition to recording the time. Chief Brown also said that there are discussions regarding extending the downtown parking period from two to three hour. "This was a recommendation from the Retail (Hyatt-Palma) Study, and that is being given consideration," he said. The extended time would make a more relaxed atmosphere for customers in town, and the BRPD would strictly enforce the rule. In general, the simplest way to not get a ticket is to make use of the parking facility, beginning and ending your day with a walk through our lovely park.



Want to avoid a ticket? Park your car in our wonderful new parking facility all day!



**The Blowing Rock
Chamber of Commerce**

Contact the Chamber:

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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

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Rita Davis, President
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Nancy Santay, Vice President
Cabin Fever

Bill Hall, Past President
Blowing Rock Realty

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Cathy Robbins

Tweetsie Railroad

Doug Pegram

Village Real Estate

Cindy Milner

Bistro Roca

Dick Goosman

Meadowbrook Inn

Deborah McDowell

Mountianaire Inn

John Albright

Individual Representative

This Week in Photos

The TDA's Tracy Brown, intern Brittany Autten, and the Chamber's Charles Hardin decorate the Visitor Center for July 4th.



Diana and Sarvis Ridge kept on jammin' even though the rain came pouring down at the last Concert in the Park.



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 Members in their Businesses!