

Madison County News Bulletin

Chamber of Commerce

(828) 689-9351

www.madisoncounty-nc.com

Summer 2009



Leading Notes

I cannot believe it has been a year since I became president of the Madison County Chamber of Commerce. I feel so blessed to call

Madison County home.

In January, O'Neal Shelton worked with a group of six writers representing several publications and a person from Channel 11 TV in Johnson City who did a FAM tour of the ski slopes at Wolf Laurel. One of the writers has authored books on hiking the Appalachian Trail. Channel 11 did a feature story on the ski slopes that ran for five minutes during their newscast. Several other articles were written by the group.

As I stated before, I hope that even in these trying times you will be able to continue your membership in the Chamber. I would like to invite you to attend our Chamber Board Meetings on the first Tuesday of each month at 8 a.m. We meet at the Mashburn Medical Center in Marshall and we try to keep our meetings to an hour or less.

I would also like to invite each of you to join us for upcoming Business After Hours that are listed on page 2. I want to thank you if you have hosted a Business After Hours. We always see old friends and have a couple hours of good fellowship.

I want to thank each of the Board Members who have worked so hard this year to make Madison County a better place to live. If you have not talked with Linda Giltz and shared your ideas regarding Madison County's Economic Future, please read the article on page 2 and give her a call at the Land of Sky Regional Council.

Please don't hesitate to contact our office in Mars Hill at 689-9351 with questions, comments or suggestions.

*Maxine Brown, President
Madison County Chamber of Commerce*

2009-10 Business Directory

Madison County 2009-10 Business Directories are out now and are available at the I-26 Welcome Center and at the Visitor's Center in Mars Hill. You can help distribute the directory! Call 680-9546 and let us know how many copies you would like delivered to your location. The directory includes more than 200 small business

enterprises, service people, and individuals. Madison County Chamber of Commerce members represent the diversity and strength of our business economy across the county.



Rick Morgan and Larry Peek



Linda Scoggin, O'Neal Shelton, and Reich Gardner

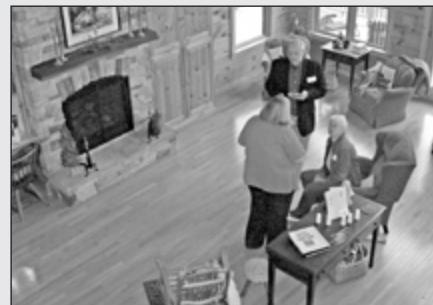
Business After Hours

Several Chamber members have hosted Business After Hours events in Mars Hill and Marshall. These events have grown in popularity and are a great way to network. If you haven't been yet, please make

time to attend our next events.

Past hosts have included Bacchus Bistro, Confederation Log Homes, and Fiddlestix. The event at Fiddlestix, located in Mars Hill, attracted 90 people! The Mars Hill Merchants made a point of attending and promoting the event.

Wonderful snacks were provided by Stix & Scones, Good Measure Bakery, LoafChild Bakery, and Sunset Valley Farm. Included among the art, antiques, and hand-mades offered by Fiddlestix was jewelry by Celia's Crafts 4 Christ. A surprise performance by master fiddler Danielle Bishop and her father made the event unforgettable.



*Maxine Brown speaks with guests at
Confederation Log Homes.*

Enhancing the Economic Vitality of Hot Springs, Mars Hill & Marshall, NC

Madison's Business After Hours Events



Danny Bishop, father of Danielle Bishop, master fiddler, performing at Fiddlestix.

Monday, July 20

Co-Hosted by El Dorado Latin Grill
& The Original Papa Nicks
Pizza & Takeout
Steve Alley & Debbie Turner Nikla
689-9704 – Mars Hill, NC

August 2009

RiverDance Vacation Rental
Dave & Callie Wellendorf
847-809-3098 – Mars Hill, NC

September 2009

Fowler Farms Sporting Clays
Cline & Mary Ruth Fowler
622-7380 – Hot Springs, NC

More than 90 people attended the After Hours event held at Fiddlestix, with another 44 attending the event held at Bacchus Bistro, and 30 attended Mountin' Hopes After Hours networking event.

If you are interested in hosting a Chamber event please contact Claudia Reavis at 689-9351.

Chamber Board Meetings

Madison County Chamber of Commerce Board Meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month. Meetings begin at 8am at the Mashburn Medical Center in Marshall. All interested parties are encouraged to attend.

Upcoming Meetings:

Tuesday, August 4, 2009
Tuesday, September 1, 2009
Tuesday, October 6, 2009

Chamber Officers 2009

Maxine Brown - President
Don Miller - Vice President
Larry Peek - Treasurer
Simone Bouyer - Secretary

Madison County's Economic Future

What types of businesses are needed in the County?

What would you like the County to do to help existing businesses thrive and grow?

Where should new businesses be located?

Submitted by Linda Giltz

Your input on these and similar matters is important. You live and/or work in the county and know what you would like to see in the future.

The County is developing a comprehensive plan to guide future growth and development. Please share your ideas, especially related to business needs, business-related policies and regulations (including zoning) and locations for new businesses.

Did you know...

- Madison County's population is expected to reach 22,000 in 2020; its current population is about 20,500.
- Approximately 10,002 workers* reside in Madison County (*persons over 16 years, in 2008), but less than half (46%) work in the county.
- Madison County's unemployment rate for the first 3 months of 2009 averaged 9.3%, which was less than the state's unemployment rate, 10.8%, for the same period.
- There were 385 private business establishments in the county in 2007; 19 of these were manufacturing businesses and 110 were retail businesses.
- The occupational category with

the highest number of workers is "management, professional and related occupations;" after that sales and office occupations and production, transportation and material moving occupations

- Farming is a large part of Madison County's economy – annual revenue from farming ("farm receipts") in 2008 for the county was \$15 million.
- In 2007, the Agricultural Census counted 800 farms in Madison, representing almost 67,000 acres and one-fourth of the land in the county. Just 25 years ago, there were almost 1,500 farms representing over 106,000 acres of land.

Please share your knowledge and ideas about business and economic activity with me so it can be considered in the comprehensive plan. You can provide input directly to Linda Giltz, at Land-of-Sky Regional Council: email lindag@landofsky.org; or phone (828) 251-6622.

If you would like to see draft plan chapters, community meeting summaries or other documents related to the comprehensive plan, please go to the county's website, www.madisoncountync.org, and choose "Comprehensive Plan" in the Useful Links box on the home page.

New Airiport Opens at Wolf Ridge

by Rick Bussey

"Wolf Air," officially opened on Saturday, July 4, when pilot Harold Mack (former Wolf Laurel resident) and his passenger Harvey English, landed at 10:52:08 EST. Witnessing this exciting and long awaited event, was a crowd of local residents along with a number of the key laborers who worked hard over the past three years to make this airport a reality.

The completion of the first phase of Wolf Air includes a 3,200 feet long by 46 feet wide paved runway surface and 18, fly in and fly out, single family runway lots. The runway has

the potential of being expanded to approximately 4,000 feet in length and could be paved up to 70 feet wide.

Wolf Air has FAA approval and is now working on a landing and take-off flight instruction CD, installation of the fuel tanks, runway lighting, helicopter pad, runway labeling, and airport signage.

The airport will be offering some sort of ownership/ membership to the community for those pilots interested in using the airport on a regular basis.

For more information visit www.scenicwolfresort.com or call the resort welcome center at (828) 689-3600.

Doing Business with the Government

The Town of Marshall, the Very Small Business Center, and the NC Small Business & Technology Development Center/Procurement Technical Assistance Center will present a workshop on Wednesday, July 22, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Very Small Business Center, Room 106, Marshall High Studios in Marshall.

The government buys everything from animals, to services such as construction and catering.

Learn From the Experts How To:

- Identify sales opportunities
- Evaluate federal and state solicitations
- Register your business



- Find assistance resources
- Understand the bid process

There is no cost to attend this seminar. Please RSVP to Jennifer Flynn at (828) 649-3444 by Monday July 20.

Consultations Available

Annice Brown from the SBTDC will be offering one-on-one 1-hour consultations, for free on July 30 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Very Small Business Center. Topics can include developing a business or marketing plan, or guidance for new business ideas. Please call 649-3444 to schedule a time or for more information.

Mars Hill Music & More

Get ready for an evening of *Music and More* on Sunday, August 23 in downtown Mars Hill. College Street will be closed to traffic from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. for music, dance, and fun. The Mars Hill Merchants Association is sponsoring this monthly community celebration. Co-sponsors for the event include Mars Hill College, Madison County Arts Council, and the town. Many Main Street businesses will be open late – come and have a good time! For more details please call (828) 680-9031.

New Internet Site for Weaverville

Weaverville.com, initiated by local businessman Frank Connors, will provide would-be tourists with a powerful, comprehensive resource for finding the attractions they're seeking. The new website will offer the detailed information that visitors seek when they're planning their vacations by highlighting many of the unique offerings easily overlooked by casual visitors and by promoting a wide range of area businesses.

Weaverville.com promotes area places to stay, restaurants, whitewater adventures, arts and crafts, golf excursions, fly-fishing expeditions, and visits to every point of interest from Biltmore to Hot Springs.

Connors says, "Families might know about tubing or whitewater rafting, but then discover that there are family-friendly bicycling tours, horseback riding, and other adventures

for the kids. This site will really help people learn about the hidden treasures we have here.

"Weaverville and its surroundings are a magical place, and everyone who discovers it loves it. That's why we thought it was important to provide a web site that will help them find us. The more people who visit Weaverville.com, the more we all win."

To promote and support local businesses, Weaverville.com offers area advertisers a variety of banner ads and special-placement listings that will link visitors directly to their sites. The website currently has more than 200 businesses listed.

Submitted by Frank Connors, GreenLeaf Networks, LLC – Promotion and marketing for Madison County businesses. Call 828 989-8645 for more information.

Disadvantaged Business Enterprises

As recipients of EPA financial assistance agreements, the Regional Brownfields Initiative (RBI) and the City of Asheville are required to seek and encouraged to utilize small, minority and women-owned businesses for their procurement needs under the financial assistance agreement.

Small Businesses, Minority-owned Businesses, and Women-owned Businesses must be certified to qualify as a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE). The Regional Brownfields Initiative and the City of Asheville are accepting certification from those who register with the State of North Carolina's Office of Historically Underutilized Businesses. Certification is no longer being handled locally.

Vendorlink and HUB designation is a self-managed system for minority vendors and it registers you as a vendor for the State of North Carolina. This listing is used across the State by general contractors, architects, engineers, cities, counties and essentially anyone accessing the internet. It will also provide a main listing of minority and disadvantaged businesses for the entire state eliminating the need to register as a minority firm at separate cities and counties unless their local ordinances require that you do so.

Contact the Minority Business Program at (828) 232-4566 for program details.

SART - Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre

Brighton Beach Memoirs

Opening Reception - July 16.
Neil Simon's coming-of-age comedy.
On stage through July 26.

Home Again

Opening Reception - July 30.
A SART Heritage Series production about Thomas Wolfe. On stage through August 9.

The Foreigner

Opening Reception - August 16
A Southern comedy of manners by Larry Shue. Through August 23.

For ticket and seating information phone 828 689-1239, email sart@mbc.edu, or visit www.sartplays.org.

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Madison County Chamber of Commerce

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[email: fjc@earthlink.net](mailto:fjc@earthlink.net)
Promotion and marketing for Madison County businesses via destination website.

We Want Your Brochures!

Madison County Chamber of Commerce members are encouraged to bring brochures, postcards, photo albums, and other promotional items to the Madison County Visitor's Center in Mars Hill. Make sure visitors know about the services you provide!

Hemlock Hollow Inn "Farm, Shoppe & Cabins"

Mrs. V. Hattie Kinsey & Family
645 Chandler Circle
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Mountain Lifestyle Communities

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Burnsville, NC 28714
Mail: PO Box 458,
Burnsville, NC 28714
828 682-1524

Fax: 828 682-1563
Other phone: 828 284-4823
[email: denise@mlcnc.com](mailto:denise@mlcnc.com)
www.mlcnc.com

Two Communities: The Cove at Celso Mountain and Mountain Heritage Estates.

Mountain Traditions

Lee Hoffman
822 Crooked Creek Road
Mars Hill, NC 28754
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