

Madison County News Bulletin

Chamber of Commerce

(828) 689-9351

www.madisoncounty-nc.com

Fall 2005



Leading Notes

Summer has been active and I hope prosperous for Madison County. The river rafting, farm tours, hikers, festivals, summer sports of all kinds have kept us busy.

The grand opening of Little Pine Preserve's Southern Accent Home brought a great deal of positive media attention to our area. The summer SART season has been terrific; my favorite was the "Shelton Laurel" play, guess why. The car show in Marshall was also memorable. Main Street filled with people reminded me of the "roaring fifties" when downtown Marshall would be packed with people on Saturday.

Hot Springs has kept their streets filled as usual with new business ventures, festivals, restaurants, motorcycle rallies and many other events. Keep up the good work!

Thanks go out to Jennifer Hampton and Tim Brant at the Wolf Ridge Lodge for hosting the annual Madison Chamber of Commerce dinner. A pat on the back for all the members that attended. Great food and entertainment was enjoyed by all, not to mention the fabulous view from the new ski lodge.

Congratulations to the Spring Creek Community on the progress they are making with the Spring Creek School property. The new "bandstand" looks great. Ebbs Chapel is also making great progress on their community center. The Wellness Center to be built adjacent to Madison High will be a huge boost to the county. The multiple use facility can help in so many ways. Thanks to the great community of Madison for a fun and eventful summer. Now we can put on our sweaters and have a ball in the fall.

*O'Neal Shelton, President
Madison County Chamber of Commerce*

The Lodge Restaurant Hosts Chamber of Commerce 2005 Annual Meeting



Chamber members enjoy fine dining at The Lodge Steak and Rib Restaurant. Photo by Steve Duncan.

On Monday, July 25, the Madison County Chamber of Commerce held its annual meeting at the Lodge Restaurant in Wolf Laurel. Approximately 61 people attended the event, hosted by Wolf Laurel's new Wolf Ridge Lodge.

Attendees enjoyed gigantic servings of ribs, steak or chicken with a baked potato, salad and dessert. No awards were presented, instead O'Neal Shelton made a point of thanking all businesses and members for their support over the past year.

This year's executive committee includes O'Neal serving a second term as President, Dr. Connie Buckner serving as Vice-President, Larry Peek serving as Treasurer, and Simone Bouyer continuing in her role as Secretary. Claudia Reavis, who was also present, continues to serve as the Executive Secretary of the Chamber.

Newly elected board members include Lesley King of Zuma Coffee, Elizabeth Tolley Ayers of the NC Cooperative Extension office, Robert Kiggins Jr. of Kiggins Insurance, Mike

Thornhill of Mars Hill College, Jennifer Hampton of Wolf Laurel Slopes, and Paul Tierney of Peregrine Properties. Incumbents Dan Gallagher and Richard Rzeszotarski will continue to serve on the board.

The Madison County Chamber would like to thank both Jennifer Hampton and the Lodge Restaurant for a wonderful evening. Owner Orville English has created a majestic and unique establishment for all to enjoy. You won't want to miss any of our Business After Hours events to be held later this year. If you or your business is interested in hosting an event, please contact Claudia at 689-9351.

Submit Your Ads & Corrections for the 2006 Business Directory

We are compiling listings and advertisements for the 2006 Madison County Business Directory. If you would like to have an ad or listing in the directory, please submit it before September 30, 2005 or call 689-9351.

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

Volunteers Needed

If you would like to learn more about Madison County, or if you'd enjoy greeting Madison's many visitors, please contact Lila Nikla at 689-2582.

Volunteers are needed to cover three hour shifts at the Madison County Visitor's Center on Anderson Street, Monday through Saturday mornings, 10 am to 1 pm, or afternoons, 1 to 4 pm.

PSNC Small Business Resource Center

Business owners can get instant access to ideas and information that will give them a competitive edge at the PSNC Energy Small Business Resource Center, an online information center.

A new url has been created exclusively for North Carolina Chamber members. Go to www.business.sbrc.psnccenergy.com for solutions to your business questions. The site features weekly questions and answers from Steven Strauss, a small business expert, weekly articles by Aliza Sherman, an expert business-woman, monthly themes and articles by the Kaufmann Foundation, and other valuable special offers.

Tri-County Microenterprise Development Association

Dr. Deborah Louis, grant writer and community support services provider, spoke to the Chamber board in June about plans to form the Tri-County Microenterprise Development Association. She is working with small businesses, typically with 5 or less employees, with a net income of \$50,000 or less, in Yancey, Madison and Mitchell counties.

The organization will focus on economic development, planning and county improvements, and may extend into North Buncombe, in order to include microenterprises in Leicester and Barnardsville.

Association founders believe family owned and small, independent farms and businesses are vital to our area's livelihood and heritage, and are key to preserving land and supporting families. The group plans to work for these small businesses, helping them to apply for grants, find affordable health insurance and secure other benefits. The group also plans to provide consulting services and

publicity for our areas many artists, crafters, brokers, realtors, lawyers, health care providers, child and elder care providers, contractors and builders, small shops, service professionals, and other local businesses that are often too small to be able to afford or access such services on their own.

Dr. Louis is working to recruit at least 100 members from each county by the end of this year. The Chamber was invited to become a supporting member for \$120/year to help build the organization. Membership for businesses will cost about \$20/year. All founding memberships will last until January 2007.

Dr. Louis views "Tri-County Micro" as a formal network for planning, publicity, and promoting area businesses and events. The association can be a collective voice for your small business or family owned farm.

For more information, please call 680-9747, or email dlouis44@sbcglobal.net.

Promote Madison!

You can help make important contributions to the vitality of Madison County. Meet and greet folks while you promote local businesses as a volunteer at the local farmers market and other area events. Contact us today! We have everything you need! 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, September 6, 2005

Tuesday, October 4, 2005

Tuesday, November 1, 2005

Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Chamber Officers 2005-2006

O'Neal Shelton - President

Dr. Connie Buckner - Vice President

Larry Peek - Treasurer

Simone Bouyer - Secretary

Chamber Board Meeting Highlights

- May 2005 -

- The Chamber's scholarship agreement with the Community Foundation will now allow scholarship funds to be used for books or other education related expenses besides tuition and fees.

Marshall - A grant was received for business area redevelopment and revitalization. The Land of Sky Regional Planning Council is working with the town, local residents, and businesses to make the area more attractive and economically viable. Loans could be established for start-up businesses, facade renovation, flood proofing and more. Hot Springs has also been approved for funding.

The county has purchased 11 acres for the Cooperative Extension to develop and remodel. Ross Young is working hard to create an agricultural center on the site of the old glove factory near the Elderberry Nursing Home.

- June 2005 -

- The Madison County Visitor's Guide is published. This 12 page booklet contains information on accommodations and

attractions for tourists visiting Madison. Copies are available at the Visitors Center and at the I-26 Welcome Center.

The Chamber has over 4,000 copies of the 2005 Business Directory which need to be placed in area shops, banks, restaurants and other businesses. If you can help, please pick up a case of the directories from Claudia at the Visitor's Center.

Wolf Laurel Slopes held it's grand opening on June 24-25. Orville English built the 22,000 sq. ft. lodge with a scenic 360° view, ski cabins, and an indoor swimming pool — he is also planning to build an airstrip for private use.

- July 2005 -

- Bob Kiggins will arrange for the WNC Association of Insurance & Financial Advisors to address the Chamber board on September 6, 2005. They will present information on reduced insurance fees for Madison County organizations.

The July-August issue of Southern Accents magazine features 8 pages of photos of the Preserve at Little Pine's new showcase home.

Chamber Awards \$500 Scholarship

The Madison County Chamber of Commerce awarded its sixth college scholarship worth \$500 at its annual NC Scholars Breakfast on May 10. Nathaniel Shelton, son of Ralph and Karen Shelton of Marshall, received this year's scholarship to attend UNCA in the fall where he will study Health and Wellness Promotion. Shelton was selected from the highest number of applications to date.

Shelton managed to achieve an impressive weighted grade point average (GPA) of 4.548 due to the rigorous course of study he pursued over his four years at Madison High. The Chamber looks for well-rounded student performance both in and out of the classroom which Shelton exhibits through athletics, leadership as president of the Fellowship of Christian

Athletes (FCA), volunteer service, playing the guitar, and working at Ingles.

Most importantly, the Chamber seeks students who aspire to live and work in Madison County. In Shelton's essay, he wrote: "Madison County for me has always been the ideal place to live and work and if what they say is true about home being where the heart is then my heart is definitely in Madison County."

The Chamber of Commerce recently increased its scholarship endowment to \$10,000. If you would like to contribute to the Madison County Chamber of Commerce Education Scholarship Endowment Fund, please send your check to the Madison County Chamber of Commerce at PO Box 1085, Mars Hill, NC 28754.

Madison County Child Care Partners

A program of the Madison County Partnership for Children and Families offers child care resources and a referral service for both parents and child care providers. Parents can call 649-1364 to find quality child care providers in either Madison or Buncombe counties.

This free service provides parents with information and answers to the many questions they may have. What does quality child care mean? What are star ratings? Information stations are located in the Marshall Public Library and in the lobby of AB-Tech's Madison campus. Monthly newsletters and brochures are available featuring activities, tips and resources.

Child care providers interested in operating family child care homes or centers can call 649-3684 for information regarding requirements for becoming licensed. This free service supports current and future child care professionals in

their efforts to improve the quality of care they provide through higher education and career planning. The program also offers free training for existing child care professionals, including monthly in-service training sessions on a variety of topics. June Trevor or Laura Jan Howald will be happy to speak with you and provide you with answers, printed materials, even technical assistance. Call Sue Estridge at 649-9615 for more information on local provider recognition activities.

Loaner books and videos are also available for both child care providers and parents. Check out the collection at the Marshall Library on children with special needs, child care and other parenting topics and programs.



Call 649-1364 weekdays from 8am to 5pm. Experienced counselors are on hand for advice and support.

Calendar of Events



Mars Hill College Lyceum Series

Check www.mhc.edu/lyceum for scheduled performances.

Friday & Saturday, August 19-20 Oldies Classic Car Show

Held at the Scenic Wolf Mountain Resort from 10am to 4pm. Vendors, food, music and a trip back in time.

Friday, September 9 Bye Bye Birdie Golf Tournament

Held at the Wolf Laurel Country Club to benefit SART. \$75 per player or \$300 per foursome. Hole-in-One prizes include a 2005 Honda S-2000 Roadster, a trip to Ireland, a golf vacation for two, or a set of golf clubs. Call 680-9772 for more information.

Saturday, September 10 Bascom Lamar Lunsford Music Festival

Traditional music and dance celebrating traditions of Southern Appalachia. Held at Mars Hill College. Visit www.mhc.edu for more information.

Saturday, October 1

10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Madison Co. Heritage Festival

Over 50 local craft & food booths. Traditional mountain music, authentic craft demonstrations, wood carving, quilts, pottery, food, lunches & baked goods, mountain crafts and gifts, and an animal petting area.

At the Gazebo, music singing, dancing & jamming.

Saturday, October 22

Madison Celebrates Art Festival

Exhibits of Fine Art, Quilts, Children's Art, Silent Auction, Live Music, Children's Art Area and the Madison County Farmers Market! Call 649-1301 for more information.

Ongoing Events

Traditional Music at the Depot

Every Friday, 7pm, Main Street in Marshall. Free, donations accepted.

Live Country Music and Dance

Every Friday, 7pm, at the Walnut Volunteer Fire Department, on US Hwy. 25/70 near Walnut.

Live Music at Paddlers Pub

Bluegrass Jam every Friday, 7:30 pm. Various local bands every Saturday, 7:30 pm. Located on Bridge Street, in Hot Springs.

FREE Computer Security Resources

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce has partnered with Microsoft to bring you free technology resources to get tips, tricks, and how-to information you can use right away to help protect your computers and your business.

Learn How to Best:

- Protect your network against the most common threats

- Guard valuable business information
- Thwart viruses and hackers

Includes an interactive video, sample security plan template you can download and adapt to your needs, and links and pointers to additional security resources.

For additional information please visit www.uschamber.com/sb/security/default

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Madison County Chamber of Commerce

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*ATC is a volunteer-based,
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