



CHAMBER UPDATE – Week of August 11, 2009

Chamber After Hours This Week

Please join the Chamber staff for a drop-in Chamber After Hours event this Wednesday, August 12th from 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm at the Spruce Pine Farmer's Market located downtown on the porch at Wildflowers—297 Oak Avenue.

The event is being sponsored by a new Chamber Member—**Stone Crossings Studio & Gallery** (www.collenekarcher.com). Collene's studio is located off Fork Mountain Road in Bakersville. She is also an active member of the Spruce Pine Farmer's Market and we are invited to visit with her there. Discover what's involved in the fine art of carving stone as Collene is set up to demonstrate her trade.

Also while you are there, check out the fresh produce, baked goods and other products offered for sale by the participating members of the Farmer's Market.

If you can, please take a few minutes to drop by & welcome Stone Crossings Studio & Gallery to the Chamber family. Collene is offering all Chamber members 10% off on any purchase made at Stone Crossings Studio & Gallery thru the month of December 2009.

Festival a Success; Thanks to our Sponsors & Volunteers!

The 2009 NC Mineral and Gem Festival was a jewel of a show this year with record-breaking attendance! The Festival's new activities including

Weekly Restaurant Specials



765-5289

Wednesday Casserole Chicken Pot Pie

Tender roast chicken cooked with potatoes, peas, carrots and mushrooms in a rich sauce, topped with puff pastry and baked to a golden brown.

A dish that serves 8-9\$25.00

A dish that serves 4-5...\$17.00

Call before 10:30am each Wednesday (or earlier in the week), and reserve yours. Then come by between 4:30 and 6pm that evening and your dinner is ready. It's that simple!!

the Lecture series and the Friday Night Street Dance were also well attended and a great addition to the weekend. "We were surprised and pleased at the increase in attendance at the Festival this year," said Patti Jensen, Festival Director. "In this economy, we were expecting a decrease in attendance, however we were up in both number of dealers and in visitor attendance. We appreciate the over 100 volunteers who helped us with the Festival, the Town of Spruce Pine, Radio Patrol, the Spruce Pine Police Department, Mitchell County Transportation, the staff at The Bridge and our 2009 Sponsors who all help make the Festival possible."

To honor Mrs. Charlie Mae Sproles, the Chamber will award a scholarship to a Mitchell High School graduate who plans a career in education. A fund-raising raffle was held during the 4 days of the Mineral and Gem Festival to raise money for this scholarship. Our thanks to the 53 dealers who donated items. Watch for our scholarship winner next Spring.

New This Week . . .

Blue Ridge Regional Hospital recognized as a Community Value Five-Star Hospital

Spruce Pine, NC—Blue Ridge Regional Hospital (BRRH) was recently recognized as a top-ranked Community Value Five-Star Hospital by Cleverley & Associates for the fourth time. This designation is based on an assessment of the hospital's performance in four areas: financial strength and reinvestment, cost of care, pricing, and quality. Five-star hospitals stand apart from the rest because, while some hospitals may perform well in one or two areas, they have achieved strong performance in each of the four areas. Cleverley + Associates is a leading healthcare financial consulting firm specializing in operational benchmarking and performance enhancement strategies located in Columbus, OH.

"Blue Ridge Regional Hospital's staff has worked hard to provide the high quality of care that our patients expect and deserve at a reasonable cost. We are thrilled to know that, once again, our hard work has been recognized and that we rank in the top twenty percent of hospitals in the nation," said Keith S. Holtsclaw, president and CEO of BRRH.

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Parkway Playhouse Presents THE MAN WHO CAME TO DINNER

August 13 - August 22

In this hilarious comedy, Sheridan Whiteside, theatre critic, lecturer, and radio personality, who, arriving to dine at the home of the prominent Stanley family in a small Midwestern town, slips on their doorstep and injures his hip. A tumultuous six weeks of confinement follow, during which Whiteside monopolizes the living room and takes over the Stanley household. Before it's over, the outrageous has become commonplace. This large cast comedy will feature film, television and Broadway veteran, Andrew Prine and a host of your



765-6589

Tuesday - Ham and apple sandwich

Wednesday - 3 meat melt

Thursday - Grilled chicken or portabella sandwich

Friday - Shrimp basket

Wednesday and Thursday night special:
Stuffed pork chops with scalloped potatoes

Orchard at Altapass Events

Special Happenings & Live Music Calendar for August 12 - 16, 2009:

Wednesday, August 12

1:45-3:15 Tom Sparks and Bob Lominac pick and sing informally to the delight of our visitors.

Thursday, August 13

1:45-3:15 Terry McKinney takes a look at the marvelous musical career of Judy Alexander with special guests Brian & Joey Gurl and Eddie Graham.

Friday, August 14

1:45-3:15 Herman Coffey and Alan English treat us to some upbeat bluegrass pickin' and singin'. They are a true treat!

Saturday, August 15

1:00-4:00 SPECIAL HAPPENING Judy Lane shows

favorite Parkway Playhouse performers playing a most extravagant array of eccentric characters. Buy tickets now at www.parkwayplayhouse.com.

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Annual Parkway Fire & Rescue Carnival

Parkway Fire and Rescue and Smoky Mountain Amusements will be bringing 5 days of fun, games and food when their Annual Carnival comes to Spruce Pine beginning Tuesday August 11th through Saturday August 15th at the fire department in Grassy Creek on Highway 226. The action starts at 6:00pm each day with unlimited rides costing \$15. Enjoy lots of rides for all ages.

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Carolina Theatre to Host Rhonda Gouge CD Release Party August 15th

Make plans to attend this exciting special event featuring the music of local legend, singer, and songwriter Rhonda Gouge as she releases her newest CD "On The Wing" which is a tribute to the Wing Road area of Mitchell County, where she was raised. This album is a compilation of old-time songs, bluegrass, and western swing. The Carolina Theatre at 91 Locust Avenue will host this event August 15th with doors opening at 6:30 pm and the show starting at 7:30 pm. Tickets are available in advance at Timberline Properties, Mayland Printing, and The Upper Street Cafe for \$10 each, or at the door that night for the same price. Ticket proceeds go toward the restoration of the historic Carolina Theatre.

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Free Wine Tasting @ Mountainside Wine

Saturday, August 15 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Please join us to taste the following wines:

- Duck Pond Pinot Grigio (Oregon)
- Sonoma Vineyard Syrah (California)
- Sheridan Kamiakin Merlot (Washington)

Free Wine Tastings are held on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month, except during holiday and festival weekends. If you have any questions, please call 766-7515.

her fine silver jewelry, handcut stones and wall quilts.

1:00-4:00 SPECIAL HAPPENING Bee Sweet Crafts will be here with their wide variety of products made from bees wax and honey.

1:00-2:00 Enjoy harmonica and piano duets with Alvin Holleman and Sandy Mattox .

2:30-4:30 The John Shuffler Band is a great example of old time mountain music.

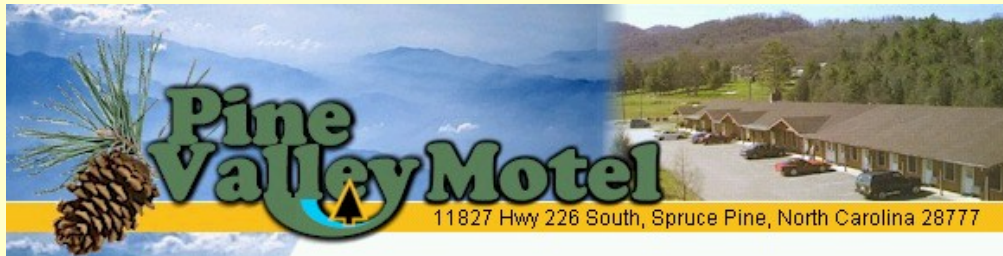
Sunday, August 16

1:00-4:00 SPECIAL HAPPENING Bee Sweet Crafts returns will with their fine products made from bees wax and honey.

1:00-2:00 Ron and Minnie Powell and Lucky Streak Band entertain with their fabulous repertoire of songs.

2:30-4:30 Randy Flack brings stories and songs straight from the shadows of the Smoky Mountains.

Member Spotlight: Pine Valley Motel



Nestled in the heart of the Blue Ridge Mountains, just three miles off the Blue Ridge Parkway on NC Hwy 226, Pine Valley Motel is where you will find comfort, cleanliness, and a helpful, friendly staff.

Pine Valley offers the finest in accommodations with all rooms located on the ground floor. Handicapped rooms are available.

In addition to motel rooms, Pine Valley has two bedroom apartments that are fully furnished and have well-appointed kitchens. The landscaped outside area has a picnic table for guest use.

Along with the Motel, the owners of Pine Valley operate Grassy Creek Laundry which is next to the Motel and open to the public.

Open year-round, contact Pine Valley at 828-765-6276 or visit the web site at www.pinevalleymotel.com. Visit Richard Baker and Willa Ann Ward at 11827 Highway 226-S, Spruce Pine.

Mitchell County Chamber of Commerce • PO Box 858 • Spruce Pine • NC • 28777