



# 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.



## Farewell to Jerry Burns

Ask anyone in Blowing Rock and they will tell you that Jerry Burns was so much more than just a newspaper man. He was everything from a firefighter to community historian. Jerry Burns served the Chamber of Commerce as both member and former President of the Board of Directors and Champion for the Chamber's activities. Jerry rarely missed a Chamber activity. He lead volunteers at Art in the Park (he toted many a painting into Memorial Park a way back when...) and brought his special wit and humor to Board and Committee meetings. Upon his retire-



Mitford Days Parade

ment from The Blowing Rocket, the Chamber presented him with an Award for Special Services. The plaque which was presented to him read:

*To Jerry Burns, Editor, The Blowing Rocket, For Recognition of 44 Years of Commitment, Service and Steadfastness to the Blowing Rock Chamber of Commerce and the Blowing Rock Community.*



Jerry covering a Pet Show.

Jerry had rejoined the Chamber's Board of Directors in January, and we had a long list of things for him to do. In one of his many roles with the Chamber, he was serving as the bridge between the Cham-

ber's Blue Ridge Heritage Days Committee and the Blowing Rock Historical Society who are also working on the event. We are deeply saddened that Jerry will not be with us to celebrate the Parkway's 75th Anniversary. We are committed to making that event the most Jerry Burns event that we possibly can: one which honors the history and heritage of Blowing Rock, one which celebrates and examines the impact of the Blue Ridge Parkway and, most of all, one which shows off Blowing Rock's best to our visitors and, especially, our residents. Celebrating two of Jerry's most beloved things is one of the many ways that we will continue his work and carry his passions into the future. Jerry will be missed, but as long as we continue to take his advice and work together, his legacy will live on in Blowing Rock.

*This edition of The Village Current is published in Black and White in honor of our newspaper man, Jerry Burns.*

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Friday,  
April 23, 2010

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### Calendar of Events

- **Saturday, April 24, Leadership Challenge joins the Town Clean-Up**
- **Wednesday, May 5, 8:00am-10am, Meeting of the Board of Directors, Meadowbrook Inn**
- **Thursday, May 13, Blowing Rock Farmer's Market Begins**
- **Saturday, May 15, Art in the Park, American Legion Grounds, 10:00am-5:00pm**
- **Tuesday, May 18, Business After Hours, Bistro Roca, 5:30-7:00pm**



Educate yourself on the new Health Care Bill.

## Information for Business Owners on the New Health Care Bill

**From RestaurantOwner.com - April 6, 2010** Information about the new health care act is still coming out but small businesses with fewer than 50 full time employees are exempt from having to provide coverage to their employees. Larger employers, those with more than 50 full time employees, will be required to provide coverage to their employees or face penalties. Many independent businesses employ around 50 full and part time workers so understanding how those employees are counted in figuring "full time employees" will be crucial. Here is a

brief overview of the key definitions as we understand them: Full Time Employee - In any given month, an employee who works on average 30 or more hours per week. Part Time Employee - Employee who works less than 30 hours a week in any month. Part time employees are exempt from the bill and not counted to determine the 50 full time employee threshold. Seasonal Workers - Those that are employed fewer than 120 days per year. These worker are exempt from the bill and not counted to determine the 50 full time

employee threshold. Definition of Employer - If you or your ownership group collectively own at least 80% of another business(es), those businesses are combined as a single employer when calculating the 50 full time employee threshold. While many of the provisions of this bill do not go into effect for some time, operators would be wise to consider many of today's business decisions, particularly those dealing with expansion and growth, in light of the potential impact of this bill.

Here's some more information from CBS News: [Click Here.](#)

### Scenes from the 2010

#### Blue Ridge Wine & Food Festival



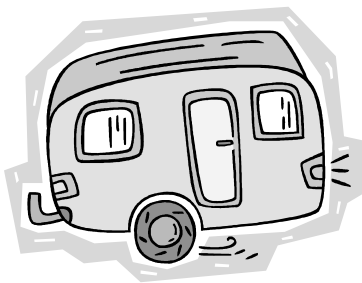
### Travel Equals Tax Cuts

From the US Travel Association

Without the tax revenues generated by travel to and within the United States, American taxpayers would have to pay an average of \$950 more per household on April 15 – "tax day" – according to data released by the U.S. Travel Associa-

tion. "Take a moment to extend some friendly hospitality to the tourists in your city or town today," said U.S. Travel Association President and CEO Roger Dow. "The money they spend has saved you nearly \$1,000 in personal taxes this year." According to the U.S. Travel Association,

travel spending by U.S. and international visitors resulted in more than \$111 billion in tax revenue for federal, state and local government in 2009; of that, \$77.3 billion came from leisure travel and \$34.2 billion from business travel – including \$13.6 billion from meetings and conventions.



## News and Notes!

### Gamekeeper Wins!

Congrats to Chef Sam Beasley and the crew at the Gamekeeper for bringing home the coveted red chef's jacket at Fire on the Rock! It was a hard fought battle against Rowland's at Westglow and Chef Jason Jarrell in the Finals. Fire on the Rock is a great event that keeps on getting better... kudos to all involved.

### Blue Ridge Wine & Food Festival Sees Record Crowd

We don't have the numbers in yet, but judging from the crowd, things are looking up! Congrats to the Wine Festival

Committee AND ESPECIALLY TO THE VOLUNTEERS for a job well done.

### BRAHM

#### Launches Lecture Series

BRAHM will host a series of Third Thursday lectures on art and history. For the schedule: [CLICK HERE](#) —and see the awesome new website!

#### Member Judi Beck Publishes a Book

Called "The Ecology of Conversation - Learning to Communicate from Your Core", you can find it on-line at that big bookstore that is not a member of our Chamber ;-).

### Interested in Going Global?

Hear from representatives of the US and NC Departments of Commerce and how they can help NC companies thrive by growing internationally. Find out how to access these agencies. Hear about "Export University." Discover programs available at ASU. The Watauga County Economic Development Commission invites you to attend a Lunch & Learn workshop on international business –Noon, Friday, April 30, 2010 at the Appalachian Enterprise Center – RSVP required – lunch provided! Call 264-2225 or email



*Look at the great stuff our members are up to!*



*Fan Blue Ridge Wine & Food Festival on Facebook to see more photos.*

## Restaurant Industry Information Presented at Canyons

The North Carolina Restaurant and Lodging Association is hosting a hospitality industry reception for local restaurant and hotel operators at Canyon's Restaurant in Blowing Rock on the evening of Sunday, May 2 from 5 to 7pm. This reception is free to attend, hors d'oeuvres and beverages will be served, and

operators do not need to be an NCRLA member to attend. We will have our lobbyist team with us to give a preview of the upcoming legislative session and what issues up for discussion may mean for the hospitality industry in North Carolina. Event information and online registration is available on our website at

[www.ncrla.biz](http://www.ncrla.biz), look for the event link on the calendar section of the home page. If you would like more information about this meeting, please contact Rebecca Crews at the NCRLA, 919/844-0098.



*Know what's coming up for the restaurant industry.*



**The Blowing Rock  
Chamber of Commerce**

Contact the Chamber:

7738 Valley Blvd Phone: 828-295-7851  
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](mailto:steveg@ncleg.net)

State Rep. Cullie Tarleton – 919-733-7727 –  
[culliet@ncleg.net](mailto:culliet@ncleg.net)

**The Blowing Rock Chamber of Commerce  
2010 Board of Directors**

**Officers**

**Nancy Santay, President**

*Cabin Fever*

**Margaret Holder, Vice President**

*Chetola Resort*

**Rita Davis, Past President**

*Wachovia Bank*

**Linda Gilleland, Secretary**

*Greystone Insurance*

**Deborah McDowell, Treasurer**

*Mountaineer Inn*

**Members of the Board**

**John Aldridge**

*Individual Representative*

**Tim Miller**

*Blowing Rock Frameworks & Gallery*

**Betsy Collins**

*Individual Representative*

**Joellyn Gibbons**

*Individual Representative*

**Don Hubble**

*Individual Representative*

**J. B. Lawrence**

*United Community Bank*

**Cathy Robbins**

*Tweetsie Railroad*

**Doug Pegram**

*Village Real Estate*

**Cindy Milner**

*Bistro Roca*

**Dick Goosman**

*Meadowbrook Inn*

**Christopher Brantley**

*Christopher's Wine & Cheese*

**Julie Robertson**

*The Last Straw*

**Genie Starnes**

*Individual Representative*

**Cathy Williamson**

*Kilwin's Chocolates & Ice Cream*

**Missy Watson**

*Westglow Spa & Rowland's*

**&**

**Jerry Burns, In Memory**

*Individual Representative*

**This Week in Photos**

*Scenes from the our recent Business After  
Hours at SweetGrass.*



*Say Cheese. If you have photos  
you'd like to share, please send  
them to*

[Stephanie@blowingrock.com](mailto:Stephanie@blowingrock.com).

*We're especially looking for  
photos from our Business Mem-  
bers in their Businesses!*

