



**Madison Economic Development & Tourism Department**  
110 N Main Street  
Madison, VA 22727  
540-948-4455  
[www.madison-va.com](http://www.madison-va.com)

**February 5, 2015**

**Attn: Board of Supervisors**

**Re: Eco-Dev, Tourism and Chamber report**

**The Chamber has FOUR new members this month and will be approved at our next Board/Member meeting on Tuesday, (due to holiday Monday) February 17<sup>th</sup>. Doors open at 630pm for networking and 7pm meeting.**

**Jason Summers of Still Hills Wait, LLC introduced himself at the January Chamber meeting. Still Hills Wait, LLC is a diversified consulting group providing services in proposal development, nonprofit governance, marketing, organizational change management, data analytics, and acoustics.**

**Some Chamber and Eco-Dev activities along with Chamber event dates are:**

- **Ribbon cutting for Anytime Fitness**
- **Ribbon cutting for the Wellness Center at Graves Mill**
- **Presented Brad Nicholson with Community Service Award**
- **Hilliard & Company Ribbon cutting March 6 with first auction March 7**
- **Planning Ribbon Cutting for Rosemary's Nest**
- **Yoder's anticipated Ribbon Cutting last Friday in March**
- **Business Appreciation Dinner at Early Mountain May 18**
- **Business Expo May 21 at Fire Dept (registrations going out next week)**
- **Taste of the Mountains September 5**
- **Annual Banquet Wednesday, November 18**

**Economic Development and Tourism news (much of the above list is both as well)**

- **Tourism Committee meeting Tuesday, February 10 at 830am at the Visitor Center**
- **Janine Jensen plans to open a Coffee shop in Town (serving local Gray Ghost coffee and teas exclusively) and to include wifi for customers and hopes to work with local bakers to sell their products as well**
- **There are many other upcoming projects that aren't ready to announce yet**
- **County departments working on becoming more of an Eco-Dev team to make the process for a prospective business more seamless, and have already had a meeting with one such prospect where everyone was around the table together vs. the business going door to door. This worked out very well and we are excited for the future.**
- **Once part time folks are in place and trained, will work more extensively on our database of available properties and getting them on to yesvirginia.org(and/or having realtors work on this well) Once that is in place, would like to see up placing ads in Virginia Business, will work on Press Release as well announcing position**
- **Also after part time folks are in place, plan to work with our groups that formed during the summit last year and figure out a way to meet and implement ideas that our knowledgeable and creative citizens shared**
- **Updating websites with schedule of events and working on events rack cards**
- **Finalizing brochure, but still getting more lodging!!**
- **Received many resumes and have hired part time employee for Weekends!!!! Will start by this coming weekend and will then be able to apply to become a "Certified" Visitor Center through Virginia Tourism Corporation and will be able to acquire State signage on Route 29 to add to Gateway signs**
- **Hope to hire weekday employee within the next two weeks and still incorporating our valuable volunteers and those part timers will be asked to try and recruit more volunteers**
- **Finalizing participants in our Regional "Tween Rivers" Artisan Trail for website and brochure (AFID Grant) One of the Economic Dev State grants \$28,000**
- **Attended joint Town Council/Planning Commission meeting**
- **Joining VEDA Virginia Economic Developers Association, regional partnerships are extremely important, and of course have already been in many meetings w/same folks over the last 14 years including the Virginia Institute for Economic Development where learned about the Governor's Opportunity Grant that Plow & Hearth received, another was the AFID grant that our regional tourism group had already utilized**
- **Meeting with Piedmont Workforce Network to see how can better work with Madison and Monday Meeting to discuss Labor Sector Strategy Study**

- Plans for office to be opened up and entrance to be centered. My office will then be moved upstairs and will use conference room and perhaps sublet offices for those who don't have internet at home

Below, please see schedule for now and keep in mind it is still fluid at this point. In order to be certified, must be open five days a week, two of which on the weekend. And we are open in the winters months right now all day on Mondays and will be then from 1pm-4p with our volunteer by next winter. My office hours will be the same 830a-4p (later or earlier by appointment) and hope to have a way a visitor can contact me if need assistance as well as a kiosk with some brochures outside.

## Tourism and Visitor Center Hours

### SEASON 1

May 1st through October 31st

Hours		Hrs.	
Monday	Noon to 5:00 p.m.		5
Tuesday	Noon to 5:00 p.m.		5
Wednesday	Noon to 5:00 p.m.		5
Thursdays	Noon to 5:00 p.m.		5
Friday	Noon to 5:00 p.m.		5
Saturday	9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.		8
Sunday	Noon to 5:00 p.m.		5
38			
Weeks		26	
Season total hours		988	

### SEASON 2

November 1st through April 30th

Hours		Hrs.	
Monday	Closed		0
Tuesday	Noon to 4:00 p.m.		4
Wednesday	Noon to 4:00 p.m.		4
Thursdays	Noon to 4:00 p.m.		4
Friday	Noon to 4:00 p.m.		4
Saturday	10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.		6
Sunday	Noon to 4:00 p.m.		4
26			
Weeks		26	
Season total hours		676	

Respectfully submitted,

*Tracey*

**Economic Development & Tourism Director  
Chamber Director**