

# The Chamber

of COMMERCE | BLACKSTONE VIRGINIA

February 2010

The Blackstone Chamber of Commerce promotes and supports existing businesses, and encourages development of new businesses by being the resource of choice to the community. The Chamber fosters a cohesive and progressive business environment.

## Chamber Office Hours

**Monday: 9:00 – 4:00**

**Tuesday: 9:00 – 4:00**

**Wednesday: 9:00 – 4:00**

**Thursday: 9:00 – 4:00**

**Friday: 9:00 – 4:00**

## In the SPOTLIGHT: Business of the Month



Wellvilla was established in March 1998 by Nancy Duncanson Wilson and the late Carl B. Wilson. Wellvilla is a small excavating firm named after Carl's family's farm, Wellvilla, located in Wellville, VA.

Wellvilla has completed projects for numerous federal agencies such as the Dept. of Veterans Affairs, Air National Guard, Army National Guard, USDA NRCS, and the National Park Service; various VDOT localities; and government agencies on both the state and local levels. The company performs land improvement, demolition, utility installation, and road construction projects.

Wellvilla is currently teaming with Curtis Contracting, Inc. to install a 200-acre machine gun range for the Army Corps of Engineers at Fort Pickett, VA. Wellvilla provides services for Gilmore Environmental Consulting, located here in Blackstone as well, which is performing several projects on the Fort Pickett base.

More information and photos of past performances can be found at the company's website: [www.wellvilla.com](http://www.wellvilla.com).

## Blackstone Chamber of Commerce

300 Church Street  
P.O. Box 295  
Blackstone, VA 23824  
Phone: 434-292-1677  
Fax: 434-292-1588  
[chamber@blackstoneva.com](mailto:chamber@blackstoneva.com)

**Current members: 117**

The Harlem Ambassador Exhibition Basketball Game tickets will be available on February 8. They can be purchased at Barbara Gibbs Associates, Inc. at 110 S. Main Street or at the Chamber Office at 300 Church Street.

Ticket prices are:

Military/Students/Seniors \$6 at the door \$8  
Adults: \$8 at door \$10  
Kids under 4: FREE  
Group Tickets Available



## Executive Director's Message

I hope your new year has started out well. It has been a busy month at the chamber office. We have been working hard the Chamber sponsored, Harlem Ambassador Exhibition Basketball game, coming to Nottoway High School on March 18.

This is a huge undertaking for our chamber, but this a **great** opportunity to bring a night of first-class entertainment to the area. Young and old, alike, will enjoy this event. Be ready for an exciting game and some good old fashioned laughing and fun. The Chamber Blazers team (our local team) is sure to please you. We have business leaders, town leaders, representatives of local schools, a radio personality, a mayor, a vice-mayor, a fireman and, yes, we have one female player on the team. Come on out and support the local team and cheer for

The tickets will be ready for purchase on February 8. If you would like to sell tickets at your business, please contact the Chamber at 434-292-1677.



We are still accepting sponsorships for the Harlem Ambassadors' event. If you have not become a sponsor there is still time to do so. To those of you who have become sponsors; thank you so very much! To those businesses who have not please contact us regarding a sponsorship. The sponsorship package was either delivered or emailed to you. **WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

The chamber's January networking luncheon was well attended this month. We had 21 members in attendance at Brother's Pizza and Italian Restaurant. Barbara Gibbs was guest speaker and gave an invaluable presentation on 2009 tax changes that will affect businesses and individuals. Aubrey Edmonds and son, Donnie, of Edmond's Printing in Lawrence had a nice display of products and services offered by his company. It was nice to have them attend our luncheon and share their products and left each of us a goody bag!

The chamber is starting monthly networking luncheons. These luncheons give each of us the opportunity to meet new members, share time with all members and hear an interesting speaker. Our next luncheon is February 10 at 12 noon at VUMAC. Please call the chamber at 434-292-1677 by COB on February 8 with your reservation. As usual the cost is \$10.00 payable by check to the chamber, cash or we can invoice you.

As the days are getting a little longer we know Spring and Summer are not far away. Before we know it the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Arts and Crafts Show will be here on September 11-12. We are looking for volunteers to work this event again this year. If you have never volunteered before, consider joining us as we welcome thousands of visitors to our town on this weekend. Please help us!!

The Board of Director's have just had their annual Strategic Planning Meeting where they prepared their "first" Vision Statement and made current the Mission Statement for the Chamber. With these new tools we can forge into 2010 and beyond with great vigor.

### Vision

- The Blackstone Chamber of Commerce is a powerful and dynamic force that reflects the diversity, integrity and excellence of the business community. The Chamber creates an environment that promotes, encourages, empowers, and educates its stakeholders.

### Mission

- In its pursuit of excellence, the Blackstone Chamber of Commerce promotes and supports existing businesses, and encourages development of new businesses by being the resource of choice to the community. The Chamber fosters a cohesive and progressive business environment.

I look forward to talking with you again next month. Until then...Stay safe and healthy!

*Brenda*

## February Business Networking Luncheon

The Network Luncheon will be held Wednesday, February 10th at VUMAC. The Luncheon will begin at noon. The speaker this month is Patricia MacKenzie. In her own words here is some information about her and what she does:

"I am the Coordinator for Smart Beginnings Heartland - a statewide initiative to advance school readiness for children 0-5 years of age. Nottoway County is one of seven counties in the Heartland region that comprises Smart Beginnings Heartland. The Smart Beginnings Heartland initiative began in October 2009 when a planning grant was awarded by the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation. I was hired on December 1, 2009, to Coordinate the initiative and get the word out and grow the Leadership Council membership and gather members for the working group committees. I am therefore requesting to get on the agenda at a Blackstone Chamber of Commerce member meeting.

To learn more about Smart Beginnings Heartland go to: <http://smartbeginningsheartland.org> (I'm still working on the website and it will have more info and data shortly on the site). "

### YTD FINANCIALS (12/31/09)

Assets:	\$29,515.64
Liabilities:	2,762.81
Equity:	26,752.83
Revenue:	31,868.01
Disbursements:	45,502.63
Net Loss:	13,634.62

## 41st Annual Arts and Crafts Festival

It's that time again! Time to start getting things going for the Arts and Crafts Festival. Not only is the chamber looking for vendors, we are also looking for people who would be interested in helping organize this event. If you are interested or know anyone who might be, please contact the chamber office. Any assistance would be greatly appreciated.

## New Chamber Website Coming Soon

We are in the process of updating our website. We are trying to make sure all our information is accurate so please send us any updated information including your business website address. We are excited about the new website and hope you find it more helpful for you and your business!!!

*If you would like to advertise your business, please feel free to drop off flyers and business cards at the office. We are constantly getting calls from people relocating to Blackstone and we would love to include your business in the packets we send out.*

## This Month in Virginia

Love is always in the air in Virginia, especially in February, when destinations and resorts turn up the heat on romance for Valentine's Day.

With nearly 150 wineries, historic inns, award-winning cuisine and a famous tourism slogan built around love, it's hard not to be seduced. Virginia's romance travel packages are perfect getaways for people looking to woo their sweetie, reconnect with their soul mate or even tie the knot.

For more information about things to do in Virginia, visit [www.virginia.org](http://www.virginia.org).



### Upcoming Events

**Feb 10—Business Network Luncheon**

**Feb 18—Board of Directors Meeting**

**Mar 18- Harlem Ambassadors**

**Mar 26 Annual Chamber Dinner**

The chamber has a conference room available. Contact the chamber office for details.

*A BIG WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST CHAMBER MEMBER!!*



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**Amelia Court House, VA, 23002**

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***Contact Cynthia Townsend at (804) 561-4220,***

***cell (804) 852-8552 or e-mail [sales.bwgvnorsinn@gmail.com](mailto:sales.bwgvnorsinn@gmail.com)***



Blackstone Chamber of Commerce  
P. O. Box 292  
Blackstone, Virginia 23824

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U. S. Postage Paid  
Permit # 12  
BLACKSTONE, VIRGINIA  
23824