2015 Citizen of the Year

Henrietta Dotson, 2016 Chamber President; Tim Cox, Citizen of the Year; Pam Collie, Chamber Past President
Chamber Award Winners

The Outstanding Citizen of the Year award went to local professional photographer Tim Cox. He has worked in the field for 44 years and has owned tim cox Photo/Graphics for 38 years. Cox and wife Angel live in Wise and have two children, Corrie and Nicolette. An alumnus of Clinch Valley College, Cox has shot photos for The Coalfield Progress, Bristol Herald Courier, the Gas-tonia Gazette, Burchette Photography and Paramount Coal Corp. He is well known as an advocate for Southwest Virginia through his photography for local businesses and industries, colleges, tourism efforts, health systems and more. Cox also is a frequent contributor of photos capturing everyday events in the region to news organizations and others. Cox has won numerous advertising awards along with recognition from mine industry organizations for his photography. His photo “Daddy’s Hands” was chosen as a key image on the memorial wall for 29 miners who lost their lives in a 2010 explosion at the Upper Big Branch mine in Whiteville, W.Va. Presented annually since 1956, Citizen of the Year award nominations are accepted from the public. Nominees must have made contributions to the entire county and city. A committee of community leaders evaluates nominations and chooses the recipient.

The Distinguished Service Award, given to a person or persons who made outstanding contributions to the area and displayed excellence in their vocation, went to Health Wagon Executive Director Teresa Gardner and Clinical Director Paula Meade. Gardner and Meade, both nurse practitioners and Coeburn natives, are coordinators of Wise County’s annual Remote Area Medical health outreach, which has served thousands of people for 16 years and has gained international media attention. Gardner has two children, Ashton and Brent. She received degrees from East Tennessee State University, the University of Kentucky and the University of Alabama. Meade has two children, David Shane and Jaida. She received degrees from ETSU and the University of Kentucky. Gardner and Meade have received awards for public service from numerous state, local and national organizations. The Distinguished Service Award was created in 1988 and is awarded at the discretion of the chamber of commerce.

The President’s Award went to longtime community volunteer Bob Isaac. Born in Appalachia and living in Norton, Isaac is a Virginia Tech graduate, married since 1958 to Dorothy Skorupa Isaac. They have three children, Kim, Robert Jr. and Kevin, along with eight grandchildren. Isaac owned Dave’s Department Store in Norton for 26 years. During that time and since, he has volunteered in service to education, health care, arts, the community and business development. Isaac has served on numerous boards and organizations including the Norton Kiwanis, Wise County Habitat for Humanity, Knob Development Corporation, VA/KY District Fair, the Chamber of Commerce, Norton Planning Commission, St. Anthony’s Church and the Knights of Columbus. He has received many awards, including the 1979 Chamber Citizen of the Year award and the 2007 Mountain Empire Community College Hall of Fame.

In recent years, Isaac has devoted at least four days a week to volunteer service at the Southwest Virginia Cancer Center in Norton, including the scheduling and delivery of lunches and beverages donated by local businesses. The President’s Award, created in 1996, is given at the discretion of the current chamber president.
Farmers Markets (Opening soon)
- Clinch River Farmers Market - Saturdays 8 am. Until 1 p.m 276-762-5297
- Norton Friends and Farmers Market - Tuesdays 4 until 6:00 p.m. from June until October 276-679-1160
- Big Stone Gap Farmers Market - Saturdays - 8 a.m. until 12 noon May 2nd until October 276-523-7447
- Wise Farmers Market - Held in the Big Glades - Thursday June 18th 4 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. 276-328-6013
- Coeburn?

12 May - SWVA Economic Forum– UVa-Wise - Visit uvawise.edu for more information

14 May - 3rd Annual Fit Farmer 5k - Norton - Registration now available on runtriticities.org

14 May- UVa-Wise Cavalier $elebration - Contact 276-328-0128 to buy tickets and for more information.

26 May—Monthly Board Meeting / FWC Commencement - Lonesome Pine Country Club - 11:30 a.m. RSVP to the lunch by 24 of May for count. 276-679-0961

27 May CrossFit Stone Mountain—3rd Annual Memorial Day Murph - Please register to participate and all proceeds go to the Lt. Michael Murphy Foundation - Register at runtricties.net

28 May - Gathering in the Gap Music Festival - Big Stone Gap VA - Special music by Van Wilson Van and much more

27-28 May - Pound Heritage Days - Downtown Pound

2-4 June - Clinch River Days Festival in St. Paul 276-762-5297 events listing available at www.clinchriverfest.com

Lonesome Pine Raceway is open and ready for racing - Check out their 2016 Schedule online now

6-11 June - VA/KY District Fair - Wise County Fairgrounds more info available on the website at vakyfair.com

16 June - SWVA Tech Council Annual Gala - Abingdon, VA - 276-679-7800 for further details

11–18 June Best Friend Festival—Downtown Norton— 276-679-0961 or visit www.wisecountychamber.org for the complete schedule

11 June—Camp Bethel Leap of Faith Obstacle Course Mud Run 5k and Kids mile Register at https://ultrasignup.com/register.aspx?did=32085 All proceeds benefit Camp Bethel Ministries

28 June—Apps for Business workshop - Norton Council Chambers - 276-679-0961 to register or for more info.

4 of July details to come

9&10 July - Chillin’ and Grillin’ in the Glades - See events listing for more details to come.

Visit the wisecountychamber.org community events page for local listings and more.
Celebrating 30 Years of Friendship
at the 2016 Best Friend Festival

The 30th Annual Best Friend Festival will take place on June 11-18th in downtown Norton, VA. This year’s theme is: “Celebrating 30 Years of Friendship” This year’s festival will be jam-packed with activities appealing to all age groups including: Tuesday’s Farmers Market, Paint-a-Trash-Can, First Bank & Trust Picnic in the Park, Senior Citizen’s Day, Karaoke Contests, Kid’s Night, Kiddy Train, Crankin’ with Crutchfield, Friday Night Block Party with the The Weight and Shades of Gray, A Kid’s Place, Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast, Citywide Yard Sale, Flea Market Vendors, the Regional Rehab 5K Run, and more.

In addition to this year’s activities a kid’s fishing day will take place, June 11, 2016 at Norton Reservoir, Sponsored by Norton Parks and Recreation.

For a detailed schedule, visit the chamber’s Web site: wisecountychamber.org.

BEST FRIEND VENDOR APPLICATIONS

BEST FRIEND FESTIVAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

GENERAL VENDOR APPLICATION

FOOD VENDOR APPLICATION
Welcome New Members

Repko Family Vision Center opened in 2011 in Gate City after seeing the need for quality eye care in SWVA. They are pleased to open the second location in Wise, VA. Repko Family Vision Center is family owned and operated right here in SWVA, since opening the company they’ve focused on treating every customer as a part of their own family. The Wise office offers comprehensive eye care for the young to young at heart. Services include: Exams for Glasses, Contact Lens, Diabetic, Cataract, Glaucoma, Dry Eye, and other Ocular Disease Treatment and the management of Macular Degeneration.

The office is located next to New Vision Optical at 724 Norton Road, Wise.

Phone 276-321-7039 Please Call them today to set up an appointment and view their website at repkofamilyvision.com

Sugar Hill Brewing Company

Sugar Hill Brewing Company will be opening soon! Located in historic downtown St. Paul, a wide variety of craft beer will be brewed for patrons to enjoy with a delicious meal. The industrial look of the brewery, with exposed brick walls, large windows, and metal ceilings, will add to the unique experience available to Wise County patrons. Their brew master will be busy working on a large variety of ales, porters, stouts, and other specialty beers. If you’re new to the craft beer phenomenon, you might want to try their flight tray to sample four beers of your choosing. Pick your new favorite.

Not a beer drinker? Not a problem! Food offerings will include the best burgers in town, chicken wings, homemade potato chips, fish tacos, seafood pasta, balsamic glazed salmon, mouthwatering steaks, salads, and lots of other fresh food. How about a fresh baked cookie topped with ice cream for dessert? The kids will be able to enjoy an ice cream cone after dinner.

On game days, come to see the game on the 10 foot high definition screen. Enjoy a game on one of two vintage pinball machine.

Initially Sugar Hill will be open Wednesday through Saturday, 2 to 10, and Sunday afternoons, 12 to 8. Business hours may be expanded as demand grows.

Follow Sugar Hill Brewing Company on Facebook! Websites will be up and running soon: check out EatDrinkBeMerryStPaul.com or SugarHillBrewingCompany.com
Chamber Gala …

We had over 200 in attendance at the 62nd Annual Gala. Thank you to our wonderful sponsors:

Sponsors of the 2016 gala included: • Table sponsors: BB&T Bank, Wise County, Crutchfield Corp., First Bank & Trust, Food City, Miners Exchange Bank, New Peoples Bank, Norton Community Hospital, Powell Valley National Bank, Big Stone Gap, St. Paul, Wise, University of Virginia’s College at Wise, and Wellmont Health System. • Corporate sponsors: CSE Insurance & Financial Services and Sykes Inc. • Decoration and reception sponsors: First Choice Home Health, and Old Dominion Power Co.

Special thanks goes out to the Chamber’s Gala and Silent Auction Committee for their hard work in organizing this year’s event: Kara Adkins, Kim Clisso (Gala Co-Chairperson), Melissa Coffey, Rick Colley, Pam Collie, Rita Lee (Silent Auction Chairperson), Dana McMurry, Angie Ryan, Dr. Elizabeth Shuler, and Reisa Sloce (Gala Co-Chairperson). Silent auction volunteers included Lance Collie, Luke Collie, Dusty Cowden, Michelle Cowden, Henrietta Dotson, Heather Stevens, Sheila Setias and Brandon Tester.

Thanks to Ernie Benko of ARC TV for videoing our event Freddie Bradley for sound and DJ Terry Shortt for being our photographer Gail McKeithen for the table centerpieces