2016 Citizen of the Year

Jan Thompson

2016 Outstanding Citizen of the Year
Jan Thompson
Chamber Award Winners

The Outstanding Citizen of the Year award went to Jan Thompson who has dedicated her time and energy to numerous causes throughout Wise County especially focusing on improving the opportunities for our children well as being a champion for volunteering time to events throughout the county and region.

Jan and Husband Bill live in Wise. They have 3 children - Ben, Jon and Rebecca. Jan has worked in the field of public education for 34 years and owns and operates Turning 360 Boutique.

During her career, she received many awards including Wise County Teacher of the Year in 2012 as well as Virginia Theater Director of the Year in 2014 from the VA Association of Speech, Drama & Debate and most recently the William Kanto Award in 2016.

Jan is very active in her church, Gladeville Presbyterian Church, serving as the Director of Children’s Programs, Musicals, and Dramas. Although Jan has had a very accomplished career as a teacher and business owner, she is probably best known for her dedication to the performing arts in our area as a director, coach, and mentor to numerous teenagers and pre-teens.

Jan and husband Bill founded the 9:00 Club in 1998 in her living room to give students in our area who were so involved in school and sports an opportunity to experience the performing arts. The 9:00 Club continues today making differences in lives. Many of the students who have participated over the years have received recognition on the state level in VHSL competitions.

Quote from her nomination letter: “Jan’s selfless acts of compassion, her love of the arts, and her desire to share her passion with others is the only motivation she needs to bring so much to her hometown, our small little corner of the world, that is made so much richer by people like Jan Thompson.”

The Distinguished Service Award, given to a person or persons who made outstanding contributions to the area and displayed excellence in their vocation. This year’s recipient of the Distinguished Service Award, Delores Smith, is a lady who is well known both locally and state-wide as an advocate for Southwest Virginia.

Delores has dedicated her time both professionally and personally to promoting our area and region as well as preserving our history. She and her husband Worley live in Wise Virginia. They have three children, Crystal, Michael, and Victoria. She has worked as the Deputy Commissioner of Revenue in Wise, Dickenson and Buchanan Counties during the years from 2000 – 2008. In 2008, Deloris became the Treasurer of Wise County and presently holds that position.

Delores is not only dedicated to her profession but is also passionate about preserving the history of our area. Delores and her husband purchased a historical home that sits adjacent from the Inn at Wise on Main Street in the Town of Wise. Their tireless work to preserve this treasure is evident in their willingness to offer tours of their home on many occasions for visitors from across the state and region that visit Wise County Courthouse and the surrounding.

The President’s Award

The 2016 President’s Award was awarded to St. Paul Tomorrow.

Over the past 20 years, St. Paul Tomorrow has logged countless hours of service, bringing the ideas of a steering committee to life and new life to their town. St. Paul Tomorrow started out as a group of concerned citizens in a steering committee with the Nature Conservancy. From this steering committee came an idea for a festival, a farmer’s market, a center for the arts and a hotel. These ideas resulted in the Clinch River Days Festival, which is celebrating its 19th year, the Clinch River Farmer’s Market, a center for the arts that has developed into the Railroad Museum and the on-going project of the Lyric Theater. St. Paul Tomorrow’s biggest current project is the Western Front Hotel which is now under construction.

The group is extremely busy looking to the future. They are hard at work on a strategic plan to continue their dedicated service to the Town of St. Paul.
Appalachia Cultural Arts Center has open mic night the 3rd Tuesday of every month

Farmers Markets (Opening soon)
- Clinch River Farmers Market - Saturdays 8 am. Until 12 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 until October 276-523-7447
- Wise Farmers Market - Held in the Big Glades - Thursday 4 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. 276-328-6013
- Coeburn Farmers Market - Near Celebrate - End of May 276-935-3323

3 May - Windows, Signs, and Visual Displays Workshop - St. Paul Main Street—276-395-0685

4 May - The New Normal Workshop - Big Stone Gap Visitors Center - 10 a.m. until 12 p.m. Register at 276-679-0961

4 May - Big Stone Gap Visitors Center—Sip in Paint - 5:30 p.m.—Call 276-523-2303 to reserve your seat

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

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

13 May– Cutting for a Cause will take place at Geneses and Todd’s Hair Studio in Wise—All proceeds will benefit the Nick England Memorial Scholarship Fund - Be sure to come out and bid on items, buy tickets for raffles and more.

26 May—Monthly Board Meeting / FWC Commencement -

26 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

27 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

5-10 June - VA/KY District Fair - Wise County Fairgrounds more info available on the website at vakyfair.com

10 June - Camp Bethel Leap of Faith Obstacle Race - Click here to register

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

11–17 June Best Friend Festival—Downtown Norton— 276-679-0961 or visit www.wisecountychamber.org for the complete schedule

4 of July—Check back for all the great details for each town!

July 14&15 - 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.
Explore Norton with a Friend at the 2017 Best Friend Festival

The 31st Annual Best Friend Festival will take place on June 11-17th 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, 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 10, 2017 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
Congratulations to Impressions

Impressions, Inc. Celebrated a Grand opening of their new location in Wise at 301 Norton Road on April 26, 2017. This date coincided with their 20th anniversary of the first day they opened. The crowd below is just a small fraction that came out to show their support. We would like to congratulate Danny Rowland and Henrietta Dotson, Co-Owners for their success.

Danny Rowland and Henrietta Dotson  
Co-Owners of Impressions  
Located at 301 Norton Road  
Wise, VA 24293  
276-328-1100
Welcome New Members

St. Paul is one of 25 designated Main Street communities in Virginia. It received this designation in 2011. Main Street communities are competitively selected.

Main Street America™ has been helping revitalize older and historic commercial districts for more than 35 years. Today it is a network of more than 1,600 neighborhoods and communities, rural and urban, who share both a commitment to place and to building stronger communities through preservation-based economic development. Main Street America is a program of the nonprofit National Main Street Center, a subsidiary of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Virginia Main Street was the fifteenth state to become part of the program, in 1985. The program is coordinated through the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development.

St. Paul Main Street’s mission is to once again become an attractive marketplace with renovated buildings, new streetscape, and improved connections to its environmental resources.

Downtown St. Paul will aggressively pursue retail and industrial business development to fill vacant and underutilized spaces in order to create a renewed vibrancy in downtown.

St. Paul will become the center of a regional economic development effort. Visit them online at St.Paulmainstreet.org or their facebook page for lots of great updates.

Lincoln Road Cold Brew Coffee, Wise VA

Lincoln Road Cold Brew Coffee, LLC is comprised of three Southwest Virginia natives based out of Wise, Va that have a passion for coffee. Coffee is more than just an energizer or a way to start your morning, it’s a way to bring people together, chat, network, and tell stories. They hope that you will share your story over Lincoln Road Cold Brew Coffee today.

Lincoln Road is a private and family owned business owned by Ryan Jones, Sarah Lawson and Brett Lawson.

You can find Lincoln Road coffee distributed widely throughout the region in Food City grocery stores and local coffee shops in Pikeville, KY., Lebanon, and Abingdon, VA. Please visit their website or facebook page to hear all about upcoming news and more.

Thank you to our new members.
Chamber Gala ...
We had over 200 in attendance at the 63rd Annual Gala.
Thank you to our wonderful sponsors:

Sponsors of the 2017 gala included:
- Table sponsors: BB&T Bank, County of Wise, Crutchfield Corp., First Bank & Trust, Food City, Frontier Secure, Miners Exchange Bank, New Peoples Bank, Norton Community Hospital, Powell Valley National Bank, Town of Big Stone Gap, Town of St. Paul, Town of Wise, University of Virginia’s College at Wise, and Wellmont Health System.
- 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), Dr. Elizabeth Shuler, and Reisa Sloce (Gala Co-Chairperson). Silent auction volunteers included Michelle Cowden, Henrietta Dotson, 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
David J. Prior Convocation Center staff
Chartwells catering staff
Cuttin' 4 the Cause

TO BENEFIT NICK ENGLAND MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

SATURDAY MAY 13
8AM-8PM

GENESES AND TODD'S HAIR STUDIO
328-2875 OR 328-1401
FOR APPOINTMENTS AND INFO

Come out and be a part of this 7th annual event of giving back to our community!

RAFFLE PRIZES!

SILENT AUCTIONS!

GRAND PRIZE: FREE HAIRCUT FOR 1 YEAR!!