Chamber Awarded Scholarships

Ford C. Quillen Scholarship

Ford C. Quillen Scholarship was awarded to Ally Connell. Ally is on the Union High school Tennis Team and been ranked #1 seed for two years. She has been recognized on the honor roll for 8 semesters and is a member of the Beta Club and National Business Honor Society. Ally plans on attending U Va W ise in the fall as a sophomore; she will work towards her degree in Biochemistry in hopes of becoming a Pharmacist. Ally is pictured here with her mother Nancy Bevins.

Cheryl Richardson Memorial Scholarship

The recipient of the Cheryl Richardson Memorial Scholarship this year is Briana Meredith. She is a graduate of Union High School and has attended MECC during high school with the Dual Enrollment program. She was a member of the Cross Country team and was able to go to State her freshman and Senior year also a member of the Beta club and National Business Honor Society. Brianna spent many summers volunteering with her church not only with Vacation Bible school but also as an office assistant preparing bulletins for each Sunday. Volunteering with trash picks ups and at many 5k’s and half marathons. Brianna plans on attending MECC in the Fall and continuing her education to become a Pharmacist after graduating.

Brianna is the Daughter of Patricia and Charles Meredith of Big Stone Gap.

Congratulations to all our scholarship winners.
Warm Welcome to our New Members!

**Primitive Peddler of Coeburn**

Located on 111 Dickenson Avenue, SE 276-219-4765

Floral and gift shop located in Coeburn. Great local shop, not only for your floral needs but for some amazing sweet treats.

They are available for catering lunches, parties, and much more. Give them a call today to see how they can help you!!
The 31st annual Best Friend Festival was held June 11-17, 2017, in downtown Norton, Virginia. The theme was “Explore Norton with a Friend”.

This year’s festival was jam-packed with activities appealing to all age groups, including: Kid’s Fishing Day, Woodbooger Chase Triathlon; Norton’s Largest Sandbox, First Bank & Trust Picnic in the Park, Paint-a-Trash-Can, Bike Rodeo, Friend’s & Farmer’s Market, Senior Citizen’s Day, Norton Cinema City Kid’s Day, Norton Lion’s Club Kid’s Night, Karaoke Contests, Crankin’ with Crutchfield, Slip & Slide Water Activities, A Kid’s Place, Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast, Citywide Yard Sale, Flea Market Vendors, Regional Rehab 5K Run, and the Norton High Knob Music Festival that ended the week!

Thanks to great entertainment, generous sponsors, and tireless volunteers, the 31st annual Best Friend Festival was a tremendous success! This year’s activities attracted people of all ages and each event drew in large crowds. In addition, thousands turned out to Park Avenue on Friday to enjoy the Friday night Family Fun Night, featuring music by Thomas Cassell, The Craig Street Band, and the JV Squad.

The Best Friend Festival committee would like to thank the City of Norton and dozens of other sponsors for their generous contributions. Without the support of local businesses and civic organizations, no community activity can continue to grow and be successful. A list of event sponsors are available online. Please make every effort to thank these sponsors for making this event a great success.

In addition to financial support, it’s the combined efforts of countless volunteers that make this festival possible. Therefore, the City would like to thank the Best Friend Festival committee, and all the members of this committee and other volunteers for their hard work and dedication. The City of Norton Workers that worked to set up, block off streets, do multiple tent set up and breakdowns, and help in many other ways. DJ Freddie Bradley who makes every event energetic, and fun.

More photos from the week are on the Best Friend Festival Facebook page at www.facebook.com/BestFriendFestival.

Our sponsors for the week were:
All Indoor Farm Store, LLC; Appalachian Community Federal Credit Union; Auto World; City of Norton; Coalfield Progress; Crutchfield Corporation; Danny G. Mullins Insurance Agency; Dominin; Dr. William C. Horne, Jr.; Family Preservation Services; Ferrell Gas; First Bank & Trust; Freedom of Worship Church; Food City; Freedom Ford; Frontier Secure; Glenn’s Finer Homes; Green Thumb Garden Club; HairVolutions; Holiday Inn of Norton; Hospice & Palliative Care; In Home Health; INTotal; Iron Works Cycling; J. Daniels HVAC & Plumbing Co.; Kiwanis Club of Norton; Lion’s Club of Norton; Lonesome Pine Economy Drug; Miners Exchange Bank; Morgan McClure Chevrolet; Mountain Motor Sports; Mountain View Regional Medical Center; Mulcian Flooring; New Peoples Bank; Norton Cinema City; Norton Community Hospital; Norton City Schools; Norton Kiwanis Club; Norton Parks and Recreation Department; Norton Police Department; Norton Redevelopment & Housing Authority; Norton Rescue Squad; Norton Social Services; Old Dominion Power Company; Pepsi Cola Bottling Company of Norton; Renos; Southwest Tool Rental; Sykes Enterprises; Upper TN River Roundtable; Valley Utility Buildings; Vic’s Decorating; Virginia Cooperative Extension Agency; Virginia State Police; Vic’s Decorating; Wal-Mart; WAXM; Wells Fargo Bank - Norton; WIC; Wise County Health Department; Wise County Public Library; and Wise County Sheriff’s Dept.

Board Meeting Set for Thursday, August 24, 2017

The next regular monthly meeting of the Wise County/City of Norton Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors will be held Thursday, August 24, 2017, 11:30 a.m., at the Prime Sirloin, Norton, VA.

All dues-paying members of the Wise County Chamber of Commerce are welcome and encouraged to attend. Lunch will be Dutch treat. If you will be attending, please call the Chamber office at 276-679-0961.
We are pleased to present the graduating class of 2017 from the Forward Wise County Leadership program.

This class graduated 14 participants.

Elizabeth Boyd, UVa-Wise Alumni
Jillian Bullock, Town of Big Stone Gap – Visitors Center
Tiffany Collier *, Powell Valley National Bank
Brittany Cook, Ronald McDonald House Charities
Tammy Grimes, Town of Big Stone Gap – Parks N Recreation
Beth Hubbard, Mountain States Health Alliance
Jennifer Kennedy, Mountain Empire Older Citizens
Tina Kilgore, First Bank & Trust
Becky Lagow *, Crutchfield Corp.
Paula Lawson *, Powell Valley National Bank
Stephen Lawson*, Town of Big Stone Gap
Patricia Roberts *, Mountain Empire Older Citizens
Brandon Tester*, Tester Chiropractic
Aaron Wright*, Sykes, Inc.

Continued...
The 2017 commencement exercise also featured the presentation of the 22nd annual Outstanding Alumni Award to a Forward Wise County alumna. Nominees for the award are recognized for outstanding personal achievement, community service, or professional achievement.

This year’s recipient of the Outstanding Alumni Award was Reisa Sloce. Reisa has served on the Chamber Board of Directors for the last 17 years in many roles including chamber president, executive board member, as well as chairing several committees. She graduated from the Forward Wise County Leadership Program in 2000.

Reisa lives in Wise where she graduated from J.J. Kelly High School. She attended Radford University and obtained her Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education. She later graduated from UNC Management for Public Health.

She has held various employment positions in our area. She dedicated 14 years to the Wise County Christian School where she taught 4th and 5th grades.

Reisa's passion for Wise County shines through in her volunteer work. She has been involved with numerous organizations throughout the region including the Wise Business Association, Town of Wise Revitalization Committee, Mountain Empire Older Citizen’s Walk-a-thon, Relay for Life, and many others.

Reisa has been listed in the Who’s Who Among Professional Business Leaders and is a member of the Alpha Sigma Alpha Sorority.

In her free time, she enjoys tennis, biking, gardening and reading. She has been a member of Glamorgan Chapel Church for the past 32 years where she has taught children’s church, Sunday school and college/career classes.

On behalf of the Leadership Development Committee, Kim Clisso, Committee Co-Chair, presented Reisa with the Outstanding Alumni Award.

The Forward Wise County class is made possible by our gracious sponsors
Celebrate Catering; City of Norton; County of Wise; Crutchfield Corporation; Dominion/Virginia City Hybrid Energy Center; Heart of Appalachia; Miners Exchange Bank; Mountain Empire Community College; Mountain Empire Older Citizens; Norton Community Hospital; Norton Redevelopment and Housing Authority; Primitive Peddler; The University of Virginia's College at Wise; Thompson & Litton; Wellmont Health System; and Wise County Public Schools.

As well as a Thank you to our presenters who took time for each class.

Shannon Blevins; Bobby Collins; Greg Edwards; Gina Wolford; Jackie Darter; Judy Durham; Leton Harding; Joseph B. Harvey; Olivia Harvey; Donna P. Henry; Dick Houchins; J. Sanders Huguenin; Debbie Loggins; Greg Mullins; Becky Nave; Vicki Ratliff; Fred Ramey; Jeff Rolen; Connie Rhoten; Beth Shupe; Chuck Slemp; and Mark Smith.

Thank you to our amazing Co-Chairs - Kim Clisso and Angie Ryan for all the time they spent attending each class and volunteering their time to make this class great.

To date the Forward Wise County class has graduated approximately 481 potential leaders.
The Wise County & City of Norton Chamber of Commerce joined scores of communities across Virginia in recognizing the many benefits business brings to the state and local communities. In honor of our local businesses and industries, the Chamber’s Economic & Small Business Development committee organized a free award’s luncheon which was held on Tuesday, May 18, 2017, at 11:30 a.m., at MECC. A BIG Thank You goes out to our sponsors by Norton Industrial Development Authority, Wise County Industrial Development Authority, and the Chamber and gracious hosts MECC.

In 2005, the Wise County/City of Norton Chamber of Commerce’s Small Business Development Committee (SBDC) established the Small Business of the Year Award to recognize successful local small businesses and to encourage entrepreneurship.

We would like to congratulate the following award recipients:

- Sugar Hill Brewing Company - Small Business of the Year
- Heritage Hall Health Care—Wise
- Impressions of Wise
- Cavalier Comics
- Lonesome Pine Raceway
- Dairy Queen of Norton

Henrietta Dotson, Co—Owner of Impressions and Melissa Coffey, WCCO 2017 President

Todd McReynolds, Frontier Secure was presented a small business appreciation award for their new business venture in Wise County.
Wendy Cooke, Medical Records Clerk and Kitty More, Admissions & Social Services Director of Heritage Hall pictured with Melissa Coffey, Chamber President; and Lynn Smith, Owner of Dairy Queen

Dickie Smith, Owner of Dairy Queen pictured with Melissa Coffey, Chamber President; and Lynn Smith, Owner of Dairy Queen

Guest Speaker, Carl Knoblock; Owners of Sugar Hill Brewery, Greg & Jennifer Bailey; Tim Blankebecler, Small Business Development Center

Wendy Cooke, Medical Records Clerk and Kitty More, Admissions & Social Services Director of Heritage Hall pictured with Melissa Coffey, 2017 Chamber President

Cavalier Comics owner Brian Marcus and Melissa Coffey, 2017 Chamber President
Calling all Golfers!!

It is time to sign up for the chambers Autumn Invitational sponsored by First Bank & Trust. October 6, 2017 will be a beautiful day at Lonesome Pine Country Club.

Sign up by calling or clicking the link below to fill out a form.

Golf 2017 Application