How Your Chamber Membership Benefits You!

- The Chamber works to build the economic base of Wise County and the City of Norton, bringing more employment, business opportunities, private investment, and improved quality of life.
- The Chamber is your voice on issues of taxation, legislation, and transportation. It represents you at legislative hearings, budget sessions, and VDOT funding hearings.
- Chamber members are eligible to receive discounts on auto and home insurance policies from several local insurance agencies as well as AirMedCare which discounts to Chamber of Commerce members nationwide. These discounts result in a savings of hundreds of dollars which would far exceed your membership investment dues.
- Your listing on the Chamber's web site in its Business Directory of Members puts your business name on the desks of other business people, new residents, and new businesses.
- The Chamber replies to thousands of inquiries about the surrounding area, your business, and you. Inquiries about products or services are directed to Chamber members.
- The Chamber sponsors meetings and receptions that provide valuable networking opportunities for you and your business. Members are linked by shared interests and concerns and can learn from each other.
- The Catalyst, published six times a year, contains news of Chamber and community events of interest to members.
- The Chamber provides economic development information to guide you and your business.
- Each year, the Chamber distributes thousands of brochures that help local businesses obtain maximum benefits from tourism.
- The Chamber is your best local source for accurate business information. Whether it's economic data, news of regulatory policies, new legislation, or the latest in area demographics, the Chamber can help!
- The Chamber is the only organization through which we can all work together to develop the area as an economic, financial, educational, medical, and cultural center. Ask yourself, "If the Chamber of Commerce didn't do all these things, who would?"
- Would you like your business to be larger? The Chamber staff, added to your staff, will multiply your effectiveness in the community.
- Area businesses succeed, in part, due to the efforts of the Chamber. Your membership will help to continue development of the economy.
- Your Chamber membership shows your customers that you care about the future of Wise County and the City of Norton. Your customers, in turn, care about a business that cares about them!

Quarterly Board Meeting
Set for March 26

A quarterly meeting of the Wise County & City of Norton Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors will be held Thursday, March 26, 2015, 11:30 a.m., at Celebrate in Coeburn. Lunch will be Dutch treat, $15.00. Attendance is open to all members of the Wise County & City of Norton Chamber of Commerce. If you plan to attend, please call the Chamber office at 276-679-0961.
Chamber Welcomes Our Newest Members

Micronic Technologies is a woman-owned small business established in 2008 to develop, patent, and commercialize an advanced state-of-the-art sustainable water desalination and purification technology.

Micronic has secured its first patent with several continuations in process; secured start-up capital; established a fully-equipped design and development workshop; designed and fabricated two bench prototypes; and validated results through independent testing.

In addition to providing improved access to clean potable water, the technology provides a huge impact on costs and sustainability for clients and customers throughout many industrial sectors.

With water resources that are burdened due to population growth and pollution, our goal is to transform the water market with a game-changing technology that improves clean water access dramatically.

Www.mironictechnologies.com

Lutheran Family Services of Virginia

Since Lutheran Family Service’s Minnick School at Wise opened its doors in 2010, the community support for the program has been overwhelming. This small private day school’s mission is to restore promise to children and their families. The program specifically works with students in overcoming challenges. Minnick helps children develop skills they need to cope with anger and intense emotions, and also gives them extra support with learning that is individualized to their uniqueness. Minnick provides a learning environment where these children have the opportunity to thrive.

The Educational Coordinator of the program, Lori Long (llong@lfsva.org), states she feels blessed to be a part of a larger organization that puts people first. She says each day she receives a gift of excitement and motivation, simply by seeing the progress of the students. Long says, “The children may come into the program feeling unsuccessful, but quickly began to grow and make changes realizing they are worthy.”

Lutheran Family Services of Virginia has 22 location across the state, including three Minnick Schools in other communities, and offers services to adults with disability and training and support for foster parents.

The Minnick School is located on the Wise county School Board office Campus and is open from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM Mon.-Fri. They are committed to serving students from Wise, Lee, Scott, Dickenson, Russell, and the City of Norton.

Membership shows that these businesses & individuals care about the future of Wise County and the City of Norton. We appreciate their support and encourage you to use, whenever possible, the products and services of Wise County Chamber of Commerce members. For a complete listing of Chamber members, please visit our Business Directory on our Web site: wisecountychamber.org
Chamber’s 61st Annual Gala & Silent Auction Set for April 12

The Wise County & City of Norton Chamber of Commerce’s 61st Annual Gala & Silent Auction will be held Saturday, April 11, 2015, at the David J. Prior Convocation Center, UVa-Wise. This year’s theme is: “Denim & Diamonds” The festivities will begin at 5:30 p.m. with a reception. The items for the silent auction will also be on display at 5:30 p.m. Dinner will follow at 7:00 p.m. Due to limited seating, you are urged to reserve your tickets as soon as possible. Ticket price is $60 per individual or a reserved sponsor table which seats eight for $700. All table sponsors will be listed on the dinner program, press releases, and also in the Chamber’s newsletter The Catalyst.

In addition to games, dinner, and dancing, the event will feature the presentation of the 2014 Outstanding Citizen of the Year Award, Distinguished Service Award, and President’s Award.

The proceeds from this event will help further the valuable work of the Wise County & City of Norton Chamber of Commerce. For more information or to reserve your tickets, please contact the Chamber office at 276-679-0961.

Donations to the Auction?!?!?

The Chamber’s Gala & Silent Auction is a highlight every year, funds go toward funding the valuable work of the Chamber. The Chamber accepts new items both big and small and donations may be tax deductible. Sponsorship opportunities are also available. To donate auction items or become a gala sponsor, contact the Chamber office at 276-679-0961.
Business and Event Highlight

Genesis and Todd's Hair Studio will be hosting their 5th annual Cuttin' 4 the Cause Cut-A-Thon. This year the event will benefit the Lunchbox Project, the Lunchbox Project was started by a local church about seven years ago to serve Wise Primary School students on free and reduced lunch. It has grown to serve the primary, middle, and elementary schools in Wise County and the City of Norton. There are more than 4,000 students on free and reduced lunch. The Lunchbox project is funded solely by donations.

The event will take place on March 21, 2015, will start at 8 a.m. and run until 8 p.m. Haircuts will be provided for a donation for $30 for women and $20 for men and children under 12. Raffle tickets will be sold for $5 each or $20 and silent auctions will be held that day.

For more info or to find out how you can help please call 276-328-1401 or email crystal_barnette03@yahoo.com

Events to mark in your calendar

**Powell Valley Animal hospital** extended the dental cleaning discount for the month of March - 276-524-1214 to make your appointment.

April 11 - 61st Annual Wise County/City of Norton Gala (see page 3)
April 23 - Wise County/ City of Norton Chamber Monthly Board meeting
May 9 - Mother's Day Out - Mountain Rose Vineyards - 12 p.m. until 2 p.m. - Treat mom to a delicious luncheon , the first in our summer Saturday luncheons - 276-328-2013
May 16 - 29th Annual Cavalier Alumni $elevation Contact Pam Collie at 276-328-0128
May 16 - Gathering in the Gap Music Festival - Southwest Virginia Museum Historical State Park, 10 West First Street
Big Stone Gap, VA 24219. For more information: Call (276) 523-1322 or visit http://www.gatheringinthegapmusicfestival.com/
May 23 - Women Celebrate - MountainRose Vineyards - (All Day ) Celebrate your life with this new event including healthful eating, exercise programs, nutrition’s programs, health screenings, massages, health products, and more. 276-328-2013
May 28 - 29 - 17th Annual Clinch River Days Festival - Downtown St. Paul - Festival featuring arts, crafts, exhibits, music, and more! - Contact: Suzy Harrison, 276-762-5544
May 28 - Wise County/ City of Norton Chamber Monthly Board meeting
May 16 - 2nd Annual Fit Farmer 5K/1 Mile fun walk - Register at http://www.runtricities.net/
May 23-25 - Memorial Day Murph at CrossFit Stone Mountain
June 1-6 VA KY District Fair at Wise County Fairgrounds - Schedule will follow
June 13 - Leap of Faith Obstacle Run at Camp Bethel, Team and Individual options - more info here at https://www.facebook.com/LeapOfFaithObstacleRun
June 16-20 - Best Friend Festival - Downtown Norton
July 11 - Chillin’ and Grillin’ in the Glades - Downtown Wise
July 29-31 & August 1 - Appalachia Coal and Railroad days
August 27 - Wise County/ City of Norton Chamber Monthly Board meeting
September 5 (Labor Day weekend) - Guest River Rally - Coeburn, VA - 276-395-3323
September 24 - Wise County/ City of Norton Chamber Monthly Board meeting
October- Wise County's Famous Fall Fling - downtown Wise wisefallflying.com
October - Home Craft Days in Big Stone Gap
December 3 - Wise County/ City of Norton Chamber Monthly Board meeting

This is just a small amount of the happenings in our area! For more events visit our website and if you don't see your event listed, please contact the Chamber at 276-679-0961 or email us at wisecountycoc@verizon.net to make sure we can get it on our event calendar.

*Chamber meeting locations will be announced at a later date*
Chamber of Commerce to Award Scholarships

The Wise County & City of Norton Chamber of Commerce will be presenting the Cheryl Richardson Memorial Scholarship in the amount of $250 to a 2015-2016 Wise County or City of Norton senior high school student. Any student who is applying to either MECC or UVa-Wise as a full-time student is eligible. Applicant must also be a resident of Wise County or the City of Norton. All students regardless of financial need are encouraged to apply.

The Chamber’s Education & Scholarship Committee establishes the criteria and supervises the selection process for this scholarship. Judging for the scholarship is based on the student's transcript of grades and test scores; SAT and ACT scores; a student essay presenting evidence of activities contributing to school, community service and leadership; and one recommendation from a teacher or school employee who is in a position to evaluate character, service, and potential for success.

In 1993, the Chambers of Commerce of Lee, Scott, and Wise Counties established the Ford C. Quillen Scholarship to honor the dedicated service of The Honorable Ford C. Quillen, who represented Lee, Scott, and Wise Counties in the Virginia House of Delegates for 24 years. Each year, a Lee, Scott, and Wise County or City of Norton graduating senior who is planning to enroll full-time in an undergraduate program at MECC or UVa-Wise is selected for a Ford C. Quillen Scholarship in the amount of $250. The applicant must also have demonstrated academic merit and leadership. The Wise County Chamber of Commerce’s Education & Scholarship Committee assists the MECC Foundation with the selection of the scholarship recipient from Wise County & city of Norton.

Students may obtain an application and guideline for these scholarships from their high school guidance counselor or the Wise County/City of Norton Chamber of Commerce located at 765 Park Avenue, SW, Norton, VA. All applications must be filed with the Chamber’s office by April 3, 2015. The winners will be selected and notified by May 11, 2015.

For more information, please call the Chamber office at 276-679-0961.

Chamber’s Forward Wise County Leadership Development Program Gets Underway

On March 2, a class orientation was held for the 21 participants in this year’s Forward Wise County Leadership Development Program. A mandatory one-day retreat featuring the “Appalachian Wilderness Adventure Program” lead by Jeff Rolen, was held on Saturday, March 7 at Camp Be-
thel. The eleven weekly, three-hour sessions began on Monday, March 9.

In addition to the regular sessions, there will be one Saturday seminar and one Saturday field trip. Also, participants will be required to spend at least four hours on a community service project. Forward Wise County 2015 will conclude with a graduation ceremony & luncheon on Thursday, May 28.

Since 1990, the Wise County & City of Norton Chamber of Commerce has been the sole agency responsible for Forward Wise County. Under the guidance of the Leadership Development Committee, the program has grown and diversified. To date, the program has graduated more than 427 potential leaders of Wise County and the City of Norton.

Pictured above: (Back row, left to right) Linda Ratliff, Bennett & Edwards Century 21; Stephanie Sprinkle, MEOC; Joshua Bolling, Bennett & Edwards Century 21; Abe Wells, Bennett & Edwards Century 21; Crickett Blair, City of Norton Social Services; Jimmy Adkins, LENOWISCO; Charlie Sanders, Wise County Sheriff’s Office; Ed Jesse, Wise County Sheriff’s Office; Sonya Farmer, MEOC; Kristen Hincher, Wells Fargo Bank; Andi Kilgore, Clerk’s Office County of Wise; Brandi Matheslon, Sykes; Cassie Dotson, Powell Valley National Bank; Lorita Mullins, Wellmont Health System; Stacy Robinson, Old Dominion Power; Nicole Green; Inn at Wise; Vanessa Sluss, Wise County Dept. of Social Services; Amy Mellingler, Powell Valley National Bank; AnnMarie Swisher, Southern Appalachian Ronald McDonald House Charities; Tina Isom, Southern Appalachian Ronald McDonald House Charities.
Help the Wise County/City of Norton Chamber GO GREEN!

The Wise County/City of Norton Chamber would like your help in our continued effort to go green. We ask that anyone willing or able to get new editions of “The Catalyst” electronically to please let us know. Each new edition is available on the Chamber website or we can also email you a copy as they become available. This will not only help our environment but will help cut Chamber costs as well. We feel this is a great opportunity for each of our members.

Please email us with the address you would like to receive electronic editions of the newsletters to; wisecountycoc@verizon.net.

Thank you for your continued support and efforts to help our community.