

DISCOVER MHC

A guide to live, work and play in Martinsville-Henry County, Virginia

**Smith River Trail System is
no longer a best kept secret**

George Lester Q&A

**Martinsville Uptown
looks bright**



DR. DAVID JONES DR. NICOLE DESHON

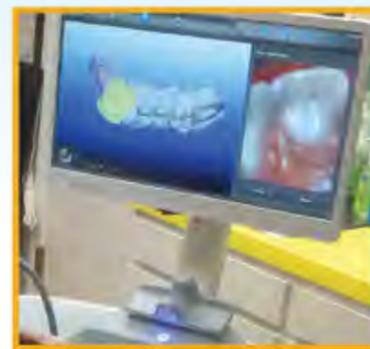
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The Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce is honored to provide each year the area's annual community magazine, **DISCOVER MHC**. This publication is locally published and made possible by our generous sponsors, who value the importance of showcasing Martinsville-Henry County, Virginia, as a great place to live, work and play.

While most small-town communities claim to be a great place, few can back it up with its rich history, convenient living and easy access to outdoor and cultural activities. We are the home to NASCAR's fan-favorite track, the Martinsville Speedway, and the Virginia Museum of Natural History with its award winning exhibits and groundbreaking scientific research and collections.

We have extensive trails for walkers, runners and cyclists and numerous access points to canoe, kayak and explore the outdoors. TheatreWorks Community Players, the Rives Theatre and Patrick Henry Community College's Patriot Players provide the creative outlet for the performing arts, along with numerous exhibits and performances brought to the community by Piedmont Arts.

Our community is business friendly where the Chamber is a strong voice of business. Education is a strong partner, which has resulted in more job and career opportunities across the region.

We hope this magazine will give you insight about our community; and you will agree with me that Martinsville-Henry County, Virginia, is truly a great place.

Amanda C. Witt
President, Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce

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Contributors:

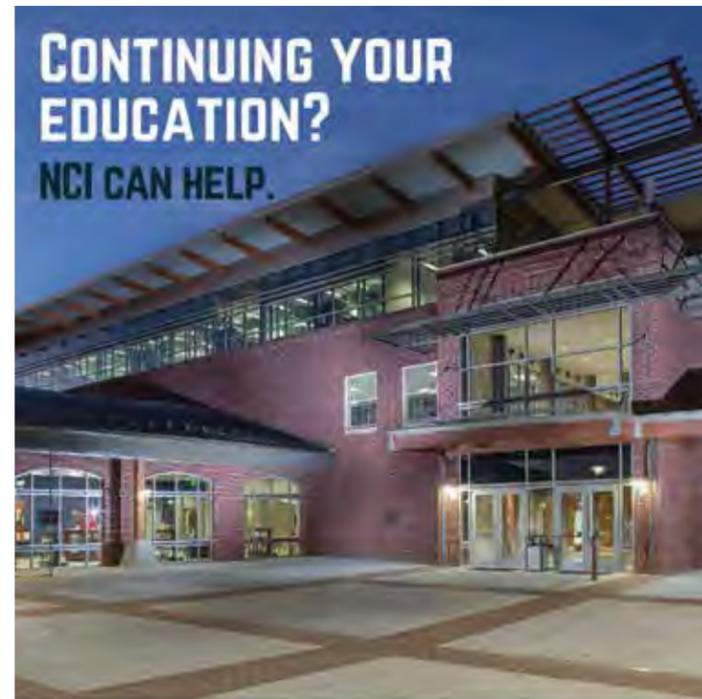
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Discover MHC is the Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce's annual community magazine. For additional information, contact the Chamber, 276.632.6401 or mhccoc@mhccchamber.com.



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Memorial Hospital Emergency Department

Focused on improved patient safety, care and satisfaction

As the area’s frontline of medicine, Memorial Hospital’s Emergency Department (ED) is focused on improved patient safety, higher quality of care and greater patient satisfaction. In doing so, the ED has implemented three new operational models in communications, cardiovascular care and stroke treatment as part of its continuous improvement efforts.

“We have made great strides over the past year in improving the quality and level of care for our community,” said Marcus Stone, RN and ED director at Memorial Hospital. “Continuous improvement is always our goal, from decreasing wait times and increasing patient satisfaction scores, to enhancing our technology and services.”

Communications

In a partnership with United Way, Memorial Hospital has introduced a new communications technology system, called CAREpoint™ Workstation, to the area’s Emergency Medical Services (EMS). CAREpoint enables EMS crews to transmit vital patient information to ED physicians and staff prior to a critical patient’s arrival. In the event a patient is experiencing trauma, heart attack or stroke, the hospital can

now secure necessary equipment, technology and specialists for immediate treatment, which is improving outcomes and saving lives of patients in the community.

According to Martinsville’s Deputy Fire Chief Kristopher Shrader, the CAREpoint system has given the city’s fire and EMS department the ability to share critical patient data right from the emergency scene.

“We can now transmit 12 lead electrocardiograms, which is

one of the key diagnostic tools used to determine if someone is having a heart attack, right from the patient’s bedside,” said Shrader. “We can send photos showing the damage a vehicle has sustained during a collision, right from the accident scene. This can give the ED physician a better understanding of the forces and energy involved during the wreck.”

Cardiovascular Care

In 2014, Memorial Hospital became a fully accredited Chest Pain Center from the Society of Cardiovascular Patient Care. This nonprofit organization conducted a rigorous onsite review of Memorial Hospital’s ED and other departments to ensure the facility is able to meet the heart health needs of the community. As a chest pain accredited center, Memorial Hospital has achieved a higher level of expertise in caring for patients who arrive to the hospital with symptoms of a heart attack. This accreditation ensures that systemic quality of care measures are met and the required protocols, processes and systems are in place to deliver efficient and effective treatment to cardiac patients.

Stroke Treatment

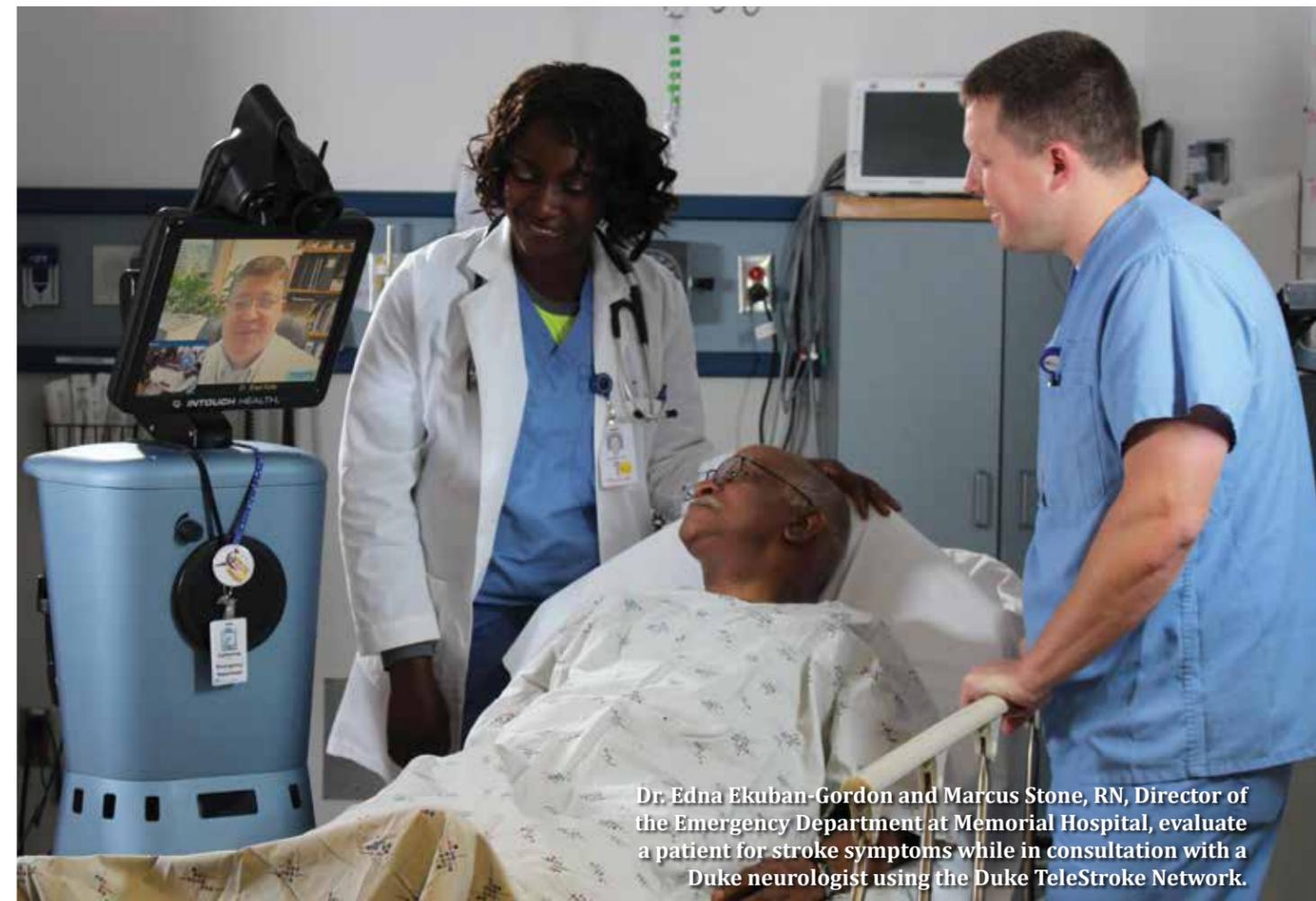
Every second counts – especially when it comes to stroke care. Memorial Hospital’s ED has partnered with the Duke

TeleStroke Network to provide fast, real time access to Duke Medicine’s nationally recognized team of neurologists and stroke care specialists via real-time, telemedicine-based technology.

When a patient showing signs and symptoms of a stroke enters the emergency room, neurology specialists at Duke can communicate with Memorial Hospital’s ED team, examine the patient, review imaging reports, confirm a diagnosis and provide recommendations for treatment, just as if they were at the bedside. The technology uses a five-foot life sized robot named “Lightning McBot”, which assists in providing a thorough examination with the most immediate and best treatment plan for the patient.

“Memorial Hospital is committed to providing high quality and compassionate emergency care to our community,” said Michael Ehrat, Memorial Hospital CEO. “An hour is often too far to drive in an emergency, so our Emergency Department is staffed with experienced medical professionals and the latest life-saving equipment to treat a range of different medical conditions, including heart attacks, strokes and trauma.”

Physicians have trained at nationally recognized trauma centers and bring years of skill to the community. Nurses are Advanced Cardiac Life Support certified, and many are Certified Emergency Nurses and trauma-certified. 🏥



Dr. Edna Ekuban-Gordon and Marcus Stone, RN, Director of the Emergency Department at Memorial Hospital, evaluate a patient for stroke symptoms while in consultation with a Duke neurologist using the Duke TeleStroke Network.

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Martinsville Area Community Foundation celebrates its 10 year anniversary

A decade down. Forever to go.

Martinsville Area Community Foundation (MACF) was formed in late 2005 as an affiliate of Foundation for Roanoke Valley. This occurred after one and a half years of talks between the Harvest Foundation, Foundation for Roanoke Valley, former Memorial Hospital board members and community leaders. Upon the sale of the hospital and the creation of The Harvest Foundation, six endowed funds totaling about \$3.5 million needed to be preserved. These funds, mostly health related, were given to MACF to begin grant-making in the community.

A decade later, MACF manages \$16 million in 36 permanent endowment funds and has awarded more than \$5 million in grants to area nonprofits and scholarships to students.

Eliza Severt, a former hospital board member, became the first board chair of MACF. The foundation experienced tremendous growth during Severt's time on the board.

In her words, "I have immensely enjoyed my time on the MACF advisory board. The foundation is a wonderful philanthropic vehicle for area residents to give back and to keep resources in the local community."

Severt remains active in the foundation through Women In Philanthropy; and she and her husband, Jim, have established the Jim and Eliza Severt Fund, a donor-advised fund that enables them to make grant recommendations each year to non-profit organizations.



Eliza Severt,
Martinsville Area
Community Foundation's
first board chair



C-PEG President
Clay Campbell and
MACF Executive Director
April Haynes

Partnerships

According to MACF Executive Director April Haynes, MACF has a great partnership with the Chamber of Commerce in its Youth Leadership Development program and its charitable affiliate, the Chamber's Partnership for Economic Growth (C-PEG). The youth program includes a focus on philanthropy; and participants are eligible to receive scholarship grants from MACF to further their education. With C-PEG, MACF has awarded grants to its Small Business Grant Program that provides growth opportunities for local small businesses.

"Connecting donors to causes that are dear to them is what we do," said Haynes.

In 2014, C-PEG awarded MACF and one of its anonymous donor funds its highest honor, the Fred Herring Award, given in memory of Herring who was a former C-PEG executive director.

The award recognized MACF for its collaboration with C-PEG to help businesses expand, consolidate, create jobs and diversify services.

Women In Philanthropy

One of Severt's and Haynes's most rewarding experiences is being part of creating MACF's Women In Philanthropy (WIP) initiative and witnessing its growing success. Women join WIP for \$500 a year, and as a group, vet grant proposals for WIP financial

support. Since its launch in 2009, WIP has awarded more than \$173,000 to area nonprofits and recently created a WIP Endowment Fund of \$20,000, keeping this initiative in perpetuity.

"It seemed to us that we needed an avenue for women to be more engaged in philanthropic giving and role models to others," said Severt. "When women come together to help the community, great things happen."

"Learn to Swim" Program

To Haynes, all MACF funded initiatives and projects make positive impacts in the community. One of particular interest to her, because it is new and unprecedented, is MACF's sponsored "Learn to Swim" program, where all first graders learn the basics of swimming in one week during school hours.

After a successful pilot program with a few schools in the area, all first graders in the city and county public school systems and Carlisle School are participating during the 2015-16 school year.

"We chose first grade, because this is a great age to learn about being around water, basic water safety and basic swim skills. Children at this age learn quickly and their motor skills are more developed than younger children," Haynes said. "Children learn these basics and also pool rules, how to save themselves in an emergency and to remain calm in emergency situations. These are skills they can build upon."

All "Learn to Swim" classes for first graders are held at the YMCA in Martinsville.

For additional information about MACF, go to MartinsvilleAreaCommunityFoundation.org.



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2016 Events & Exhibits

January

- 16 - "Fortune, Courage, Love" opens (Piedmont Arts)
- 23 - Dino Day (Virginia Museum of Natural History)

February

- 13 - Nail the Rail 9 Miler (Dick & Willie Passage Rail Trail)
- 27 - Africa Family Day (Piedmont Arts)

March

- 3-8 - "Love, Loss & What I Wore" (Patriot Players)
- 24-27 - "Southern Fried Funeral" (Theatre Works)

April

- 9 - Grapes & Grains (Virginia Museum of Natural History)
- 27 - Historic Garden Week in Martinsville-Henry County

May

- 3 - Great Art Heists in History (Piedmont Arts)
- 26-29 - Rooster Walk Music & Arts Festival

June

- 3-5 - Team First Soccer Academy with Mia Hamm
- 17 - Art @ Happy Hour (Piedmont Arts)

July

- 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31 - Wine Tasting (Hamlet Vineyards)
- 28-30 - "The Color Purple" (Patriot Players)

August

- 4-7 - "The Color Purple" (Patriot Players)
- 13 - Smith River Fest & Helgramite Hustle 5K Mud Run

September

- 10 - Bassett Heritage Festival
- 17 - Spencer Community Fair & Craft Show (Spencer-Penn)

October

- 13 - Kiwanis Pancake Day (Uptown Martinsville)
- 30 - Goody's 500 NASCAR Race (Martinsville Speedway)

November

- 12 - Pickers & Fiddlers Songfest (Stanleytown)
- 25-27 - Mary Poppins (Patriot Players)

December

- 4, 11 & 18 - Group Bike Ride (Mountain Laurel Trails)
- 10 - Light up the Night 5K (Martinsville Uptown)

Get Started...

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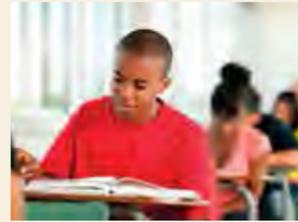
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Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow

K-12 Education in Martinsville-Henry County



Martinsville City Public Schools

(Martinsville.K12.va.us)

Martinsville City Public Schools (MCPS) is an innovative school division that includes five schools serving preschool through 12th grade. With a mission of "Bringing Life to Learning," MCPS uses project-based learning and business partnerships to bring relevant, real world learning into the classroom, preparing students for success in college and careers.

Points of distinction:

- Martinsville High School features state-of-the-art science labs, a TV studio, a mock hospital room, a robotics lab, an engineering makerspace, and an open commons area featuring collaborative work spaces.
- The **MCPS STEM Pipeline** is a preK-12 initiative focused on developing the skills and interests of students in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) career pathways. There are three programs for each of our school levels:
 - We **ENspire** Interest (Pre-K – 4th Grade)
 - We **ENgage** Learners (5th – 8th Grade)
 - We **ENgineer** the Future (9th – 12th Grade)
- Advanced learning is present throughout the school system with opportunities for middle school students to receive high school credits prior to the ninth grade and high school students to earn college credits, an associate's degree and specialized industry certifications upon graduation.
- Martinsville Middle School is home to the only NASA Science, Engineering, Math and Aerospace Academy (SEMMA) lab in Virginia, one of just 16 in the country. The lab includes a real flight simulator and uses NASA technology and lesson plans.
- Clearview Early Learning Center offers a full-day three and four year old preschool program, staffed by fully certified teachers.



Carlisle School

(CarlisleSchool.org)

Carlisle School is an independent, Pre-K - 12 school. In August of 2015, it opened for its 48th school year, welcoming 415 students from 10 different countries. For the fourth year in a row, the readers of Virginia Living magazine voted Carlisle the Best Private School in Southwest Virginia. Additionally, Carlisle was again named an Editor's Choice and listed among Virginia's Top High Schools and Colleges for the second year in a row by Virginia Living. The publication has named Carlisle a top school in the Arts and Humanities, noting the school's extraordinary focus on global development of students, the international boarding program and its exceptional visual and performing arts program. Carlisle School also boasts an outstanding athletic program, with particular recent success in boys' soccer, basketball and golf, and girls' field hockey and basketball.

Points of distinction:

- Carlisle School has a 100 percent four-year college acceptance rate since its first graduating class.
- Carlisle School is accredited by the Virginia Association of Independent Schools, the Southern Association of Independent Schools, and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.
- Carlisle School offers students a safe, nurturing environment that allows for creativity and leadership skills to be developed starting in our preschool and continuing through until graduation.

Henry County Public Schools

(Henry.K12.va.us)



Henry County Public Schools (HCPS), a high-performing school division, provides all students with an exemplary education in a safe, supportive environment that promotes self-discipline, motivation and excellence. HCPS enrolls 7,081 students among 14 schools. The school division has the largest iPad initiative in the state and a student/device ratio of 1:1.

Points of distinction:

- HCPS is nationally recognized as an Apple Distinguished Program, which recognizes a school division for innovation, leadership and educational excellence in exemplary learning environments, for a third time and regularly hosts visitors seeking to implement.
- HCPS is one of 73 school districts in the nation to be recognized as a member of the Digital Promise League of Innovative Schools. Member districts are recognized as those that promote lifelong learning and provide Americans with the knowledge and skills needed to compete in the global economy.
- Magna Vista High School is home to Virginia's only New Tech Network STEM academy, Warrior Tech Academy. Three hundred students participate in the rigorous project-based curriculum of study and practice the engaged learning culture expected of 21st Century learners. The academy, in its third year, hosts visitors from around the country at its school-within-a-school.

Continuing Your Education

Higher Learning in Martinsville-Henry County



Patrick Henry Community College

(PatrickHenry.edu)

Patrick Henry Community College (PHCC) was founded in 1962 and has been the community's college for the past 53 years. It offers programs and services identified to meet community needs along with a robust academic program. The college offers the first two years of a baccalaureate degree (associate's degrees) and a variety of certificates for the workplace and further study.

A member of the Virginia Community College System, PHCC is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award the associate degree. The college has articulation agreements with more than 20 colleges and universities and works closely with the New College Institute. In these ways, PHCC provides students efficient and easy transfer pathways.

Located on 137 acres, PHCC also utilizes off-campus sites in nearby Stuart and in Martinsville, providing access to higher education for local residents. The college has a comprehensive online presence and offers unique programming in Motorsports at its Racing College and is the host for a partnership-created Fab Lab at its Thomas P. Dalton IDEA Center in Martinsville.

Students may avail themselves of the college's many resources and services, from tutoring and services for students with disabilities to student activities and NJCAA sanctioned athletics.

Tuition is affordable and there are many options for financial assistance to students who qualify.



American National College

(AN.edu)

American National University was founded in 1886 and has helped students of all ages improve their lives with an affordable and quality college education.

The Martinsville Campus has existed since 1978 and is one of 30 campuses located in six states (Virginia, West Virginia, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, and Tennessee). The campus offers associate and diploma programs in the fields of business, healthcare, and network administration. Courses are taught by leaders in their respective fields who relate their own industry experience



New College Institute

(NewCollegeInstitute.org)

Established in 2006, New College Institute (NCI) strives to make higher-level education accessible to students of all ages. NCI provides access to bachelor's degree completion programs, master's degrees, teacher endorsements and more through partnerships with various state universities.

Local faculty members oversee courses in the evenings to accommodate the busy lifestyles and responsibilities that students often have outside of their academic goals. Students take all courses in Martinsville, but in the end, their degrees come from the partner universities that host their specific programs.

Other innovative programs offered at NCI include the Academy for Engineering & Technology (AET), Center for Advanced Film Manufacturing (CAFM), and the Southside Telehealth Training Academy and Resource Center (STAR Telehealth). In addition to degree and certification programs, NCI offers non-credit lectures, educational summer camps, financial aid counseling, extensive internship opportunities and more.

New College Institute's facilities are packed with technology and equipment to meet training and academic needs for students, faculty and local industry partners. State-of-the-art classrooms include multiple screen sharing devices, document cameras for instructors, Polycom teleconferencing capabilities, dry erase walls around the room and an overall design stimulating increased collaboration. The Martin-Lacy Lecture Hall as well as various classrooms may be rented for trainings and meetings.

to the coursework. Class sizes are kept small in order to provide more interaction and improved comprehension of the material.

Online degrees are also available so that students may complete their degree wherever it is convenient for them. These degrees include: Healthcare Information Management (HIM), RN to BSN, a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN), and an MBA with specializations in accounting management, international business, organizational management, and healthcare management. A separate MBA-IT is also available.



Liz Secrest,
Martinsville Uptown Director



Martinsville Uptown looks bright

New partnerships and strategies in place to advance the city's business development plans

The Martinsville Uptown Revitalization Association (MURA) and the Chamber's Partnership for Economic Growth (C-PEG) recently joined forces to advance the city's efforts to create a more vibrant uptown. With C-PEG's resources and MURA's charge to enhance the city's central business district, City Manager Leon Towarnicki said this unique partnership will position the city for new economic growth opportunities in the uptown area.

"A year ago, C-PEG took over management of the region's incubator at a time when we thought it was going to close. Today, it is at capacity, and the city has directed C-PEG to research the feasibility of an expansion," Towarnicki said. "C-PEG has proven that it can take our business development strategies to the next level."

With this new partnership, MURA became part of C-PEG's organization, yet retained its identity and Virginia Main Street designation.

"Becoming a part of C-PEG and joining the Chamber's staff have worked out well. The transition of the organization has been smooth and well received by many," said Martinsville Uptown Director Liz Secrest. "We are working together to grow our special events, like TGIF and Oktoberfest, with the help and support of C-PEG and the Chamber. Together, we are trying to strengthen our current businesses and continue to attract new ones. Improving the economic vitality is our top priority."

Since this agreement has been in place, attendance at special events and programs has grown and interest in our shop local campaign has picked up, according to Secrest.

"I look forward to the future, to see what positive growth will come from our partnership. The ultimate goal is more people along the street, and more thriving businesses for them to frequent," she said.

Startup Martinsville, Virginia

With this new uptown infrastructure in place and a near capacity business incubator, effective July 1, 2015, the city entered into a formal agreement with C-PEG to assist with its small business development. Within months

of this agreement with the city, C-PEG secured a \$60,000 grant award through the Governor's Second Annual Virginia Community Business Launch (CBL) initiative to launch "Startup Martinsville, Virginia," an intensive eight week entrepreneurial boot-camp program that culminates into a business plan competition.

Martinsville was one of seven selected to participate in this CBL initiative. The other communities were the towns of Pulaski, Vinton, Marion and Strasburg and the cities of Petersburg and Lynchburg.

"Startup Martinsville is designed to give entrepreneurs and business owners the resources to be successful, while also creating awareness about entrepreneurship opportunities available

in the uptown area. It is a win-win situation for the region," said Towarnicki. "Uptown Martinsville is the heart of the city and county. If the uptown area is doing well, all of Martinsville and Henry County will benefit."

The selection process to participate in Startup Martinsville is competitive. Participants compete for grant funds and additional prizes and loan opportunities to help start or expand their businesses in uptown Martinsville. Grant funds will be between \$5,000 and \$20,000 among the top three to six winners, depending on what each business plan requires. Go to Martinsville.com for details.

After this first year, if all goes well, Towarnicki hopes Startup Martinsville will become an annual event." 📍

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From Row (Partners Left to Right): Kimberly A. Skomer, W. Joe Foster, L. Samuel Saunders, Katherine G. McDaniel, John R. Neal, Jerry A. Foster, Robert D. Dorr and Kimberly A. Priest. Second Row (Left to Right): Carl M. Fleming, Stephen M. Gay, Valen L. Wright, Mark W. Foster.

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George Lester visits with John Korff, CEO of Virginia Mirror Company-Virginia Glass Products, which will have its corporate retreat at Heritage Golf & Conference Center.

George Lester

Investing in His Hometown

When George Lester learned that the venerable Bassett Country Club was going to close, the wheels started turning, just as they did in 1999, when the Tultex plant on Franklin Street in Martinsville closed.

The Lester Group bought the building and transformed it into a business center, called the Clock Tower building. Today, the Clock Tower building is home to hundreds of workers in a variety of businesses and has become a focal point of community pride demonstrating the impact of revitalization.

“Not only was the building substantial structurally, but also it had history and was a community asset,” recalled Lester. “It once was the largest plug chewing tobacco factory in the world, and later a large textile mill. It was worth preserving, but had to be re-purposed to become a viable enterprise where jobs

would be created, economic growth would occur, and tax revenue would be generated.”

Lester sees the Bassett Country Club in a similar manner. “The closing was not the fault of any mismanagement,” Lester said. “The club was a victim of changing times and economic conditions. There simply isn’t the need for a private country club in a small community anymore. Probably thousands of clubs have closed across the country. The club simply could not continue as it was.”

But Lester saw potential for the property, and The Lester Group purchased the assets of the club in late 2014. We asked him to share his thinking and vision.

.....

Q What attracted you to this property?

A Bassett Country Club has a significant legacy. Sam Snead played on the golf course occasionally, and the clubhouse was built nearly 100 years ago with lumber donated from local furniture manufacturers. The club was the social and recreational center of the Bassett, Stanleytown and Fieldale communities and the scene of many business meetings where major decisions were made in both furniture and textiles. I felt with that heritage, the property had a legacy that needed to be preserved, so we took a chance and bought the assets of the property.

.....

Q Your company, The Lester Group, was founded in 1896 by your father. At that time, the company was named Lester Lumber Co. Was there a business relationship with the furniture companies that influenced your decision?

A Of course there is some sentiment involved. Many years ago, Lester Lumber did sell lumber to furniture manufacturers in the community, and that relationship led to friendships and mutual respect. But, at the end of the day, a company must make business decisions to survive.

.....

Q Upon purchasing the property, you sought community input. Why?

A Bassett Country Club was part of the fabric of our community for nearly 100 years. We needed to know the opinions of community members to help us decide what real need exists. Frankly, a business enterprise cannot continue to exist if it does not serve the wants and needs of its constituencies, so we needed to know what would work in the facility. The input was valuable.

.....

Q What is the business that resulted?

A The public comment and our research indicated that we could be successful by having a public golf course and a meeting facility with food service. We came up with the name, Heritage Golf &

Conference Center, to reflect our respect for the history of the club and so potential users would immediately recognize the services we offer.

Businesses, social and religious organizations, churches and educational institutions regularly meet for retreats, strategic planning, weddings, banquets, holiday parties, reunions and so forth. Combining a meeting place with recreational opportunities meets the needs of those organizations.

We have an excellent location, not only from the access standpoint – near U.S. 220 and 58 – but also in terms of activities located nearby. People attending conferences typically meet for half a day and then spend the remaining time in a recreational activity. We offer golf, and nearby is kayaking or fishing at Philpott Lake and the Smith River. Bowling, hiking and visiting wineries are other nearby opportunities.

Food service equipment is in the building, so caterers can use the building for preparing and serving meals. Perhaps there will be a need for a restaurant in the future. Several people have said there is a need for a fitness center in the lower level of the building. It’s still a work in process.

.....

Q During this process, were there any aspects that were challenging or gratifying?

A Walking the grounds and going through the building is when we realized what a magnificent asset existed here. The challenge was to figure out how to move potential to reality.

It’s gratifying to sense support from the community and to realize progress and to be a part of converting a closed facility into a factor in community revitalization.

.....

Q Are you pleased with the progress?

A Results can’t come fast enough for me. But we must have patience and be willing to change. We’ve made progress, yes, but there is a lot of work to do.

.....

Q What advice would you give someone interested in repurposing a facility?

A Understand what the market wants and needs. Then, figure out how to meet those wants and needs. In other words, do your homework. Have patience. Be flexible. Watch what’s happening in the field. Stay out in front of change; be proactive.

.....

Q How has that philosophy guided The Lester Group?

A Our business would not exist today if we had continued to do what we used to do. There have been many forks in the road in the history of our company. We realize the necessity to change and repurpose. What we used to do is no longer needed, so we adjusted.

Today, The Lester Group is stronger than ever. We’ve diversified into real estate development and expanded the lumber products enterprise across Virginia and into West Virginia and North Carolina. We have developed residential communities in Staunton, Blacksburg, Lynchburg and the Piedmont Triad in North Carolina. A transportation-oriented development is taking shape outside Fredericksburg with residential, commercial and office space planned around the Virginia Railway Express station.

We’ve learned that if we don’t take care of the wants and needs of our customers, someone else will. We don’t know the future. What works now may not work in five years. But we’re ready for change and will figure out how to make it work for us.

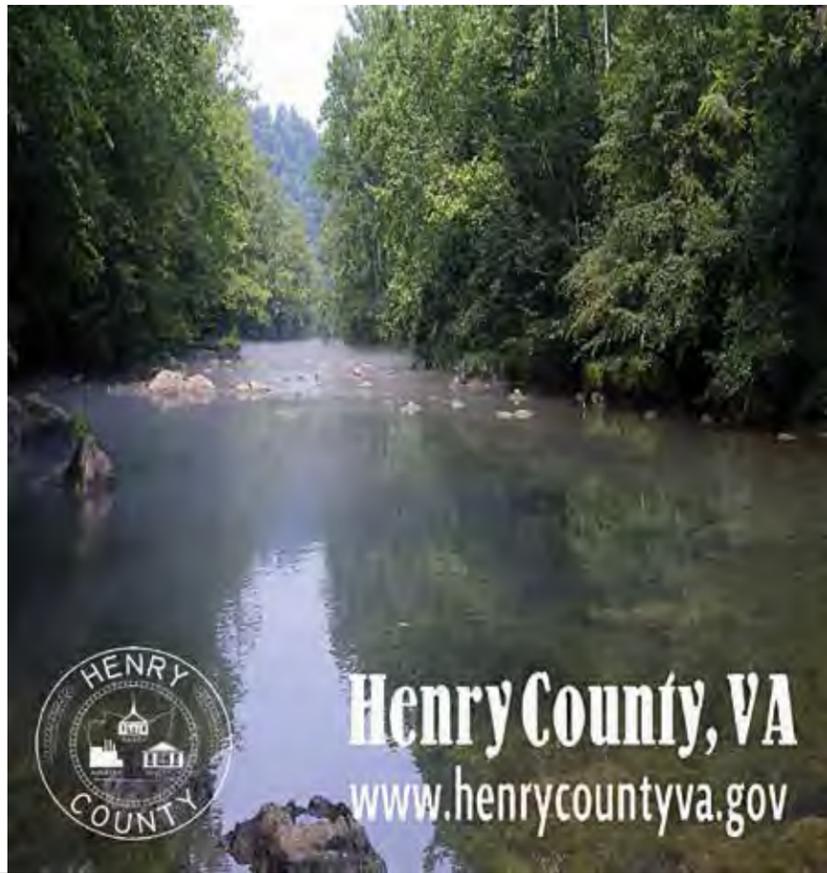
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Q Finally, are you more of a history buff or an avid golfer?

A Let’s just say, I’m a business person. I enjoy learning about history and realize the importance of preservation. As for golf, well that’s another story.

.....

George Lester is a past Chairman of the Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce’s board of directors and in 2002 a recipient of the Chamber’s highest honor, The Heck Ford Award, for his leadership, commitment and dedication to Martinsville-Henry County, Virginia. 🏡



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Members of the Harvest Youth Board include (from left) Ana Paulina Vazquez-Llamas, Karli Foster, Mariah Holland, Taisha DeShazo, Phillip Williams, Luis Romero, Maxwell Pinkston, Alexandra Hornsby, Kendall Cope, Candace Foster and Kristel Hairston. Not pictured: Cameron Brummitt and Cody Mills



Gracie Agnew (left) mentors members of the Harvest Youth Board during the group's first orientation session. Board members pictured include (from left) Luis Romero, Cameron Brummitt and Cody Mills.

"Martinsville and Henry County is a wonderful place to live, work and play, but it has its challenges like every community," said Allyson Rothrock, president of The Harvest Foundation. "We've invested more than \$95 million in our community in what we believe are worthwhile projects, focusing on the areas of health, education and community vitality. We're here to make sure our community is the very best it can possibly be."

Harvest is dedicated to Martinsville and Henry County and making it the community of choice by supporting the important work of its nonprofit partners. Visit TheHarvestFoundation.org to find out more, or to share your thoughts using the "We're Listening" tool. 🗣️

"We are excited about the confidence the Harvest board and staff have in the youth board. We are happy that we get to make our own decisions. I don't think youth really had a voice before," said youth board chairman Ana Paulina Vazquez-Llamas.

"I'd love to return to Martinsville after I build my career and family. I want to see Martinsville bloom," she said.

The Harvest Foundation's program officer and retired educator DeWitt House is an advisor to the Youth Board. He said he realized the need for youth to have a voice when he attended meetings for a local youth collaborative, which includes agencies and organizations that deal with young people.

"The one thing that was missing is there were no youth in the room," House said. "We're making decisions and trying to improve (things for youth), but we were not getting feedback from the people who need it most. We need to empower these kids to get involved."

Additionally, the foundation supports investment in nonprofit leadership education through programming, such as the nonprofit leadership summit. The most recent summit focused on understanding poverty. Past topics have included building a better community, finding the next big idea, fundraising in challenging climates and focusing on what makes a good grant.

Providing area nonprofit organizations with quality professional development is part of the Harvest mission.

Since its inception in 2002 from the sale of Memorial Hospital, The Harvest Foundation has dedicated support and resources to many initiatives including the Smith River Small Towns Collaborative (a recent recipient of a \$700,000 Community Development Block Grant from Virginia), New College Institute, Smart Beginnings (a community collaborative led by the United Way of Henry County and Martinsville), Spencer-Penn Centre, the Smith River Sports Complex and many more.

Through its partners, many exciting programs and events have been created or received support including the Rooster Walk music festival, the Cinco de Mayo festival and Celebración de las Artes at Piedmont Arts.

With an annual grants budget of \$ 10 million, here's a snapshot of Harvest partners and their projects.

- The foundation was one of several partners that funded trail systems in Martinsville-Henry County, including the Dick & Willie Trail Passage.
- The Martinsville-Henry County Coalition for Health and Wellness serves around 4,000 low-income families annually at Bassett Family Practice and has leveraged roughly \$18 million in local, regional, state and federal dollars for Martinsville-Henry County.
- The Piedmont Virginia Dental Health Clinic has provided more than \$7 million in dental services at no cost during more than 31,618 patient visits.
- The Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corporation has assisted in the creation of more than 3,892 jobs, 17 new companies and facilitated 38 expansions of existing and small businesses since 2006. As a result of business creation and expansion, \$372.85 million in capital investment has been realized in Martinsville-Henry County.

The Harvest Foundation and its community impact

The establishment of the Harvest Youth Board brings a unique voice in philanthropy

Whether it's the creation of a youth board, supporting education or organizing an annual professional development summit for area nonprofit organizations, The Harvest Foundation always puts the community first through its support of area programs and initiatives that matter to Martinsville-Henry County citizens.

A recent initiative, the 13-member Harvest Youth Board, is composed of students from the area's four high schools. Funded by Harvest and the local Kiwanis Club, the youth board has an annual budget of \$29,000 to develop projects that are important to local young people.

The board members also serve as advisors to The Harvest Foundation Board of Directors on youth-related issues in the community.

Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce

The Driving Force Behind a Successful Business Community



What is the Chamber of Commerce?

The Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce is a membership organization comprised of businesses serving our community. With over 650 members, the Chamber is a voice for businesses in the region while also providing opportunities for networking, collaboration and increased community exposure.

The Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce was founded in 1959 and has been actively involved in all facets of our business community ever since. Our programs are designed to encourage a strong local economy by creating an environment where businesses thrive, and community and commerce work together for the future of Martinsville-Henry County.

Why should my business join the Chamber?

Your membership in the Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce could be the powerful, thoughtful boost your business needs to ensure your continued growth and success. If your membership in the Chamber does not prove to be of significant value for your business, we will refund your full annual dues. Here are just some of the benefits you can expect to see:

Marketing

As a Chamber member, your business will receive community recognition through our annual magazine, online directory and ribbon cuttings in addition to sponsorship and advertisement opportunities. Chamber members can benefit by receiving referrals, attending free networking events, sending out announcements to our membership via email and by participating in Fast Track, which is the region's premier trade show.

Business Development

The Chamber provides seminars and programs for leadership development, supervisor training and workforce development throughout the year for our members. Through our Business Services Manager, we connect employers with local resources, host job fairs, and help fill employment gaps for local businesses.

Advocacy

The Chamber is the voice of local business in Martinsville and Henry County. We host candidate forums and legislative roundtables and keep in close contact with elected officials so that our members' needs and best interests are kept at the forefront of legislation affecting our region.

Access

A Chamber membership provides you access to a wealth of information and resources in the community. Our dedicated staff is committed to helping members thrive in the community by connecting them to existing business development resources, potential business partners and customers through our referral system.

For more information about the Chamber and membership, please contact us at 276.632.6401 or mhccoc@mhccchamber.com. You also can visit our website, Martinsville.com.

Chamber Honors Small Businesses and Individuals

Each year, the Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce honors small businesses and individuals who exemplify the spirit of innovation in business at its annual Business Appreciation Luncheon.

Small businesses are recognized for their successes, dedication, and service to the community. Awards for small businesses are given in three categories: service, retail, and manufacturing. Selections for award winners are based on written recommendations and nominations. For Small Business of the Year awards, the following criteria are considered:

- Number of years in business,
- Percentage of growth in employees,
- Percentage of growth in sales,
- Response to adversity, and
- Level of contribution to community oriented projects.

The Chamber also recognizes individuals for their service to the community by naming a Young Professional of the Year and Business Person of the Year. These awards are given to individuals with a proven record of accomplishment in entrepreneurial creativity, determination and commitment to the success of their businesses and the community at-large. Selections for these individual awards also are based on written recommendations and nominations.



Congratulations to the 2015 award recipients. Pictured with Amanda Witt, Chamber president (far right), are:

Small Business of the Year for Service
Charles Whitfield, Charis Transportation Services

Small Business of the Year for Retail
Andrew and Brittany Palmer, Sears Hometown Store

Business Person of the Year
Mike Grogan, Southeastern Wood Products

Young Professional of the Year
Becky Forestier, Martinsville-Henry County Family YMCA

Small Business of the Year for Manufacturing
Sharon Sleeper, Mollie's Originals



Brad Keselowski (right) and Tyler Reddick at My MartinsvilleSM members-only party following the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series race



My MartinsvilleSM members proudly display their membership card and lanyard.

At the Martinsville Speedway, enhancing the fan experience is top priority

Fans can become a member of My Martinsville, NASCAR's premier fan-loyalty program

Martinsville Speedway is always looking for ways to enhance the fan experience. In the past, this has included a new Hospitality Village, recently renamed the Party Plaza to reflect the fun actually had there during race weeks; the Champion's Overlook for RV travelers' wanting the best views; and a new and improved Display Lot, where fans have access to souvenirs, entertainment, refreshments and, of course, The Famous Martinsville Speedway Hot Dog®. This past year was no different.

The Martinsville Speedway launched My MartinsvilleSM, NASCAR's premier fan-loyalty program. No longer just ticket-renewal customers, people in My MartinsvilleSM are members of an exclusive club.

Both during race weekend and other times during the year, members are rewarded with exclusive benefits and get to show off their Martinsville Speedway pride, while being the track's most loyal fans.

The advantages of becoming a My MartinsvilleSM member include:

- Exclusive My MartinsvilleSM membership hard-card and lanyard which is separate from the race ticket.
- The best pricing on Sprint Cup Series race tickets.
- Access to My MartinsvilleSM quick-entry gates.
- My MartinsvilleSM members-only party following the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series race on Saturday, which includes question and answer sessions with Martinsville Speedway President Clay Campbell, drivers and other NASCAR personalities. Past drivers were Junior Johnson, Brad Keselowski, Joey Logano, David Ragan, Matt Crafton and Tyler Reddick. Live music and snacks included.
- Hot laps around Martinsville Speedway.
- Opportunity to win surprise gifts on race weekends when spotted wearing My MartinsvilleSM membership card.

"We know we have so many loyal, dedicated fans and this is a way for us to give back to them," Martinsville Speedway President Clay Campbell said. "It is important to us to do everything we can do to make our fans feel special."

To be eligible for the My MartinsvilleSM rewards, fans must renew their tickets to a NASCAR Sprint Cup Series event at the Martinsville Speedway. Each of the two annual Sprint Cup Series events will feature exclusive My MartinsvilleSM membership cards and special, dedicated events for My MartinsvilleSM members.

More about the 2015 Season

The 2015 season at Martinsville was one of the most exciting ever. Virginian Denny Hamlin edged out Brad Keselowski in the STP 500, claiming his fifth Sprint Cup Series win at the "Half-Mile of Mayhem."

In the fall, Jeff Gordon picked up his 93rd and final career win. The win also was his ninth at Martinsville, which ranks him third all-time in Sprint Cup Series wins at Martinsville.

The excitement wasn't limited to victory lane as each race provided more than 20 lead changes, 15 caution flags and margins of victory of less than one second.

Go to VisitMartinsville.com/Motorsports-Heritage.com for more featured milestones at the Martinsville Speedway, NASCAR's oldest and shortest track. 📍

Decades of Milestones

1948 Martinsville ran its first race under a NASCAR sanction, in which Fonty Flock won the feature followed by Pee Wee Martin of Bassett, Virginia, as 4,000 watched on July 4, 1948.

1955 Martinsville paved its track and Billy Myers won the first race on the smooth pavement on October 3, 1955.

1960 Martinsville built the first enclosed, air-conditioned press box on the circuit. It was first used at the Virginia 500 won by Richard Petty on April 10, 1960.

1973 Hollywood came to the track. "The Last American Hero" was filmed at the speedway, using live action scenes from the Old Dominion 500 on September 30, 1973, won by Richard Petty. "The Last American Hero" was based on the life of Junior Johnson and starred Jeff Bridges.

1983 Goody's Manufacturing Corporation sponsors the September Winston Cup race, the Goody's 500, on September 25, 1983. The race was won by Ricky Rudd. Goody's remains as a sponsor at the track today.

1997 Martinsville Speedway celebrated its 50th anniversary with the Hanes 500 won by Jeff Burton on September 22, 1997.

2014 Dale Earnhardt, Jr. made history as he won his first race at Martinsville Speedway. This was something that he had always dreamed of doing since his father, the late Dale Earnhardt, had won multiple times.

2015 Jeff Gordon picked up his 93rd and final career win.



Patriot Centre

30 years ago, Henry County saw an opportunity to promote the community "Open for Business"

Today's Patriot Centre at Beaver Creek is the home of more than 20 manufacturers, distributors and other companies, employing more than 5,000 individuals in the region.

Nearly 30 years ago, upon the opening of Tultex Corporation's 526,000-square-foot Distribution Center, the Henry County Board of Supervisors recognized the potential to create an opportunity for the county to promote worldwide that the region is open for business.

On May 6, 1994, Sandra Hodges, chair of the board of the supervisors, said at the Beaver Creek Industrial Park expansion ceremony that the county wants to develop a pro-business environment in the community.

"The industrial park improvement project is a part of that pro-business environment, and we hope to have many more groundbreakings in the future," she said.

Hodges further encouraged those in attendance to tell their friends and associates that the community is "open for business." Her plea seems to have worked. Many groundbreakings have occurred since then, employing a lot of people over the years.

In 1987 with a \$650,000 grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration and the purchase of 260 acres



Former Chairman of Henry County Board of Supervisors H.G. Vaughn has cut many ribbons in his 16 years on the Board.



A Virginia GigaPark

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Go to GigaPark-Va.com for more information or call 276.403.5940.

Organizing many of today's groundbreaking ceremonies are (left to right) Sharon Shepherd of the Chamber of Commerce and Lisa Lyle of the Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corporation.



of land (once a part of the Beaver Creek Plantation) additional companies clustered around this new distribution center.

By 1994, the board of supervisors announced its improvement project, which led to additional land purchased, revenue sharing agreements with the City of Martinsville and the rebranding of the industrial park to the Patriot Centre at Beaver Creek to reflect the close proximity to Patrick Henry Community College (PHCC). PHCC's mascot is the Patriot.

"Virginia community colleges

were created more than 45 years ago to address our ever-increasing needs in workforce training. Having a premier industrial park close to our premier community college was a strategic decision," said Henry County Administrator Tim Hall.

Over the years, this industrial park became known as the Patriot Centre and is more than 1,000 acres, offering an abundance of water, an electric substation, natural gas, redundant fiber and its own fire station.

Yes, Martinsville-Henry County is open for business. 🏡



Southeastern Wood Products President and CFO Mike Grogan and his son, Brett, who works with his father

Mike Grogan

2015 Business Person of the Year

A successful businessman, who says, "We sell service. In this industry, quality is a given."

Mike Grogan's family has a rich history in the furniture industry in Martinsville-Henry County. His father was a chemist for an area finishing and coating company and his grandfather, a saw miller in Henry County. Following this tradition, after 17 years with Ridgeway Clock as a production manager, his knowledge in wood science from Virginia Tech and support from family and friends, in 1996, Grogan and his partners launched a new company in furniture manufacturing, Southeastern Wood Products.



Over the last 18 years, Southeastern Wood Products has become not only the largest supplier of case goods both in parts and complete frames for the upholstery industry, but also the largest user and domestic distributor of rubberwood in the United States.

In less than two decades at a time when furniture manufacturers were outsourcing their production to other parts of the world, Southeastern Wood Products found a niche and perfected it right here in Martinsville-Henry County, Virginia, and just over the state line in North Carolina.

When asked, "What is the secret of your company's success?" without hesitation, Grogan said, "We sell service. In this industry, quality is a given."

"People want their product at a certain price; and they want it the day they want it," he added. Grogan is the company's president and chief financial officer.

A year ago, Southeastern Wood Products was awarded \$33,000 from the Chamber's Partnership for Economic Growth (C-PEG), the chamber's charitable affiliate, to help with expenses associated with consolidating warehouses and up fitting utilities to accommodate high tech equipment. Grogan consolidated three facilities, two from North Carolina and one from Henry County, and relocated them into the former Dillan Chenille plant on the corner of Rives and Rivermont Heights Roads in Martinsville.

"We found the perfect facility for us to have both warehousing and manufacturing," Grogan said. "It is a 77,000 square foot facility with room to grow."

While C-PEG's investment wasn't large compared to most other economic development announcements, to Grogan, it symbolized support of existing businesses. "I was blown away by this support, not only with the grant, but with the assistance I received navigating through this consolidation process," he said.

The Chamber of Commerce named Grogan the 2015 Business Person of the Year for his business success and commitment to grow his business in the area. Southeastern Wood Products now has 100 employees, 25 in Martinsville.

"Our goal is to open a third shift soon in Martinsville," he said.

While Grogan is appreciative of the recent recognitions and honors, he credits his father, business partner Tommy Snipes of Statesville, N.C., and all of the company employees for Southeastern Wood Products' success.

"My dad said listen to what older people show and tell you. It is not always what you know, but who you know," Grogan said. He took that advice and listened carefully to others, especially the salesmen in this industry. "Be careful, they would say."

Grogan has been married for 30 years to wife, Sheila, and has two sons, Brandon and Brett. Brett attends Averett University and is keeping with the family tradition. He works with his father at Southeastern Wood Products in Martinsville in production. Grogan couldn't be more proud of Brett and Brandon, who is a former collegiate golfer from Averett, where he earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees, and is now employed at an area accounting firm.

"I talk to Brandon and Brett every day. Spending time with my family is the most important thing to me," Grogan said. 🏡



Mike Grogan displaying a rubberwood product

More about Rubberwood

During the interview with Mike Grogan, the Chamber's 2015 Business Person of the Year, we learned that Grogan's company, Southeastern Wood Products, is the largest domestic distributor and user of rubberwood.

Rubberwood is grown in Southeast Asia in rubberwood plantations. According to Grogan, over the years, Southeastern Wood Products built relationships with Asian brokers of rubberwood right when the import business of this wood was taking off from Malaysia to the U.S.

"We made it easier and cheaper for U.S. manufacturers to buy the product directly from us," Grogan said. And as the largest supplier of case goods to upholstery manufacturers, the company's use of rubberwood is equally as high. "We also have a growing business in home finishes, like spindles for staircases, and home decorations for columns in doorways and around kitchen counters."

Grogan added with its dense grain, rubberwood is easy to repair and finish during production.

Despite the fact that rubberwood is a common component of imported goods in the U.S., it is generally not available at lumber yards and very few people are familiar with it.

Has Southeastern Wood Products put a new twist to the area's renewed interest in furniture manufacturing with its role in rubberwood? We think so.

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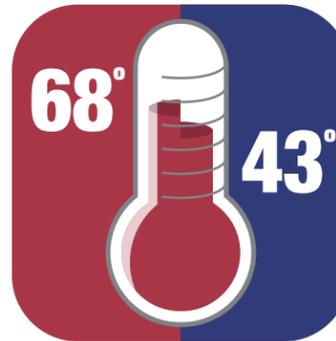
**Drive-In Banking Hours Monday thru Saturday in most locations.



By the Numbers

A Glimpse of Martinsville-Henry County

average
high temp



average
low temp

- Henry County Public Schools
Memorial Hospital
Eastman Chemical
eBay Enterprises
Monogram Food Solutions
Springs Global US, Inc.
Hanesbrands
Faneuil, Inc.
Patrick Henry Community College
Bassett Furniture Industries

Top 10
Employers



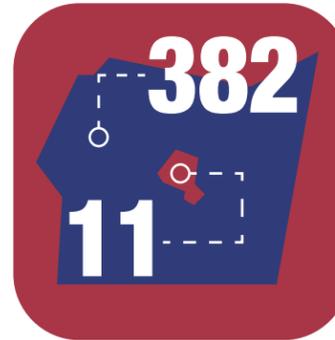
inches of rain
average annually



sunny days
average annually



inches of snowfall
average annually



square miles



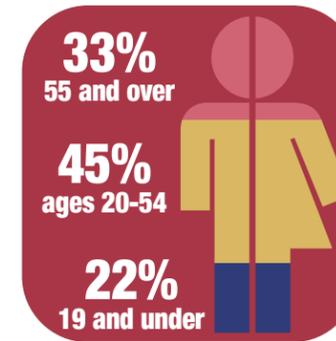
median household income
median home value



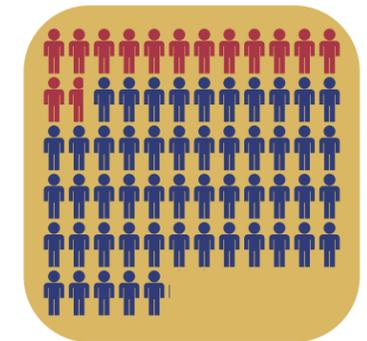
minutes average commute



median age



age distribution



total population: 65,792
Martinsville: 13,711
Henry County: 52,081

Sources: U.S. Climate Data, U.S. Census – 2014 Estimates and Virginia Employment Commission – Labor Market Information



"The Addams Family, A Musical Comedy"



"Ain't Misbehavin'"



"Legally Blonde"



"Shrek"

Patrick Henry Community College's Patriot Players

A new business model generates economic development in the community

The Virginia Community College System recently shared with the other 22 community colleges across Virginia that Patrick Henry Community College's performing arts business model is worth watching as it is bringing economic development value to a community. Here is why.

Patrick Henry Community College (PHCC) has a rich history in theatre. With a state-of-the-art theatre in its Walker Fine Arts - Student Center, PHCC's performing arts program as with most higher education institutions was part of the school's academic division, making it somewhat of a challenge to sustain in a traditional community college setting. On July 1, 2012, this was about to change.

When Dr. Angeline Godwin became PHCC's third president, she set out to create a culture of entrepreneurialism.

She encouraged her team to "effectually think." Referencing the work of Saras Sarasvathy of the Darden Graduate School of Business Administration at the University of Virginia, Dr. Godwin said, "With effectual thinking, we start out with what we have and what we know, which leads to the heart of entrepreneurship, our ability to imagine all of the possibilities."

"An entrepreneurial college is not just what we do, but how we do it," she added.

With this new environment and excitement, PHCC's adjunct instructor Jane Leizer pitched an idea to the new president to form a performing arts troupe. Recognizing the potential of this new business model, Dr. Godwin was sold and let Leizer and others use this "troupe" idea to mobilize the community and broaden the spectrum of interest.

"We know engagement equals success," said Dr. Godwin.

In January 2013, known locally for his vision and passion for the performing arts, Devin Pendleton was invited to join the troupe as a creative catalyst for growth in the program.



Devin Pendleton, Artistic Director and Director of Programs

"Our goal was to bring to the campus the performing arts and to be inclusive as possible. We started with no money, a new enterprise and a lot of changes," Pendleton said.

After a lot of work and perseverance, the Patriot Players was formed and launched its first production, "Find the Magic in You," on April 13, 2013.

"We are just getting started. We have a wonderful framework and business model that work for us," said Pendleton, who is now the Patriot Players' artistic director and director of programs.

Starting in January 2016, the Patriot Players will debut its 20th production and is looking to add more players to its corps of 201 actors and behind the scene technicians and set designers. "Once a Patriot Player, always a Patriot Player, even if you have participated in just one production," he said.

Dr. Godwin and Pendleton credit much of the Patriot Players' success to the community.

"The community has been very responsive, including our business partners, who view our partnership as a business to business relationship, not just a donation. We have created a new market of interest," Dr. Godwin said.

Pendleton agreed and added, "We have become a quality of life program for many, not just a career goal. This creates new partnerships and relationships in the community and helps with student retention and faculty engagement."

As Dr. Godwin is known for saying that there are two kinds of people in this world: "A student and a potential student," so she would welcome anyone to consider being part of the Patriot Players. "These players are the college's customer."

In keeping with the effectual thinking model, the Patriot Players isn't sitting on its laurels. Pendleton is always exploring new ways to get more people engaged in the performing arts. He has already launched dinner theater at a local restaurant, Wild Magnolia, and plans are underway to make this entertainment more frequent there and at other locations.

Next on his list is to recruit people who may not have the time to memorize lines, but have on their bucket lists to perform on stage. Pendleton created "Stage 2," smaller scale plays, written by well-known authors or play writers, for individuals to tell a story in a form of a monologue by reading their lines, requiring no memorization.

The launch of Stage 2 will include two events slated for 2016:

- "Love, Loss, and What I Wore," important subjects impacting women's lives – mothers, prom dresses, buying bras, hating purses and wearing only black, March 3 – 6 at Piedmont Arts
- "MOMologues," the ups and downs of motherhood; what binds mothers together, May 5 – 7

Main Stage productions for 2016 are "Tarzan" in the spring, "Color Purple" in the summer and "Mary Poppins" in the fall.

For 2016 audition schedules for Stage 2 and Main Stage productions, go to PHCCPatriotPlayers.com.



Smith River Trail System is no longer a best kept secret

Trail system brings a new level of attention to the area

The Smith River Trail System in Martinsville-Henry County used to be Virginia's best kept secret for outdoor recreation enthusiasts from both home and away. With marketing and old fashion grass root efforts from the Dan River Basin Association (DRBA) and the area's Visitor Center, the Smith River Trail System and the amenities tied to or around this system have brought a new level of attention to the area.

According to the area's office of tourism, events planned along the trail system have grown significantly over the years. For example, the 8th Annual Smith River Fest has grown every year by 30 percent where thousands of people now from the area and out of state attend and participate in featured events, like Smith River Race and the Helgramite Hustle 5K Mud Run, and have fun visiting with vendors and listening to live entertainment.

"The Smith River Trail System is slated to be included in the larger state trail system, which will enhance the already growing number of local and visiting hikers,

cyclists and geocache competitors who enjoy this trail system right here in our community," said Brian Williams, program manager of DRBA.

Geocaching is an outdoor treasure hunt game, using GPS devices to navigate to find a hidden container at a specific location.

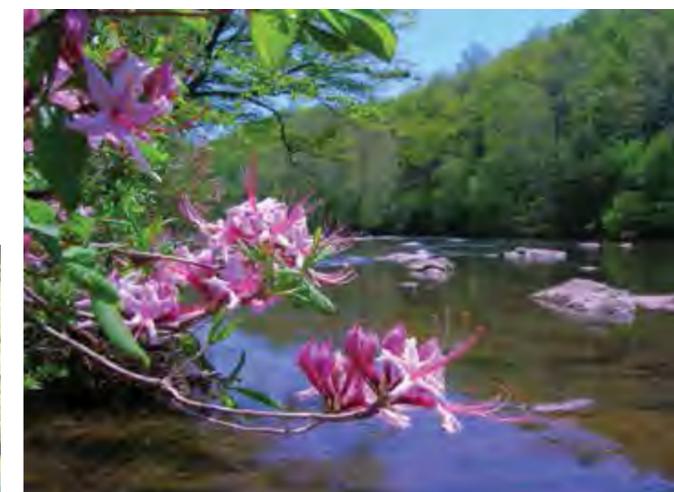
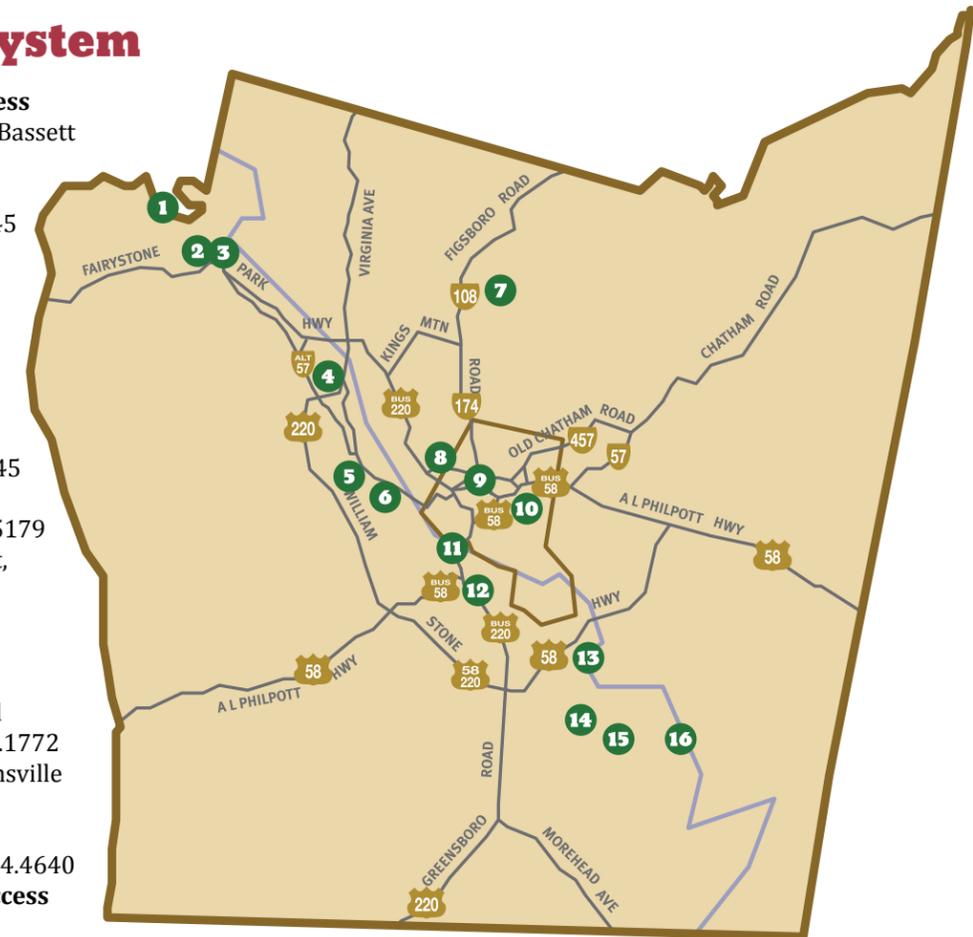
Several of the trails have heritage themes, such as the railroad, textiles, furniture and tobacco farming, giving an educational component to the trail system, and access points to the Smith River for paddlers and fishing.

"We are currently working with the Henry County Parks and Recreation Department on a Smith River Water Trail, which will utilize existing access points to provide information to paddlers and other river users on how to enjoy various sections of the river," Williams said. "Each access will have informational signs. We also are creating maps and brochures."

Go to VisitMartinsville.com/trails for additional information about the trail system. 📄

Smith River Trail System

- 1. Philpott Lake Canoe Access and Fitness Interpretive Trail** • 1058 Philpott Rd, Bassett • 276.629.2703
- 2. Lauren Mountain Preserve** • Wells Hollow Rd, Bassett • 276.634.2545
- 3. Bassett Canoe Access** • 271 Trent Hill Dr, Bassett • 276.634.4640
- 4. Great Road Canoe Access** • 4313 The Great Rd, Fieldale • 276.634.4640
- 5. Textile Heritage Trail** • 3251 South River Rd, Fieldale • 276.634.4638
- 6. Fieldale Trail and Canoe Access** • 3521 River Road Fieldale • 276.634.2545
- 7. Beaver Creek Reservoir Trails** • 600 Redskin Dr, Martinsville • 276.656.5179
- 8. Dick & Willie Passage** • 699 Liberty St, Martinsville • 276.634.4640
- 9. Uptown Spur Trail Connection** • Corner of Franklin and Depot Streets, Martinsville • 276.634.2545
- 10. Silverbell Trail** • Corner of Church and Oakdale Streets, Martinsville • 276.632.1772
- 11. Doe Run Park** • 198 DuPont Rd, Martinsville • 276.634.4640
- 12. South Martinsville Canoe Access** • 280 Tensbury Rd, Martinsville • 276.634.4640
- 13. Smith River Sports Complex River Access and Trails** • 1000 Irisburg Rd, Axton • 276.634.4640
- 14. Marrowbone Creek Canoe Access** • 2120 Eggleston Falls Rd, Ridgeway • 276.634.4640
- 15. Richard P. Gravely, Jr. Nature Preserve** • 2525 Eggleston Falls Rd, Ridgeway • 276.634.4638
- 16. Mitchell Bridge Canoe Access Ramp** • 2404 Mitchell Rd, Ridgeway • 276.634.4640



Chamber Membership Directory

★ denotes Chamber Champions

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H & R Block
(276) 634-5542 • Cathy Carter
1320-B S. Memorial Blvd, Martinsville, VA 24115

Brian J. Jessup, CPA PLC
(276) 694-4999 • Brian Jessup
P. O. Box 164, Martinsville, VA 24114

Mallard & Mallard, CPAs LLC
(276) 632-5754 • Christina Mallard
411 E. Church St., Martinsville, VA 24112

Sells, Hogg & Associates CPAs, PC
(276) 638-3904 • James Sells, CPA
1079-B Spruce St., Martinsville, VA 24112

Taylor's Tax & Financial Center
(276) 632-9937 • Creed Taylor
15 Henry St., Martinsville, VA 24112

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113 Koehler Rd., Martinsville, VA 24112

Cahill Specialty
(276) 930-4700 • Shelia Williams
37 Foley Road, Stuart, VA 24171

What's Your Sign?
(276) 632-0576 • Heather Webb
27 East Church Street, Martinsville, VA 24112

Fairway Outdoor Advertising
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1920 W. Lee St., Greensboro, NC 27403

Freedom Prints
(276) 673-1999 • Caren Sims
P. O. Box 905, Fieldale, VA 24089

Ridgeway Signs & Trophies
(276) 956-3857 • Shirley Page
6617 Greensboro Rd., Ridgeway, VA 24148

Airports - Transports

Blue Ridge Regional Airport
(276) 957-2291 • Jason Davis
525 Airport Rd., Martinsville, VA 24112

Antiques & Collectibles

Debra's Antiques & Collectibles, LLC
(276) 957-3177 • Deborah Buchanan
265 Station Rd, Martinsville, VA 24112

Rucker's Antique Emporium & Auction House
(276) 403-4030 • Steve Rucker
20 E. Church Street, Martinsville, VA 24112

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(434) 797-4497 • Darren Conner
551 Piney Forest Rd, Danville, VA 24540

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Our Nana's Attic Auction & Appraisals
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330 Stonewall Jackson Trail, Martinsville, VA 24112

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(276) 340-6441 • Charles Williams
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ATM Motors
(276) 656-2063 • Tonja Martin
800 Memorial Blvd. N, Martinsville, VA 24112

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(276) 656-1955 • Sammy G. Wright
926 - D East Church St., Martinsville, VA 24112

Colors on Parade
(276) 314-9108 • Scott Hompton
1950 Jones Ridge Rd., Axton, VA 24054

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(276) 629-1142 • David Cunningham
2020 Fairystone Park Hwy., Bassett, VA 24055

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(276) 632-3200 • RJ Ferguson
716 Liberty Street, Martinsville, VA 24112

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(276) 956-2200 • Elizabeth Gregory
312 Old Leaksville Rd., Ridgeway, VA 24148

Kwik Lube, Inc
(276) 956-5400 • Paul Ford
6518 Greensboro Rd., Ridgeway, VA 24148
(276) 638-3300

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(276) 956-1212 • Wes Mills
4760 Greensboro Rd., Ridgeway, VA 24178

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P.O. Box 4564, Martinsville, VA 24115

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(276) 632-2901 • Worth H. Carter Jr.
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(276) 632-7172 • Teresa Prilliman
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231 E. Church St., Martinsville, VA 24112

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(276) 632-1679 • Kevin Laine
P.O. Box 5511, Martinsville, VA 24115

Martinsville First Savings Bank
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P.O. Box 684, Martinsville, VA 24114

★ **River Community Bank, N.A.**
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SunTrust
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134 E. Church St., Martinsville, VA 24112

Farm Credit and County Mortgages
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P.O. Box 554, Rocky Mount, VA 24151

Wells Fargo
(276) 629-5312 • John Patterson
3559 Fairystone Park Hwy., Bassett, VA 24055

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P.O. Box 2010, Danville, VA 24541

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P.O. Box 2369, Danville, VA 24541

Pepsi Beverages Co.
(800) 533-1114 • Jeffrey D. Pereira
1001 Riverside Dr., Danville, VA 24540

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619 W. Church St., Martinsville, VA 24112

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Blue Ridge Human Resources Association / SHRM Chapter
(276) 403-5600 • Jo Bart
P. O. Box 1202, Collinsville, VA 24078

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(276) 732-2224 • David Dickerson
141 Burch Dr., Martinsville, VA 24112

C-PEG
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P. O. Box 709, Martinsville, VA 24114

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980 Beaver Creek Drive, Martinsville, VA 24112

KEA Consulting Services
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1010 Sheraton Avenue, Martinsville, VA 24112



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P.O. Box 709, Martinsville, VA 24114

Martinsville Uptown Revitalization Association
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22 E. Church Street, Martinsville, VA 24112

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191 Fayette Street, Martinsville, VA 24112

Recovery Solutions Group, Inc
(276) 403-5083 • Rodney Haynes
22 E. Church Street, Suite 302, Martinsville, VA 24112

SCORE
(276) 632-6401 • Vince Puccio
115 Broad St., Martinsville, VA 24112

The Launch Place
(434) 799-5491 • Eva Doss
527 Bridge St., Ste 200, Danville, VA 24591

GENEDGE ALLIANCE (formerly VPMEP)
(276) 666-8890 • Linda Lancaster
32 Bridge St., Ste 200, Martinsville, VA 24112

Southern Piedmont Technology Council
(434) 766-6771 • Melanie Stowe
P.O. Box 49, Danville, VA 24543

★ **West Piedmont Business Development Center**
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22 E. Church Street, Martinsville, VA 24112

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Comcast
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1320 W Main St., Salem, VA 24153

Gamewood Inc.
(434) 799-8407 • Chad Plemons
165 Deer Run Road, Danville, VA 24540

RJE Telecomm LLC
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20 E. Church St., Suite J, Martinsville, VA 24112

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300 Franklin St., Ste. 410, Martinsville, VA 24112

The Results Companies - Martinsville
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2000 Virginia Ave., Martinsville, VA 24112

The Results Companies - Stuart
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1978 Joseph Martin Hwy., Martinsville, VA 24112

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• • • • •
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(276) 638- 8944 • Nancy Keatts
1079C Spruce St, Martinsville, VA 24112

American Red Cross
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1081 Spruce Street, Martinsville, VA 24112

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P.O. Drawer 352, Martinsville, VA 24114

Dan River Basin Association
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P.O. Box 7, Collinsville, VA 24078

EHS Support Services
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22 E. Church St., Ste. 324, Martinsville, VA 24112

Friends of Infinity Acres
(276) 358-2378 • Richard Steere
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Goodwill Industries of the Valley
(540) 483-0296 x105 • Sharon Hodges
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Grace Network of MHC
(276) 638-8500 • Tracy L. Hinchcliff
P. O. Box 3902, Martinsville, VA 24115

The Harvest Foundation
(276) 632-3329 • Allyson Rothrock
P.O. Box 5183, Martinsville, VA 24115

★ **Martinsville Area Community Foundation**
(276) 656-6223 • April Haynes
P.O. Box 1124, Martinsville, VA 24114

Miss Wheelchair Virginia
(276) 656-5476 • Pam Cobler
645 Patriot Drive, Martinsville, VA 24112

MLC Cancer Foundation
(276) 546-7652 • Patricia Via
P.O. Box 3582, Martinsville, VA 24115

Piedmont Community Services
(276) 632-7128 • Jim Tobin
24 Clay St., Martinsville, VA 24112

Pittsylvania County Community Action Inc.
(434) 432-8250 • Everlina Ross
P.O. Box 119, Chatham, VA 24531

ResCare
(276) 632-1297 • Kenneth Gathers
914 Brookdale Street, Martinsville, VA 24112

Ronald McDonald House Charities of SWVA
(540) 857-0770 • Jeanne Boester
2224 S. Jefferson Street, Roanoke, VA 24014

Salvation Army
(276) 638-7259 • Captains George & Ruby Keith
P.O. Box 551, Martinsville, VA 24114

STEP Inc
(540) 483-5142 • William Loope
200 Dent Street, Rocky Mount, VA 24151

Southern Area Agency on Aging
(276) 632-6442 • Teresa Carter Fontaine
204 Cleveland Ave., Martinsville, VA 24112

Stepping Stones Inc.
(276) 638-7676 • Pamela Pritchett
600 Northside Dr., Martinsville, VA 24112

United Way of Henry County & Martinsville
(276) 403-5361 • Tiffani Underwood
P.O. Box 951, Martinsville, VA 24114

Virginia Dept. for Aging & Rehabilitative Services
(276) 632-7161 • Marcia Cook
233 W. Commonwealth Blvd, Martinsville, VA 24112

• • • • •
Computer Services

Chatmoss Web Systems
(276) 632-3845 • John Franck
315 Plantation Rd., Martinsville, VA 24112

Flying Pig, LLC
(276) 638-2523 • Mark Walker
22 E. Church Street, Martinsville, VA 24112

Martinsville Electronics
(276) 632-8786 • Jermaine Shelton
1104 Chatham Heights Road, Martinsville, VA 24112

TekaByte, Inc
(434) 836-3455 • Timothy Saunders
1311 Piney Forest Rd, Suite D, Danville, VA 24540

• • • • •
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450 Franklin St., Rocky Mount, VA 24151

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1103 Brookdale St., Ste. C, Martinsville, VA 24112

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1866 Virginia Ave., Martinsville, VA 24112

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Collins Funeral Services
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P.O. Box 1242, Martinsville, VA 24114

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McMillan, Jim, Insurance

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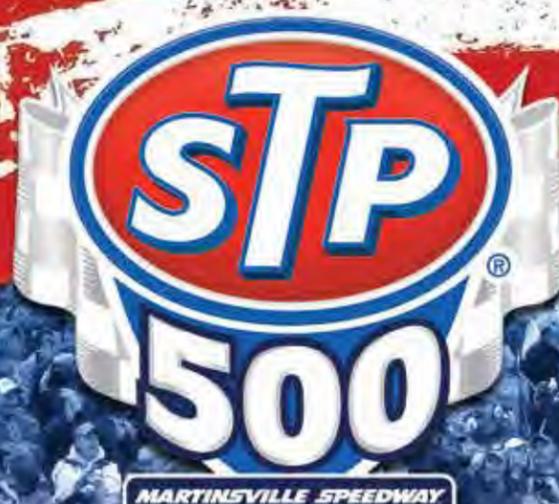
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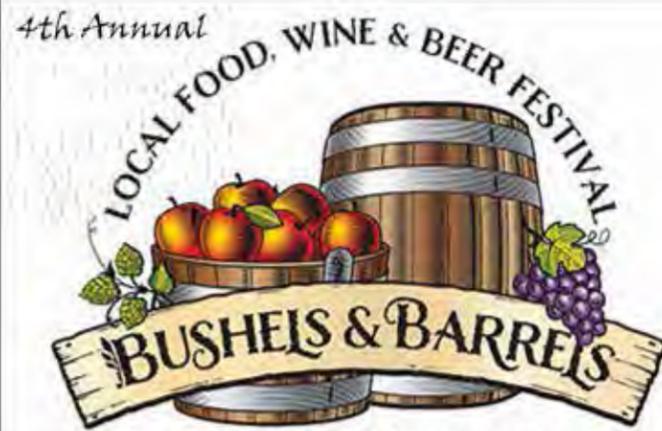
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