



Small Town Conversations

NEWSLETTER : 2013 January

Judi's Jotting



“Heroes are not giant statues framed against a red sky. They are people who say: This is my community, and it is my responsibility to make it better.” Studs Terkel

Thanks, Rob Tiger, for sharing this quote to kick off our new year. Hope everyone had some time over the past 3-4 weeks to relax and enjoy our holidays. I enjoyed a flurry of cookie baking and hat knitting to occupy my time away from the office, and have now re-engaged the process of grant writing, meeting planning, facilitating and consulting at small town meetings, and cultivating partners for the coming year.



Things are pretty quiet in HandMade Small Towns this month, but we’re looking forward to welcoming a few new towns into the HandMade family during 2013...stay tuned for more info here, and let me know if your town might be interested in joining us.

As far as resolutions go, like most of you I’m planning to eat healthier, exercise more, and stress less during 2013 – how to do it is the trick! Change is difficult, so here are some ways I’m going to keep myself motivated: (1) remember it’s a process, and don’t expect immediate success, (2) work my way up – aim to go to the gym once or twice a week, not every day, and (3) start small by setting bite-sized goals. Now about that chocolate festival....

My best,
Judi Jetson

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Chimney Rock



Groundhog Day is on February 2nd, and weather permitting, Chimney Rock Park will hold an educational program about groundhogs and other woodland creatures from 11am – 1pm. Will Grady

give the same prediction as Punxsutawney Phil? Or will he daringly give his own prediction about winter's claim on the weather? Go to find out! Admission is free for one youth (age 5-15) with each paid adult, and free for children under 5.

Crossnore



In December, Crossnore Community Enhancement (CCE) held a bonfire in the center of town by the Meeting House. Jesse played the guitar and Rachel sang along with the community and Crossnore Children's Home kids. The kids also entertained with their recently learned Christmas music and routines.

The Boy Scouts built and cared for the fire. Hot chocolate and cider, cookies and popcorn were served in the Meeting House. This event has been sponsored by CCE and the Town Hall annually for 10 years (even in snow and wintery weather). Oh what fun!

Upcoming Meetings



New Generation Communities training on February 15th will be broadcast to remote sites around the state. This session is on **Fostering the Growth of Entrepreneurship Among Youth and Young Adults**. For more information, go to http://www.ncruralcenter.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=533&Itemid=255

WalkBikeNC wants your ideas about improving walking and cycling as part of our land development and transportation systems. Share your ideas and opinions at WalkBikeNC.com

Find ways to relieve hunger and support local agriculture on March 15, 2013 at **Come to the Table** regional conference in Sylva, NC. This day-long event will feature workshops, speakers, and networking opportunities. Sponsored by RAFI (Rural Advancement Foundation International), to review the agenda and register, go to <http://rafiusa.org/come-to-the-table/> If you have questions, please contact sarah@rafiusa.org

Grant Opportunities



Wells Fargo Environmental Solutions for Communities Grant Program funds projects that focus on sustainable agriculture and forestry, water quality, land conservation and healthy urban eco-systems. The typical range of funding per project is between \$25k - \$250k. For more information on how to apply, visit <https://www.wellsfargo.com/about/csr/ea/environmental-giving>

YOUTH SERVICE AMERICA is accepting applications for Disney Friends for Change Grants. Grants of \$1,000 will be awarded for youth-led projects in the United States that demonstrate youth leadership, creativity and a commitment to making a positive community impact. Deadline: 2/10/2013. For more information and to apply, go to <http://www.ysa.org/grants/disney-friends-change-grants>

The North Carolina Rural Center offers matching grants for building reuse and renovation, with up to \$5,000 or \$10,000 per job created, depending on type of use and location, up to a maximum of about \$500,000. Renovations must lead to private sector jobs in the building. Eligible activities include renovation and rehabilitation, upfitting and brownfields remediation. Applications must be submitted by local governments and are due on March 1st. To find more information, go to http://www.ncruralcenter.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=122&Itemid=170

The Tobacco Trust Fund is now accepting grant applications for 2013 for grants for rural economic development. The deadline is March 4, 2013. For more information about priorities and the application, go to <http://www.tobaccotrustfund.org/grants/index.htm>

EVENT CALENDAR

January 19, 7pm, Juni Fisher western music concert, Peacock Playhouse, Tickets available by calling 828-389-2787 (Hayesville)

January 20, 4pm, Sutton, Holt and Coleman concert, Madison County Arts Council, for tickets call (828) 649-1301 (Marshall)

January 24, Guy George concert, Festival Barn, John C Campbell Folks School (Brasstown)

January 24-27, 15th Annual Blowing Rock WinterFest features a Chili Cookoff, Polar Plunge and something for all ages. Find more info on the WinterFest website.

February 2, 11am-1pm, Grady's Groundhog Day at Chimney Rock Park (Chimney Rock)

February 6, 10-11:30am, Sprouting Naturalists (ages 2-5) fun learning programs at Chimney Rock Park are offered the 1st Wednesday of each month, registration required call (800) 277-9611 (Chimney Rock)

February 9, 11am-3:00pm, Valentine Sweetheart Train ride along the Tuckasegee River make reservations at Great Smoky Mountains Railroad (Bryson City)

February 15-19, all-day, One-buy get-one Valentine's Day Special at Chimney Rock Park (Chimney Rock)

February 22, 7:30pm, Carolina Chocolate Drops concert, Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts (Franklin)

February 23, 6th Annual Chocolate Cook-Off, 2:30pm, Bryson City Presbyterian Church (Bryson City)

March 9, 4pm & 8pm shows, Fiddlers of Madison County, purchase tickets on line <http://www.madisoncountyarts.com/> (Marshall)

March 23, Empty Bowls 2013, John C Campbell Folk School, \$25 (Brasstown)

On Going Events



- Community Music Jam, Marianna Black Library, 1st and 3rd Thursdays, 6-7:30 pm (Bryson City)
- Family Movie Day at the Marianna Black Library, Tuesdays at 3:30pm (Bryson City)
- Classic Movies at Marianna Black Library, 2nd and 4th Saturdays at 4pm (Bryson City)
- Bingo, first Friday, 7pm, fire station (Chimney Rock)
- Crossnore Jams at Miracle Grounds Coffee Shop, 1st Fridays in June August and Dec, and 2nd Fridays in July, September and November, 7pm (Crossnore)
- Farmer's Market, Saturdays on the Square, 8am-12pm (Hayesville)
- Traditional Music at the Depot, Fridays, 7pm, free (Marshall)
- Live Music at Zuma's every Thursday and Friday, 7pm (Marshall)
- Live Music at GOOD STUFF Every Friday, 8pm 133 South Main Street (Marshall)
- Murphy First Friday Art Walk!, 5-8pm, downtown Murphy (Murphy)
- Live music every Friday night at The Iron Horse Station Hotel, Restaurant & Tavern 24 South Andrews Ave., Hot Springs, NC 28743 (Hot Springs)
- Live Country Music and Dance Every Friday, 7pm At the Walnut Volunteer Fire Department, on US Hwy. 25/70 near Walnut.
- Mountain Music, The Rockett Building on Main Street, Fridays, 7-10pm (Old Fort)
- ArtsMart, Arrowhead Artists and Artisans League showcase and sell locally-made arts and crafts, first Sat of each month 10am-4pm at the railroad depot (Old Fort)
- Informal Jam on the Porch on the porch of Mountain Gateway Museum, Sundays, 2-4pm (Old Fort)
- Classic Car Show, 3rd Sunday of Every Month, 1-5pm (Old Fort)
- Music On The Square, in front of the Courthouse Fridays 7-11pm., Main Street (Robbinsville)
- Stories from Todd with local storyteller John Ashburn, every Thursday night, 6:30 pm, in the upstairs gallery at Todd Mercantile (Todd)
- Todd Ruritan Club BBQ supper, South Fork Baptist Church, 1st Sunday each month, 4-7pm (Todd)
- Ashe County Farmer's Market on the Backstreet, Saturdays 12- 5pm (West Jefferson)
- Gallery Crawl, open house at most galleries & studios, 2nd Friday of each month, 5-8pm (West Jefferson)
- Classes, dances and concerts are held each week at the John C Campbell Folk School, for details check their website <https://www.folkschool.org/> (Brasstown)