

## Message from Judi

Dear Friends,

I'm happy and grateful to be writing to you today from home, having spent 6 weeks in the hospital. I had amazing care from some very talented and dedicated doctors, nurses and health care professionals while beginning my journey back from the somewhat rare and quite terrifying experience with Guillian Barre syndrome. My husband Gary was amazing, at my side every day and many nights, he kept my spirits up and let folks know how I was doing. While my spirit and resilience helped me, I believe that the cards, prayers, and good wishes from friends and family members were the real secret ingredient in my recovery.

Just like the economy, we have every reason to expect I'll continue to improve and have a full recovery, and possibly be back with HandMade and all of you by the end of summer. I'm trying to take it one day at a time...and those of you who know me are probably laughing right now. Lets just say, you're never too old for another lesson in patience...and I'm getting some great guidance from our cat, Little Sister.

My best,  
Judi Jetson

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## Welcome



With so much happening at HandMade in America in 2013, we have plenty to keep everyone busy in the coming months! As you have noticed, we have recently launched a membership program for both crafts people in western North Carolina, and HandMade Small Towns. We would like to thank all of our community organizations who have joined: Caldwell Arts Council, Chimney Rock Development Association, Town of Crossnore, West Jefferson Community Partnership, Town of Marshall, Town of Bryson City, Clay County Communities Revitalization Association and our newest HandMade Small Town, Columbus.

If you have not done so, we sincerely hope your community considers joining. This membership not only shows your support of HandMade and our initiatives to help small towns in WNC, but provides benefits to your community organization. For \$250 per year, your organization receives a variety of benefits, including the use of the HandMade logo for marketing materials, a BB&T business bundle, free monthly technical assistance, and more. You will also receive discounted registration for Small Town Conversations, our workshop series focused on community projects or initiatives (save the date for April 22: [Developing a Studio Tour!](#)), as well as discounted registration for the upcoming Small Town Summit to be held at UNCA on May 29. Remember to save the date for the summit! If you have any questions, please contact Jess Kryzensek at 828.252.0121 x302 or [jessk@handmadeinamerica.org](mailto:jessk@handmadeinamerica.org)

## Announcement

### Crafting Vibrant Communities Studio Tour Program

As the kickoff to *Crafting Vibrant Communities Studio Tour Program*, we would like to invite you to join us for an exciting Small Town Conversation workshop centered on developing studio tours! *Crafting Vibrant Communities* is a peer mentorship program facilitating creative placemaking events within the HIA Small Town Community. This workshop is for communities' seeking to introduce a new studio tour or refine a current tour by providing insights from artists and town leaders who have experienced proven success implementing studio tours in their community. Studio tour mentors include Rob and Beth Mangum, Mangum Pottery and Weaverville Art Safari, Lee Carol Giduz, Caldwell Arts Council, Jane Lonon, Ashe County Arts Council, and Denise Cook, Toe River Arts Council.

In the morning, we will have a Studio Tours 101 session, and the afternoon will be a session on Refining Studio Tours. You may register for individual sessions or for the full-day. Following the workshop, you will have the opportunity to be matched with a mentor to work one-on-one so they can further assist in guiding you through the process. [Click here](#) to register and see more details. Members receive discounted registration fee. [Click here](#) to join HandMade membership.

# Small Town Updates



## Old Fort/McDowell



Photo credit: Ginger Todd, McDowell Quilt Trail volunteers

Arrowhead Artists and Artisan League (A3L) and McDowell Quilt Trail Committee have worked together to add the 126th quilt block to the McDowell Quilt Trail. This block will be added to the A3L's new gallery in the Parker's Hosiery Mill on Catawba Avenue. This new gallery space, opening in late April, will be used for display, studio space and classrooms. [\*\*View more about the Arrowhead Gallery and Studios.\*\*](#) Additionally, they have three more blocks going up next week, two at Linville Caverns, and one on their Rural Heritage Trail, a trail funded through grants to preserve and promote the rural history of McDowell County.

## Hayesville



Clay County Communities Revitalization Association (CCCRA) has been working on expanding their Cherokee heritage initiatives throughout the community. They have developed a Cherokee Cultural Research Center in the library that will include artifacts, books, resources and a computer to facilitate the research on the community's heritage. They have also requested funds to install maps and graphics at the Cherokee Homestead Exhibit and Spikebuck Mound, and will include signage to designate each site as a part of the Cherokee Heritage Trail. Construction is underway on the Spikebuck Connector Trail to connect both sites. CCCRA is working on marketing materials to promote the trail in restaurants, lodging and retail in the tri-state area.

## Columbus



Photo credit: Town of Columbus

We would like to welcome Columbus to the HandMade Small Town family, our first new small town since 2008! We are thrilled to have Columbus join. As the county seat of Polk County, Columbus' historic downtown founded in 1855, is home to a beautiful courthouse built in 1857 (one of the oldest functioning courthouses in the state and the oldest in WNC!) They have a variety of local businesses downtown, including several restaurants and an antique shop. In addition to the historic downtown, Columbus benefits from close proximity to natural amenities, including scenic drives, waterfalls, and the Blue Ridge Escarpment.

Columbus approached HandMade for help to improve their downtown by engaging and energizing all members of the community. A specific goal is to help the town tap into their intangible assets, cultural heritage, people, and craft, to develop a cohesive community development strategy that can move the town forward. HandMade will be conducting a community assessment in May. A resource team comprised of community development professionals will help determine the cultural, natural, and human assets of Columbus, and how to capitalize on those assets to further improve the community.

## Robbinsville



Graham Revitalization Economic Action Team(GREAT) met with NCDOT and the Southwestern Commission to review the Bypass Streetscape Plan. Their goals were to identify places for benches, waste receptacles, and landscaping to enhance the US129 Bypass and encourage citizens to "stop, shop and stay" in Robbinsville. This plan is one step forward in the long-term *Reimagining Robbinsville Revitalization* plan that is set to install pedestrian walkways and greenways throughout Robbinsville. They have also kicked-off the Streetscape Connectivity Plan for Robbinsville, funded by the Southwestern Commission.

## Upcoming Meetings



### Rural Center Workshop: Construction Project Planning and Delivery for Rural Leaders

March 27, Raleigh

The NC Rural Center and Construction Professionals Network Institute are hosting a workshop designed to prepare local leaders for managing construction projects from planning to execution. The focus of the workshop will be on building construction and adaptive reuse of existing buildings.

The workshop will be held at the Rural Center in Raleigh from 9am-4 pm and costs \$18 (lunch included). Seating is limited. [Click here](#) for details and to register.

For questions, contact Garnet Bass at [gbass@ncruralcenter.org](mailto:gbass@ncruralcenter.org) or 919-250-4314.

### Change and Adaptation: Leadership and Marketing Strategies for Nonprofits in the Current Political Environment

April 23, Hendersonville

The Conversation Fund's Resourceful Communities is hosting a one-day workshop focused on organizational leadership issues and how leadership succession, development and recruitment can prepare your organization for change.

Participants will explore different types of leadership, learn effective ways to recruit new leaders and members, and learn successful strategies to help tell your organization's story. The workshop will be held at Ranuga Conference Center in Hendersonville.

[Click here](#) for details and to register.

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## Grant Opportunities



### NC Rural Center

The Rural Center is offering challenge grants of up to \$20,000 to support New Generation Leaders projects. This program targets youth to become more involved in their community by providing an outlet for emerging leaders to become more active in civic and economic affairs. Young adults, ages 16-30, will work together in teams to design and implement projects that focus on making a community more attractive and welcoming.

During this year-long process teams become immersed in their community's history, culture and economy, and engage with the larger community in discussions and activities.

Deadline: Wednesday, April 17.

For questions, contact Misty Herget at [mherget@ncruralcenter.org](mailto:mherget@ncruralcenter.org) or call 919-250-4314. [Click here](#) for more information.

### Wells Fargo Community Investment Program

Wells Fargo's grant making priorities are to support programs and organizations whose chief purpose is to benefit low- and moderate-income individuals and families, looking for projects that keep communities strong, diverse, and vibrant. Grants are made in two primary areas: community development (affordable housing, job training or workforce development, and community revitalization) and public education. They also consider grants in areas of arts and culture, civic engagement, and human services.

Deadline: Friday, August 30.

[Click here](#) for more information.

### TD Bank Charitable Foundation

This program provides financial support through its grant application process to organizations providing service in the areas of focus outlined in their mission: Affordable Housing, Education/Financial Literacy and the Environment.

Deadline: Friday, May 24, Friday, August 23.

[Click here](#) for more information.

## Events Calendar



- March 23, *Empty Bowls 2013*, John C Campbell Folk School, \$25 (Brasstown)
- March 23 and 24, 2 pm, *The Battle of Swannanoa Gap (Civil War Re-enactment)*, Davidson's Fort, (Old Fort) Adults \$7.00 and children 10 years old or younger \$2.00 [Click here](#) for more information.
- March 23, *Easter Egg Hunt*, Stecoah Valley Center
- March 30, *17th Annual Bakersville Easter Egg Hunt*, Gouge Elementary (Bakersville)
- April 27, *The Ronny Cox Trio*, Peacock Playhouse (Hayesville) [Click here](#) for more information.
- April 27, *Annual Pioneer Day*, the Mountain Gateway Museum, (Old Fort) [Click here](#) for more information.
- May 31-June 1, *North Carolina Gold Festival*, Mountain Gateway Museum (Old Fort) [Click here](#) for more information.

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## 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 Fridays, 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)
- Mountain Valley Farmer's Market, Saturdays on the Square, 8am-12pm, May - October (Hayesville)
- 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.(Madison County)
- Traditional Music at the Depot, Fridays, 7pm, free (Marshall)
- Live Music at Zuma's every Thursday, 7pm (Marshall)
- Murphy First Friday Art Walk!, 5-8pm, May - November, downtown Murphy (Murphy)
- 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, 1st Saturdays, 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 Saturdays, 3-5pm (Old Fort)
- Music On The Square, in front of the Courthouse Fridays, 7-11pm, Main Street (Robbinsville)
- Story telling at Todd General Store, Tuesdays at 5pm, May - October (Todd)
- Dinner and Bluegrass at Todd General Store, Fridays at 6pm, May - November (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 8 am -1 pm, April - October(West Jefferson)
- Gallery Crawl, open house at most galleries & studios, 2nd Fridays, 5-8pm, June - October (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)