

July 2009



New Board, pictured is Brigette Walters, Jerry Wheeler, Scot Swickle and Jennie Miller. Not pictured Kim Lukasiak, Tami Newman and Tony Silver



Bill Bach & Debbie Acrivos receive awards for service to the Chamber.



Kids enjoyed sack races and bean toss, while Jerry Wheeler thanked Scott Swickle for cooking steaks.



**CHAMBER MEMBERS PRACTICE WHAT THEY PREACH**

4th of July parade  
Jerry Wheeler of  
Sky Island  
Campground and  
Richard Acrivos of  
Catawba Falls

all survive through  
mutual help and  
cooperation.

For the past year Jerry Wheeler the chamber president has stressed cooperation between businesses even if they are competitors. Our businesses can succeed in these hard times by sharing ideas and helping our fellow businessman. During the

Campground rode together under the sign of " UNITED WE STAND" These two companies have shared customers and ideas for the past year without losing business. Each company has their own niche' says Richard Acrivos, we can



## FROM THE OLD FORT CHAMBER BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

**The Old Fort Chamber of Commerce values you as a member!** The Board of Directors and the newly formed Business Development Committee will be working hard this year to develop ways to support member businesses, strengthen the membership, and build a positive presence in the area.

The objectives of the Business Development Committee for 2009/2010 are as follows:

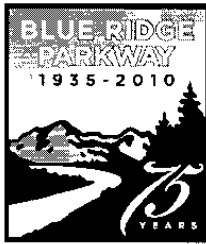
- To help provide a supportive environment for Old Fort businesses, we will begin holding after-hours (and possible before-hours) networking events whereby Chamber members can connect and build business relationships.
- We will continue to highlight member businesses in the newsletter each month as a way for member businesses to learn about one another and to encourage membership growth.
- To promote new businesses and the growth of existing businesses, ribbon cutting ceremonies are in the works! If you know of a new business that will be seeking membership in the Chamber of Commerce, or if your business is growing, please contact us to arrange for a ribbon cutting ceremony. The Chamber will also write a press release for local media.
- The Business Development Committee will be discussing issues that create barriers to new business development. We'll be looking at ways to encourage new businesses to come to Old Fort and how the Chamber can help existing businesses succeed. The Committee is working closely with the Old Fort Mountain Heritage Alliance to create a successful plan for Old Fort's business development and economic future.

Building on the success of Oktoberfest, we hope to plan annual community events in Old Fort that will increase the positive presence of the Chamber with the community, will provide an avenue for member businesses to be promoted through sponsorships, and will raise funds in order to strengthen the Chamber so that it can work harder for you as a member. Possibilities include a golf outing, 5k run/walk, concert or concert series, and art contest.

If you would like to be a part of the Business Development Committee, which focuses on both business development and membership, or if you have any suggestions or feedback for the Committee, please contact one of the Committee Co-chairs:

Scott Swickle - [scott@swickle-technologies.com](mailto:scott@swickle-technologies.com)

Brigette Walters - [info@innonmillcreek.com](mailto:info@innonmillcreek.com)



24 June 2009

Ricard Acrivos  
Old Fort Chamber of Commerce  
25 W. Main Street  
Old Fort, NC 28762

Dear Ricard,

It is with great pleasure that I write to you on behalf of Blue Ridge Parkway 75, Inc. to notify you that the Old Fort Oktoberfest has been approved as an official event of the Blue Ridge Parkway's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2010.

Our Event Endorsement Committee has been so impressed with the quality of the happenings across this region! Blue Ridge Parkway 75, Inc. is proud to help link these events to the Anniversary and offer some additional marketing opportunities to you. Please take a few minutes to visit the newly launched Web site, [www.blueridgeparkway75.org](http://www.blueridgeparkway75.org), and explore the various sections and information it offers.

Keep us in the loop! As you continue planning your event we would like to hear (or see with pictures) the specific ways you incorporate the 75<sup>th</sup> and/or Parkway themes at your event. For example: will you have a special booth highlighting Parkway information? a presentation to a community member with ties to the Parkway? a message from the stage about the Parkway's 75<sup>th</sup>? Please let us know if you would like information or suggestions about highlighting the Parkway and/or BRP 75 at your event.

Enclosed, please find a packet of additional materials for your use. In particular there is a two-sided static cling we would like for you to display in your visitor center or other high traffic area and a press release template to help promote your event locally.

We are so excited to have your organization join in this important milestone for the Parkway and entire region. We are pleased to endorse your event, but even more so we are pleased you endorse the mission and vision of this Anniversary celebration.

Sincerely,

Leesa Brandon  
Executive Director

**BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY 75, INC.**

*In North Carolina:*  
199 Hemphill Knob Road  
Asheville, NC 28803  
828.271.4779 x 224

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Post Office Box 29800  
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## Business Link North Carolina.

BLNC, a service of the State of North Carolina, is your one-stop resource to access a vast array of programs and services available to support your business in North Carolina. With one call, you'll speak with an experienced business consultant who will listen and take the time to provide personalized information for your situation, including referrals to just the right program or organization who can further assist you.

*Don't face the questions alone. Get answers in a BLNC.*

Business Start-up Assistance

Exporting Assistance

Permitting and Licensing

Training and Education

Financing and Incentives

Referrals to Local, State, and Federal Agencies

Market Research and Analysis

Government Contracting

Business Link North Carolina, a service of the State of North Carolina, is a comprehensive business-support network designed to assist North Carolina companies. The service is designed to speed access to the wide range of information and resources available from statewide, state-supported agencies and organizations.

N.C Department of Commerce

"" N.C Community College System

Small Business & Technology

Development Center

Employment Security Commission of

North Carolina

N.C Department of Agriculture &

Consumer Services

N.C Department of Revenue

N.C Department of the Secretary of State

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[www.blnc.gov](http://www.blnc.gov) 1-800-228-8443