

Blazing New Business Trails

# CARROLL COUNTY

VIRGINIA

[www.CarrollCountyVA.org](http://www.CarrollCountyVA.org)

Week of June 22-28, 2008

[www.CarrollCountyVA.org](http://www.CarrollCountyVA.org)

Issue No. 5

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## Blacksnake Meadery - A Unique Feature for Carroll

*Blacksnake Meadery in Dugspur is Carroll's first ever winery and Southwest Virginia's only meadery.*

Instead of using grapes as a traditional main ingredient for wine making, Blacksnake Meadery demonstrates that using honey from bees also creates a successful wine blend.

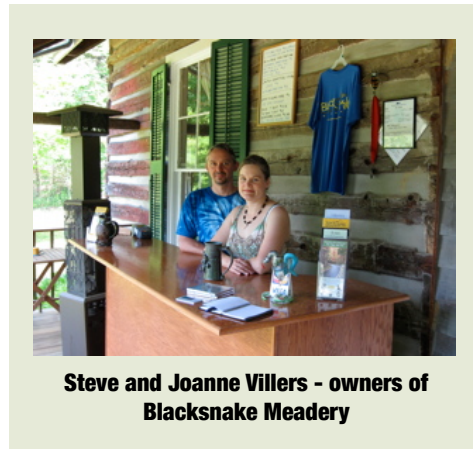
"Things have been going pretty well and that we hope to get our [product] in stores soon," said Joanne Villers – co-owner of Blacksnake Meadery.

Blacksnake Meadery, owned and operated by Villers and her husband Steve, is Carroll's first ever winery and the only meadery in all of Southwest Virginia. The Meadery first opened its doors on Labor Day weekend in 2006 and has made numerous meads and even sold out of more than one type during its two years of business.

According to Blacksnake's website, mead is an ancient drink made up of diluted honey and other natural ingredients that has been fermented and thought by many to be the first fermented beverage. The earliest meads were likely accidental

fermentations with wild yeasts, but eventually developed into organized, intentional meadmaking.

Out of the many different kinds of meads, Blacksnake Meadery makes three of them: traditional, cyser and melomel. Traditional meads are made from water, honey and yeast, whereas



**Steve and Joanne Villers - owners of Blacksnake Meadery**

cyser is made with apples. Melomels, however, are meads made with fruit.

As traditional meads, Blacksnake Meadery offers approximately 4 traditional meads along with 2 types of cyser. The meadery also offers melomel and bee brew – one with hops and another with lime.

With blending meads, at least one-half of the drink is made up of honey. All the different ones featured at Blacksnake range from having 7 – 13% alcohol content.

Blacksnake's Tupelo Honey Wine, which is a traditional made from tupelo honey and diluted with water, won the 2007 Silver Medal for the Varietal class at the International Mead Festival in Colorado.

Villers states that the mead brewing process takes approximately 7 to 8 months from the extraction of honey to the bottling stage.

Currently, the Villers own 14 bee-hives on their property in Dugspur and 1 in Roanoke where they reside during the week. Both Steve and Joanne teach at Patrick Henry High School and spend their weekends in Carroll running their meadery.

"Amendments such as Blacksnake Meadery in combination with our natural beauty and climate have the ability of attracting folks to come to our area and enjoy their time here," said County Administrator Gary Larowe.

Blacksnake Meadery is open on select weekends during the summer months from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Please call (540) 834-6172 or email at [blacksnake@blacksnakemead.com](mailto:blacksnake@blacksnakemead.com) for specific weekend openings.

Directions to the meadery: From U.S. 58 in Laurel Fork and U.S. 221 in Dugspur, take state route 638 (Dugspur Road) and turn right on route 628 (Buffalo Road). Go approximately 0.6 miles and take a left at the second driveway.

**Please visit the Blacksnake Meadery Website!**

<http://www.blacksnakemead.com>

## School Board Makes Recognitions While Listening to New Proposals

*3 of Carroll's students and two elementary schools were recognized for achievement, while new proposals for a "virtual school" program and renovation projects for current school buildings were presented.*

While students and a couple of Carroll's elementary schools were recognized for outstanding achievement, new proposals for a possible "virtual school" program and building renovations were presented to the school board for further review during the school board's monthly meeting on June 10.



Three of Carroll's students placed in the 2008 VSBA Southwest Regional Forum Art Contest during the 2007-08 school year and were recognized at the beginning of the meeting. Sydney Childress placed 2nd in the Elementary School category, Kenley Meredith placed 2nd in Middle School and Sydney Randall placed 3rd in the Secondary School category.

Two of Carroll's schools, Fancy Gap and Gladesboro Elementary, received honors of being a Distinguished Title I School in 2008 by the Virginia Department of Education. The award was based on student achievement records for the 2006-07 school year.

After going over approximately 18 actions items for the school board's approval, Dr. James Smith, Superintendent of Carroll County Public Schools introduced Mr. Kenny Word of K12 – a company in which provides an online public school curriculum that uses modern technology such as computers and the World Wide Web to reach out and offer classroom instruction to students at home.

According to the presentation conducted by Word to the School Board, K12 currently serves more than 40,000 students in 17 states in the U.S. The program offers online classroom instruction as a self-paced program for students who are home schooled or gifted.

Smith said students participating in K12, however, would be considered as a public school student by receiving the same classroom curriculum, educational opportunities and the chance to participate in public school programs such

sports and extra-curricular activities.

According to Smith, there are currently 222 home schools students and 41 private school students in the county. Smith hopes that with K12, it will offer a positive public school education and experience for home and private school students.

The School Board agreed to review the K12 proposal over the next month.

Next on the agenda, Dr. Smith presented to the School Board a Facility Survey of Carroll's schools conducted by two architectural consultants of the Virginia Department of Education during the month of April. The survey team suggested ways to accommodate facility needs and made recommendations for future renovation.

For the last item during the Superintendent's Report, Dr. Smith was pleased to report to the board that during the month of May, Carroll had an overall attendance rate of approximately 96%.

The next school board meeting will be Tuesday, July 15 at 5 p.m.

## Effective July 1: County Facilities Will Be Smoke Free

Starting July 1, 2008, ALL county facilities will be smoke free during all hours of the week. This means that no smoking will be allowed inside ANY facility or building that is owned or maintained by the County of Carroll. These facilities include the Carroll County Governmental Center, the Public Service Authority / County Maintenance / EMS building, and others.



In order to promote a good healthy working environment among all county personnel and maintain professional service to county citizens, smoke free inside county facilities must be practiced, maintained and enforced at all times.

There will be, however, designated areas outside all county facilities that will be for any county personnel or visitors who wish to smoke.

This regulation has been officially made by the Carroll County Board of Supervisors.

**Please visit the Carroll County Government website!**  
<http://gov.carrollcountyva.org>

## PSA Holds "Special" Meeting

*Assistant County Administrator Ronald Newman presents to the Public Service Authority current project updates.*

The Carroll County Public Service Authority held a "special" meeting on June 16 to receive project updates from the PSA's current projects that are currently being constructed in the county.

"Things have been going great and we're getting these projects done," said Assistant County Administrator Ronald Newman.

Four different reports were given and presented to the PSA by Newman: The Woodlawn Sewer Project, Regional Water Project, Exit 1 and Happy Hollow Road project.

According to reports, the county received approximately 34 signed easements for the Woodlawn project and plans have been sent to Rural Development for further review. Newman said that with the progress the project is making, Woodlawn Sewer should be operational by June 2009. Supervisors Tom Littrell and David Hutchins will be holding a town hall meeting at Woodlawn School on June 24 at 7 p.m. for discussion pertaining to the project.

With the Regional Water project, plans have been approved by Virginia's health department agency. Newman said that an estimate time for the Regional Water project to be fully complete is approximately 8 months. A pump site in receiving water in the county has been determined.

For Exit 1, three possible well sites have been determined. A geological report is currently being conducted by a local engineering firm.

Happy Hollow will be conducted as a self-help project and labor surveys have been conducted for citizens to assist the Public Service Authority in the construction of the project.

The monthly PSA Meeting will be held in the Board Room on July 14 beginning at 12:30 p.m. unless otherwise posted.

## Planning Commission Sends Subdivision Ordinance to Supervisors

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During their June meeting, County Attorney Jim Cornwell's proposed subdivision ordinance was approved by the Planning Commission with also discussing an manufactured home/campground ordinance.

During their regularly scheduled June meeting, the Planning Commission approved the draft of the proposed subdivision ordinance conducted by County Attorney Jim Cornwell. The proposed ordinance will be sent to Carroll's Board of Supervisors for comment and then will be sent back to the Planning Commission to schedule a public hearing in the future.

Next on the agenda before reviewing subdivision plats, Cornwell presented to the Planning Commission a draft of the manufactured home/campground ordinance. The Commission along with Cornwell agreed to discuss in further detail the ordinance during their regularly scheduled meeting in July.

## NOTICE



Effective immediately, County Administrator Gary Larrowe has appointed Kathy Surratt and Crystal Adams as FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) Officers for Carroll County.

ALL FOIA Requests from any Carroll County Office, including Constitutional Offices are REQUIRED to come through the County Administrator's office in order to prepare a game plan for response to any and all FOIA requests.

As FOIA officers for Carroll County, Surratt and Adams will be reviewing and consulting with the County Attorney before responding. The County is asking that the Health Department,

Extension Office, Social Services, PSA, Solid Waste Authority, Court System and the School System notify the County Administrator's office of any FOIA requests pertaining to county business operations that are received in order to keep the County up to date on happenings.

Thank you for your cooperation!

## Lamburg Community Center Will Host Upcoming Events in 2008

The Lamburg Community Center will host a fireworks display at the center on Friday July 4th.

Concessions will be sold as well as fifty-fifty tickets. Children's games such as apple bobbing, face painting, pick-a-duck, etc. will available during the evening. Music will be performed live as well.

The 4th of July events begin at 5:00pm and last until the fireworks are finished.

Also, the Center is planning a Cruise-In on August 16, in addition to a Fall Festival in October.

The community center is striving to become a viable part of the Lamburg community by offering classes, hosting activities, and serving as a hub for community functions.

Headstart will begin using the center twice monthly beginning in August as well as hosting Taekwondo classes every week. Boy Scouts are meeting biweekly and weekly jam sessions performed by local musicians are currently being held.

**Gas prices effecting your travel plans this summer? Check out and attend one of Carroll's festivals!**

[http://pressreleases.chillsnet.org/carroll\\_festivallistings.pdf?&MMN\\_position=31:31](http://pressreleases.chillsnet.org/carroll_festivallistings.pdf?&MMN_position=31:31)

**Please Don't Forget!**  
**Hillsville's Downtown Celebration and Classic Car Cruise-In**

**Saturday, June 28  
@5:00p.m.**

For more information, call (276) 728-2128 ext. 16  
[www.townofhillsville.com](http://www.townofhillsville.com)