



Tourism Tidbits **December 1, 2016** A bi-weekly newsletter from HCTDA

2017 Henderson County Tourism Conference

Save the Date! The Henderson County Tourism Conference will be held on Thursday, January 19 in the Blue Ridge Community College Conference Hall. In case of snow, the date will be Thursday, January 26. This is the only county wide Tourism conference of its kind in North Carolina, and attendance is FREE for all tourism-related businesses in Henderson County. Network at the Conference with industry experts, local businesses, government leaders, and media.

The 2017 Conference theme is "The Year of Hospitality". The keynote speaker this year is Joel Benson, owner of the Hendersonville Chick-fil-A discussing "Second Mile Service".

Rate sheets for co-op advertising will be emailed before the conference, for you to budget for these valuable offers. Affordable co-op advertising will be sold at the conference in publications such as: *Southern Living*, *Points North* & *Our State* magazine.

Registration will open soon, an email announcement will be sent out when it becomes available.

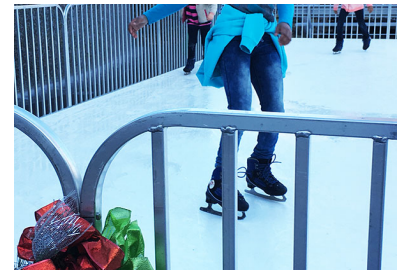
Event sponsored by Henderson County TDA & BRCC Small Business Development Center

Iceless Skating Comes to Downtown Hendersonville

Lace up your skates and take to the ice skating rink located at the Visitor Center at 201 South Main Street in Downtown Hendersonville. The rink opens Tuesday, December 20 and runs through Sunday, January 1 from 10am – 8pm. Bring the family to the rink on Christmas and New Years Day from 1pm-5pm.

The synthetic ice skating rink is made from special polymers so it can be enjoyed year-round in any temperature. Price of admission is \$8 for adults and \$5 for children. Group rates for 10 or more are available.

The skating rink is a fundraiser for the Henderson County America in Bloom Committee. America in Bloom is an economic driver, designating communities nationwide as desirable areas to live, work, and visit. Cities, municipalities, and counties are evaluated on strict judging criteria, based on their location's climate, environmental conditions, and population. Henderson County received 4 Blooms out of a possible 5, or 79% of possible points in 2016. Participating municipalities included: Hendersonville, Mills River, Laurel Park, and Flat Rock.



For more information or if you would like to volunteer for the skating event, call Mia's Marketplace at (828) 698-4600. For updates visit <https://www.facebook.com/HendersonCountyAmericaInBloom>

Wildfires Update

The Chimney Rock/Lake Lure area has reopened after 10 days of restrictions due to the raging wildfires. Fire crews are departing the area. Crews came from all over the country to help fight the fire. The fire burned over 7,000 acres and is 100% contained. Chimney Rock Park reopened on Friday, November 25. <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/5092>

The Chestnut Knob Fire located in Burke County has burned over 6,400 acres and is 90% contained. Crews are maintaining the fire lines and watching for structure protection. <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/5101>

The Pinnacle Mountain Fire in Pickens, SC and Transylvania Counties near Table Rock Reservoir received more than an inch of rain, providing much-needed relief for firefighters. The fire has burned over 10,000 acres and is 62% contained. <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/5108/>

Great Smoky Mountain National Park – Is closed due to extensive fire activity and downed trees with no immediate indication when the 522,000-acre park will reopen. <https://www.nps.gov/grsm/index.htm>

Gatlinburg & Pigeon Forge – State Highway 441 heading into Gatlinburg is closed. Dollywood is expected to reopen on Friday.

Tourism After Five

Join the TDA for the final Tourism After Five of 2016 on Thursday, December 8 from 5 to 7pm. Jongo Java will be hosting the December event. The Coffeehouse is a Bohemian cafe offering carefully sourced snacks, smoothies & specialty drinks. Don't miss the opportunity to network with other tourism professionals and form new partnerships. Jongo Java is located in downtown at 117 South Main Street, a half a block from the Visitor Center. Bring a friend and let's celebrate another year of tourism success here in Henderson County!

Please RSVP to Julie Hayes at outreach@visithendersonvillenc.org or call (828) 693-9708.

- **Asheville Citizen-Times** – <http://www.citizen-times.com/story/entertainment/events/2016/11/22/christmas-comes-hendersonville/93980352>
- **Biltmore Beacon** - <http://www.biltmorebeacon.com/news/holiday-street-lighting-makes-main-street-magical-nov-25/>
- **Bit & Grain** - <http://www.bitandgrain.com/stories/hendersonville-travel-guide>
- **Laurel of Asheville** - <http://thelaurelofasheville.com/lifestyle/7th-annual-holiday-street-lighting-hendersonville>

Visitor Center Holiday Hours

Christmas

Saturday, December 24 / 10am-3pm

Friday, December 23 / 10am-5pm

Sunday, December 25 / closed

Monday, December 26 / 10am-5pm

New Year's Eve / Saturday, December 31 / 10am-3pm

New Year's / Sunday, January 1 / closed

Media Spotlight

Home for the Holidays

A second printing of the *Home for the Holidays* brochure is available at the Visitor Center. Stop by the Visitor Center to pick-up a supply of brochures and a poster for your business. It is available for download <http://www.visithendersonvillenc.org/holidays.htm>

Christmas Caroling: Singing groups interested in caroling downtown between December 2 – 24, contact Michael Arrowood, events@visithendersonvillenc.org or call 693-9708.

HCTDA Upcoming Events

December 8 / 5-7pm

Tourism After Five

Jongo Java, 117 S. Main St.

December 13 / 1pm

TDA Board Meeting

Visitor Center, 201 S. Main St.

December 15 / 11am-12pm

Group Sales Forum

BRCC Continuing Ed Bldg., Rm 122

December 25

Christmas

Visitor Center / Closed

Contact Us

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www.VisitHendersonvilleNC.org

facebook.com/TourismSpeaks