

  
**Hendersonville**  
NORTH CAROLINA  
VisitHendersonvilleNC.org  
800-828-4244



# Tourism Tidbits

**November 22, 2017**

Bi-monthly newsletter from HCTDA

## 2018 Henderson County Tourism Conference Registration Now Open

Save the Date! The Henderson County Tourism Conference will be held on Thursday, January 18 in the Blue Ridge Community College Conference Hall. In case of snow, the date will be Thursday, January 25. 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 2018 Conference theme is "The Year of Innovation". The keynote speaker this year is Sharon Decker, Chief Operations Officer of Tryon International Equestrian Center (TIEC); discussing "INNOVATION: Creating a New Economic Engine".

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

Registration is now open through the Blue Ridge Community College Small Business Center.  
Reserve your space at: <https://www.ncsbc.net/workshop.aspx?ekey=50370103>

Contact Julie Hayes if you have any with questions at 693-9708 or [outreach@visithendersonvillenc.org](mailto:outreach@visithendersonvillenc.org).

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

## Winter Getaway Rewards Card

Have you picked-up a supply of the Winter Getaway Rewards Cards for your business to give out to holiday travelers and residents? The Card is valid **Now thru March 31, 2018**. They are available at the Visitor Center at 201 South Main Street. A list of the participating businesses is listed on the HCTDA web site: <http://www.visithendersonvillenc.org/winter-getaway-program>, along with an online order form at the bottom of the page.



Show your card and take advantage of special discounts on lodging, shopping, dining, wineries, breweries, cideries, and attractions.

## Holiday Street Lighting November 24

Christmas season officially begins in downtown Hendersonville November 24, the Friday after Thanksgiving, with the Holiday Street Lighting and Santa's Arrival. People gather on the Historic Courthouse Square at 5:30pm for Christmas carols, shopping, visits with Santa and good cheer. Santa flips the switch to light two trees on the Courthouse Plaza and displays along the street. For more info visit: <http://downtownhendersonville.org>

## Visitor Center Holiday Hours

**November 23 / Thanksgiving**

Closed

**November 24**

Open 10am-5pm

**December 24 / Christmas Eve**

Open 10am-3pm

**December 25 / Christmas**

Closed

**December 26**

Open 10am-5pm

**January 1**

Closed

## Business Update

- Team ECCO Ocean Center and Aquarium on Main Street, is closed to the public to undergo renovations and to install a new 1,600-gallon shark tank. The Aquarium will reopen in February 2018.

## Holiday Resources

With the holidays upon us, guests are looking for information on Henderson County special events and celebrations. The TDA is a great resource, both online at [VisitHendersonvilleNC.org](http://VisitHendersonvilleNC.org) and in person at the Visitor Center at 201 South Main Street.

The TDA has published the annual Holiday Dining Guide. This is an exhaustive list of County restaurants that are open on Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas, New Year's Eve, and New Year's Day. Please encourage travelers to verify the hours of operation themselves before visiting a restaurant, as information is always subject to change.

<http://www.visithendersonvillenc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017-Holiday-Dining-Guide.pdf>

For families looking for the perfect tree to decorate, the TDA has also assembled a list of Choose and Cut Christmas Tree Farms. This list is available online or at the Visitor Center. <http://www.visithendersonvillenc.org/wp-content/uploads/christmas-tree-farms.pdf>

The TDA also has an informative brochure filled with holiday events and attractions. As always, area events are also on the Calendar of Events page too. <http://www.visithendersonvillenc.org/home-for-the-holidays>

## 2018 Events

HCTDA is developing our event calendars for 2018. Eligible tourism-related events are promoted on our website, through "Weekly Happenings" print outs in the office, on the VisitNC website, and through a wide range of outside media. We can only promote your event if we know about it! Submit your event information online at <http://www.visithendersonvillenc.org/calendar-of-events>, look for the green button on the right side.

Karen Baker can also answer any questions about what events are eligible for HCTDA publicity materials, contact her at [kbaker@visithendersonvillenc.org](mailto:kbaker@visithendersonvillenc.org). <http://downtownhendersonville.org>

## Iceless Skating Rink Looking for Volunteers

The Iceless Skating Rink is returning to the Visitor Center starting December 19 through January 1. The synthetic ice skating rink is made from special polymers so it can be enjoyed year-round in any temperature. 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. The Henderson County AIB Committee hopes to offer grant monies in the future that will enhance the beauty of our County.

The AIB Committee is seeking volunteers to help in the operation of the Skating Rink. Volunteer training will be held at the Visitor Center on Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> from 5-7pm.

For information or to sign-up for the training session call Mia Freeman at (828) 698-4600 or email Karen Baker at [kbaker@visithendersonvillenc.org](mailto:kbaker@visithendersonvillenc.org).

## Chimney Rock Park Reopens

Chimney Rock Park will fully reopen on Wednesday, November 22, and operate under normal hours. It will be closed on Thanksgiving Day, but will be open the rest of the holiday weekend. The Park had partially reopened since Monday, Oct. 23, after heavy rains caused a retaining wall to collapse at its upper parking lot. For more information, visit <https://www.chimneyrockpark.com/latest-news/>

## Media Spotlight

- **The Laurel of Asheville** - <http://thelaurelofashville.com/communities/holiday-fun-henderson-county/>
- **The828.com** - <http://the828.com/2017/11/15/hendersonville>
- **The828.com** - <http://the828.com/2017/11/21/pageant/>



## HCTDA Upcoming Events

November 28 TDA Board Meeting / 1pm	December 1 Visitor Center Open House 5-8pm	December 14 Group Sales Forum / 11am-12pm	December 14 Tourism After Five / 5-7pm	January 18, 2018 Henderson Co Tourism Conference
Visitor Center	Visitor Center	Blue Ridge Comm College	Wine, Sage and Gourmet	Blue Ridge Comm College
201 S. Main St.	201 S. Main St.	Cont Ed Building, Rm 122	416 N. Main St.	Conference Hall

## Contact Us

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