

# Soundings

THE VOICE OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY IN CASCO, GRAY, LIMERICK, LIMINGTON, NAPLES, NEW GLOUCESTER, RAYMOND, SEBAGO, STANDISH & WINDHAM, MAINE

"Every man owes part of his time and money to the business or industry to which he is engaged. No man has a moral right to withhold his support from an organization that is striving to improve conditions within his sphere."  
-- Theodore Roosevelt

## Bid of Christmas Raises Over \$2K in 2 Hours

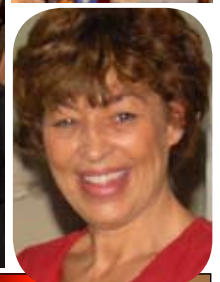
Club 302 in Windham was the festive site of this year's Bid of Christmas Silent Auction & December Business Break. For the 4th year, BOC Coordinator **Sheri Huff** cajoled her business peers, friends and family into donating unique and beautiful holiday decor to fill tables around the perimeter of the room.

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Published quarterly



P.O. Box 1015  
Windham, ME 04062  
Tel: 207. 892. 8265  
Fax: 207. 893. 0110  
director@sebagolakeschamber.com



Photos by Port City Photography

## Business Breaks

Always 5:30-7:30 PM. Bring a friend and network with your peers. Enter your business card in drawings. Have a great time! FMI call 892-8265.

January 21

Black Bear Café

Hosts: Sue & Design  
**OPEN** the Nerve

Location: Naples

February 16

Sawyer, Sawyer & Minott P.A.

Host: Larry Sawyer

Location: Windham

March (11 or 18, tba)

Time 4 Pictures

Time 4 Printing

Royal Technology Mgmt

Hosts: Kelly Mank,

Alex Roy

Location: Windham

April

Business

Host: OPEN

Location:

May

Business

Host: OPEN

Location:

June

Business

Host: OPEN

Location:

July

Naples Golf & Country Club

Host: Bob Caron, Jr.

Location: Naples

August

Business

Host: OPEN

Location:

September

Cross Insurance

Host: Laurie Noel

Location: Windham

October

Metayer Family Eye Care

Host: Dr. Roxanne Metayer and Staff

Location: Windham

## President's Report

Looking back over the last year, I am very proud of the accomplishments of the Chamber. We knew it would be a challenging economy and more work to produce the results of previous years. Our two major fundraisers - the Chamber Golf Tournament and the Live & Silent Auction - raised nearly as much money as previous years. Despite all the belt tightening we have gained many new members and are awaiting the decision from the Gray/New Gloucester Business Association on joining our Chamber.

We have an updated website with many new 'bells and whistles' and we held several seminars on various topics throughout the year. We are working more closely with our towns to improve the holiday decorations in the region. We continue to reach out to other civic partners to find ways to both encourage tourism and develop new programs to train small business owners.

I would like to thank both the membership and especially our staff, Barbara and Sue, and our Board of Directors for their time, talent and expertise in making the Chamber run smoothly. I look forward to 2010 as we expand our programs and services to our membership. I thank you all for your support and want to remind everyone: "If you need something, you can find it right here in the Sebago Lakes region."

Happy New Year,

Pete Neelon, President



Pete Neelon

## Chamber Tree Lighting Event



Thanks to local folksinger Con Fullam and members of the Windham Chamber Singers who led caroling.



Thanks to our terrific refreshment suppliers: Basso's Italian Market, Corner House Café, Country Caterers, Maine Bean Bakehouse, Shaw's & Hannaford, plus the No. Windham Fire Dept, Time 4 Pictures, Cross Insurance, Mr. & Mrs. Santa and Con Fullam's Twig Wompkee!



A Family Friendly Holiday Event!

## Bid of Christmas cont.

Then 150+ guests placed their bids and two hours later we had just over \$2,000 to benefit Chamber operations. Wow! The tally included a live auction item - a beautiful bracelet from Windham Jewelers - thanks to Kathy Brynes.

Silent Auction donors included Business Break Co-hosts **Evergreen Credit Union** and **Club 302**, **Lee's Family Trailer**, **Richard & Sheri Huff**, **Datalink Designs**, **Maine Tees**, **Jan McGrath**, **Randy & Julie Gardner**, **DownEast Engraving**, **Julie Arsenault/Portland Press Herald**, **Raymond Village Florist**, **Britt & Barb Gardner**, **Point Sebago Resort**, **Key Bank Windham**, **Maine Bank & Trust**, **Hall Implement Co.**, **Steeplebush Farm Herbs**, **Norway Savings Bank**, **Gorham Savings Bank**, **Hancock Lumber**, **Blossoms of Windham**, **Awl The Fixins Carpentry**, **Colonial Mast Campground**, **Salon 616**, **Korner Knitters**, **Quest Travel**, **Annette Comeau**, **Solutions Hair Salon**, **Studio Flora** and **Nancy Gardner**.

Thanks also to the Break's third co-host, **Smith Elliott Smith & Garmey, P.A.**, represented by Nicole Lorenzatti. Holiday cheer was in great supply at this fun event, and it drew one of the largest crowds we've seen at a Business Break. We hope to see even more of you at future Business Breaks, where a good time and great networking opportunities are guaranteed for all!

# Executive Director's Report



*Barbara Clark*

**H**appy Holidays to all of you from the Board of Directors and the Staff at the Sebago Lakes Region Chamber of Commerce! The year has passed so quickly and as we begin to plan for 2010 we can certainly look back on the many accomplishments within our Chamber.

## **Auction Success!**

Our 8th Annual Fall Live and Silent Auction was a great success with more in attendance than in any other year. Sincere thanks to all of you who donated an item, a gift certificate, volunteered to help collect the items, or to set up and close out the event, and those of you who attended, bought items and brought employees, family members and friends to join in the fun.

We will shortly get plans underway for next year's event.

## **Come to Business Break**

Business Breaks are also becoming an event that increases in attendance, if you have not been to

one in awhile you should check the calendar on our website and plan on joining us. Our Ambassadors' introduction program truly will assist you to meet and network with other business members and the exchange of contacts and sales leads will help you grow your business. If you are interested in hosting or co-hosting a Business Break in 2010 please let us know ASAP.

## **Annual Meeting 1/14**

The 2010 Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, January 14th, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Spring Meadows Country Club, Rt. 100, Gray.

Details will be sent to all members soon via our bi-monthly e-Commerce e-mail report. We hope that you will be able to join us as we celebrate the successes of 2009, welcome new Board members, thank retiring Board members, install new officers and outline the business programs for 2010.

## **Congratulations, Bill!**

Congratulations to Chamber Vice President Bill Tracy on his election to the Windham Town Council. Bill will not be moving up as President of the Chamber in 2010.

We wish him well in his new role as Chair of the Town Council.

## **Join Constant Contact**

Our chamber recently joined the Constant Contact email Marketing

Program so that we may better serve you with a high tech newsletter and e-commerce reports. As a member of our Chamber you are eligible to become an affiliate member of this organization and receive a 15% discount to also obtain the member benefits that are offered to help you manage your e-mail account. Please contact the Chamber office if you would like additional information.

## **Committee Updates**

The Chamber Internet Committee met recently to review the content of our site and discuss future changes. If you have any ideas or projects that you would to have us add to the website, please contact Committee Chair Mark Libby at [whitepines@fairpoint.net](mailto:whitepines@fairpoint.net). The hits to our site have increased 400% since we made major changes earlier in the year.

The Area Guide Committee will also be meeting in early January to plan the 2010-2011 guide so you will be receiving more details in the 1st Quarter of 2010.

## **Time is Money Fundraiser**

The Chamber has a new fundraiser in partnership with the 2010 Project Grad organization at Lakes Region High School titled "Time is Money." Based on a 12 hour clock, each hour has 60 minutes, each minute has 60 seconds. You can buy seconds for \$1.00 each or 25 seconds for \$20.00. Every second counts! The

proceeds raised will be shared by Lake Region H.S. Project Graduation and our Chamber. The grand prize is \$3000, 2nd is \$1000, 3rd is \$500, 4th is \$250 and there will be 4 additional \$100 winners.

Drawing for the prizes will be on April 9, location to be announced at a later date, where LRHS Project Graduation and the Chamber will come together to draw the winning second!

Take a chance, you could be the lucky winner!

If you are interested in selling these chances at your location of business please contact Karen Thompson at 693-7064 or [downeast@fairpoint.net](mailto:downeast@fairpoint.net) (DownEast Engraving in Naples). Our share of the proceeds will support Chamber business programs in the coming year.

## **Chinese Auction Success**

The 9th Annual Chamber Chinese Auction raised \$2700 in support of Naples Community Programs and our Chamber of Commerce.

Sincere thanks to Chair Karen Thompson, DownEast Engraving and Chris Hamilton, Colonial Mast Campground for their work collecting donations from local businesses and residents to once again bring a great event to our Region.

**Continued next page**

# Sebago Lakes Region Chamber of Commerce **BUSINESS PROFILES**

*Selected by drawings at recent Business Breaks*



Established in 1950, Austin Associates, P.A., Certified Public Accountants has built a corporate culture based on trust and an evolution of services to meet the ever changing needs of business owners and Maine residents. With dedication, our associates not only put clients' needs first, we ensure that no stone is left unturned in identifying exactly what those needs may be. By combining professional expertise with intimate knowledge of your business and personal goals, Austin Associates offers meaningful and powerful financial guidance.

Our most valuable assets are our employees and the trust of our clients. We are proud to have been selected one of the 2009 Best Places to Work in Maine. This designation exemplifies the commitment we have to providing an environment in which our employees can thrive personally and profes-

sionally. Our firm has also been awarded the Maine Governor's Award for Business Excellence by then Governor John McKernan. At present, we are the only accounting firm to be so designated.

Austin Associates, P.A., CPA's currently employs thirty-four people, providing services out of three offices, our primary office located in Auburn with branch offices in Windham and Norway. Earl B. Austin, Jr. continues to work every tax season. Our services include: tax planning and preparation, accounting, financial statement preparation, auditing, bookkeeping, QuickBooks consulting, business consulting and more.

As the founder of Austin Associates, Earl continues to be an integral member of our family-oriented team of dedicated professionals providing client centric solutions to meet the needs of small business clients throughout Maine and New England.



## Director's Report cont.

Several members of the Thompson family served food in the kitchen. Jim Miller of Jim's Chocolates baked goodies for the raffle. Chamber Vice President Laurie Noel of Cross Insurance and Iva Carroll of Norway Savings Bank helped with the ticket drawings and John Thompson was a great emcee announcing the winners.

Many of the youth who attended helped deliver the items to the winners. Great job by all! We provide one of the best Chinese Auctions in the Region, and every year we welcome back the many followers who look forward to this popular community event.



*The crew from Hancock Lumber hosted our November Business Break at their showroom on the Rotary in Windham. Proceeds from the 50/50 raffle will benefit the Maine Handicapped Skiing Association.*



Past Presidents and current Board members dedicated a granite bench behind the Chamber office in memory of their first Executive Director, Frank Koenig, who passed away this fall. Koenig was remembered as the hard-working, hard-driving "unofficial Mayor of Windham" in the post he held for 23 years. He took great pride in his community and its businesses and he served both well.



The Bridges Foundation, which provides jobs for adults with special needs making buckwheat-filled products, received a grant of \$2,979 this fall from the Lake Region Development Corp (LRDC). Pictured are Sean Wilcox, Director Gregg Alexis and LRDC members Barbara Clark, Lisa Villa, Ruth York & Don Toms. The Foundation is a Chamber member.

## Sebago Lakes Region Chamber of Commerce **BUSINESS PROFILES**

*Selected by drawings at recent Business Breaks*

### Welcome to **BONNEY** Staffing Center

Established in 1976, BONNEY is Maine and New Hampshire's largest, independently-owned and operated staffing company. With 8 local offices and a Windham location at 940 Roosevelt Trail, our Staffing Specialists and Recruiters seek out talent for Temporary, Temp-to-Hire or Permanent job opportunities with prestigious companies throughout the region. If you're seeking employment, visit our website and search our online database for jobs in Maine & New Hampshire. Employers, be sure to visit the employer section where you can learn more about the many exclusive benefits of working with BONNEY Staffing Center. Additionally, our website allows employers to tap into our volumes of proprietary information about solutions to common human resource challenges facing local businesses. Contact the Windham office for details!

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**www.bonnestaffing.com**  
**800-398-5909**

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<u>Windham</u>	<u>Brunswick</u>	<u>Lewiston</u>	<u>Portland</u>	<u>Portsmouth</u>	<u>Augusta</u>	<u>Bangor</u>	<u>Biddeford</u>
940 Roosevelt Tr. (207) 892-2286 (800) 807-8870	216 Bath Road (207) 725-1184 (877) 464-0685	37 Park Street (207) 783-7000 (888) 433-0692	477 Congress St. (207) 773-3829 (800) 398-5909	2 International Dr. (603) 430-2121 (800) 430-3049	124 State Street (207) 621-1100 (888) 433-0693	1 Springer Rd. (207) 945-3100 (866) 945-3100	5 Washington St. (207) 283-8858 (800) 293-1398

# member NEWS & views



## Evergreen CU Significant Donor to Lakes Region Food Pantries

Each year Evergreen joins other credit unions in the state on their Ending Hunger in Maine Campaign. Since 1990, the Maine Credit Unions' Campaign for Ending Hunger has raised over \$3 million to help end hunger in Maine. Accepting the checks (left to right) were Mark Clement, Cross Walk Community Outreach, Madeline Roberts, Windham Food Pantry, Pastor Norman Boulay and Barbara Adlard of the Naples United Methodist Church of Good Fellowship, Joanna Moore and Dave Moore of Cross Walk Community Outreach, and Evergreen President Tucker Cole.

## Little Sebago Gallery & Frame Closes After 12+ Years

Little Sebago Gallery & Frame has closed its doors in Windham for good. Owner Sandie Roberts says she will not miss the stress of owning a small business, but she will miss all of her customers. She has chosen the folks at Casco Bay Frames and Gallery in Portland to maintain her customer list and work order list so they can see what her customers have ordered in the past, in case they need to match anything. Casco Bay Frames has been in business for over 30 years and offers the same frame samples as Sandie did, plus many new companies. All of their employees are artists themselves and love working with customers on the design of their piece. You may contact Casco Bay Frames at 774-1260 or visit [www.cascobayframes.com](http://www.cascobayframes.com). They are located in the Back Cove Hannaford Plaza, Portland.

## Booking Entertainment for an event this year?

Brian Ross from Windham Parks & Recreation reminds Chamber members that the Maine Recreation and Park Association (MRPA) is sponsoring its 14th Annual Entertainment Showcase on Thursday, January 28, 2010. This year the Showcase will be held at Keeley's Banquet Center in Portland, 2:00-7:00 pm and exclusive entertainment from 7:00-10:00 pm.

This is an excellent opportunity to view a vast array of top New England talent. If you are responsible for booking entertainment, this will provide you with a chance to preview and book a variety of performers, as well as discuss your entertainment needs with the various performers or their representatives.

Showcase Registration fee includes afternoon showcase, light dinner, hors d'oeuvres, and admission to the evening entertainment. Cost: \$25 before 1/4/10; \$35 after that date. Evening entertainment only is \$10.00. Download registration form and get more details at [www.mepra.org](http://www.mepra.org).

## SMART Now Offers Therapeutic Groups

SMART Child & Family Services has offered counseling services to the Greater Windham community for over 4 years. Now the agency is also offering therapeutic groups. Six masters level clinicians will have both day and evening office hours Monday through Saturday.

In addition to outpatient counseling, SMART collaborates with Youth Alternatives/Ingraham to offer Medication Management for both children and adults. Clients working with SMART Child & Family Services are eligible for these services. SMART accepts many forms of insurance. FMI or to make a referral, call 893-0386 x 118. [www.smartcfs.org](http://www.smartcfs.org)

## Changes At Willowbrook Museum Village

Willowbrook Museum Village in Newfield is making some exciting changes in the coming year in order to make the story of life in 19th century rural Maine more unforgettable and more entertaining. Artifacts and displays, which in themselves tell an important story, will include background information that explains how an object was used in everyday life, its origin and how it changed over time. Questions will prompt visitors to compare and contrast the past with contemporary life. Interpretive text will be supplemented with demonstrations, historic film footage and interactive activities to engage visitors of all ages.

If you haven't yet visited Willowbrook Museum Village, you owe it to yourself and your friends and family to plan a trip there in 2010. You can lose yourself in the timeless charm of this beautifully-maintained village while discovering its many treasures and learning a lot about the way life was way back when. FMI visit [www.willowbrookmuseum.org](http://www.willowbrookmuseum.org); 793-2784 (open May-Dec).

## Zumba class in Naples

Vicki Toole will teach a Zumba class in Naples starting January 7th and running Thursday nights at 6:15 at the Naples Town Gym. For more info contact Vicki at 787-3327 or [lrcjv@fairpoint.net](mailto:lrcjv@fairpoint.net).

## December Spa Specials

Stephanie Biggs at Kosmetikos Spa & Wellness Center in Standish is offering 25% off all Gift Certificates purchased through January 1st. Some of her most popular services -- massages, facials, ionic foot detox, Reiki healing energy sessions, plus Guinot skincare products are also on sale. FMI [www.kosmetikosskincare.com](http://www.kosmetikosskincare.com).

Kimberley Henderson at Nurturing Tranquility Salon & Spa in Limington is offering a \$20 G.C. with purchase of a \$100 G.C and 10% off any other G.C. in Dec. She also does Christmas Nails. Check out her Spa Package for holiday de-stress, too! All products 10-50% off this month. FMI <http://nurturingtranquility.com>.

# Windham Summerfest



*Our Lakes, Our Heritage, Our Community*

## Windham Summerfest Business Expo

On June 19th, 2010 the Windham Summerfest Committee, the Windham Economic Development Corp. and the Sebago Lakes Region Chamber of Commerce will host another Business Expo at the 4th annual Windham Summerfest.

The Business Expo provides a great opportunity for you to introduce your products and services to the Sebago Lakes Region community and to promote your company's latest products, services and expertise through your exhibit. For home-based businesses, entrepreneurs and those whose business location is not on a major thoroughfare, this expo offers premium exposure to hundreds of area residents who attend and the chance to talk with attendees one-on-one.

The Business Expo consists of an approximately 10x10-foot space located in a high traffic area on the grounds of Windham High School, 406 Gray Rd, Rt. 202, Windham. Each space includes vendor parking and electricity if you need it. There are a limited number of spaces available.

### Benefits of being a part of the Business Expo:

- Introduce your latest products and services to the community
- Showcase your business to potential new customers
- Share your knowledge and expertise with the public
- Network with other businesses in the region
- Maintain your company's visibility
- Get new leads, establish new accounts and broaden your market
- Promote your business in a casual, fun, creative environment
- Represent the Sebago Lakes Region business community

### Business Expo Tips:

- Displays should be unique and appealing
- Draw attention to your space with an activity, drawing or contest
- Send a pre-event notice to your clients & prospects
- Bring extra business cards & promotional materials
- Visit other booths and activity areas

Please fill out & return this form with your payment to:

**Windham Parks & Recreation Department**  
**c/o Windham Summerfest Committee**  
**8 School Road, Windham, ME 04062**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Cost per 10' x 10' space: \$250.00 Number of Spaces Requested: \_\_\_\_  
(includes parking & electricity, as needed)

Method of Payment: Check (payable to Town of Windham)

Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

FMI please contact  
Ron Eby 892-1212 or Brian Ross 892-1905  
or visit us at [www.windhamsummerfest.com](http://www.windhamsummerfest.com)

## More Renewing Members for 2010

Allstate Insurance Co. /Tom Biczak

Anderson-Watkins Insurance

Augustus Bove House

Auto Bath of Raymond

Brown Dog Promos

Charlie Beiggs Restaurant

Club 302

Cobb's Collision Center

Country Road Cottages

Freedom Café

Genest Landscaping & Masonry Ctr.

Getty Real Estate Services

Heaven & Earth Wellness Center

Industrial Park Online.com

Korner Knitters

Kosmetikos Spa & Wellness Center

Krainin Real Estate, Inc.

Lake Region Animal Hospital

Lake Region Caterers

Matt Tasker Merchant Services

Noble House Inn B & B

Riding To The Top

RoyAl Technology Management

Salon at 616

Sebagocam.com / 57 MSI, Inc.

Sebago Lake Lodge & Cottages

Shaw's Supermarket

Sunset Lakes Real Estate

The Nerve Web Design

TRSS Wealth Management

Ultimate Hair & Tanning Salon

Varney's Auto Body, Inc.

Thank you to all members who have paid their Chamber dues for 2010. We look forward to giving you opportunities to benefit from your investment in many areas, including:

- ★ Advertising & Marketing
- ★ Chamber Referrals to Your Business
- ★ Peer to Peer Networking & Socializing
- ★ Member to Member Discounts
- ★ Group Health Insurance Options
- ★ Professional Education & Training Sessions
- ★ Small Business Development Counseling
- ★ Legislative Updates and Alerts
- ★ Civic Involvement
- ★ Community Events Participation

## Welcome, New Members!

### Butts Commercial Brokers

Larry Eliason, Reggie Butts, 842 Roosevelt Tr., Windham 415-2112

### Salon at 616

Tonya Tibbetts, 616 Roosevelt Tr., POB 68, S. Casco 655-3506

### Electronics & More

Don Harmon, 18 Roosevelt Tr., Windham 749-9482

### Perkins Floor Covering

Dana Perkins, 36 Harding Drive., Windham 892-7886 / 831-0869

## New Member Check List

### Please provide to the Chamber:

- ✓ Business cards, rack cards, brochures, menus
- ✓ Any changes to your contact information
- ✓ Any Member-2-Member Discount you offer
- ✓ News, events or specials to share with your peers
- ✓ Please post your membership decal at your business and include our logo on your website.

*Thank You!*



P.O. Box 1015  
 Windham, ME 04062  
 Tel: 207. 892. 8265  
 Fax: 207. 893. 0110  
 director@sebagolakeschamber.com  
 info@sebagolakeschamber.com  
 www.sebagolakeschamber.com

Part of the Western Maine  
 Lakes & Mountains Tourism Council  
 www.westernmaine.org



# CALENDAR

January	7 SLRCC Board of Directors Monthly Meeting at Thatcher's 7:30-9 AM	14 SLRCC Annual Meeting at Spring Meadows Country Club, Gray 5:30 - 8PM	? Business Break <b>OPEN</b> Would you like to host? Call Deb McPhail at 838-3339 ASAP!	30/31 3 <sup>rd</sup> Ann. So. Maine Pond Hockey Tournament Kiwanis Bch, Standish FMI: 642-2875 subject to weather cndtns
February	4 SLRCC Board of Directors Monthly Meeting at Thatcher's 7:30-9 AM	13 Business Break Host: Sawyer, Sawyer & Minott, P.A., Windham 5:30 - 7:30 PM	12-14 Naples Winter Carnival on the Causeway at Long Lake FMI: 892-8214	19-21 Rotary Ice Fishing Derby Weekend FMI: 892-7996
March	4 SLRCC Board of Directors Monthly Meeting at Thatcher's 7:30-9 AM	11 or 18 (tba) Business Break Hosts: Time 4 Pictures Time 4 Printing, RoyAl Technology Mgmt. Windham, 5:30-7:30		

**Upcoming Event**  
 Mark Your Calendars  
 For Fri, June 11, 2010  
 Our annual Golf Tournament!

