

Soundings

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

"A person travels the world over in search of what he needs and returns home to find it."

-- George Moore, Irish writer

Bid of Christmas Raises \$1500 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 5th year, BOC Coordinator **Sheri Huff** and committee members cajoled their 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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From top: Phyllis & Clark Smith, Heather Smith & Laurie Noel; Rachel Phinney, Tom Nash, Ruth York, Diane Field; Kelly & Nels Mank; Shelly Bickford; Don Harmon; Betty Jo Cash & Santa;

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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 19

Bear Bonz BBQ
Host: Mike Mason
Location: Naples

February

Hancock Lumber
Host: Kevin Hancock
Location: Windham

March

Key Bank, Windham
Host: LeeAnn Sanborn
Location: Windham

April

Time 4 Pictures
Host: Kelly Mank
Location: Windham

May

Genest Landscaping & Masonry Ctr.
Host: John Jaques
Location: Windham

June

Hall Implement
Host: Steve & George Hall
Location: Windham

July

Naples Golf & Country Club
Host: Bob Caron, Jr.
Location: Naples

August

Lee's Family Trailer Sales & Service
Host: Sheri Huff
Location: Windham

September

Cross Insurance
Host: Laurie Noel
Location: Windham

October

The Little Meetinghouse
Host: Phyllis Smith
Location: Windham

November

Gowen, turgeon & Leutje
Host: Dave Gowen
Location: Windham

December

TBA

2 Soundings

President's Report

Wow, this year has been amazing! I am very proud of the exceptional work done by our Chamber staff, Chamber Board and Chamber members in 2010. Although the economy continues to challenge all of us, we stepped up to this challenge and made 2010 another success story. Our two major fundraisers – our Golf Tournament and the Live & Silent Auction/Signature Dishes event were just as successful as the year before.

This year we celebrated the 25th Anniversary of our Business Breaks. Guest speaker Bob Crowley (Survivor Bob) entertained us with his island stories, we danced to the sounds of The Running Gag and enjoyed delicious food prepared by Bon Apetit at Saint Joseph's College.

Our website continues to improve and receive more hits. We are now actively engaged with Facebook, too, and find it a wonderful resource to share our success stories, events and photos with so many more people.

Our first ever Celebrity Chef event was well attended and the food was fabulous. We're looking forward to making this an annual event. We also started a new Retail Committee this year, which has proven to be successful and has renewed excitement for our retail businesses in our region. Our first event was a Scavenger Hunt and most recently window painting of Holiday scenes by local children, both done to encourage our Shop Local theme.

This has been an amazing experience for me as your President. I hope that I have made a difference in the Chamber overseeing our events and committees, as well as continuing to build the excitement for new Chamber opportunities in the Sebago Lakes Region.

Onward!



Bid of Christmas cont.

Then members and guests placed their bids and two hours later we had \$1500 to benefit Chamber operations. Wow! Silent Auction donors included **Lee's Family Trailer Sales & Service, Datalink Design, Maine Tees, DownEast Engraving, Point Sebago Resort, Key Bank Windham, People's United Bank, Hall Implement Co., Steeplebush Farm Herbs, Nurturing Tranquility Salon & Spa, Gorham Savings Bank, Lobo Embroidery, Blossoms of Windham, Colonial Mast Campground, Quest Travel, Sebago Lake Rotary Club, Edward Jones Investments/Karen Fuller, Cross Insurance, Blacksmith's Winery, Evergreen Credit Union, Cumberland County Federal Credit Union, Beth DeSimon Photography, Jim's Chocolates, Shed Happens and Home Depot.**

Holiday cheer was in great supply at this fun event. We hope to see even more of you at future Business Breaks, where a good time and great networking opportunities are guaranteed for all!



Laurie Noel

Executive Director's Report



Barbara Clark

Happy 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 2011 we can certainly look back on the many accomplishments within our Chamber.

Chinese Auction Success

The 10th Annual Naples Chinese Auction raised \$2950 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.

Several members of the Thompson family served food in the kitchen. **Jim Miller** of Jim's Chocolates baked goodies for the raffle. **Iva Carroll** of Norway Savings Bank helped with the ticket drawings and Chamber Vice President **Allan Phinney** was a great

emcee announcing the winners. **Ruth York** and **Holly Chase** assisted me with the drawings. 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.

Annual Meeting Jan. 6

Our Chamber's Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, January 6th, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:15 PM at Spring Meadows Country Club, Rt. 100, Gray. It will be immediately preceded by or January Board meeting from 5-5:30PM.

Details have been sent via our e-Commerce e-mail report and are on our website. We hope that you will be able to join us as we celebrate the successes of 2010, welcome new Board members, thank retiring Board members, install new officers, present our Business Person of the Year, Chamber Volunteer of the Year, Community Leadership and Executive Director's Awards and outline our Business Programs for 2011.

Come to Business Break

If you have not been to one of our popular monthly Business Breaks in awhile, you should plan on joining us in the coming year. Our Ambassadors will assist you in meeting and networking with other business members and the

exchange of contacts and leads will help you grow your business.

All hosts are in place for 2011 and there is a hosting waiting list. The Business Break Committee will consider the possibility of booking additional Business Breaks during the year to meet the growing interest in this event, when they convene this winter.

Join a Committee

Another facet of networking is offered through Chamber committee work. Joining our Board members to accomplish work in a variety of areas is a great way to get to know your business peers in the region and to get your name out there so others will think of doing business with you.

Committees are listed on our Chamber website, under the Membership section: <http://www.sebagolakeschamber.com>. Committee work may include assisting with events such as Windham Summerfest or the Rotary Ice Fishing Derby, or helping plan new activities and membership

development programs. For more information about committee work or to join a specific committee, contact me at 892-8265.

"Red Tape Removal"

We are currently working with the Maine State Chamber of Commerce to host a Business Forum for our members to identify and offer suggestions about state regulations, statutes or compliance issues that, in their opinion, need to be reformed.

This event, being hosted by Chambers of Commerce throughout the state, is being called "The Red Tape Removal Tour." Results from these forums is being given to Governor-elect LePage's transition team. The goal is a simple one: to hear employer ideas for reducing or eliminating regulatory roadblocks to job creation and business prosperity. We are currently looking at mid to late January to host this forum in our region.



Hosting our November Business Break: the staff of Amcomm Wireless at their North Windham Shopping Center store

Sebago Lakes Region Chamber of Commerce
BUSINESS PROFILES

Selected by drawings at recent Business Breaks



Adult Education^{MAINE}
Learning for Work and Life

Windham Raymond Adult Education

Windham Raymond Adult Education is a vital part of the Sebago Lakes Region's communities. Not only do we offer residents an amazingly diverse selection of life-long learning opportunities, we are an active member in the business community. We strongly believe in the connection between the world of work and education/schools and do our best to promote and enhance that relationship. Our membership

in the Chamber of Commerce and Rotary assists with that important mission.

Last year over 3000 adults of varying ages, vastly different educational, economic and skill levels, with an equally diverse number of interests, found their way to over 300 different learning opportunities through the Windham Raymond Adult Education program. They came for a variety of reasons: to improve their basic reading, writing or math skills; to earn a high school credential; to prepare for post-secondary education or a new job; to take their first ever computer course; to improve their health; or finally to learn a new skill that will enrich their life.

Windham Raymond Adult Education (WRAE) offers programming in several areas.

- Adult Basic Education (ABE) reading and writing instruction
- English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) and Citizenship classes
- High School Completion – GED Prep, GED Testing and HS Diploma
- College Transitions – Advising, Prep for college and placement testing
- Southern Maine Community College satellite site courses
- Business Skills and Training – Customized training for local businesses, Certificate Programs, Computers, Health Care Training
- Personal Enrichment -Arts & Crafts, Cooking, Exercise, Trips, Personal Finance, Health and Wellness, Home and Family, Music and Dance & many more general interest topics
- Workforce Development and Work Ready (Soft Skills) Training

WRAE hopes to expand our role in local economic development efforts. Our Work Ready, federally funded, "soft-skills" training program for unemployed or underemployed adults will once again be available in the spring and hosted at Genest Concrete. Customized low-cost, training for local businesses on customer service, productivity and specific computer-related topics, or basic math or writing skills can be developed. Our state-of-the art computer lab, complete with Macs/PC's, SMART Board and laptops can be made available to businesses for training purposes. Please contact Steve McFarland, Workforce Education Coordinator, if you have questions.

Windham Raymond Adult Education continues to provide a wide range of adult learning opportunities to the Sebago Lakes Region. Go to www.windham.maineadulted.org after December 20th for a complete listing of WRAE Winter/Spring Courses and services. WRAE Brochures will be mailed to all Windham and Raymond residents the week of December 27th. Please contact us at 892-1819 if you have questions about any of our programs and services or would like to receive a brochure. Your continued patronage, financial support and input are always appreciated and welcomed.

Sebago Lakes Region Chamber of Commerce
BUSINESS PROFILES

Selected by drawings at recent Business Breaks



How Service Should Be...

Everyone runs into financial problems sooner or later. Some people are fortunate enough to have friends or family who will lend their support. But whatever situation you find yourself in, there is probably a credit union that can help you.

Credit unions are unique in that they are not-for-profit cooperatives owned by their members. These members elect a Board of Directors, who in turn select a President to hire staff to serve the members. This closed circle means that each employee serves the member first and foremost. Some membership groups are formed by associations like firefighters or teachers; these common groups pool their resources to earn dividends, borrow money, and improve their lives by banding together.

Cumberland County Federal Credit Union was formed as a teachers' credit union in 1954. Since that time, we have grown from a \$25, five-member educational CU based on a family's front porch to a \$130-million community credit union with five branches and over 15,000 members. Though we don't keep our receipts in a shoebox anymore, we still know our members and seek to improve their financial lives.

While some local banks have gotten so large (or consolidated) that they no longer know you by name when you visit them, CCFCU is careful to maintain its member focus. We blend the high-tech features that today's consumers look for in a financial institution with the personal touch that so many companies have left by the wayside.

If you live or work in Cumberland or York County and would like to experience service the way it should be, just visit one of our branches or our website at www.cctfcu.com. Even if you aren't in need of financial help, isn't it time you were treated like more than a number?



We held a relaxing ribbon-cutting at Windham's newest business recently, with hosts Robyn Born, Tracy Noyes and Chelsea Fyrberg. Stop by and see all that they offer!



Creativity was unleashed at our Holiday window-painting event with children from Windham Schoolage Child Care Program & Birchwood Day School. See their work at North Windham Shopping Center!



A fun '80s-themed Business Break at Metayer Eye Care on 10/20/10 marked their 25th year in business. Naturally, a great time was had by all!

member NEWS & views

Schoolhouse Arts Needs Our Help

Whether you are an electrician, carpenter, plumber, painter, photographer, graphic designer, teacher, director, cleaner, cook, or just someone who loves working in an arts organization, the Schoolhouse Arts building in Sebago Lake Village takes many hands and many skills to keep it running. Committee members are also needed. If you have skills that you think they could use, they'd love to hear from you. Please call 642-3743 or e-mail volunteer@schoolhousearts.org.

The center is also looking for someone to plow their driveway and parking lot this winter in exchange for free tickets to shows or free classes/camps. (Even a partial discount on snow-plowing would go a long way in helping them out.) . Finally, they remind fellow Chamber members that tickets and season passes (\$50) are available to purchase online. If you'd rather purchase in person, call the number above and make arrangements.

System Architecture.NET Expands

At a time when the local and national economy is facing strong headwinds, SystemArchitecture.NET, a Maine-based IT consulting firm headquartered in Windham, has recently expanded its operations in response to steady growth over the past three years.

"Our sales have grown an average of 40% per year over the past three years, due largely in part to our great team and loyal customers", commented Vincent Micale, President and Founder of SystemArchitecture.NET. "The new facility will allow us to continue to grow comfortably and better service our customers. Our customer base is comprised primarily of Maine-based businesses, however we also have significant accounts in New York and in the Greater Boston area."

Originally launched as strictly a database and programming shop, SystemArchitecture.NET has expanded its service offering over the past few years to include network engineering, IT support, website design and internet marketing. The company's engagements range from project-based work and IT-based consulting to full IT department outsourcing.

A bright spot in an otherwise dark economy, SystemArchitecture.NET plans to continue its growth into 2011. Located at 32 Tandberg Trail in Windham, the company welcomes visitors and is always interested in forging new partnerships with other local business.

National Children's Study Comes to Cumberland County

Hopefully by now many of you have either heard radio ads or have seen print ads from the National Children's Study and wondered, "What does this have to do with me?" The National Children's Study is the largest of its kind ever conducted in the United States and many Cumberland County children are eligible to participate.



The Study will look at the effects of environment on the health and development of more than 100,000 children, following them from before birth until age 21. The Maine Study Center, coordinated by Maine Medical Center, will recruit women from selected areas of Cumberland County between the ages of 18 and 49 who are pregnant or may become pregnant in the next few years.

"We have an extraordinary opportunity to learn how the environment affects children's health and development, both here in Maine and nationwide." said Dr. Patrick Connolly, Family Practitioner. "Children are not just little adults, they take in more air, water and food for their weight than adults do, and they spend more time outdoors. Knowledge gleaned from this study will be used to improve the health of our children for generations to come. That is why I am supporting the Study and encouraging those who are eligible to join."

The National Children's Study will provide many children and their families from Cumberland County a unique opportunity to help shape a healthier future for generations of children.

For more information contact Eva Farina-Henry at NCS@MMC.org or call us at (207) 662-1488. Please visit us at www.nationalchildrensstudy.gov

Windham Conducts Fire Safety Surveys

Members of Windham's Fire & Rescue Dept. are now conducting fire safety surveys and discussing pre-fire plans with local businesses. Businesses are selected at random and called upon by uniformed members of the department who arrive in a department truck. This is a new program for Windham but one which is regularly conducted in many cities and towns across the country.

If your business has not yet been called on and you have fire safety questions or concerns, contact John Wescott at 892-7851.

Windham Summerfest



Our Lakes, Our Heritage, Our Community

Windham Summerfest Business Expo

On June 18th, 2011 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

More Renewing Members

(as of 12/13/10)

Gorham Savings Bank
Dyke Associates/
Windham Excavating
Pratt Insurance Agency
SMART Child & Family Services
McGoldrick Brothers Blasting Service
Chalmers Agency
Port Harbor Marine at Jordan Bay
AcuPsych
Lake Region Animal Hospital
Fern Hill Farm B & B
Butts Commercial Brokers
Coyne Appraisal
Camp Sunshine at Sebago Lake
Moose Landing Marina
Norway Savings Bank
Androscoggin Bank
Maingas
Alyssa's Motel at Thomas Pond
Family Dental Health
Lee's Family Trailer Sales & Service
Brackett Floors, Inc.
Maine Conveyor, Inc.
Heaven & Earth Wellness Center
Mountainview Woodies CBC/ME
Smith Office Systems
Riverview Physical Therapy
Austin Associates, P.A.
Windham Chiropractic & Rehabilitation
The UPS Store, Windham
Downeast Energy
Hall Funeral Home
Hancock Lumber
Point Sebago Resort
Saco Bay Physical Therapy
Compassionate Care Veterinary Hospital
D&J Excavating Company, Inc.
Little Caesar's Pizza, Windham
Windham Economic Development
Mills & Company
Maine Natural Gas

Country Village Assisted Living
Maplewood Inn & Motel
Cumberland Co. Federal Credit Union
Bruce Cort, P.A.
Roger's Chiropractic Center
Bushmaster Firearms, Inc.
Loon's Haven Family Campground
Central Maine Power Company
Robert Hunt & Associates
Matt Tasker Merchant Services
Kedarburn Inn / Kedar Quilts
Shaw's Supermarket, Windham
Kosmetikos Spa & Wellness Center
Sawyer, Sawyer & Minott, PA
Maine Today Media
RoyAI Technology Management
Jim's Chocolates
State Farm Insurance /Tricia Zwirner
Whimsical Living
The Ice Cream Dugout
Black Bear Cafe
Checks & Balances Business Services
Genest Landscaping & Masonry Center
207 Realty.com
Wind-in-Pines Family Cottages
All State Appraisals
Consolidated Home Improvement
RE/MAX Allied Real Estate
Korner Knitters
Cobb's Collision Center
White Pines Inn at Sebago Lake
Miller Flooring
The Bridges Foundation
Cyr Industries & Dirty Constructors
OnSite Auto Glass
Krainin Real Estate, Inc.
Romah Motor Inn
Lake Region Caterers, Inc.
AT&T Mobility
Steeplebush Farm Herbs
Bob The Screenprinter
Conifer Industries (KFC/Taco Bell)
Nurturing Tranquility Salon & Spa

Windham Jewelers
The Nerve Web Design
Salon at 616
Ultimate Hair & Tanning Salon
Sebago Lake Lodge & Cottages
L.C. Andrews / Maine Cedar Log Homes
P.R. Webster
Ameriprise Financial
Amato's Sandwich Shops, Inc.
Key Bank, Gray
Brown Dog Promos
Center Day Camp, JCA
Beth DeSimon Photography

Thank you to all businesses that have renewed their membership for 2011. We look forward to providing opportunities for your business to benefit in many areas, including:

- ★ Advertising & Marketing
- ★ Business Referrals
- ★ Peer to Peer Social Networking
- ★ Member to Member Discounts
- ★ Group Health Insurance Options
- ★ Professional Education & Training
- ★ Business Development Counseling
- ★ Legislative Updates and Alerts
- ★ Civic Involvement / Community Events
- ★ Board & Committee Participation
- ★ Recognition and Awards

Welcome to:

Ameriprise Financial (re-join)

Jason Bourgo, 707 Sable Oaks Dr., So. Portland
(207) 228-2706 www.ameriprise.com

Academy House Picture Framing

Linda Botty, 63 Thomas Rd, Standish
(207) 272-6882

www.academyhousepictureframing.com

Portland Cover

David Cairns, 3 Southgate Rd., Unit 9, Scarborough
(207) 883-2274 shrinkwrappers@aol.com



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

CALENDAR

January	6 SLRCC Board of Directors Monthly Meeting Spring Meadows Country Club, Gray 5:00 - 5:30PM	6 SLRCC Annual Meeting at Spring Meadows Country Club, Gray 5:30 - 8PM	19 Business Break At Bear Bonz BBQ in Naples Corner Rts. 302 & 11 5:30-7:30 pm	
February	3 SLRCC Board of Directors Monthly Meeting at Thatcher's 7:30-9 AM	TBA Business Break at Hancock Lumber Windham 5:30 - 7:30 PM	12-13 Naples Winter Carnival on the Causeway at Long Lake FMI: 892-8214	18-20 Rotary Ice Fishing Derby Weekend FMI: 892-7996
March	3 SLRCC Board of Directors Monthly Meeting at Thatcher's 7:30-9 AM	TBA Business Break at Key Bank, Windham 5:30-7:30 PM		

Upcoming Event
 Mark Your Calendars
 For Fri, June 10, 2011
 Our annual Golf Tournament!

