



# Lyndon Area Chamber of Commerce

**But those dreams have remained... and they've turned around.**

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

<b>From 'da President</b>	<b>1, 2</b>
<b>Miss Vermont</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Vermont Hospitality</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Halloween Contest</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Top Events of 2009</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Your FREE Ad</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Sox regular season ends...on to playoffs!</b>	<b>6</b>

I return as Chamber president during a time of historic change. As of this writing, our global financial system remains in limbo. Although the plan proposed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Prime Minister of Britain has been embraced (and is being adopted) around the planet, we remain unsure about what lies ahead. The main questions remains: Recession or Depression? We still don't know.

What we DO know is that we have a certain amount of control over our own destiny here in the Kingdom. Having spent the better part of three decades in marketing, advertising and broadcasting, I remind you that we have seen similar downturns, even if this one seems more severe right now. It's startlingly clear just how much government was complicit in getting us to this point, and we can't expect Washington (or London or Brussels) to wave a magic wand and make these mind-boggling problems vanish. It won't happen. This recovery needs to be bottom-up, and it needs to come from the energy, vision and entrepreneurial spirit that remains in abundance in these United States.

It won't be easy.

BUT...

My pitch remains the same:

If we tend to our business carefully, if we market appropriately and if we recognize that things WILL get better, we have a chance to help not just stabilize, but *grow* our local economy. This is not wishful thinking. It comes from enough understanding of history (not lots, but enough), an examination of the fundamentals that drive the Northern New England economy and yes, a certain amount of faith in the people who choose to live and work here.

When I was approached to re-assume the presidency, I thought carefully of how I would define (or re-define) the role of our Chamber. It would be easy enough to acknowledge the history of what we do and just continue on. BUT!

*(continued on page 2)*

## OCTOBER MEETING

10/21 1:00 PM

Cobleigh Library

### AGENDA

- Lunch!!
- Minutes
- Treasurer's Report and Budget
- New Business
- Adjourn

## ...more ranting...

We need to do more. We need to prepare for future development and understand that it impacts not just Burke, but Lyndon. And as I discussed in the local paper, we need to resume talks with our neighbors in Burke about the possibility of merger.

Most important, we need to understand the role that WE play, individually and collectively, in helping our towns grow and prosper. We need to remember that the last part of our name is COMMERCE and we must strive to help our friends and neighbors not just in difficult times, but in ALL times. I'm delighted that you get low-cost insurance through your membership. I, now, ask YOU to do more. We need you to show up at meetings, to volunteer for Stars & Stripes and the Snowflake Festival. I know you're pressed for time. My workdays, which used to run eight or nine hours, now run twelve or more. The demand are great on all of us, the pressure is on. But like any volunteer organization, our Chamber has been run by a small, dedicated core. With that, we maintain. With you, we GROW.

Let me acknowledge (and thank) Donna Wheeler, who stepped in when I stepped out, and who still maintains a very high profile with our Chamber. And my undying gratitude and respect to Cheryl McMahon, the Chamber 'Secretary.' Secretary? Hah, she runs this thing. Plus, she makes the best salsa in the world.

You can reach me at 626-9800 or [steve@nicholscommunications.com](mailto:steve@nicholscommunications.com). Let's talk.

All best,  
Steve Nichols

p.s. If you're of a certain age, you may recognize the headline on page one. It's an excerpt from a '70's song. Come to the Chamber meeting next Tuesday, the 21st and be the first person to correctly identify the song and we'll have a very nice prize for you. It'll be worth it. Plus...LUNCH!

## From Ashley Ruth Wheeler, Miss Vermont 2008

*(At our September meeting, we voted to support Ashley's efforts with a \$1,000 gas card. We received this response.)*

"Dear Lyndon Area Chamber of Commerce,

The last five months have been nothing short of amazing for this Lyndon girl. The personal and professional development I have gained, places I have traveled, and moments I have been part of are truly special. Without a doubt, the best part of being Miss Vermont is the people I have met across this great state. Loggers and lawyers alike have amazed me with their dedication to family, community and hard work. Having been born, raised, and educated in Vermont, I had (previous to this experience) taken for granted the essence of our culture. The last five months have reconnected me with what makes Vermont such a special place. There have been moments that have taken my breath away and moments I wished I could share with the world. Apart from the public eye and camera lens, there are also moments which are a bit more frustrating. I constantly worry about funding this great venture and am constantly aware of how I am going to fill my gas tank as I criss-cross the state.

Your incredibly generous donation has lifted such a burden from my shoulders. when I return from filming "Miss America: Countdown to the Crown" in Los Angeles, I will be visiting college and high school campuses registering voters. Not having to worry about how I am going to pay for gas on these high mileage trips is a blessing. I will think of the Chamber every time I fill my tank. I am humbled and honored at your generosity. I hope to do our community proud as I continue to travel the state and as I make my way towards becoming Miss America 2009.

With Gratitude, Love, and Blessings,

Ashley Ruth Wheeler

## Presenting the Vermont Hospitality Institute!

Nothing encourages people to make return visits to our lovely area more than high quality, friendly, welcoming customer service. To bolster this professional training, the New England Culinary Institute is accepting registrations for three new classes, aimed at training incumbent workers in Vermont's tourism industry. The Fall 2009 session includes: Impressive Service, World Class Wine and Beverage Studies, and Supervision for the Hospitality Industry. The classes meet regularly during the late-October to mid-November 2008 time frame at the Summit Lodge in Killington.

This past spring, the Vermont Hospitality Institute trained over 100 employees from around the state with these valuable sessions. Tuition at the Vermont Hospitality Institute is **FREE OF CHARGE**, thanks to a generous Vermont State Workforce Education and Training Grant, although employers must pay the individuals attending their regular wage or minimum wage, whichever is greater. There is a small fee for the Wine and Beverage studies series because the tuition grant does not cover the cost of the alcohol needed for the demonstration. A special overnight rate is available at the Summit Lodge.

The Vermont Hospitality Institute is dedicated to improving the quality of service in the hospitality industry by providing exceptional learning opportunities and educational programs.

Please contact Vicky Tebbetts at the Vermont Hospitality Council for more information on discussion topics relevant to each class, dates or to receive a copy of the brochure for any of the classes, email [vtebbetts@vtchamber.com](mailto:vtebbetts@vtchamber.com). To register for classes, please contact Terri Taylor at the New England Culinary Institute ([Terri.Taylor@neci.edu](mailto:Terri.Taylor@neci.edu)). Give your business the hospitality edge and take advantage of these FREE classes!

## Chamber Calendar and Newsletter Deadlines

- **The October meeting is Tuesday the 21st at 1:00 pm at the Cobleigh Library. Please note the change in time! Lunch will be served!!!**
- If you would like your business profiled for this newsletter, please call Cheryl at 626-9696.
- Deadline for newsletter submissions for November is Tuesday, November 4th, Election Day. Remember to get out and vote...it's *never* been more important!
- The November meeting will be on Tuesday, November 18th. Details to follow.

## Get Ready for the Ghoulish Contest!

Halloween is just around the corner. Have some fun at your business and have your employees dress up to compete for the coveted "Ghoulish Award". If you would like to decorate your business and be judged for this competition, please call the Chamber at 626-9696 and let us know. Judging will be on Friday, October 31st, so please call by Thursday. Judging will take place midmorning on the 31st. Anything goes, so have some fun with it and good luck!



Yankee Magazine is seeking nominations for Top Events for the the 2009 Travel Guide. The deadline for submission is November 1, 2008. Each May, Yankee publishes a Top Events listing in its Travel Guide to New England: Special Travel Issue, on newsstands through August 31st. Twenty events are named Top Events for each state. This designation brings valuable potential publicity for your region and your event. For an event to be eligible, it must occur between May 1 and August 31, 2009. Send your nominations, including event name, event date, event town/location, event contact person's name, contact phone number, email and comments to: Gloria Bruce at NEKTTA, PO Box 212, East Burke, VT 05832 or call Gloria at 802-626-8511. Yankee is also doing a special story on "Old Home Days". Use the words Old Home Days in the subject line and send your info via email to: [heathera@yankeepub.com](mailto:heathera@yankeepub.com).

# Lyndon



# Area

CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE

PO Box 886  
Lyndonville, VT 05851  
802-626-9696  
www.lyndonvermont.com



## Place Your **FREE** Ad Here!

Contact us with your ad requests by calling  
626-9696 or emailing: [info@lyndonvermont.com](mailto:info@lyndonvermont.com)

### **“Feet For Food Walk”**

**Sunday, October 19th**

Registration is at 12:30 pm, the walk begins at 1 pm starting at St. Peters Church and proceeding around the Stevens Loop.

If your business is having a dress down day, please remember the Food Shelf in Lyndonville. The Food Shelf is also seeking donations for its Thanksgiving boxes. They are already seeing an increase in new clients, with an all time high of 37 families per week...and cold weather hasn't fully arrived. Any donations, big or small are greatly appreciated. Please contact Debbie Minor at 626-5586. She can also be reached at the Food Shelf on Wednesdays at 626-5705.

The Food Shelf in Lyndonville is located at St. Peter's Episcopal Church on Elm St.  
Thank you!



*Many thanks to everyone who helped with and donated to the*

**Coin Drop on Saturday, October 4th to benefit the 2009 Stars and Stripes Festival. Thanks to your efforts, nearly \$1,000 was raised!**



*Get Ready for Winter!*

**BUTTON UP WORKSHOPS**

Learn how to save energy in your home and lower fuel costs!  
Free and Open to the Public

In LYNDON:

Wednesday, October 15th at the Public Safety Building in Lyndonville

(Sponsored by the Town of Lyndon and the Cobleigh Library)

In BURKE:

Wednesday, November 5th

6 pm to 8 pm

Burke Town Hall, West Burke

(Sponsored by the Town of Burke)

*Coupons will be available at the Lyndon and Burke workshops for discounts on weatherization products at Lyndonville Hardware and Wheeler Building Supply*