

# CHAMBER CLIPS

## "Working Together Works"

The Mission Statement: The Wendell Chamber of Commerce, a non-profit 501 (c) (3) corporation, aims to advance commercial, industrial, and civic development; to encourage the economic and social progress of the Wendell area for the benefit of all citizens, and to facilitate the production and distribution of goods and services.



## From the Desk of Bruce Lynch

On Saturday morning, January 16, 2010, the Board of Directors had a very productive Retreat at the Pineville Club located in Flowers Plantation. We discussed many items that will help to make the Chamber stronger in the short and long term.

We talked about the need to develop a broad based Sponsorship program across all of our activities. Not only will this program help the Chamber in its fundraising to put on and support events, but it will give our members additional ways to advertise their businesses to the membership and the community. Brigitte Gros, our Membership Coordinator and Ula Mae Life, our Executive Director are going to work to develop this program. In addition, the Chamber has formed a new committee to work on having a "First Friday" event in Downtown Wendell starting in April and running through June or July. We believe that developing and supporting more activities in the town core will help to generate more excitement and energy in our community and make it an even better place to live. Also, we discussed the idea of having a second, smaller "Movie Night" near the Town Square in the early

Summer. The feasibility of this event is still being explored at this time. As last year, Town Manager, David Bone attended the retreat and gave us an update of what the town has been doing in regards to Economic Development. The town continues to work with Holland Consulting on Economic Development issues and there appears to be support to have the town compete for a Small Town Main Street Program Grant. The Chamber strongly supports going after this grant and believes that this focus on the downtown is vital to the town's future growth.

Finally, we discussed the need to enlarge the Ambassador Program. Michael Hunter and Tona Whitley on our Board of Directors are going to chair our efforts to expand our Ambassador Program with the goal of growing it to at least 20-25 active members. In fact, there has already been an Ambassador's meeting and we are looking for more members to join this Chamber committee. Please call the Chamber to sign up.

On January 22, 2010, our second annual Art exhibit was held in collaboration with the Wendell Woman's Club. The art show's theme was "Animals in Art" and was

designed to raise awareness of the SPCA. The art show opened to a full house. It was a wonderful event and everyone enjoyed tasty hors d'oeuvres from El Cerro Mexican Grill, and wonderful baked goods homemade by several Woman's Club members. The number of artists that participated in this year's event more than doubled to over 20 artists.

On another note, I want to remind everyone that at these difficult economic times, the Chamber is an inexpensive way to stay out in front of the community. Please make sure you renew your Chamber membership and pay your

dues in a timely manner. Your dues enable the Chamber to offer all the great events that we do throughout the year. Whether it is a ribbon cutting ceremony, a Business After Hours, the Farmers' Market, Movie Night, the Harvest Festival or Santa Coming to Town, the Chamber helps its members to be successful.

Please feel free to contact the Chamber office or any board member if you have any questions or suggestions.

Remember our Chamber motto, "Working Together Works."

### 2009 Chamber Contacts

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### Board of Directors

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