

# 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

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving. I know it has been a difficult business year, but just by living in the Triangle area, we have many things to be thankful for in spite of the weak economy. It is hard to believe that the year is almost over and that we are entering the heart of the Holiday season. As you probably know, the Chamber has several fun events in December. The first one is the Lighting of the Town Square in Wendell on December 4<sup>th</sup>. And of course, the kids always enjoy the visit by Santa that is scheduled for December 5<sup>th</sup> at the Library. Please come out and support these events.

To recap some things I touched on in my speech at the Annual Banquet. In spite of the worst downturn any of us has ever experienced this past year, the Chamber added 35 new members so that now we have 235 members and this total is five more than we had at the start of last year. I believe the increase in Membership is quite impressive in the face of the economic downturn. It is a testament to the value the Chamber brings to its members. It is my belief that the cost of a Chamber Membership is a real bargain and offers our members many opportunities to showcase their businesses to the Chamber Membership as well as to the

Community.

I think in spite of the economy, we have had a great year. I am especially proud that we got the Farmers' Market off the ground this year and it has been very successful. We already have strong interest from vendors and commitments for next year. As the Farmers' Market continues to grow, I believe you will see its positive impact on the Downtown.

During my second year as President, I intend to continue my focus on looking for ways to push for the revitalization of Wendell's Downtown and Central Core. As I mentioned at the Banquet, the Town recently won Matching Grants for sidewalk and cross walk improvements. I encourage the Town Commissioners to continue this investment in the Downtown and to complete this revitalization. Furthermore, I want to continue to look for ways to have the Chamber work with the Town on Economic Development in our Community. I am encouraged that the Town Commissioners have invested monies over the past year working with a Planning firm to develop an economic development policy and incentives. I believe these efforts will generate great benefits to our members and the community once we enter the next economic expansion.

On another note, one of the benefits of starting the last

year of my two year term as President of the Wendell Chamber of Commerce is I am more confident and better understand how to accomplish the goals that the Board of Directors and I lay out for the Chamber. Of course, with the ongoing support of the Board of Directors and Chamber Staff, we never really lose sight of working to support our business members and the community. In fact, we already have scheduled the Chamber Board's Annual Retreat on January 16, 2010. At the Retreat, we try to lay out the Policies and Goals for the coming year as well as discuss what we can do to become more efficient and

deliver even more to our members. I welcome any ideas or suggestions on how the Chamber can improve and do even a better job of supporting its Members.

In addition, please do not forget the Annual Wendell Art Exhibit that is scheduled for January 22 - 24, 2010. Just a reminder, we need sponsors for this event as well as volunteers to help before and during the Art Exhibit. On a final note, I want to wish everyone a safe and joyous Holiday Season, and I look forward to working with everyone in the coming year.

### 2009 Chamber Contacts

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