



November Chamber Corner by Marji Graf, Executive Director

**"A Taste of Every Season"** 2011 dining calendar is on **Sale Now** for \$20. All proceeds to benefit a culinary scholarship fund at the River Valley Technical Center in Springfield and the Okemo Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce. These 12 mouth-watering pictures with recipes, calendar and 2011 calendar of events schedule, will make a great holiday gift. They can be purchased at the Chamber office and these participating restaurants:

- Stone Hearth Inn & Tavern in Chester
- Inn at Weathersfield in Weathersfield
- Pot Belly Pub in Ludlow
- Cool Moose Café in Ludlow
- Echo Lake Inn in Ludlow
- Inn at Weston in Weston
- Coleman Brook Tavern at Jackson Gore Inn (available in the Corner store)
- Willie Dunn's Grille at Okemo Valley Golf Club (available in the Corner store)
- The River Tavern at Hawk Inn and Mountain Resort in Plymouth
- Japanese Cuisine by Michiko at Old Town Farm Inn in Chester
- The Killarney in Ludlow
- Fullerton Inn and Restaurant in Chester

Also available at:

- Lisai's Chester Market in Chester
- Pleasant Valley Foods in Proctorsville
- WAAWEE Family Farm Market in Chester
- Misty Valley Books in Chester
- Chapter XIV in Ludlow
- Green Mountain Sugar House in Ludlow
- The Village Green Gallery in Weston

The Chamber had a record two months with **23** new members joining. This is a testament to the value of being a member of the Chamber of Commerce during this recovering economy. It is important to work together, do business among each other, learn from one another, and to refer business to fellow chamber members.

The Chamber wants to thank Francy & Sheldon at the Stone Hearth Inn and Tavern in Chester for hosting our mixer on October 13th.

Columbus Weekend was packed with visitors who attended Cider Days in Mount Holly; Craft Show in Weston; Chili Cookoff, Parrothead Party and Harvest Craft Show in Ludlow; Yarn sale in Proctorsville; Brewery tours in Plymouth; and Harvest Weekend at Billings Farm in Woodstock.

There were two special programs offered on October 21st. The first was for Chester businesses. Debra Boudreau, the area business advisor for the Vermont Small Business Development Center (VtSBDC) lead a planning session "Listening to Your Business" designed to help businesses look at where their business is now and where they want it to be in 3 years. This program was sponsored by the TD Bank Charitable Foundation. The second program was for Ludlow businesses as part of the e-vermont grant. Patrick Ripley, VtSBDC Broadband Business Advisor for e-vermont hosted an interactive training and information seminar where business owners looking to establish a website were informed of potential costs, benefits, expectations and processes involved with establishing an online presence.

Black River Good Neighbors had a 'Stick Season Social" at Bella Luna on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Be sure to click on our website: [www.yourplaceinvermont.com](http://www.yourplaceinvermont.com) for a complete list of events in the Okemo Valley.

On October 24<sup>th</sup> The Vermont Wedding Association hosted the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Bridal Show at the Jackson Gore Inn and the Chamber took a table to represent our area.

Our guests on lpctv.org were Deb & Armand Bernagozzi of Deborah Habicht LLC in Mount Holly. Be sure to catch the interview. Footage from our Business Showcase follows the interview and upcoming November events.

### **Upcoming Programs:**

November 9<sup>th</sup> will be a presentation by Perry Bove, Assistant Vice President of TD Bank, regarding merchant services. This program is free and will be held at TD Bank in Chester at 8:30am. RSVP Fran Cheslock at 875-6611.

November 10<sup>th</sup> is our mixer at Okemo's Jackson Gore Inn. 5:30-7:30pm RSVP Chamber 228-5830.

November 15<sup>th</sup> Mary-Rite Batesole of Northern Benefits will talk to us about Health Care Reform. 8:30am at The Pointe. RSVP the Chamber 228-5830.

December 8 is our Annual meeting at The Fullerton Inn in Chester. RSVP Chamber 228-5830.

Our Travel with the Chamber program will be going to **Ireland on May 1-10, 2011**. This trip is open to the public. \$250 is due by 12/2 and final payment is due 3/2/2011. Pick up brochures at the Chamber office or view on our website.