



October Chamber Corner by Marji Graf, Executive Director

We had a very busy September in the Okemo Valley! The Chamber wants to thank Tom Bradder and staff at the Bryant House in Weston for hosting our Chamber mixer on September 8th.

September 11 & 12 the Okemo Valley saw the invasion of the mini coopers as they went on a scavenger hunt throughout our towns. The event ended with a course set up on Sunday at the Fletcher Farm field where the drivers were blindfolded and their passengers were giving them directions from the back seat. You can view the video on our facebook page – it was so funny! We're doing it again next year, September 10 & 11. Tell all your mini cooper friends!

On September 15 we had 16 teams playing at our Chamber golf outing at the Okemo Valley Golf Club. It was a beautiful day and everyone said they would be back next year! Thanks goes out to Mary Knight of Knight Tubs for chairing the golf committee, along with Mark Verespy of The Killarney, Brian Halligan and Bill Graf of the Jackson Gore Inn. The Chamber would like to thank you for your hard work and a great day!

Our 2nd Annual Business Showcase was on Wednesday, September 22 from 5:30-7:30p at the Fletcher Farm School for the Arts in Crafts in Ludlow. We had 36 vendors showcasing their food, products and services. Thank you to all our vendors for the very generous silent auction prizes. We look forward to our 3rd annual Business Showcase next August 10, 2011 at the Green Mountain Banquet & Conference Center in Chester. Our events are free and open to the public.

Next, it's on to the Big E representing the Okemo Valley. Chamber member companies joined me in the Vermont building on September 23 & 24th. We handed out Okemo Valley guidebooks and coupon books until we couldn't talk anymore!

Be sure to watch our guests on lpctv.org this month. I interviewed Dan & Penny Cote of Inn Victoria in Chester. I also caught up with Barre Pinske regarding his upcoming event on September 27 – October 3 called the Big Buzz Chainsaw Carving Festival in Chester. In case you haven't seen it, check out Kids Play in the Okemo Valley on lpctv.org.

Upcoming Programs:

Our next Chamber mixer is October 13 at the Stone Hearth Inn and Tavern in Chester. You must be a Chamber member to attend this particular mixer. It's our "Let's Make A Deal" where member companies partner with each other and create packages that I can market at the NY Times Travel Show and the Boston Globe Travel Show in February.

We have a special program scheduled for October 21st from 8:30-12:30 at the Newsbank Conference Center in Chester. Debra Boudreau, the Area Business Advisor for the Vermont Small Business Development Center (VtSBDC) will be speaking to us. Program details will be forthcoming. TD Banknorth in Chester is sponsoring this event and providing a light lunch. RSVP The Chamber if you would like to attend.

November 10th is our mixer at Okemo's Jackson Gore Inn.

November 15th Mary-Rite Batesole of Northern Benefits will talk to us about Health Care Reform. 8:30am place tbd. RSVP the Chamber.

December 8 is our Annual meeting at The Fullerton Inn in Chester.

As we prepare for the "leaf peepers" arrival during the next few weeks, let's keep in mind that **our** hospitality is what keeps them coming back, year after year, to our Okemo Valley!