

THE DURHAM BULL SHEET

News and Events of the Durham/Middlefield Exchange Club

Happy Holidays

Christmas Party

We will be having our annual Christmas Party on December 7, 2008 at Brothers Restaurant in Wallingford. As you read this the deadline for sign up may have passed. Please let Yvonne know if you are going to come and if you are bringing a guest even if the deadline has passed. Last year we had a lot of members and guests show up who did not call or email. The kitchen did come up with more food but it is not fair to the restaurant or Yvonne to do this. Due to a clerical error (I forgot to call Brothers in September to book the 14th of December) the party has come upon us rather quickly. As usual cocktails will start at 5:30 PM. Lets hope the weather is better than last year.

We again will be collecting gift cards for the kids at Kidsafe. Angela Atwater came to our November meeting and asked that we

give them cards from Target or Wal Mart. These cards can then be used not only for clothes and games but also for food, which some of the other stores do not offer.

The amount is up to you. A \$15.00- \$20.00 card would be great. If the amount is not written on the card please write it on the envelope so we can get an idea on the amount that Kidsafe is getting. If there is no amount on it they have to call the store and find out so they know how much they have to spend. If you cannot make the Christmas party but still want to get a gift card for Kidsafe please drop it off at Durham Pharmacy in an envelope with Exchange on the outside of the envelope. I will collect them and deliver them to Kidsafe on Monday December 22nd. Please give generously to this program.

Meetings

December 7, 2008- 5:30 PM
Christmas Party- Brothers,
Wallingford

December 11, 2008- 6:30 PM
Regular Meeting- TLC Eatery
Durham – Larry McHugh
guest speaker

December 18, 2008- 6:30 PM
Board Meeting- Phil
Gaudreau's Middlefield Home

January 8, 2009 – 6:30 PM
Regular Meeting – TLC
Eatery- Martha Stone Guest
speaker

January 15, 2009 – 6:30 PM
Board Meeting – Ralph Chase
Home

January 22, 2009 – 6:30 PM
Regular Meeting- TLC Eatery-
Middlesex Family Advocacy
visit

Durham Fair

Well the final fair numbers are in and we did not do as bad as some organizations. We did a great job considering the weather. We have a good product and we have streamlined the

process so our expenses are low.

According to Rich Astle, the gross sales were just over \$19,000.00 with our expenses around \$6800.00 for a profit of around \$12,311.09. (give or take a few pennies). Last year the booth made \$21,851.00 so as you can see we are a little short in our projections. The soda delivery made around \$2600.00 this year and made \$6580.00 last year. Here you can really see what the cold weather did to soda sales. Luckily we have no expenses with the soda delivery. Mike Cote has worked with Walter Douglass to get us the Gators at no rental cost to us.

Due to the changes in our revenue I have made some changes to the budget, which unfortunately is in the negative direction. If we have a very successful Spaghetti Dinner and Flower Sale maybe we can make some of this difference up. It will be very important that when these fundraisers come up that everyone put in a little more effort than usual to try and cover this short fall. Unfortunately, we are not the federal government so we cannot just keep printing more money to cover our shortfall in revenue.

Editorial

As your President and Editor of this Bullsheet, I want to

wish you and your families a joyous and happy holiday season.

I realize that the economy is not going in the right direction and it does affect us all, but I want you to think of those who are hurting the most. The children and families who have to rely on the goodness of others to put food on their table or a roof over their heads. When we are going thru a tough time we can cut out the dinner out on Friday night or brown bag our lunches to save some money but what about those who stand in line at a soup kitchen to find out when they get to the front of the line the food is gone. When the economy gets tough donations to all charities decreases so they get hurt the most.

I realize that we cannot save the whole world, but with a little effort we can help.

I was not at the last meeting due to some professional meetings I had to attend to. (Yes, I am a professional something) Peter Cascini told me that he asked for people to donate foodstuffs at each meeting that can be donated to Kidsafe and local food pantries. He told me that he would run the program and get the food where it has to go. So if anyone would like to bring a nonperishable food item to the Christmas Party he will collect them. We will be having a meeting on December 11, 2008. If you

can please bring something then he will collect them as well.

On a positive note I would like to thank Rich Astle for running our last meeting. He is in training for next year and I am sure he will do great next year. Also I want to thank Yvonne for again putting together the meetings and meeting notices. It is a thankless job constantly trying to get people to respond. When you see her email please respond as soon as possible to make the job a little easier.

The Board of Directors has decided to keep the drink at the meetings as a BYOB. If you bring something to drink and want to leave any that you have left at the restaurant for the next meeting Shawn has said we can put it downstairs. Please just mark your name on the bottle and we will keep them all together. The club will provide mixers. It is a lot of work for someone to run around and get wine and beer and make sure it is cold. If someone wants to take charge of getting the beer and wine and making sure everything is there and ready for each meeting let me know and we will rethink the BYOB policy. If we do provide beer and wine the cost per meal will have to increase accordingly.

Phil Gaudreau