



18829 ROYALTON ROAD
STRONGSVILLE, OH 44136

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ADIDAS SOCCER SHOWCASE IS COMING

The National High School Soccer Showcase is coming to Strongsville again this year.

The event is designed to bring high school teams from across the United States to play in a series of games for player identification, team development, and program comparison. Last year this event attracted more than 330 high school teams to our community.

The Soccer Showcase is held on two consecutive weekends: the girls' teams will be here on July 18, 19, and 20; while the boys will be here on July 25, 26, and 27. It is estimated that more than 5000 visitors will be in town on those two weekends to support the Showcase. This should have a very positive impact on hotels, restaurants, and other retail business.

Chamber members who wish to support the Soccer Showcase through discounts or other special offers should contact Jon Felton, Event Director, at feltonje@yahoo.com.

CITY CLUB TO HOST 22ND ANNUAL RIB BURNOFF

The Strongsville City Club's 22nd annual Rib Burnoff will held on Thursday through Saturday, June 19, 20, 21, on the Strongsville Commons.

Entertainment and games will be featured each day of the festivities.

The City Club uses the proceeds from this event to underwrite a variety of community projects.



COMING EVENTS

- May 15 Women in Business Breakfast Seminar
- May 20 Annual Scholarship Luncheon
- May 22 Homecoming Tent Managers Kickoff Dinner
- July 16 – 19 Homecoming Days on the Commons

Call 440.238.3366 for more information about these events.



May, 2008

Newsletter



WOMEN IN BUSINESS: LOCAL BUSINESS OWNER TO ADDRESS FORUM

Mrs. Patrice (Catan) Alberty will be the featured speaker at the spring Women in Business Breakfast forum sponsored by the Strongsville Chamber. The forum will be held on Thursday, May 15, beginning at 8:00 a.m., at the Strongsville Holiday Inn Select.

Mrs. Alberty, an entrepreneur in the bridal industry, started her bridal salon in 1990. She started with a 2,000 square foot store that has grown today to the largest bridal and fashion salon in the country. She has followed in the footsteps of her late father, Pat Catan, who always believed that hard work and determination would pay off in the end.

Since the opening of the salon just 18 years ago, the store has serviced more than 25,000 brides. The store also offers the most extensive alteration department in the country with more than 20 seamstresses.

Catan Fashions is not just a bridal salon. They also carry the finest in Mothers, Bridesmaids, Childrens, Prom, and Evening Wear. There is also a Tuxedo Junction located inside the store.

At the breakfast forum Mrs. Alberty will be speaking on the topic "The Challenges and Rewards of Operating Your Own Business."

All members of the Chamber are invited to attend, but reservations are required. The cost for breakfast and the program is just \$15.00 (cash or check), payable at the door or in advance by calling the office at 440.238.3366. Deadline for reservations is Tuesday, May 13.

SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON

The May business meeting of the Strongsville Chamber of Commerce will be highlighted by the distribution of scholarships to deserving students from Strongsville High School. The luncheon meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 20, beginning at 11:45 a.m., at the Strongsville Holiday Inn Select.

This year the Chamber will award nearly \$25,000 in scholarship assistance to 13 students from the high school. This amount represents the highest dollar amount ever awarded by the Chamber and is more than is given by any other community group. This year the Chamber will be awarding scholarships based on special circumstances, community service, and those who intend to pursue a career in a business-related field.

The Chamber has been supporting the scholarship program for more than 40 years. Funds for the awards come from the proceeds of the Holiday Scholarship Dance, held on the first Friday of each December. As the Dance has grown in popularity, the Chamber has been able to award more scholarship assistance.

Reservations for the luncheon are required. Please call the office at 440.238.3366 before May 16 to assure a place at this very heart-warming program. Cost of the luncheon is just \$12.00 (cash or check), payable at the door.

CHAMBER TO HOST FOCUS GROUPS

Working in cooperation with the Economic Development Department of the City of Strongsville, the Chamber will host a series of focus groups to learn more about how various business segments feel about doing business in Strongsville.

The project represents the third phase of an effort by the city and the chamber to gather information that will be helpful to improve and maintain a strong business climate in our community. Previous segments that have been surveyed include manufacturing/industrial and residents. The data that resulted has been enormously meaningful as the city continues to attract new business and to retain the business that is already here. gsvillechamber.com.

At the Strongsville Chamber we are "Taking Care of Business."
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CHAMBER TO HOST FOCUS GROUPS - cont. from pg 1

Dr. Greg Davis, a consultant from Ohio State who has coordinated the project, said, "Making the most of this kind of survey requires committed leadership. The leadership provided by the Mayor and the Economic Development Department in the most recent survey was, by far, one of the key components of this program's success."

The focus groups will be conducted in early summer at the Chamber office. Three different groups are being invited to participate: Retail business owners, Professional business owners, and Service business owners. Each session will last about 90 minutes and will consist of a series of questions and responses that will be used to provide additional data that will help us maintain our reputation as a community that supports a positive business climate. Dr. Davis will conduct the sessions.

Chamber members who would like to participate in one of the focus groups are invited to contact Rea Cantwell, Executive Director, at 440.238.3366 or info@strongsvillechamber.com.

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DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI PROGRAM

The Strongsville Alumni Association, the Strongsville Education Foundation, and the Strongsville Chamber of Commerce invite you to nominate a candidate for the Distinguished Alumni Award.

The purpose of this program is to honor those Strongsville High graduates who have distinguished themselves through personal development, community service, or career accomplishments. The program also recognizes former Strongsville School employees who have exemplified the true meaning of teaching and devotion to students.

Nominees must be graduates of Strongsville High School and must have graduated at least 15 years prior to nomination. Faculty members must not be current employees of the district.

This year's awards luncheon, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, will be held on Tuesday, September 16.

Nomination forms may be obtained from Scott Ross, Director of Communications for the Strongsville City Schools at 440.572.7026, or from the Chamber office at 440.238.3366.

Deadline for nominations to be submitted is June 30, 2008.

ECONOMIC STIMULUS ACT: SMALL BUSINESS WRITE-OFFS

Our thanks go to Gregg Finkler, treasurer of the Strongsville Chamber, for providing the following information as a service to our members:

The new economic stimulus law, signed on February 13, officially called the Economic Stimulus Act of 2008, provides one time tax rebates to individuals under certain income levels. **BUT THE BEST TAX BREAKS IN THE LAW ARE RESERVED FOR SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS!** Specifically, the new law contains these two key tax breaks:

1. Section 179 Expensing-- under this section of the tax code, you can currently deduct, or "expense", the cost of business assets placed in service during the year, up to a specified maximum. Based on prior law, the annual limit was \$125,000, although the inflation-adjusted amount for 2008 was \$128,000. Section 179 deductions are phased out to the extent that they exceed a threshold of \$500,000 (\$510,000 for 2008).

The new law doubles the maximum annual deduction to \$250,000. It also jumps the phase-out threshold all the way up to \$800,000. But these enhancements apply only for assets placed in service in 2008. For 2009 and 2010, the figures revert to the previous levels.

Warning: If you have a fiscal year business, the increased Section 179 deduction and phase-out threshold do not take effect until the fiscal year begins in 2008. You will want to "time" purchases accordingly.

2. Bonus Depreciation - The new law enables you to write off 50% of the cost of qualified business assets placed in service in 2008. Note that this tax break only applies to new assets. It can't be claimed for used equipment. One exception: Assets sold by a taxpayer, and then leased back, may qualify.

As with Section 179 Expensing, the cut-off date for placing assets in service is generally December 31, 2008. But this deadline is extended to December 31, 2009 for qualifying property with a cost recovery period of 10 years or longer, certain transportation, and aircraft.

Best of all, you can claim bonus depreciation for the same assets that qualify for Section 179 deductions. The remaining balance, if any, is available for regular depreciation deductions.

If you have any questions regarding this new law or business taxes, please contact Finkler & Company CPA's at (440) 826-1550.

NEW MEMBERS OF THE CHAMBER

Aflak/ George Sherman
Akron Beacon Journal
Allen, David
American Opinion/Brian Switzer
Antonio's Pizza/Fred LoSchiavo
Boundless Flight, Inc./Heidi Hooper
BT Eviction Services./James Wells
Buffalo Wild Wings/Jerry Franklin
Cali Juice/Bradley Labuda
Castle, John
CMacuga Photography/Chuck Macuga
Construction Loan Services
CST Co. Inc./Jonathan Maly
DaVita Dialysis / Paula Hyre
Dynamic Fitness Group/Brian McIntosh
First Evangelical Lutheran Church
Five Points Dentistry
Fred T. Chaney
Good Times Party Supply / Michael Harb
Green Flag Profit Recovery
H. Leff Electric /Paul Kemp
Imac Services
Integrity Benefits Network
JPS Excavating/Joe Poyma
Konica Minolta Business Solutions/Robert Haffner
Leonard P. Rich
LeVolte/Greg Gibel
Lucky Shoes
M2Management Group
Marketing Potential, LLC
Mary Kay Cosmetics/Gloria Slaga
Merrill Lynch/Cindy Fuller
MTM Imports/Pamela Myers
North American Lending Group/Joshua Brant
Ohio Institute of Real Estate Studies/Jolyn T. Brown
PO\$E Profit Or Savings Enterprise/Rachel Wittenmyer
Prudential Financial/Brian Allen
Pulte Homes/Damien Baden
Riley, Shawn
Schill Landscaping/Craig Pavlich
Servpro of Southern Cuy Cty
Social Lite Parties/Lynn Kaminski
Sports Rehabilitation/Sally Newman
Stephan Financial Services, Inc.
Strongsville Education Foundation
Tek-Sources, Inc/Ravi Velu
The Cleveland Women's Journal - West
Toshiba Business Solutions - Ohio
Triv's
Wirtz, Kimberly

Chamber members are encouraged to support other members whenever possible.

The Strongsville Chamber is "Taking Care of Business."

KIWANIS GOLF OUTING WILL AID AUTISM

The Strongsville Kiwanis Club is partnering with the Autism Society of America for this year's golf outing on Wednesday, June 18 at Coppertop at Cherokee Hills. The familiar two-person scramble will continue and the outing will again feature the \$10,000 Hole-in-One Challenge on a par 3 hole.

The outing will cost \$85 per person (\$90 after May 31) and includes breakfast, golf, cart, and dinner. An 8:30 a.m. shotgun start is scheduled. The outing is open to the public, but reservations are required.

Autism is a childhood disorder that has received recent attention as increased numbers are being diagnosed with the disorder each year. The Kiwanis Club is hosting this fund raiser to raise awareness and to support the Autism Society of America for the work it does with families of autistic children.

For reservations or more information, contact John at 440.238.0288. Hole sponsors are encouraged and welcome to contact the club at this phone number, as well.



CHAMBER WEBSITE TO BE RE-DESIGNED

As their major goal for 2008, the Chamber's Strategic Planning Committee is working on re-designing the Chamber's website - www.strongsvillechamber.com.

The committee is currently accepting proposals from member-vendors for changes that will improve the web site in terms of appearance, function, search capabilities, and user friendliness.



We will also be accepting advertising on the web site for the first time when the new site is completed. Ads may be posted only for members of the Chamber and will be available for a pre-determined, but minimal, fee.

What ideas do you have to improve our web site? Let us know at 440.238.3366 or info@strongsvillechamber.com