



A Mini Vacation Right in  
the Middle of Town

## 67<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL HOMECOMING

ALL SYSTEMS ARE GO!  
July 22 -25, 2009

Homecoming Days 2009, scheduled for July 22 – 25, is the signature event for the Strongsville Chamber of Commerce. Four days of games, fun, food, rides, and entertainment make Homecoming the premier event of every summer.

This year's entertainment headliners –

Wednesday	Phil Dirt and the Dozers
Thursday	Cleveland's Breakfast Club
Friday	Shout
Saturday	Lawless

There's something for every member of the family at Homecoming. The food is terrific, the rides are exciting, and it's simply four days of fun for everyone. Plan now to make Homecoming a part of your summer schedule.

The schedule for this year's Homecoming will be:

Wednesday, July 22	3:00 p.m. – Midnight
Thursday, July 23	3:00 p.m. – Midnight
Friday, July 24	3:00 p.m. – Midnight
Saturday, July 25	12:00 noon – Midnight (Kid's Day)

### VOLUNTEER FOR HOMECOMING

Homecoming is only possible with the help of more than 250 community volunteers who donate their time to make the event successful. The personal satisfaction that comes from working with and helping an organization that does so much good in the community is unmatched. *To volunteer your time, call the Chamber office at 440.238.3366.*

### BE A HOMECOMING SPONSOR!

Sponsorships for this year's Homecoming are still available at all levels. This is a great way to advertise your business and support community projects at the same time. Homecoming usually draws between 50,000 – 60,000 people each year. It's terrific exposure for your business. *Call the Chamber office at 440.238.3366 to discuss sponsorship levels and opportunities.*

### SPIRIT OF STRONGSVILLE PARADE

Wednesday, July 22

Sponsored once again this year by Fifth Third Bank, the annual Spirit of Strongsville Parade will be held on Wednesday, July 22. This is a tremendous opportunity for businesses, organizations, youth groups, and children's programs to participate in one of the largest events of its kind in Northeast Ohio. Typically more than 10,000 spectators line the street to enjoy the floats, marching units, athletic teams and many others who are parading by. For more information about how you can become a part of this exciting parade, call the Chamber office at 440.238.3366.

### New Member Benefit

### CHAMBER AND COLUMBIA HILLS ENTER PARTNERSHIP



The Strongsville Chamber and Columbia Hills Country Club have entered into an agreement that will allow Chamber members to use the amenities at Columbia Hills, one of the finest private clubs in Northeast Ohio.

On a limited basis, members of the Chamber can play golf, use the pool, and enjoy the dining room on a "pay-as-you-go" plan. Members can use the dining room five times per year for breakfast, lunch, or dinner and can visit the golf course and pool twice a year. There are some restrictions on days and times that club facilities can be used by Chamber members.

"We are very pleased that we've been able to work out this plan for our members", commented Gordy Glissman, Chamber president. "It's really a win-win. Our members can experience the quality of Columbia Hills Country Club for no additional investment in the Chamber. Columbia Hills will be able to introduce what they have to offer to persons who may be thinking about joining a country club."

For more information, please call the Chamber office at 440.238.3366.



### GET MORE FOR LESS!

### PARTNERSHIP WITH BLUE CROSS/BLUE SHIELD

Through our membership in NOACC (Northern Ohio Chambers of Commerce), the Strongsville Chamber has partnered with Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield to provide group medical insurance, as well as discounts on dental, vision, and other coverage. Anthem's suite of products is designed to meet you where you are. Whether you're looking to keep costs down (and who isn't!) without compromising quality, or you are looking for richer benefits, you can count on Anthem for sound solutions from the brand that America trusts.

Health – Anthem offers a full range of HMO, POS, PPO, and EPO products, including consumer-driven health plans designed by Lumenos. Groups of 2 – 50 can receive up to a 4% discount on any of the health plans; groups of 51 – 199 employees may qualify for a 1% alliance credit. Both discounts are available with your membership in the Strongsville Chamber.

Dental - Dental Blue offers members access to an extensive national dental network that includes more than 85,000 providers. Dental Blue has comprehensive plan designs that include discounts on non-covered services and discounts after annual maximums have been met.

Vision – Blue View VisionSM gives employees access to one of

the largest national vision networks with more than 44,000 providers, including independent practitioners, as well as popular retail locations like LensCrafters, Target Optical, Sears Optical, JC Penney Optical, and Pearle Vision locations. Our flexible plans are designed to include extra member discounts.

Life and Disability – With more than 50 years of experience, Anthem Life has the experience to provide secure life and disability options. Their products include extra member assistance benefits like the Resource Advisor program which helps with services like online will preparation and identity theft. The program also provides face-to-face counseling for beneficiaries and disabled employees.

Employee Assistance – Anthem EAP puts convenient resources within your employees' reach with access to toll free 24/7 counseling, as well as legal, elder care, child care, and financial consultation referral services.

Other – Anthem members can also receive discounts on over-the-counter drugs, books, health and beauty aids, hearing aids, health club memberships, and much more through [www.anthem.com](http://www.anthem.com).

# May Luncheon

## Will Recognize Scholarship Winners

The May Business Luncheon will feature presentations to the Strongsville High School students who have been awarded Chamber scholarships. The luncheon will be held on Tuesday, May 19 at the Strongsville Holiday Inn.

The proceeds from the Chamber's annual Holiday Dance are used to fund the scholarships. This year the Chamber will be awarding 12 scholarships valued at more than \$22,000 to students who plan to pursue further education. The scholarships are designed to reward those students for their level of community service and those who plan to pursue a business-related field in college or technical school.

For many years now the Chamber has been able to award the highest number of scholarships, with the highest dollar value, of any of the local organizations. "This is due to the tremendous support we get from the community for our dance. We could not do it without their help," observed Gordy Glissman, Chamber president.

The luncheon will begin at 11:45 a.m. at the Holiday Inn. The cost for Chamber members or guests is \$15.00 at the door, or in advance by calling 440.238.3366. **Reservations must be made before May 15.**

You may reserve by calling the Chamber office at 440.238.3366 or online at [www.strongsvillechamber.com](http://www.strongsvillechamber.com).

## OHIO FOUNDATION OF INDEPENDENT COLLEGES

Since 1950, the Ohio Foundation of Independent Colleges has been representing Ohio's non tax supported colleges and universities by facilitating an annual campaign of Ohio's corporations and foundations. They also manage the Ohio Scholars program and are helping to connect scholarship donors with students who qualify for financial assistance. Their sophisticated scholarship process allows donors to directly link their support to students who qualify on a range of criteria including school district, academic major, ethnicity, service and leadership, religious preference, etc. Many Ohio businesses are utilizing this organization to match up with their corporate strategic interests and human relations focus.

Ohio is actually the nation's leader in providing corporate and foundation support for their independent colleges and we have the second largest number of non-tax funded colleges and universities in the nation. The 34 member institutions of OFIC enroll more than 97,000 students and each year many students from



The Ohio Foundation of Independent Colleges

Strongsville chooses these fine colleges.

Ed Hartzell, CEO of Antares Management Solutions here in Strongsville recently introduces the Chamber, as well as Mayor Tom Perciak, to the fine work of OFIC. "Helping young people from our community, especially those who otherwise might not be able to afford it, is something that we can all value," commented Mr. Hartzell.

OFIC also provides a management service to companies that establish scholarships for the children of employees, regardless of where they are going to college.

The Chamber encourages you to visit the OFIC web site at [www.ofic.org](http://www.ofic.org) to learn more about the important work of this organization and how you would be able to participate in assisting deserving young people from Strongsville to find a bridge to college. For more information, please call Mr. Hartzell at 440.414.2121.



## ROTARY CLUB OF STRONGSVILLE

The Rotary Club of Strongsville will host a 5K FUN RUN and 1M Walk for Charity on Saturday, May 2, 2009. This Hermes-sanctioned event will benefit the Youth Challenge Organization and other local charities. The FUN RUN and WALK will start at 8:30 a.m. and will take place on the grounds surrounding Westfield SouthPark Mall. Registration will begin at 7:00 a.m. on race day, or can be done via [www.hermescleveland.com](http://www.hermescleveland.com), or through any Rotary member. The cost is \$25.00 per person, however, there are discounts available for early or group registration by April 24. The Rotary Club is seeking sponsors and participants for this worthwhile event.

For more information, please contact Bruce Keenen at [bgkeenen@hotmail.com](mailto:bgkeenen@hotmail.com) or 216.789.6314.

## BOOSTERS FOR PERCIAK

Boosters for Perciak will sponsor their annual VIP Party for Strongsville Mayor Thomas P. Perciak. The event will be held on Tuesday, April 28, beginning at 5:30 p.m., at Michaud's Town n' Country.

Tickets are \$75 per person and may be purchased at the Chamber office at 18829 Royalton Road between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.



## CHAMBER EVENTS COME AS YOU ARE!

All events sponsored by the Strongsville Chamber of Commerce are "come as you are".

We've heard that some of our members are reluctant to attend our events because they are wearing their "work clothes" and might feel out of place when others are dressed more formally.

Please know that our programs are intended to be helpful to all of our members, and we want to encourage all to feel welcome and a part of this vibrant and growing organization.

## ARTS IN STRONGSVILLE

The Arts in Strongsville initiative will sponsor its annual fundraiser on Friday, June 5. The gala evening will be "A Lil' Bit of Country/A Lil' Bit of Rock n' Roll. Music will be provided by the show band Lawless and food catered by Mad Cactus. Party goers will get lessons in line dancing and the chance to compete in a jitterbug contest. Held at the Columbia Ballroom, the fun evening will begin at 8:00 p.m.

Tickets are just \$40.00 per person. For more information, contact Linda at 440.846.1914 or Cindy at 440.572.1291.

## BUSINESS AFTER HOURS ~ NETWORKING AT THE MALL

All current members of the Strongsville Chamber are cordially invited to attend what has become an annual event for those active in the organization – the Business After Hours Networking event at Westfield SouthPark Mall. This year's fun evening will be held on Wednesday, May 6 from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. in the mall's main concourse.

Food and beverages are provided by the restaurants and food court vendors in and around the mall. There is no cost for current members of the Chamber for this great opportunity for networking and to grow your business.

For reservations, call the Chamber office at 440.238.3366, e-mail to [info@strongsvillechamber.com](mailto:info@strongsvillechamber.com), or register online at [www.strongsvillechamber.com](http://www.strongsvillechamber.com).



## WOMEN IN BUSINESS Breakfast Seminar SELF DEFENSE

Jeff Ellis' International Karate Centers  
17112 Pearl Road, Strongsville, 440 238-9390  
Web: [www.jeffelliskarate.com](http://www.jeffelliskarate.com) Email: [ikc4karate@roadrunner.com](mailto:ikc4karate@roadrunner.com)

**What:** Spring program in the series for Women in Business.  
**When:** Wednesday, May 6, 2009, beginning at 8:00 a.m.  
**Where:** Ehrnfelt Recreation Center, 18100 Royalton Road, 44136  
**Reservations:** By May 1 to 440.238.3366, via e-mail to [info@strongsvillechamber.com](mailto:info@strongsvillechamber.com), or online at [www.strongsvillechamber.com](http://www.strongsvillechamber.com).  
**Cost:** \$15.00 per person, payable at the door or in advance by calling 440.238.3366.  
**Program:** Basic Self Defense for Women, conducted by Jeff Ellis, president and owner of Strongsville's International Karate Center.

