



18829 ROYALTON ROAD
STRONGSVILLE, OH 44136



February, 2008

Newsletter

Luncheon Will Feature Major Presentation By A Mayor

The Strongsville Chamber of Commerce March Business Luncheon will feature a major presentation by Mayor Thomas P. Perciak.

The mayor will deliver his annual "State-of-the-City" address at the meeting, which is scheduled for Tuesday, March 18 at the Ehrnfelt Recreation Center. Lunch will be served at noon, with the mayor's remarks to follow.

As has been our tradition for many years, the mayor will be discussing the growth of our city, our financial status, and plans for the future.

Mayor Perciak has been an active member of the Chamber since 1979 and a trustee for more than 20 years. He served as Chamber president in 1995, 1996, and 1997.

This annual luncheon has become a highly popular event in our community. A sizeable crowd is expected, so members are urged to make reservations early. Reservations can be made by calling the office at 440.238.3366 or via e-mail at info@strongsvillechamber.com. Reservation deadline will be Friday, March 14.

another chamber that has a more useable site? What would work better for you? Please let us know by calling the office at 440-238-3366 or via e-mail at www.strongsvillechamber.com.

Also, the chamber will be accepting proposals for the web site design work. We always prefer to deal with members of the Strongsville Chamber first, so please let us know if you or your company does this kind of work and if you would like to submit a proposal.

Please direct any questions to the office at 440-238-3366.

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

Chamber member Bucca di Beppo is sponsoring a Business After Hours networking program for members of the Strongsville Chamber.

The event will be held on Tuesday, February 26 at their restaurant, located at 16677 SouthPark Center Drive. Networking and socializing will be continuous from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Appetizers and beverages will be provided by the restaurant.

Gordon Glissman, Chamber president, remarked "These networking programs are very important in the life of the Chamber and the community. They give us the opportunity to come together and talk informally about what's happening in our city and to communicate what's going on in our respective businesses. We are always very grateful to those who give us these opportunities by sponsoring an After Hours program."

CHAMBER TO UPDATE WEB SITE

The Strategic Planning committee of the Chamber has recommended to the Board that a major emphasis for 2008 be the updating of our web site to reflect new ideas and to make it more user friendly for our 550 members. The current web site was created in 2001 and has not seen many changes since. Do you have some ideas for improving our web site? Are you a member of

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Chamber News

2008 Chamber Event

Reserve for your membership renewal by March 15, 2008. The early renewal deadline is March 15, 2008. The early renewal deadline is March 15, 2008.

Commercial Members: \$100
Non-Commercial Members: \$50
Student Members: \$25
Youth Members: \$10
Family Members: \$10
Life Members: \$10,000
Sustaining Members: \$10,000
Corporate Members: \$10,000
Honorary Members: \$10,000
Patron Members: \$10,000
Lifetime Members: \$10,000

Chamber Lunch

Chamber Lunch is a special event for members and guests. It is held at the Ehrnfelt Recreation Center. The lunch is served at noon. The cost is \$12.00 per person. Reservations are required. The reservation deadline is Friday, March 14.

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ROTARY CHILI OPEN

The Strongsville Rotary proudly announces the 17th annual Chili Open to be held on Saturday, February 23 at the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds.

In the past this event has raised more than \$1 million for various charities. All proceeds go to selected charities.

For more information, visit www.chiliopen.org or call the Hotline at 216-898-4719.

ATTENTION: JOB-SEEKERS AND EMPLOYERS

Polaris Career Center and the Board of Cuyahoga County Commissioners invite northeast Ohio employers to participate in the Polaris/Westshore Neighborhood Family Service Center Career Fair 2008. The Fair will be held on Wednesday, March 26 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.. The Career Fair is a collaborative effort between Polaris Career Center, Cuyahoga Department of Employment & Family Services, Westshore Neighborhood Family Service Center, Employment Connection.

This free event, designed to foster the development of a competitive and productive workforce, will provide a vital link between employers, job seekers, community organizations, and government agencies. Polaris/Westshore Career Fair 2008 promises to attract more than 100 companies and more than 1000 job seekers. In addition, local agencies and representatives from Polaris will be on hand, providing access to educational resources, resume assistance, and much more.

Participating employers will be provided a free table, continental breakfast, and a boxed lunch. Set up on March 26 will take place from 8:00 – 9:30 a.m., followed by a brief welcome program.

To register as an employer, or for additional information, please contact 216-898-6100 or 440-891-7706. The registration deadline for employers is February 29.

CHAMBER SETS DATES FOR 66TH HOMECOMING

The trustees of the Strongsville Chamber of Commerce has set Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, July 16, 17, 18, and 19 as the dates for the 66th Annual Strongsville Homecoming.

Homecoming General Chairman Tom Burichin said the Chamber will be contacting tent managers during the months of February and March.

He also noted that the Chamber is actively soliciting sponsors for the entertainment and other facets of the annual community celebration.

As always, volunteers are needed to help at this year’s Homecoming.

Those interested in being sponsors or volunteers for the event are asked to contact the Chamber office at 440.238.3366 or via e-mail at info@strongsvillechamber.com.

PRESIDENT NAMES TRUSTEES TO CHAMBER COMMITTEES

Strongsville Chamber of Commerce president Gordon Glissman recently announced the 2008 committee assignments for the Board of Trustees:

This year’s board members are: Rich Baldin, Marc Bittinger (newly appointed), Frank Bohac, Bob Bourne, Tom Burichin, Mike Catan, Walter Ehrnfelt III, Gregg Finkler, Gordon Glissman (president), David Gusman, Bill Harr, Dave Jager, George Jardine, Bob Kalfas, Mike Kalinich, Doug Kawiecki, Joe Lucchese, Bob McGrath, Jim Mocho (vice-president), Bob Moody, Tom Perciak, Tom Rakowsky, Neil Sika, Jeff Smutek, Dan Stroemple, and Rick Voigt.

The committees are:

Homecoming: Burichin (chair), Kalinich (co-chair), Glissman, Harr, Kalfas, Kawiecki, Lucchese, and McGrath.

Business After Hours: Stroemple (chair), Kalfas, and Moody.

Golf Outing: Sika (chair), Bohac, Catan, Jager, Jardine, McGrath, Rakowsky, Smutek, and Voigt.

Holiday Dance: Finkler (chair), Kalinich (co-chair), Baldin, Bittinger, Catan, Kawiecki, and Mocho.

Strategic Planning: Gusman, Lucchese, Rakowsky, Stroemple, and Smutek.

Executive Committee: Glissman (president), Mocho (vice-president), Jager (past president), Kawiecki (past president), Burichin (Homecoming chair), Ehrnfelt (attorney), Finkler (treasurer), Cantwell (Executive Director).



FOUNDATION TO HOST MARCH TRIVIA MADNESS

The Strongsville Education Foundation will present its March Trivia Madness at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 9 at Strongsville High School, 20025 Lunn Road.

The evening will feature more than 30 six-person teams competing to answer 40 questions on a wide range of topics. The first place team will win \$1000, second place, \$400, and third place, \$200.

To enter, each team must obtain a minimum donation of \$400.

Funds raised from this event sustain Strongsville’s educational efforts by supporting innovative programs that enhance the quality of education, provide scholarships, and foster staff development to enrich instructional services.

To become a sponsor, to register a team, or for more information, please call 440.238.5778.



CHAMBER FUNDS LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Dedicating the proceeds from the annual Holiday Dance held in December, the Chamber will award a total of 13 scholarships to deserving Strongsville High School seniors later this spring. The Chamber awards more scholarships, with a higher dollar value, than any other local organization.

Although the high school scholarship committee will select the actual recipients, the Chamber has established selection criteria that include financial need, community service, level of academic improvement, and intended college major. The Chamber particularly supports students who intend to major in business at the college level. This includes those headed for careers in sales, finance, marketing, accounting and management.

“We feel that a major purpose of any chamber is to help prepare the next generation of business leaders who will continue the entrepreneurial spirit that has made our nation great,” commented Gregg Finkler, chairman of the Holiday Dance committee and Treasurer of the Strongsville Chamber. “Our direct support of these scholarships, thanks to the outstanding support of the community in buying tickets for the dance, makes it possible for us to fulfill that purpose.”

The Holiday Scholarship Dance has been a Strongsville tradition for more than 40 years. The 2008 dance is scheduled for Friday, December 5. Tickets will be available in October.

WOMEN IN BUSINESS SEMINAR

The Chamber is currently planning several new and interesting programs in our on-going Women in Business Breakfast Seminars. These programs are held periodically throughout the year and deal with issues that are unique to women in the business world.

Mark your calendar – the next program will be held on Thursday, May 15 and will feature Patrice (Catan) Alberty as the guest of honor and presenter. Look for further information in the April newsletter about this powerful program.

The breakfast will be held at the Strongsville Holiday Inn from 8:00 – 9:30 a.m. Cost per person is just \$20, payable at the door. Reservations will be taken after April 1 by calling the Chamber office at 440.238.3366.