

FAMILIES FIRST HOMECOMING

Strongsville Chamber trustees, officers, and members are putting the final touches on this year's edition of Families First Homecoming, scheduled for July 19, 20, 21, and 22 on the Commons. More than 100 volunteers will have been preparing for the annual event.

The four day event will feature games, food, and rides that will appeal to the entire community with a focus on family fun and activities.

Kicking off the festivities will be the 33rd Annual Homecoming Parade. This year's parade has nearly 100 floats and displays to thrill and excite all members of the family, regardless of age. The parade begins at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 19 and proceeds on Pearl Road, south from Progress Drive to the Commons. For the eighth consecutive year **FIFTH THIRD BANK** will be the official sponsor of the Homecoming Parade.

FIFTH THIRD has also graciously agreed to be the Top Stage sponsor for the event, again demonstrating their commitment to the benefit of the community and its residents.

Other major sponsors include **ICI PAINTS** and **PARK VIEW FEDERAL SAVINGS BANK**. (see article below)

The Chamber is exceptionally grateful to all of the sponsors without whom the Homecoming would not be a reality for the community.

HOMECOMING SPONSORS MAKE IT HAPPEN! (Use Park View Logo)

Park View Federal Savings has been a major sponsor of the Families First Homecoming for several years. The Homecoming is only successful because of the support we receive from our sponsors. In turn, the Chamber is able to help with funding for many worthwhile community projects with the proceeds from Homecoming.

Established in Cleveland in 1920, Park View Federal Savings Bank is a federally chartered capital stock savings bank operating 17 full-service branch offices throughout Greater Cleveland.

Park View offers a full range of savings programs, including Passbook, Statement savings, Holiday Club accounts, and Certificates of Deposit with rates that are competitive with other institutions in the market area. The bank also offers a variety of checking programs with your choice of interest-earning or non-interest earning accounts and account fees that won't strain your budget. With Park View's Online Suite Banking you can check your account balances, transfer funds, or pay bills around the clock with just a few simple key strokes. Park View also offers Money Fund accounts, and a full range of retirement plans to meet your individual needs. Also available are Health Savings accounts.

In addition to checking and savings products, Park View offers comprehensive lending programs at competitive rates and terms to buy, build, or refinance homes or investment properties. Home Equity Lines of Credit and innovative financing programs for commercial or real estate properties are also available.

The Chamber is enormously grateful to all of our sponsors for making the Families First Homecoming a reality. We urge our members to support these sponsors and to thank them for what their commitment means to Strongsville!

Member Spotlight –

Use photo of exterior building from www.christchurchohio.org

CHRIST CHURCH – ON THE GROW

Christ Church, a Chamber member for many years, has recently dedicated a new building that reflects the rapid expansion of the congregation here in the Strongsville area.

Christ Church started in the early 1960's as the Central Baptist Church in Parma. In 1982, the vision of the new lead pastor, Dr. Dave Collings, was to become a church with both local and regional influence and to develop a campus that would be both inviting and help to facilitate a life impacting ministry.

So, in 1991, Christ Church moved from Parma to a facility on Lunn Road in Strongsville with a goal to grow the congregation to about 200 people. In 1998, the church moved their community services to the auditorium at Strongsville High School to accommodate the rapidly growing membership. After much study and reflection they purchased 31 scenic acres on State Route 82 in Columbia Township, just across the Strongsville boundary line. In 2003 the church paid off the mortgage for the new property and in 2004 hired their 10th staff member and sold the Lunn Road building to the Strongsville City Schools.

With a loan from Chamber member Park View Federal Savings and Loan, the church then broke ground and began construction of the first phase of the new building. At a cost of \$3 million, phase is now open and consists of approximately 38,000 square feet with breathtaking views on all sides of the building. The church's long term plan calls for additional expansion to about 100,000 square feet of worship and educational space.

Congratulations and best wishes to one of our very successful Chamber members!

LUNCHEONS RECESS FOR SUMMER

Just a reminder...The Chamber luncheons are not held during the summer. Luncheons will resume on Tuesday, September 19. Further information will be available in the August newsletter, including reservation information.

EVENT SPONSORSHIPS STILL AVAILABLE

Persons or businesses who may be interested in purchasing an Event Sponsorship for the Homecoming should contact the Chamber office at 440.238.3366 before July 12. The cost of an Event Sponsorship is just \$250.00.

Event sponsor names are listed on a sign and displayed throughout the four day event. It is estimated that 50,000 – 60,000 people usually attend the event and will see the signage.

Remember the deadline is July 12!

CHAMBER AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS TO TEN STUDENTS (WITH GROUP PHOTO)

At a special luncheon held on May 16, the Strongsville Chamber awarded scholarships to ten deserving Strongsville students.

Receiving scholarships were Jacqueline Conn, Michael Conrad, Anna Li-Conrad, Kelly McConnell, Jay Medlock, Mark Nandor, Lauryn Samelko, Arthur Sobczak, Jessica Technow, and Beth Thompson.

Jacqueline Conn will be attending the Ohio State University to study Industrial and Systems Engineering. **Michael Conrad** plans to go to the University of Akron to major in Computer Science.

Anna Li-Conrad will attend Carnegie-Mellon in the fall, but she has not yet decided on her specific field of study. **Kelly McConnell** will be heading to St. John's University in New York. She, too, is still undecided on her major.

Jay Medlock will attend the University of Dayton to study either history or pre-med. **Mark Nandor** is headed to Case-western Reserve to concentrate on engineering as his major.

Lauryn Samelko will attend Loyola University of Chicago with pre-medical studies as her intended field. **Arthur Sobczak** is headed to the University of Cincinnati to study engineering.

Jessica Technow will be going to the University of Notre Dame for a double major in biology and psychology, while **Beth Thompson** is headed to the Honors College at Ohio University to study international communications.

“This year represents the 42nd year that the Strongsville Chamber has presented scholarships to some of the hardest working young people in our schools.” commented Dave Jager, Chamber president. “We feel very privileged that we are able to support their efforts in such a meaningful way.”

The Chamber provides more financial assistance in the form of scholarships to Strongsville students than any other local organization. The funding for the scholarships comes from the annual Holiday Dance, held on the first Friday of December each year. The proceeds from the dance also make it possible for the Chamber to make a donation to the Library-Media Center at Sts. Joseph and John Interparochial School.

The Chamber’s 2006 Holiday Scholarship Dance will be held on Friday, December 1 this year. Tickets will be available at the Chamber Office (440.238.3366) beginning about September 15.

GOLF OUTING

Save the Date...The annual Chamber Golf Outing will be held on October 2 at Columbia Hills Country Club. All golfers (and duffers) are invited for a day of fun, food, and golf. Watch the July and August newsletters for more information or call the office at 440.238.3366.

HOLIDAY SCHOLARSHIP DANCE

Save this date, too...the Chamber’s annual Holiday Scholarship Dance will be held on Friday, December 1 at Michaud’s Town and Country. Tickets will be available at the Chamber office in September. Plan now to be a part of the biggest and best holiday celebration in Strongsville!

CHAMBER MEMBERS WILL BENEFIT FROM SOCCER TOURNAMENTS

Three upcoming soccer tournaments will be bringing thousands of people to town who will be staying in our hotels, eating in our restaurants, and shopping in our retail establishments.

First, Strongsville is one of seven host cities for the Continental Cup International Youth Soccer tournament to be held July 10 -14. More than 200 soccer teams will be staying and playing in the seven city area, bringing as many as 3500 attendees with them. This

includes players, parents, referees, and volunteers. Teams will be coming from the United States as well as Kenya, Poland, Mexico, and Canada.

Next, the 4th Annual Adidas National High School Showcase will be held in Strongsville. On July 21, 22, and 23 the high school boys will be playing here. The high school girls will play the following weekend – July 28, 29, and 30. In all more than 225 high school teams are expected in town with parents, siblings, volunteers, and college representatives.

These events represent a terrific opportunity for local businesses to be a part of some of the best soccer competition in the nation.

NEW MEMBERS

The Chamber recently welcomed these new members:

M.A.D. Doctor Mobile Car Wash and Detailing
Studio 82
Huge Heating and Cooling Co., Inc.
Meyers Software
Ken Seamon
Dagmara Ragone
C.J. Harrington
Raymond Seballos MD, Inc.
Crooked River Local Longhouse, Inc.
Welcome Wagon
Gazzo Realty, Inc.

The Chamber urges all members to do business with other members as much as possible. For detailed contact information for any Chamber member, please call the office at 440.238.3366 or check the web site at info@strongsvillechamber.com.