

## **HOMECOMING SPONSORS MAKE IT HAPPEN!**

The Chamber's signature event, Families First Homecoming, is scheduled for July 19 -22 on the Strongsville Commons. The Homecoming has been an annual event for more than 50 years! The proceeds from the four day celebration are used to fund a wide variety of community projects that contribute to our quality of life in Strongsville.

The Homecoming would not be possible without the generous support of our sponsors. Last month we focused on **Fifth Third Bank** for their help with the parade and entertainment. This month we express our appreciation to ICI Paints, who, for the second consecutive year, will sponsor the water bottles that are so important to the success of the Families First Homecoming.

ICI Paints is one of the world's largest producers of specialty products and paints. ICI Paints worldwide has 49 manufacturing sites in 25 countries and more than 15,000 employees, Headquartered in Strongsville, the North American operations were formed when the ICI Group acquired Glidden Paints in 1986. Today, ICI produces widely respected and tradition rich decorative coating brands such as Glidden, Dulux, Ralph Lauren, and Liquid Nails. ICI Paints also holds a prominent position in the packaging coatings industry and is a world leader in the specialized market for internal and external coatings for cans and other metal containers. Products are distributed and sold in ICI, the Home Depot, and independent dealers nationwide.

Again, our sincere appreciation is extended to ICI for their generous support in making Homecoming a reality for 2006.

## **SCHOLARSHIPS TO BE AWARDED AT LUNCHEON**

The monthly business luncheon for May will feature ten students from Strongsville High School who have earned a Chamber scholarship. The students and their parents will be present at the luncheon to receive the award for being selected for this honor.

The luncheon will be held on Tuesday, May 16, 11:45 a.m., at the Strongsville Holiday Inn. The luncheon will cost \$12.00 per person, payable at the door, or in advance by calling the Chamber office at 440.238.3366.

Eight scholarships will be presented to graduates of Strongsville High, and an additional two scholarships will go to those who have completed programs at Polaris Career Center. The Chamber donates more scholarships, with a higher dollar value, than any other local organization in the community.

This year marks the 42<sup>nd</sup> year that the Chamber has been presenting scholarships to Strongsville students. The proceeds from the annual Holiday Scholarship Dance are used

to fund these scholarships on an annual basis. The dance continues to grow, so we are able to provide more support for students.

With the proceeds from the dance a donation is also made to the media center at Sts. Joseph & John Interparochial School. This will be the seventh year that such a donation has been made to the school.

This luncheon is generally one of the best attended of the year, so members are urged to make their reservations early, but not later than May 12.

### **WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS**

The Board of Directors has recently approved the following as new members of the Chamber:

American National Bank  
William Green  
eBlueprint  
Nikken Global Wellness  
Freedom Wireless, Inc.  
Sydby Enterprises  
1<sup>st</sup> Rate Finance, Ltd.  
Beth Ann Schenz, Esq.  
RDM Home Improvement LLC  
Homemaster Realty

We're pleased to welcome these new members and urge all of our members to consider contacting them for potential business connections.

### **38<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GOLF OUTING IS SCHEDULED**

The Strongsville Chamber of Commerce has set Monday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> as the date for their 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Outing.

This very popular event will once again be held at Columbia Hills Country Club and will include a full day of activities, including 18 holes of golf, cart, lunch, door prizes, skill prizes, and complete use of the club's locker room facilities.

Chamber members are asked to mark their calendars for this popular annual event. Watch coming newsletters for more information or call the Chamber office at 440.238.3366.

**RIB BURNOFF**

The Strongsville City Club's 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Rib Burnoff will be held Thursday through Saturday, June 22, 23, and 24 on the Strongsville Commons. Hours remain the same as in the past – Thursday from 4:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m., Friday from 3:00 – 11:00, and Saturday from 12:00 noon – 11:00 p.m.

The proceeds from the Rib Burnoff assist the City Club in supporting community projects.

### **REC CENTER'S CORPORATE CLASH III IS FILLING UP!**

The Strongsville Recreation Department has set May 17<sup>th</sup> as the deadline to register teams for the Third Annual Corporate Clash. It is important to get your team registered by the deadline because of space limitations.

Last year there were eight teams that participated and the Rec Department is hoping to exceed that number this year. Darice/Pat Catan's and Hy-Level Industries will be returning to defend their co-champion title. Other teams already registered are ICI Paints and MCPc Business Products.

Each company will participate against one another in 12 events. The events are : horseshoes, billiards, miniature golf, 3 mile run, shooting skills on ice, tug-of-war, volleyball, bowling, softball throw, 3 on 3 basketball, softball, and darts.

Corporate Clash is open to businesses, civic organizations, and families. All participants must be at least 18 years old.

The event kicks off on June 13 and concludes on August 1. For more information, contact Bryan Bogre, Recreation Supervisor, at 440.878.6000, ext. 1511.

### **KIWANIS GOLF OUTING**

The annual golf outing sponsored by the Strongsville Kiwanis is set for Tuesday, June 20 at Copper Top Cherokee Hills Golf Club.

This is the club's major fundraiser with net proceeds being used to underwrite various projects for children and youth in our community. Great prizes on all par 3 holes, with a \$10,000 grand prize. Entry fee is \$85, which includes golf, cart, lunch, steak dinner, and door prizes.

For more information, contact John Mazzella at 440.238.0288.

Golfers of all skill levels are welcome!

## **CHAMBER LAUNCHES STRATEGIC PLANNING INITIATIVE**

The Strongsville Chamber is interested in the future of our community and the role that the Chamber will play in shaping and responding to that future.

For that reason, the Chamber Board has begun a process to develop a strategic plan for the next three to five years. Board members are being asked to identify their preferences for the following six possible priorities for our local organization:

1. To create and sustain reinforcing relationships among businesses and between business and community.
2. To participate in the development of public policy as it affects future growth and development.
3. To serve as the voice of the business community to appropriate levels of government on matters of interest to Strongsville.
4. To promote private enterprise, business excellence, and individual achievement.
5. To provide increased levels of member services/benefits and to foster community involvement through the Chamber.
6. To strengthen the organization by increasing its membership and resource base.

Once all of the Trustees have completed the identification of these priorities, short term planning committees will be developed to create a plan for the top three targets. Other, non-trustee, Chamber members may be asked to serve on these committees.

If you have questions or ideas about this process, or if you would be interested in working on this effort, please call the Chamber office at 440.238.3366.

We'd love to hear your ideas!

## **BUSINESS AFTER HOURS/NETWORKING OPPORTUNITY**

Wednesday, May 17

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

The Goddard School  
13590 Falling Water Drive

Appetizers and Refreshments

R.S.V.P.  
440.238.3366  
Before May 12

Free to Chamber Members

**LUNCHEON SPONSORS RECOGNIZE ADMINISTRATIVE  
PROFESSIONALS**

The April Chamber luncheon recognized the administrative professionals who make our jobs possible. We all know that we couldn't do it without them.

We are especially grateful to the following local businesses who donated door prizes to make the luncheon a very memorable occasion for every one:

Franklin-Covey at Southpark Mall  
Silver Style at Southpark Mall  
The Rockport Store at Southpark Mall  
Salon Bella Vie  
J.C. Penney at Southpark Mall  
Slinging Scissors  
Cleats  
Johnny Malloy's  
Stress Less Gourmet  
Esbi Salon  
Westfield Southpark Mall  
Olympia Candies  
Roly Poly Sandwiches  
Arbonne International