

Strongsville Weighs Less

Strongsville Women's League, in association with the City of Strongsville, is presenting "Strongsville Weighs Less" at the Ehnfelt Recreation Center. Strongsville Weighs Less is a support program to help you lose weight by offering speakers, demonstrations, exercise, dance, karate, healthy cooking, a health fair, and optional team competition.

The program is open to anyone age 18 or older who

lives or works in Strongsville. The cost to participate is \$20, which includes a logo tee shirt. Strongsville Weighs Less runs from January 8 through April 11, 2011. Registration will be held on Saturday, January 8, from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the Recreation Center.

Registrations forms are currently available in the lobby at the Recreation Center. More information is available on the website www.strongsvilleweighsless.org, or by calling 440.268.0185.



Finkler & Co.'s Top Ten Tax Strategies Seminar



Gregg Finkler, Kathy Vanderhorst, and Brenda Van recently presented a tax seminar for the members of the Strongsville Chamber, one of several educational programs offered throughout the year by the Chamber.

made at the Chamber's Educational Breakfast Seminar on December 7.

From Health Care Reform to the Small Business Jobs Act, it's been an interesting year, full of changes that affect your personal and business tax situation. The accountants at Finkler & Company CPA's presented their top ten individual and top ten business tax recommendations for the year to help members of the Chamber navigate and leverage these changes. The presentation was



Scholarship Dance a Successful Holiday Tradition

The Chamber's annual Holiday Scholarship Dance was held on Friday, December 3 at Michaud's Town and Country. For more than 40 years this event has become the unofficial start of the holiday season in Strongsville.

Several new features were continued for the evening's festivities this year. A martini bar sponsored by Shinto, was very well received. A "Taste of the 'Ville" consisted of food stations provided by four of our local member restaurants: Shinto, Don's Pomeroy House, Italian Village, and Michaud's.



Dance Co-Chairman Mike Kalinich, Sr. (left) enjoys a moment with Kim and Al Matyas at the Holiday Scholarship Dance.

The proceeds from this event are dedicated to providing scholarships to graduating seniors from Strongsville High School. Last year the Chamber provided the highest number of scholarships, with the highest dollar value, of any local organization. Although several different criteria have been established, the Chamber is particularly interested in supporting students who intend to pursue a business major in college. This includes those headed for sales, management, accounting, and banking careers.

A second criteria always includes students who have a demonstrated record of community service. "Supporting business and giving back to the community, that's what the Chamber is all about," commented Jim Mocho, president. "We feel that a major purpose of our 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, Dance Chairperson and Chamber Treasurer. "Our direct support of these scholarships, thanks to the great support of the community when they buy tickets, makes it possible for us to meet that goal."



Ed DeBono from Michaelangelo's Studio stands with Jim Mocho, Chamber president, and Gregg Finkler, Chairman of the Holiday Dance Committee.

Sincere appreciation is extended to all those who helped to sponsor the dance and make the scholarships possible. Here's a list of the sponsors and Silent Auction donors for the 2010 dance:

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|---------------------------|--|
| ACM Signs & Graphics | Home Depot |
| Alice & Larry Frawley | Judith Sagan |
| Benchmark Jewelers | Ken Dooner |
| Bilo's | M.A.D. Doctor Detailing |
| Buffalo Wild Wings | Men's Wearhouse |
| Catan's Framing | Michaelangelo's |
| CBLH Design | Michaud's |
| Docere' | Palmer's Lawn care |
| Don's Pomeroy House | Pat Catan's |
| Dr. John Bostic | Shinto Japanese Steak House |
| Dr. Neil Sika | Strongsville Historical Society |
| Ehnfelt Recreation Center | Strongsville Spirit Shop |
| ESBI Salon | Tom Burichin - State Farm |
| Finkler & Co. CPA's | Weymouth Country Club |
| Fox Meadows Country Club | Workers' Compensation Management Solutions |
| Giant Eagle | |

Trustees and Officers are Elected



Jim Mocho, Chamber president, and Bob Kalfas, vice-president, appreciate the support of the community for the annual Holiday Scholarship Dance. The proceeds from this event are used to fund scholarships for deserving students from Strongsville High School.

At the Annual Meeting of the Strongsville Chamber of Commerce held on November 18, seven Trustees were elected for a three year term that begins January 1. Voting for Trustees was held at the luncheon held on November 16.

Elected were Walter Ehnfelt, III, David Gusman, George Jardine, Bob Kalfas, Doug Kawiecki, Bob McGrath, and Jeff Smutek.

Jim Mocho (Workers' Compensation Management Solutions) was elected president for a second term and Bob Kalfas (R.A. Kalfas Construction) for a second term as vice-president. Gregg Finkler (Finkler and Company CPA's) was re-appointed as Chamber treasurer.

Why Should You Join the Chamber?

As budgets tighten, many businesses ask questions like “What do I get for my membership in the Chamber?” or “What’s the return on my investment in the Chamber?”

To help you answer these, and other similar, questions, here’s why we think you should reinvest in the Chamber for 2011:

The **CHAMBER . . .**

ANSWERS YOUR MAIL! We reply to scores of inquiries about the community, about your business, and about you. We try to answer every inquiry promptly and courteously, creating a favorable impression of Strongsville, your business, and you.

IS YOUR SPOKESMAN. We are your voice on questions of taxation and legislation. We support measures that are good for business in our area and oppose those that we think are detrimental.

IS YOUR BUSINESS AGENT. We are always ready to lend a helping hand. We perform various services to existing business in our area by conducting surveys and research studies that will help you grow your business.

IS YOUR ADVOCATE. We try to improve community understanding of the free enterprise system by arranging conversations between local business and their political representatives.

IS YOUR SALES MANAGER. We sell the city of Strongsville, your products, your services to people everywhere.

IS YOUR TRAINING AGENT. Through our seminars and workshops we try to equip people with the tools they need to do business in an ever changing environment. We provide counseling for small business through SCORE counselors.

IS YOUR GOODWILL AMBASSADOR. The Chamber tells the region about commercial, cultural, and

recreational facilities in our area. This, in turn, brings new business to the area and increases the enjoyment of the city where you live and work.

IS THE VOICE OF YOUR COMMUNITY. The Chamber is the rallying point for every civic movement whose objective is the benefit of the entire community – the central organization in which you and your fellow business persons join hands to promote the projects that help us all.

MULTIPLIES YOUR EFFECTIVENESS IN THE COMMUNITY. By providing the structure, volunteer leadership, and professional staff to keep an effective program to meet the needs of a growing community.

Any more questions?
Don’t hesitate.

Plan to renew your membership today!
Membership invoices will be mailed in January, 2011.

First Business Expo a Huge Success!

On October 28 the first Business Expo in Strongsville became a reality. Sponsored by the City of Strongsville, the Strongsville Chamber, and the Rotary Club of Strongsville, the event drew more than 70 local vendors and gave them an opportunity to display their products and services to a public anxious to learn more about the businesses in Strongsville.

Many Thanks are extended to the following vendors who helped to make the first Business Expo a success:

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| Consumer’s Life Insurance Company | Outdoor Power World |
| CareWorks Consultants, Inc. | Shaklee |
| The Cleveland Clinic | Today’s Business Products |
| Altenheim Shurmer Place | Parkview Federal Savings Bank |
| City of Strongsville | CruiseOne |
| Duman’s Lock & Safe, Inc. | Hudec Dental |
| RE/MAX Crossroads | Costco |
| Kalinich Fence Company | Yard Smart Landscaping |
| Strongsville Chamber of Commerce | Remembered Expressions |
| COSE | Berea Printing Company |
| Holiday Inn Strongsville | Centerline Carstar Collision |
| Rotary Club of Strongsville | First Federal of Lakewood |
| AlphaGraphics | ComForCare |
| The Skin Care Center of Cleveland | Erie Landscaping |
| Italian Village | North Point Portfolio Managers |
| Third Federal Savings & Loan | Northcoast Awards |
| Charles & Associates Marketing | Derek Garfat Insurance Agency |
| Midpoint Campus | International Karate Center |
| The Strongsville Post | Cyngier Heating & Air Conditioning |
| CBLH Design | Buffalo Wild Wings |
| The Write Company | Pro-Active Chiropractic |
| Olympia Candies | The Angel House |
| Brooker Insurance Agency | Creativedge Marketing |
| Huntington National Bank | Busy Baker |
| Energy & Telecom | Hand & Physical Therapy Specialists |
| Davis Custom Framing | Landmark |
| Strongsville Mini-Storage | First Merit Bank |
| Tastefully Simple | Hinckley Roofing Inc. |
| Search Americas | Radius Advertising |
| Vivid Digital Concepts | Finkler & Company, CPA’s |
| EMC Computers | Laurie Meister at Howard Hanna |
| JJ Renovation Services | Crowne Plaza Cleveland Airport |
| Cleveland Tool & Cutter | Cavalier Communications |
| Global Real Estate Advisors | Weber & Son Service & Repair |
| Camp Bow Wow | MetLife Bank |
| Southwest General Health Center | Taste of Excellence |



At the first Annual Business Expo, Chamber trustee Marc Bittinger from CBLH Design explains what his firm can do for their clients.



George Mansour from Yard Smart Landscaping gives a thumbs up to the Business Expo sponsored by the City of Strongsville, the Strongsville Chamber of Commerce, and the Rotary Club of Strongsville



Chamber president Jim Mocho (right) shares an After Hours moment with Jim Newman, administrator of the Cleveland Clinic Family Health Center in Strongsville, and Charlene Carafelli, the Clinic’s Community Relations Manager



Following the Business Expo, more than 125 Chamber members enjoyed an After Hours networking event sponsored by the Cleveland Clinic.

2011 Investment Dues to Remain the Same

The Trustees of the Strongsville Chamber of Commerce have voted unanimously to retain the same dues structure for next year. This will be the seventh consecutive year that the investment dues have not been increased.

For 2011, the investment dues will be:

1 – 50 Employees	\$100
51 – 100 Employees	\$150
101+ Employees	\$200
Civic Members	\$ 75
Civic Seniors (60+)	\$ 50
Civic/non-profit organizations	\$ 75

Membership invoices will be mailed to all current members in January. Any member wishing to make the investment before the end of the year, should contact the office at 440.238.3366.

Fund for Our Economic Future Highlights January Luncheon

The January Monthly Business Luncheon for the Strongsville Chamber will feature Chris Thompson from the Fund for Our Economic Future. The luncheon will be held on Tuesday, January 18 at the Strongsville Holiday Inn. Networking begins at 11:30 a.m., with the luncheon commencing promptly at 12:00 noon.

Chris Thompson is director of funder and regional engagement for the Fund for Our Economic Future. The fund unites philanthropy in Northeast Ohio to strengthen the region’s economic competitiveness through grantmaking, research, and civic engagement. The Fund works in four priority areas: Business Growth and Attraction, Talent Development, Racial and Economic Inclusion, and, Government Collaboration and Efficiency.

Before joining the Fund in 2007, Chris was a vice president with Edward Hanna & Co., an Ohio-based public relations and investor relations firm. He also spent more than 20 years as a journalist in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Ohio, including 13 years as reporter, editor, and business manager with Crain’s Cleveland Business.

The title of Chris’ remarks for the January 18th luncheon will be “Strongsville and the Region’s Economic Revitalization.”

Cost of the luncheon will be \$20 per person, payable at the door, online at www.strongsvillechamber.com, or by calling the office at 440.238.3366. Deadline for reservations will be Friday, January 14.

Chamber Welcomes New Members

The following businesses, organizations, and individuals have joined the Strongsville Chamber since the publication of the last newsletter:

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| ABS Payroll Services, Inc. | Fit Mind Cleveland | Meyers Software | Selzer Tool & Die |
| Akron Aeros | J & R Floors | Michael Lebby Smith | Van Dorn Demag Corp. DBA |
| Brunswick KIDDS | Kelly L. Gale & Co., LPA | National Telephone | Demag Plastics Group |
| Busy Bakers Bakery Co. | KMH Travel Group | Proforma Joe Thomas Group | Vivid Digital Concepts |
| Dr. Rodney Green | Legacy Surgery Center | Rad Air | Witschey Witschey & |
| Earla’s Furniture & Design Center | Lifeworks | Repko Machine Inc. | Firestine Co., LPA |
| Empowering Punch | Maslyk Landscaping | Results Marketing | |

The Chamber urges you to support these businesses. For more information about how to contact any of the above, please call the Chamber office at 440.238.3366 or check our website at www.strongsvillechamber.com.