



STRONGSVILLE
Chamber of Commerce
TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

Newsletter

SCHOLARSHIPS TO BE AWARDED AT LUNCHEON

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

The luncheon will be held on Tuesday, May 15, 11:45 a.m., at the Strongsville Holiday Inn Select. The luncheon will cost \$12.00 per person, payable at the door, or in advance by calling the office at 440.238.3366.

Eleven scholarships will be awarded to graduates of Strongsville High, and an additional two 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.

2007 marks the 43rd consecutive year that the Chamber has been presenting scholarships to local students. The proceeds from the annual Holiday Dance are used to fund these scholarships. Because the dance continues to grow, we have been able to fund more scholarships each year.

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

The luncheon is open to the public but reservations are required. Please call the office at 440.238.3366 to reserve your seat.

HOMECOMING UPDATE . . . FIFTH THIRD BANK - WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT THEM!



For the seventh consecutive year, Fifth Third Bank has agreed to sponsor our annual Homecoming Parade and the entertainment for the Families First Homecoming. This year's festivities begin with the parade on July 18. Homecoming runs through Saturday, July 21.

The bank's sponsorship makes it possible for the Chamber to bring top notch entertainment to the annual event which is held on Strongsville Commons. The bands that perform are always considered highlights of the four day experience.



As another important contribution to the Homecoming, volunteers from Fifth Third will once again handle all of the finances involved. The volunteers will be on the Commons each day to account for all of the money.

Chamber Trustee Tom Burichin, the General Chairman for Homecoming, commented, "Fifth Third has become the key player in Strongsville for this event. Homecoming is a huge part of Strongsville's success as a community, and Fifth Third makes this happen. We couldn't do it without them."

Other sponsorship opportunities are still available for the Families First Homecoming. An estimated crowd of more than 30,000 people usually attend the four-day event. Sponsorships range from \$250 - \$5000. Any person or company wishing to add their name to the sponsor list, should contact the Chamber office at 440.238.3366.

Volunteers are also needed for Homecoming. Again, please contact the office if you are interested in helping to make the event successful again!

Chamber Welcomes New Members

Congratulations to the following new members of the Strongsville Chamber. We urge all members to support other members as much as possible:

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|--------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Foot Solutions | Saxby's Coffee | Health Choice Screening | HCR Manor Care, Parma |
| Lytkowski & Company, Inc. | Stephen Kidwell | Matthew Keller | Brent Myers – Mill Stream Church |
| Paramount Tennis Club | Sundial Tanning | Parente Homes | Software Sights, LLC |
| Rogers Appliance Service | Kevin Moffitt | Sabados Perry & Company | Bruce Keenan |
| Strongsville Family Counseling | WRP Investments, Inc. | Healing Laser Therapy | Safe & Simple Wallpaper Removal |
| Joe Lucchese | Kast Orthodontics | Datacore Consulting | National Sports Marketing Group |
| Tip Products, Inc. | SC Strategic Solutions | | |

CHAMBER SUPPORTS SCHOOL LEVY

The Strongsville Chamber of Commerce is supporting the 6.0 mill levy proposed by the Strongsville City Schools and urges all of our members to vote YES on Issue 7. Election day is Tuesday, May 8.

The Chamber believes the issue should be supported because:

- ✓ The school district is the largest employer in the city, providing nearly \$1,000,000 per year in income tax that is used to pay for police, fire, and other city services.
- ✓ The Strongsville Schools are consistently "graded" as an Excellent school district by the state of Ohio, despite having one of the lowest per pupil costs in Cuyahoga County. The Chamber recognizes this as great value for the dollar.
- ✓ There's been no increase in school taxes since 2003. Inflationary costs have caught up with the school district, as they do for every business. But, unlike other businesses, the schools cannot raise their prices without voter approval.

Remember...Communities are known by the schools they keep!

We urge you to support Issue 7 on May 8.

HOMECOMING PARADE POLICY

Businesses or organizations wishing to be a part of this year's Homecoming Parade on July 18, should be aware of the Chamber's policy regarding participation:

There will be no participation fee for organizations in the following categories:

- Members of the Strongsville Chamber of Commerce.
- Homecoming Sponsors – any level
- Strongsville Non-Profit Organizations.

For businesses or groups that do not fall into one of these categories, there will be a participation fee of \$250, payable with the application.

Please contact the Chamber office at 440.238.3366 if you have any questions about this policy.

WOMEN IN BUSINESS SEMINAR

WHAT: Another in our series of educational seminars designed specifically for women.

WHEN: Thursday, June 28, 8:00 a.m. Breakfast

WHERE: TBA

TOPIC: Women and Finance: What Do You Need to Know?

Special invitations will be sent soon, but be sure to mark your calendar now for this outstanding panel discussion.

NEW ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES WILL BE AVAILABLE

As part of the Chamber's Strategic Plan for 2007, we are considering making new opportunities available to our members to advertise in the newsletter, at the luncheons, or on the website. The ads would be available at a very reasonable cost that is still to be determined.

Right now, we just need to know if you would be interested in advertising in these ways. If so, please call the office at 440.238.3366 and let us know.

KIWANIS GOLF OUTING

The Strongsville Kiwanis will be hosting their 10th Annual Golf Outing on Wednesday, June 20 at Copper Top/Cherokee Hills Golf Club. This two-person scramble has become a popular annual event and is one of the organization's major fund raisers.

Proceeds from the outing are used to fund various projects for children and youth in the community, including scholarships for graduating seniors from Strongsville High School.

For information regarding playing or being a sponsor for the golf outing, please call John Mazzella at 440.238.0288.

HOMERAMA IS COMING TO STRONGSVILLE!

The Home Builders Association of Greater Cleveland and Webster Road LLC will be sponsoring Homerama, greater Cleveland's signature new home showcase, in Strongsville in July.

The event is scheduled for July 14 – 29 and will feature six homes built by HBA Registered Builders in Strongsville's newest community, Avery Walden.

With an abundance of natural beauty, Avery Walden offers 61 home sites and spans 58 acres bordering the Metroparks off Webster Road. "As a long time resident and businessperson in Strongsville we are excited to partner with HBA to bring Homerama back to our community," commented Avery Walden developer, Tim Dean.

A registered builder of HBA adheres to a Code of Ethics, is a builder member in good standing, and offers the HBA warranty. "Our association prides itself that our members, in every product and price point, hold their standards to a higher level. Being a part of this association provides them certain advantages from warranties to educational programs," remarked Richard A. Puzitiello, Jr., HBA President. "It shows they take pride in their business and, in turn, provides consumer confidence."

Chamber members are encouraged to visit and support Homerama in July.

LUNCHEONS GO ON VACATION!

Just a reminder that the Chamber luncheons are suspended for the three summer months. The first luncheon in the fall will be held on Tuesday, September 18.

CAMP CHEERFUL TANGO TOWER

Achievement Center's Camp Cheerful is pleased to announce the availability of a new Tango Tower, a 50 foot high ropes course and climbing wall. Funded by a donation from the Catan family, the course provides an excellent option for corporate or group retreat experiences to meet the objectives of any organization. Retreat formats can be arranged from one-half to multiple day schedules.

For more information, or to schedule a retreat, please contact Tim Fox at Camp Cheerful at 440.238.6200. Retreats can be scheduled for any time of the year. Prices will vary depending on the size of the group and the schedule that's arranged.



The Tango Tower at Camp Cheerful is available for corporate and group meetings and retreats.



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Dave Jager, Chamber President, thanks Mayor Tom Perciak for delivering his State of the City address at the Chamber luncheon in March. Mayor Perciak informed the more than 300 people in attendance of progress and plans in the city for 2007 and beyond.