

Newsletter



18829 ROYALTON ROAD
STRONGSVILLE, OH 44136

2008 HOMECOMING - a HUGE success

Beautiful weather, outstanding crowds, and a dedicated crew of more than 200 volunteers combined to make the 66th Annual Strongsville Homecoming a huge success.

For the sixth consecutive year, the Families First Homecoming theme was well supported by Homecoming guests of all ages who thoroughly enjoyed the family-oriented environment of the event.

Tom Burichin, General Chairperson of the Homecoming, summarized the four day event by pointing out that an estimated 60,000 residents, guests, and business persons joined in the fun at this year's celebration. "The weather was about as good as it gets - a bit warm at times - but nothing that would keep people away for very long," commented Burichin. "This year's event brought back the nostalgia of Homecoming from many years ago, where all of the events were geared to family fun and entertainment. Many people remark that our Homecoming is one of the cleanest and safest festivals in the Cleveland area. We're proud of that reputation and we want to keep it that way," continued Burichin.

The four day celebration officially opened Wednesday, July 19, evening with the Spirit of Strongsville Parade, sponsored again by Fifth Third Bank. More than 10,000 people lined Pearl Road for the gala event and then followed the parade to the Commons to join in the family fun.

Throughout the four days, thousands of people enjoyed entertainment, rides, fun, and games. All of the game and food booths are manned by Chamber volunteers who donate four days of their time to make the event the success that it is. Proceeds from Homecoming are used by the Chamber to support a wide variety of community projects and events.

Of course, the event would not be possible without the generous support of our sponsors, both large and small. Many thanks to these local businesses and individuals who make the Homecoming possible:



Chamber President Gordy Glissman urges the crowd to play along

HOMECOMING SPONSORS

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|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| A New Image Landscape, Inc. | Kiplinger & Co., CPAs, LLC |
| ACM Signs and Graphics | Landi Insurance Services |
| AkzoNobel | M & S Connection Landscaping, Inc. |
| All States Rail Services, Inc. | MG Fire Design, Inc. |
| AlphaGraphics | Momentive Performance Materials |
| Altenheim and Shurmer Place | Monster Mini-Golf |
| Antares | Nak's Eatery and Drinkery |
| ATA Martial Arts | North Coast Pediatric, Inc. |
| Avery Group, Inc. | Dr. Mary Murphy |
| Brooker Insurance | Ohio Army National Guard |
| Bucci's Restaurants | Olympia Candies |
| Buffalo Wild Wings | Park View Federal |
| Cleveland Clinic | Parkview Homes |
| Countryside Landscape | Pat Catans, Inc. |
| CQ Printing | Perciak Family |
| Crossroads Animal Hospital | Pete Baur Pontiac |
| Crystal Waters Retirement Community | Prinzone Financial Service |
| Cuyahoga Community College | PPG Industries |
| David J. Pasz, Co. LPA | Professional Roofing Services |
| DaVita Dialysis | PSE Credit Union, Inc. |
| Don's Pomeroy House | RFC Contracting, Inc. |
| Eberhard Manufacturing | Sandy Plumbing |
| Edward Jones | Shoreline Express, Inc. |
| Fay Industries, Inc. | Sika OD Inc. |
| Fifth Third Bank | Slim & Chubby's |
| Finkler & Company | Southwest General Health Center |
| First Federal of Lakewood | Starek Chiropractic Center |
| Friends of Matt Patten | State Farm -Tom Burichin |
| GFS Marketplace | Strongsville Dairy Queen |
| Giant Eagle SouthPark | Strongsville Excavating |
| I-71 / Rt. 82 Strongsville Marathon | Strongsville Mini-Storage |
| Iceland USA | Strongsville Rotary Club |
| International Karate Centers, Inc. | Strongsville Soccer Club |
| Italian Village | Strongsville Towne Center/Emmco |
| Jardine Funeral Home | Sun News |
| JC Penney Optical | Super Cleaners |
| Jeff Smutek, The Smutek Team, | The Surgery Centers |
| Remax Crossroads | The Write Company |
| Joe DeMio | Today's Business Products |
| John B. Kornick & Associates | Waldheger - Coyne A Legal |
| Justice & Company | Professional Association |
| Kalinich Fence Company | Workers' Compensation |
| Keller Williams Realty-CJ Harrington | Management Co. |
| KidsFirst Learning Centers | WTAM |



Homecoming Chairman Tom Burichin (left) and Sponsorship Chairman Doug Kawiecki oversee the evening's activities

40th ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

The Strongsville Chamber of Commerce will hold their 40th annual Golf Outing on Monday, September 15 at Columbia Hills Country Club. Brunch will be served beginning at 10:30 a.m., with a shotgun start scheduled for 12:00 noon.

The cost per golfer will be \$100, including 18 holes of golf, cart, brunch, beverages on the course, use of the locker room facilities, and hot appetizers during the prize ceremony at the end of the day. Hole sponsorships are also available at \$100 each.

A Hole-in-One contest is being sponsored by Pete Baur Buick Pontiac GMC Inc. with a new car as the grand prize.

A registration form is included as part of this newsletter. Please return the form as soon as possible, but no later than September 8. Questions? Call the office at 440.238.3366.

STRONGSVILLE IMAGE BOOK IS UNDERWAY

The City of Strongsville proudly announces that Image Builders Marketing is in the process of producing the 7th Annual Strongsville Image Book, due out in the fall.

The full color glossy magazine contains information about the city, business, education, recreation, health care, senior services, map and residents guide. Also available to any business - on a first come, first served basis - the popular "Faces of Strongsville" featuring a group photo with Mayor Perciak along with a profile of each business.

The publication is also linked to the City of Strongsville and Chamber of Commerce websites where sponsors can link from the online book to their company website.

For more information, please contact Bernice Kaldy at 440.346.4482 or e-mail info@imagebuildersmarketing.us.

CHAMBER OFFICE GETS A FACELIFT!

Have you taken a close look at the Chamber office lately?

In recent weeks the building, at 18829 Royalton Road, across from the Clock Tower, has had a facelift that has given it a beautiful and fresh new look. New landscaping, a brick feature wall, a stamped concrete sidewalk, and new signage have dramatically improved the look of the building.

Our members have much to be proud of about the Strongsville Chamber, and we want the appearance of the office to reflect that pride.

Thanks to **Countryside Landscaping** and **ACM Signs and Graphics** for their work in bringing us into the 21st century!

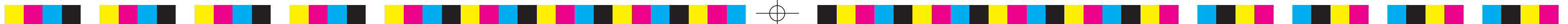


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MONTHLY BUSINESS LUNCHEONS TO RESUME

The Strongsville Chamber will resume their Monthly Business Luncheons on September 16. The luncheon meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at various locations around the community. The programs try to offer a nice blend of education and entertainment that will be interesting to our members.

The first luncheon of the year, September 16, will feature our partnership with the Strongsville Education Foundation and the Strongsville Alumni Association as we honor this year's Distinguished Alumni inductees – Ray Wohl (SHS, 1969) and Tim Rademaker (SHS, 1965).

The following luncheon, October 21, will feature Mr. Andrew Doehrel, president and CEO of the Ohio Chamber of Commerce. He will be updating us on the status of the so-called Healthy Families Act, as well as other factors that influence the business climate in Ohio. You won't want to miss his remarks.

The September 16, October 21, and November 18 luncheons will all be held at the Strongsville Holiday Inn at 11:45 a.m.

Special Note: Due to increases in food prices, we must raise the luncheon cost to \$15.00 per person this year. We hope this is not an inconvenience and that you will be pleased with the quality of the luncheon and the programs. Thanks for understanding. The Strongsville Chamber is "Taking Care of Business."

CHAMBER LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE



Check out www.strongsvillechamber.com!

Beginning in early July, the Chamber inaugurated our website to be more user friendly and informative to our members and those seeking information about the Chamber. While there are many areas still to be completed, we're off to a great start in accomplishing those goals. We're interested in your feedback. What improvements would you suggest to help us become more helpful to our members?

Call the office at 440.238.3366 to share your ideas.

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS NETWORKING

All current members of the Strongsville Chamber are cordially invited to attend a Business After Hours Networking event at Don's Pomeroy House on Tuesday, August 26 from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Don's will provide beverages and hot appetizers for those in attendance.

"We feel very fortunate that one of our members, Don's Pomeroy House, is willing to sponsor an event that helps us come together to meet and talk about ways to grow our various businesses," commented Chamber president Gordy Glissman. "I'm sure that most of our members will want to be there and I hope that each will try to meet at least five new people. That's how we grow our businesses. Be sure to bring a good supply of business cards to distribute, too."

Reservation deadline for the Business After Hours is August 22. Call the office at 440.238.3366 or e-mail to info@strongsvillechamber.com.



... and more Homecoming photos



WOMEN IN BUSINESS SEPTEMBER 25

The next Women in Business Breakfast Seminar will be held on Thursday, September 25 at the Strongsville Holiday Inn.

The presenter for the program will be Mrs. Rochelle Thuener, former president and CEO of Roscoe Medical, an international distributor of replacement parts and supplies for the home healthcare industry. Rochelle began the business in her garage 11 years ago and grew it into one of the largest in the industry. She sold Roscoe Medical two and one-half years ago with 17 employees and more than 800 customers worldwide.

Rochelle's story is both informative and inspiring. There is something for all of us to learn as she relates her personal history and how she was able to use that experience to start a highly successful business.

Registration begins at 7:45 a.m., with breakfast served at 8:00 a.m. Mrs. Thuener will be introduced at 8:30 a.m. and will speak until approximately 9:30. Cost of the program is \$15.00 per person, payable at the door.

For reservations, call the office at 440.238.3366 or e-mail to info@strongsvillechamber.com.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The following businesses have joined the Strongsville Chamber of Commerce since the publication of our last newsletter.

- A New Image Landscape, Inc.
- A Taste of Excellence Catering
- Absolute Remodeling
- Applied Laser Technologies
- Coffee News Cleveland
- Eagan Company LLC
- Erwin Odeal
- Friends of Bob Spada
- Hand and Physical Therapy
- Impact Communications
- Laura Gallagher
- Law Offices of Manbir Sandhu
- Outdoor Power World
- Residence Inn Cleveland Airport
- The Brew Kettle
- The Brewer-Garrett Company
- Westwood Place Apartments
- Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield
- Crown Point Plaza/Cleveland Airport
- Joseph's Hair Salon

These new additions bring our total active membership to 579 members – the largest suburban chamber in the Cleveland area!

We encourage all Chamber members to "Shop Strongsville First" and to do business with other Chamber members whenever possible. For contact information for any of the new members, please call the office at 440.238.3366.

CHAMBER SPOTLIGHT FINKLER & COMPANY CPA'S



Beginning with this issue of the Chamber Newsletter we are going to resume what was once a very popular part of the publication – The Chamber Spotlight. In each issue we will highlight one of our member businesses to bring positive attention and publicity in a way that may help the business to grow.

Are you interested in being the focus of The Chamber Spotlight? If so, contact Rea Cantwell at the Chamber office – 440.238.3366 or info@strongsvillechamber.com.

This month the Chamber Spotlight shines on Finkler & Co., CPA's, located at 16600 Sprague Road, Middleburg Hts., 44130.

Finkler & Co. is celebrating 20 years in business this summer and they have been active members of the Strongsville Chamber since they joined in 1988. In fact, the President and CEO, Gregg Finkler, is currently the treasurer of the Chamber. The company consists of seven employees.

While the main thrust of their practice is small business consulting, Finkler & Co. also offers tax minimization strategies, auditing, and tax preparation services. With more than 300 business clients, the firm services companies in the construction, manufacturing, and distribution sectors, as well as those in the service industry. Their largest client is a \$75 million business.

"First and foremost, we try to help our clients run their businesses in a more effective and profitable way. Preparing tax returns and financial statements are an important function for a CPA firm, but acting as primary business advisors for our clients, we try to help our clients see beyond the numbers. We act as a sounding board, consultant, and friend. Our clients look to us as their part time CFO," commented Finkler.

Responding to the needs of their clients' growing need for resources, in the year 2000 the company joined an affiliation of firms – CPA Connect – which is a network of CPA firms across the nation. The network offers clients a broad knowledge base and access to resources that come with a national firm, while allowing them to service their clients with the personal touch of a smaller, local firm.

"Our success is tied to that of our clients", remarked Finkler. "We prosper when those whom we serve do well and understand that we have played a role in their success."

To contact Finkler & Co., CPA's, call their main office at 440.826.1550 or check out their website at www.finklercpa.com.



COMMUNITY MAP PROJECT – FOR YOUR INFORMATION –

The Chamber has entered into an agreement with Hampton Publishing Company to produce a new and up-to-date map of Strongsville. These maps have been very popular in the past. Chamber members will receive a supply of the new maps at no charge when they are completed. The last map was done in 2004.

Beginning soon, Hampton will be contacting Chamber members about purchasing an ad for the new map. The maps are paid for completely through the ads with no cost to the Chamber. We'll have about 8000 maps to distribute, so the advertising will reach a wide market.

Chamber members are urged to support this project, both as an advertising opportunity and to provide a helpful resource for our community.

Please call the office at 440.238.3366 if you have any questions about the map project and the Chamber's role in it.

Thanks, in advance, for your support.