

### SAVE MONEY ON HEALTH BENEFITS WITHOUT PINCHING PENNIES

As a Chamber member with 2-50 employees, you can get a discount on any health plan from Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield – including industry-leading HSA's, HRA's, and HIA's. While your competition is busy cutting corners, you get preventive care programs, prescription drug coverage, and one-stop shopping for a complete benefits package. Just click on [www.chambersaver.com/noacc](http://www.chambersaver.com/noacc) to request a FREE quote online.

Or you can contact 1-800-551-3119 for more information.

- Big benefits for small business – NOACC and Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield have teamed up to save you money on your group health insurance.
- Save money with member-only discounts – Chamber members who do not already have Anthem insurance are eligible for a discount on group health plans.
- The convenience of one stop shopping – Take advantage of the administrative convenience of one stop shopping for all of your health, prescription, dental, vision, life, disability, and employee assistance benefits.
- Get more for your money – Compare Anthem's Healthy Solutions to the competition. With anthem, your employees get comprehensive wellness and disease management programs, as well as online resources to help them make smart decisions about their care. They'll also get innovative tools to help them choose a hospital for their specific needs.

**Save the penny pinching for the supply closet!**  
**Contact Anthem today!**



### THINGS WE'VE HEARD

I belong to the Chamber because...

- I realize there is strength in unity.
- It is the best organization for serving the community.
- I believe in the future growth and progress of Strongsville.
- Its only qualifications for membership are good citizenship and a commitment to the quality of life in Strongsville.

### 2009 MEMBERSHIP INVOICES

Invoices for investment dues for 2009 have been mailed to all of last year's membership. If you've not received yours, or if you've not yet had an opportunity to send in your check, please call the office at 440.238.3366.

# Newsletter



Mayor Thomas P. Perciak

## MAYOR PERCIAK'S STATE OF THE CITY

The Strongsville Chamber of Commerce March Business Luncheon will feature a major presentation by Mayor Thomas P. Perciak.

The mayor will deliver his annual "State of the City" address at the luncheon which is scheduled for Tuesday, March 24, 11:45 a.m., in the Cultural Center of the Ehrnfelt Recreation Center at 18100 Royalton Road.

Mayor Perciak will be discussing the growth of the city, our financial status, and plans for the future.

The mayor has been an active member of the Chamber since 1979 and a Trustee for 24 years. He served as president in 1995, 1996, and 1997. Following a very successful career in banking, Mr. Perciak has been the mayor of Strongsville since 2004. He has brought his business and decision-making experience to Strongsville's highest office.

As a special feature of the monthly luncheon series, one Chamber member is chosen each month in a business card drawing to make a five minute presentation about his or her business. The "Showcase Speaker" for the March luncheon will be selected at the February luncheon.

This annual luncheon featuring the mayor's address is traditionally a highly popular event and draws a sizeable crowd. Those planning to attend are asked to make reservations as soon as possible. **Reservations can be made by calling the Chamber office at 440.238.3366 before March 19.**

### Please Note the Change of Date

The Chamber's Monthly Business Luncheon is normally held on the third Tuesday of each month. The third Tuesday in March is March 17, St. Patrick's Day. To avoid the conflict with the holiday, the Chamber luncheon is being held one week later – on March 24. We apologize for any inconvenience that this change may cause.



Gordy Glissman,  
Chamber President



Jim Mocho,  
Chamber Vice-President

### TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS ELECTED FOR 2009

At the Annual Meeting in November, the Strongsville Chamber elected Trustees and officers for 2009. Re-elected to a three year term as Trustee were: Rich Baldin, Frank Bohac, Tom Burichin, Dave Jager, Jim Mocho, Bob Moody, and Rick Voigt.

Gordy Glissman was elected for a second term as President and Jim Mocho was elected for a second term as Vice-President. Gregg Finkler was re-appointed as Treasurer.

The Trustees also appointed committees for the new year as follows:

**Business After-Hours** – Dan Stroemple (Chair), Bob Kalfas, Bob Moody

**By-Laws Review** – Walter Ehrnfelt (Chair), Dave Gusman, Rick Voigt

**Donations** – Jim Mocho (Chair), Tom Burichin, Gregg Finkler

**Golf Outing** – Neil Sika (Chair), Frank Bohac, Rich Baldin, Dave Jager, George Jardine, Bob McGrath, Jeff Smutek.

**Scholarship Dance** – Gregg Finkler (Chair), Mike Kalinich (Co-Chair), Rich Baldin, Mark Bittinger, Mike Catan, Doug Kawiecki, Jim Mocho.

**Homecoming** – Tom Burichin (Chair), Mike Kalinich (Co-Chair), Gordy Glissman, Bill Harr, Bob Kalfas, Doug Kawiecki, Joe Lucchese, Bob McGrath

**Strategic Planning** – Tom Rakowsky (Chair), Dave Gusman, Joe Lucchese, Dan Stroemple, Jeff Smutek.

### STRATEGIC GOALS APPROVED

Responding to a report from the Strategic Planning Committee, chaired by Tom Rakowsky, the Trustees have approved these goals for 2009:

- Continue to implement the features of the ChamberMaster software to provide more services and advantages for the membership.
- Activate the newly approved Strongsville Area Chamber Foundation, a 501-c-3 organization that will provide tax advantages for certain activities of the Chamber and our members.
- Initiate a free Member Advertising program on the Chamber web site as a member benefit.

The Chamber is always open to new ideas and fresh approaches to serve our members in a better way. Contact the office at 440.238.3366 if you have an idea that you would like to suggest for us to consider.

## Tom Burichin RECEIVES REGIONAL AWARD



Vicky Hawk, NOACC Executive Director, recognizes Tom's accomplishments.

Chamber Trustee Tom Burichin was recently recognized by the Northern Ohio Area Chambers of Commerce (NOACC) for his exemplary volunteer service to his community. Burichin has been the General Chairman of the Chamber's Homecoming since 1994. NOACC held its Bright Star Awards ceremony during its annual meeting last fall. The Bright Star recipients, who had been nominated by their fellow chamber members, were recognized for having made a significant impact on the chamber through memberships, retention, sponsorships, economic development, and education. Mark Nolan of WKYC Channel 3 was the emcee for the gala event. Gordy Glissman, Chamber president, commented, "People generally don't realize how much work Homecoming requires. Planning an event that attracts more than 60,000 people a year has become a year round commitment. We're very fortunate that Tom has been willing to commit so much of his personal time to the community."

**Congratulations, Tom! No one could be more deserving.**

## DATES ARE SET FOR 67TH ANNUAL HOMECOMING

The Trustees of the Strongsville Chamber have set Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, July 22, 23, 24, and 25 as the dates for the 67th Homecoming Days.

Homecoming is the signature event for the Strongsville Chamber. Homecoming General Chairman Tom Burichin reported that the Chamber will be contacting volunteers to serve as Tent Managers over the next two months. As always, volunteers will be needed to help at Homecoming this year.

The Chamber is also actively soliciting sponsors for the entertainment and other elements of the four day event. Any individual or business who would like to become a sponsor should contact the office at 440.238.3366 or via e-mail at [info@strongsvillechamber.com](mailto:info@strongsvillechamber.com).

## SCHOLARSHIP DANCE WILL SUPPORT GRADUATES



Gregg Finkler, co-chairman of the Holiday Dance, and his wife Holly, take a rare moment to relax at the dance.

Dedicating the proceeds from the annual Holiday Scholarship Dance held in December, the Chamber will once again support a number of scholarships for graduates of Strongsville High School. The presentations will be made at the Chamber's Scholarship Luncheon on May 19.

Last year the Chamber provided the highest number of scholarships, with the highest dollar value, of any local organization. The Chamber has established selection criteria that includes financial need, community service, and intended college major. The organization particularly supports those who intend to major in business careers at the college level. This includes those headed for sales, management, accounting, and banking careers.

"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 in buying tickets, makes it possible for us to meet that goal."

Deep and sincere appreciation is extended to all those who help to sponsor the dance. We couldn't do it without them! Here's a list of the sponsors for the most recent dance:

ACM Signs & Graphics & Doug Kawiecki  
Benchmark Jewelers  
Bounce City & Josh Cribbs  
Catan's  
CBLH Design & Marc Bittinger  
Cleveland Cavaliers & Mike Kalinich Jr.  
Don Zoloty  
Don's Pomeroy House & Dan Stroemple  
ESBI International Salon  
Finkler & Company & Gregg Finkler  
Fox Meadows Country Club & Todd Company  
Giant Eagle  
J. Bella, Bucci's & Joe Bucci  
John S. Bostic, DDS  
KMD Sales, Inc. & Ken Dooner

Lowe's  
Michaelangelo's Studio & Ed and Cheryl DeBono  
Michaud's & Chad and Donna Michaud  
Neil Sika, OD  
Ohio Lottery Commission & Tom Rakowsky  
Oswald Company & Jeff Ice  
RE/MAX Crossroads & Jeff Smutek  
Rob Crombie  
Sheiban Jewelers & Tony Sheiban  
Shinto's  
Strongsville Spirit Shop & Sue Walik  
Weymouth Country Club & Bob Teichert  
Workers' Compensation Mgt. Solutions & Jim Mocho  
Working Office & Bill Duwe

*The Holiday Scholarship Dance has been a tradition in Strongsville for more than 40 years. The 2009 dance is scheduled for Friday, December 4. Tickets will go on sale in October.*



From left, Dr. Neil Sika, Mrs. June Daymut, Ward 1 Councilman Mike Daymut, and dance co-chairman, Mike Kalinich, have supported the Holiday Dance for many years. John and Rebecca Schroth and Bill and Jean Wittrock always enjoy getting together at the Holiday Dance

## COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

### Springtime in the 'Ville

Strongsville Women's League

Strongsville Women's League will present its annual fundraising event, Springtime in the 'Ville on Saturday, March 28, from 7:30 – 11:30 p.m. at the Ehrnfelt Recreation Center, 18100 Royalton Road. There will be dancing to the music of Midnite Groove, light appetizers, desserts, coffee, soft drinks, a cash bar for beer and wine, a silent auction, 50-50 raffle, and an evening of fun. Tickets are \$20 per person and can be reserved by calling 440.268.0328. Sponsorships and patron listings can be arranged by calling 440.238.0979.

For more information, visit the League's website at [www.strongsvillewomen'sleague.org](http://www.strongsvillewomen'sleague.org).

### ? March Trivia Madness??

Strongsville Education Foundation

Sunday, March 8, 2009

2:30 p.m. (NEW TIME)

Strongsville High School, 20025 Lunn Road  
This fun-filled afternoon features teams of 4-6 players competing to answer 40 questions on a wide variety of topics. There's still time to become a sponsor to form a team. Teams can win 1st place for \$1000, 2nd place for \$400, 3rd place for \$200. All proceeds go to sustain mini-grants, scholarships, and teacher development.

For more information, call 440.238.5778.

### 18th Annual Chili Open Classic

Strongsville Rotary

Saturday, February 28 - 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds, Berea

With the generous support of area businesses, the Chili Open Golf Classic, organized by the Rotary Club of Strongsville, has raised more than \$1 million for charity since 1992. A variety of sponsorships are available. For more information, call 216.898.4719.

## PERFORMING ARTS CENTER TO BE BUILT

Angel House, in collaboration with the Strongsville Community Theater, is proud to announce plans to build a performing arts center in Strongsville. Conveniently located on Mill Hollow Lane off route 82, next to Serpentine Chevrolet, the center promises to become a proud addition to the community.

Converting an existing barn to an arts center is a daunting task, but will have an enormously beneficial impact on the community and the region. National studies, including a recent analysis by American Express, and covering more than 900 such facilities, support the fact that significant financial gains can be realized from the arts. Not only do homes sell faster in an area with a performing arts center, but home values themselves inevitably rise. Using national averages for similar communities, it is projected that attendees will spend approximately \$150,000 per year on food, drink, lodging, and other amenities.

Carol Dombrose of Angel House is thrilled to fulfill a long held vision for this project. She commented, "One of my dreams for the converted barn was to be able to use it as a theater. The timing is perfect because Strongsville Community Theater needed a new home." The facility will also host musical concerts, dance, lectures, and other entertainment events, as well as being used as an educational center for the arts.

For more information, contact Angel House at 440.846.1789

