

Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce Newsletter

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CHAMBER PRESIDENT PASSES TORCH

GREG GENS

These past two years serving as the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce President have personally been very rewarding. Being involved in the Chamber of Commerce for the last three years I have felt a deep sense of accomplishment watching it grow and flourish. But, the most memorable aspect of being a part of this organization has been the relationships and friendships that have formed. Many of those will last a lifetime.

As I pass the gavel to my successor I would like to thank all of you for supporting my efforts through the last few years and for joining me in being a part of something exciting. I leave the Presidency in the hands of an excellent leader and successful businessperson. Last year's Vice President, Greg Frey of State Farm Insurance commences his term as President and Chairman of the Board as someone who has always been involved in the Chamber and the community. Greg's experience on Brooklyn's City Government and vast knowledge of business operations make him the ideal person to guide the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce for the next year or two.

Thank you once again to everyone in the Chamber and at City Hall who made my job this past year a true pleasure. And to Greg Frey and our new Chamber Directors and Officers, I wish you success in all you do!

Greg Gens
Chamber Member



GREG FREY

I want to take this opportunity to thank Greg Gens, Valerie Thompson, the other members of the Board and Chamber for allowing me the opportunity to get involved in the Chamber and to be a part of its growth and a part of its presence in the City of Brooklyn.

We find ourselves in very interesting times. The challenges and current conditions are as stressful and as unpredictable as any I have ever experienced. Yet, I also see opportunity for all of us at the end of what may

be a fairly long tunnel. I am looking forward to the coming year as time when we will help to strengthen the ties between the business community, municipal government, and Brooklyn school system and enhance the value that the Chamber brings to all of us. I believe that the Chamber of Commerce is uniquely positioned to help a community thrive and grow. I also believe that the community can be very helpful to the members of the business community by helping them take advantage of various economic, developmental, and educational programs that can be provided by the City and school system.

I am most grateful that Doug Hogan has taken on the challenge of being the Vice President of the Chamber and that Greg Gens will continue to be our Treasurer. I feel as though this is a very strong leadership team and with the help of Valerie Thompson and other Board members, we will have a productive and successful year.

Most of you I have already met, those that I haven't, I look forward to seeing you at Chamber luncheons, events, and meetings, and I hope that you will become involved in making the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce a top Chamber in the area.

Gregory L. Frey

State Farm Insurance

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The Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce would like to welcome its newest members:



HealthSource of Brooklyn

Prototype Fabricators

Rooster's



Look for your 2009 Chamber invoices to arrive in your mailbox

shortly. Please look them over and if there are any changes that need to be made, let Valerie Thompson know.

The next luncheon is being held on Thursday, January 15, 2009.



Dr. Bernard Henri, Executive Director of the Cleveland

Hearing and Speech Center will be speaking. His topic of discussion will include communication disorders and deafness and how this relates to the business community. The luncheon is being held at Carrabba's.

The February luncheon is on Wednesday, February 18, 2009 at Carrabba's. Mayor Ken Patton will present his annual State of the City address.

Registration and networking for all our luncheons begin at 11:30am and lunch is served at 12noon. Hope to see you there!!

MEET OUR NEW VICE PRESIDENT



Douglas Hogan is currently an Area Manager for the Illuminating Company for Western Cuyahoga County. Doug is a graduate of John Carroll University with a Masters from Bowling Green State University and has a law degree from the University of Toledo. He has been with the Illuminating Company for 20

years as a lawyer, Governmental Affairs Representative and as an Area Manager. Doug sits on several boards, including the Cleveland Hearing and Speech Center and the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce. Doug and his wife Cathy have been married for 27 years and have 2 children.

NEWEST BOARD MEMBERS

Marla Fogle, The Plain Dealer

Marla Fogle was born in Akron, Ohio and moved to Phoenix, Arizona where she spent the majority of her life basking in the sun. She returned to Ohio in August of 2007 and welcomed the opportunity to explore her roots and make new friends. Marla is currently employed at The Plain Dealer as a Display Advertising Representative. She has spent over 20 years in sales and 15 years with Trans Union Credit Bureau in Phoenix. Marla has one son and is waiting patiently for grandchildren.



Fran Migliorino, City of Brooklyn

Fran Migliorino is the Economic Development Director for the City of Brooklyn. Prior to coming on board with the City, she served 16-years and two administrations, as the Governor's Regional Representative in the Cleveland Governor's Regional Office, paralleled with serving the Ohio Department of Development and the Agency's Director. Prior to the Governor's Regional Office, Fran worked at Cuyahoga Community College in the Public Affairs & Information Department (administrative offices); and Career Services & Cooperative Education Department (Western Campus). She attended the University of Maryland and graduated from Washington College in 1966.

TASTE OF BROOKLYN

The 3rd annual "Taste of Brooklyn and All That Jazz" Fundraiser will be held on Saturday, March 7th at Ridge Manor Party Center from 7pm-10pm. All of the proceeds benefit the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce's Scholarship Fund. Local Brooklyn establishments will provide the food. Each year, we have been able to raise over \$1,000 for

the scholarship fund. We are hoping to do even better this year. Mark your calendars for March 7th...more details will follow!!



2008 CHAMBER AWARDS

At our Annual Meeting in November, the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce awarded three of our members for their service and dedication. Congratulations goes to the following....



KeyBank Member of the Year Large Business

KeyBank has been a very strong supporter of the Chamber of Commerce since its inception. In fact, they were part of the group that founded the Chamber in 2002. They are always willing to provide us with assistance to make our fundraisers and events a success. They have donated money and door prizes to several of our fundraisers and also hosted the Chamber's Annual Meeting a few years ago at their Operations Center. KeyBank has held a Board seat on the Chamber for many years. Currently, Cindy Foster serves as KeyBank's representative on the Board. Congratulations to KeyBank on being awarded the 2008 Member of the Year for Large Business!

EmbroidMe Member of the Year Small Business

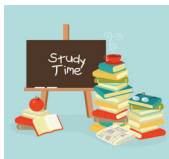
The owners of Brooklyn EmbroidMe, Ken and Sue Grodek, have been strong supporters of the Chamber's fundraising efforts throughout the years. EmbroidMe has assisted the Chamber in developing promotional materials for several of our events, including the Cruise and Home Days. Ken has volunteered countless hours as a past President, Board member, and Programs chairperson. EmbroidMe offers many types of embroidery and promotional products including: embroidered golf shirts, polo's, hats, outerwear, shirts, custom embroidery, logo wear, team wear, corporate wear, pens, pencils, mugs, premiums, fundraiser's, souvenirs, and many other embroidery and promotional items. They are located at 7050 Biddulph Road in the Biddulph Plaza. They can be reached at 216-459-9250. Congratulations to EmbroidMe on being awarded the 2008 Member of the Year for Small Business!

Donna Thompson, City of Brooklyn 2008 Service Award

Donna Thompson has been actively involved with the Chamber of Commerce since its inception. She

worked with Mayor Patton on establishing the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce. It began in July 2000, when she worked with Mayor Patton in hosting a Brooklyn Business Community Meeting. The meeting served as an opportunity for the area business owners to meet with the newly elected Mayor as well as to have the opportunity to meet individuals from various organizations to hear of the many opportunities that are available to them regarding economic development, job strategies, and job training. In 2001, The City of Brooklyn did not have a Chamber of Commerce and, therefore, communication between the City of Brooklyn and the business community needed improvement. Donna and Mayor Patton worked with our business community and established the Mayor's Advisory Committee which consisted of approximately 30 business owners and managers. The committee met monthly during 2001 in the hopes that a Chamber of Commerce could be established. By 2002, they were able to successfully establish The City of Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce. Not only did Donna share in the responsibility of establishing the Chamber of Commerce, but she has also volunteered countless hours as the Chamber's Secretary and Treasurer. Congratulations to Donna Thompson on being awarded the 2008 Service Award!

BROOKLYN LIBRARY UPCOMING EVENTS



In addition to our ongoing Friends of the Library book sale we have 3 separate book discussions: The first Friday of each month at 9:30 a.m., the first Monday of each month at 7:15 p.m., and the third Monday of each month at 1:30 p.m. Please call the branch at 216-398-4600 for title selections.

Our program lineup for January through March is as follows:

Thursday, January 15 from 7:00 – 8:45 p.m. we will be hosting "Scrapbooking Your Holiday Memories", so gather 4-5 favorite photos and learn how to make a special scrapbook.

Thursday, February 26 from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. "HeartBEAT Afrika" is a drum band that will present an exciting musical celebration of the African American experience.

Wednesday, March 11 from 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. we'll be celebrating "A Bit 'O The Irish" with Irish music and step dancing

featuring Michael Kilbane and friends. Tuesday, March 24 from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. join us for a program that will help you make the right money decisions in these tight economic times as we host "Is My Money Safe?" with economics professor Art Bakala.

Registration is requested for all programs – please call 216-398-4600 to register or for more information.



Contact Us:

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We are on the web!
www.brooklynohiochamber.org

Officers

PRESIDENT

Greg Frey

VICE PRESIDENT

Doug Hogan

TREASURER

Greg Gens

SECRETARY

Valerie Thompson

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Laura Rosa
Vita Chiropractor & Wellness Center

Glenn Skorko
Quantum Digital Solutions

Colleen Williams
American Greetings

HS HealthSource® of Brooklyn

I would like to introduce our latest clinic, Healthsource of Brooklyn, to the Brooklyn business community. We offer both Physical Therapy and Chiropractic care. Healthsource of Brooklyn is a brand new clinic located at 4370 Ridge Road, and we are a sister clinic to the larger established Healthsource of Vermillion. Our staff here consists of a Physical Therapist, a Chiropractor, licensed physical therapy assistants, licensed massage therapists, and our front office/ support staff. We specialize in treating back and neck pain as well as most other joint and orthopedic conditions. We also are one of the few clinics in the area to offer non-surgical spinal decompression for the treatment of neck and low back pain associated with disc bulges and herniations. Our clinic hours are Monday-Wednesday-Thursday 8:30 to 6:00, Tuesday 2:00 to 6:00, and Friday 8:30 to 1:00. Out phone number is 216-398-7246(PAIN)

COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA (CRA)...WHAT IT MEANS



The City of Brooklyn's administration has taken major steps to assist the business community in the city. On October 14, 2008, the administration and City Council passed legislation for a city-wide Community Reinvestment Area (CRA) which allows the **commercial** and **industrial** bases of the City of Brooklyn to invest in value added real estate and receive a tax incentive for the investment. Market studies, demographics, infrastructure, and accessibility drive the decisions for retail projects, consequently, the decision was made that the legislation would not, at this time, lend itself to proposed retail projects. On November 18, 2008 we were certified by the State of Ohio's Department of Development for this initiative.

The City is looking towards the future of the city, and we want to make sure that our businesses understand that **retaining** our businesses, and attracting new business opportunities, is vital to our economy. The City of Brooklyn has approximately 75 acres of underdeveloped, underutilized land. This legislation was formed to also address those lands for redevelopment opportunities that increase jobs and revenue.

The city-wide Community Reinvestment Area legislation allows the city administration to enter into formal agreements which allow for tax incentive reductions on new and/or improved real estate investments. For businesses this could be up to 75% for 12 years maximum or a minimum of 35% for 5 years. These agreements are negotiated on a case-by-case basis with the Economic Development Department prior to investments.

As you strategically plan for the future, and are considering renovations of your existing real estate and/or an expansion of your platform, please contact Fran Migliorino, Economic Development Director for the City of Brooklyn (216-635-4289 or fmigliorino@brooklynohio.com) **before** you move forward with a major decision for your business growth.