

# Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce Newsletter

Volume 6, Issue 3  
May 2008

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We have a lot going on again this summer, but before I get to that I want to take a moment and talk about our regular monthly luncheon programs. The regularly scheduled luncheon programs, along with this newsletter, are the two largest forms of communication between you and your Chamber. I encourage you to come and meet with your fellow Chamber members and talk about what is happening in Brooklyn and business in general. For those of you who are attending, I would like to thank you. About a third of our members have attended each of our lunch monthly meetings this year. It is good to get this regular participation, but we would like to do even better. So for those of you who have been to the meetings and have some ideas for improving the format, let us know and we will try to incorporate your suggestions into our luncheons.

We are always looking for speakers who can bring value to the Chamber members, so if you have any speakers or topics that are of interest to you, please let us know. The same goes for those of you who haven't been able to attend – the Chamber rotates the days of the luncheon between Wednesday and Thursday to try to avoid conflicts in schedules, but if there is anything else that would make it easier for you to attend, let us know and we will take it into consideration.

I also want to thank our program speakers we have had in the beginning of 2008: The team from Polaris Career Center, Mayor Ken Patton, Pat Ruffin - President of Parma Hospital, and Dan Cricks from Results Marketing. Their programs have been interesting and informative;

making the luncheon's even more enjoyable. We can also look forward to presentations from Fran Migliorino and Patrick Kelly on Economic Development in May, and the State of the Schools Presentation in June. Besides these luncheon meetings, please mark your calendars for these Brooklyn Chamber Summer Events

Thursday, June 5<sup>th</sup>  
The First Annual Brooklyn & Brook Park Chambers Golf Outing

Monday, July 14<sup>th</sup>  
After Work  
Summer Social at Rockne's

August 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, & 10<sup>th</sup>  
Brooklyn Home Days

August 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Third Annual Classic Car Cruise and Swap Meet

I am looking forward to seeing you this summer at a Brooklyn Chamber event!

### Inside this issue:

Membership Spotlight	2
State of the City	2
Thank You!	2
Polaris	3
Ahola	3
New at Vita	3
New Director	4
Sponsorship Program	4

### Upcoming Luncheons

Thursday May 15<sup>th</sup>  
Agostino's  
Fran Migliorino, Brooklyn's new Director of Economic Development, and Patrick Kelley, the Director of Development for FirstEnergy, will discuss the topic of area development.

Wednesday June 18<sup>th</sup>  
Carrabba's  
State of the Brooklyn Schools

## GOLF OUTING



Join the Brooklyn and Brook Park Chambers of Commerce on Thursday, June 5th for a great day of golf and fun. Sign in begins at 8:00am with a shotgun start at 8:30am. Breakfast will be served with a steak dinner after golf. Plus, prizes for the best Foursome and skill competitions! The outing is being held at Coppertop in Valley City. We are in need of hole sponsors, raffles prizes, and goodie bag donations. If you are interested in donating any items, becoming a sponsor, or registering to golf, please email Valerie Thompson at [asst-dir@brooklynchamber.org](mailto:asst-dir@brooklynchamber.org) or call at 216-288-5484. We appreciate any help you can give us to make the event a success!!

## NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT, JOE MAGREY

The Chamber welcomes one of its newest members Joe Magrey.

For my entire life, I have lived in the City of Brooklyn. After attending St. Thomas More for grade school, I met my wife, Joanne, at Brooklyn High School. Joanne is also a lifetime resident of Brooklyn, growing up on Orchard Ave.

After getting my degree in electronic engineering, I started my career in the computer field. This would be the field I would stay in, changing companies only a few times.

Joanne & I got married in June of 1980 at St Thomas More Church. We purchased our first home on Morton Ave in June of 1981, just a couple of blocks from where Joanne grew up. In August of 1982, our first son, Michael, was born. Our daughter, Sherry, was born in May of 1985.

We were blessed with our third child, Daniel, who was born in Feb of 1991. After graduating from Brooklyn High School, Mike & Sherry have since graduated from John Carroll University. Dan is a junior at Brooklyn High School and is very active in their music program and Marching Band.

Over the years, I was involved in civic events in Brooklyn. Being concerned about the future of Brooklyn, I became involved in several successful city council campaigns. This also includes my support of a newcomer to politics, a gentleman that wanted to run for mayor by the name of Ken Patton. With two long time council members, John Frey & Rita Brown, announcing their retirements, I decided the time was right for me to run for city council.

Since taking office in January, I find I truly enjoy my position on council.

Residents call me with requests for assistance. Most of the time I help people understand how city government works. I appreciate the assistance I have received from the staff at city hall. I have had to learn how several city programs work and the staff has been very cooperative and supportive. I have been appointed to the Finance Committee, the Big Creek Watershed Committee, the Volunteer Fire Dependants Board and the Council Liaison for the Brooklyn City School District.

During the fall, Joanne & I are very active with the Brooklyn High School Marching Band. At halftime, I enjoy being the Band announcer at the football games.

Currently, I am employed as the Technology Director at Olmsted Falls City Schools and I am a member of their administrative staff.

## MAYOR PATTON'S STATE OF THE CITY

At the Chamber's February luncheon, Mayor Ken Patton delivered his annual State of the City address to those in attendance. He spoke on the City's finances, including the 2007 budget, income tax collections, and awards received. The City of Brooklyn received several awards in 2007 including Making Your Tax Dollars Count for fiscal year 2005 and 2006. They were also awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting FY2006 and the GFOA Award of Financial Reporting Achievement. Mayor Patton gave statistical information on the Police Department (i.e., amount of

traffic citations) and the Fire Department (i.e., number of fire call responses). During 2007, several streets in Brooklyn were repaired and/or resurfaced and the Ridge Road Mill & Fill project took place, which was an 80/20 split between the County and the City. The City's Recreation Center received renovations during 2007, including natatorium window replacement and an ice rink chiller system. Mayor Patton gave information on new construction that was started or completed in 2007. His presentation also included pictures from the City's events during the year. The Chamber would like to thank Mayor Patton for

taking the time to speak at our luncheon. For more information on his presentation, you can contact Brooklyn City Hall.



## LONG TIME TREASURER STEPS DOWN



One of the original members and long time financial volunteer, Donna Thompson, has stepped down from her position as Treasurer of the Brooklyn Chamber. Donna has been instrumental in all Chamber business since our inaugural season in 2002. The

Chamber wanted to take a minute to thank Donna for her contributions over the past six years and for helping the Brooklyn Chamber grow into a benefit for the local business community.

## IS YOUR TEAM UP TO SPEED?

When you decide to move your organization to a higher level of performance, the Polaris Business Resource Center (PBRC) can help you meet the challenge. The PBRC, a division of the Polaris Adult Education Department, features a team of professionals that offer specific, measurable and effective solutions to your real world problems.

The Polaris Business Resource Center helps businesses and business owners that are struggling to improve organizational performance. The PBRC uses a validated set of methods and procedures known as Performance Technology to improve the competence and productivity of indi-

viduals, small groups and organizations. Typically we work with clients who are:

Under pressure to align company training with strategic goals.

Seeking more than simple "canned" solutions that don't improve performance.

Frustrated by employee conflict, high stress levels and increased turnover rates.

Searching for an effective employee performance management system.

Failing to develop future leadership from within.

**If you or your company are currently dealing with performance improvement issues the PBRC may be able to help. For more information, please contact Jim Poole at (440) 891-7701 or e-mail [jpoole@polaris.edu](mailto:jpoole@polaris.edu). Companies interested in sending their employees to open enrollment Adult Education classes can visit [www.polaris.edu](http://www.polaris.edu) or call (440) 891-7600 to request a course catalog.**



## THE AHOOLA CORPORATION

Founded in 1967 by Chester and Rheta Ahola, and now run cooperatively by their three sons and daughter, The Ahola Corporation has shown tremendous perseverance in growing a successful family business.

The Ahola Corporation is a pioneer in PC based payroll processing and has leveraged new technology every step of the way. Over the years Ahola has transitioned from main-frame computing to a DOS platform to its current Windows-based system, Generations. Developed in-house by Ahola's staff of computer programmers, Generations utilizes some of the most cutting-edge technologies available.

In addition, Ahola's dedicated staff has continuously delivered award-winning service to

its clients. Today, our staff of payroll processors serves thousands of businesses all over the United States. When asked what they value most, many family business owners stated that privacy of their families' personal information is a critical issue. With this in mind, Ahola has created a system of reporting payroll and other financial information that ensures privacy for the owner and the owner's family.

The primary tangible feature of Family Pay SM is it's color coded reporting system. By using the Yellow + Blue = Green concept, Ahola has designed a way to make your business' payroll more simplified and more secure at the same time.

The key to the colored reports is the separation of the family and non-family report infor-

mation: yellow checks and reports contain information for family only, blue checks and reports contain the information of non-family employees and green reports offer summary information without disclosing individual employee amounts. We offer all of the full-service payroll related services of the national competitors. To learn more about Ahola's services and how they can help your family business with its payroll needs, please contact:

David Hamblin  
Office: (440) 740-5005  
Email: [dhamblin@ahola.com](mailto:dhamblin@ahola.com)

The Benefits of using Ahola:  
Almost 40 years of payroll experience working for you, upfront pricing without contracts, error-free tax reporting guaranteed...save yourself time and headaches!

## NEW LINE AT VITA

Vita has recently added a Full Spectrum Nutritional Line into our practice. It ranges from over all health and nutrition, to weight management, as well as 2 skin care lines and a personal care line. The products are all natural and are completely supported by documented medical studies that support all of its claims. This is extremely rare when dealing with nutritionals and supplements in today's market.

The following are just a few of the issues that are targeted through the line:

- Diabetes
- Joint and Inflammation Issues
- Fibro Myalgia
- Cardiac and Hyper Tension (High Blood Pressure)
- Renal & Urinary Issues
- Cancers
- Migraines & Tension Headaches
- Arthritis

**If anyone is interested in learning more about these new products, you are invited to visit Vita for a FREE consultation with Dr. Robert Hunkus regarding the products in greater detail and how they are specifically related to you and your health issues.**

Vita is located in Biddulph Plaza. They can be contacted at 216-749-7888



**Contact Us:**

**Phone: 216 288-5484**

**Email:**

**asstdir@brooklynohiochamber.org**



Officers

**PRESIDENT**  
Greg Gens

**VICE PRESIDENT**  
Greg Frey

**TREASURER**  
Greg Gens

**SECRETARY**  
Valerie Thompson

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Resident

Candy Banks  
The Town Planner

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Laura M. Rosa  
Vita Chiropractic & Wellness Center

Glenn Skorko  
Quantum Digital Solutions

Colleen Williams  
American Greetings

**NEW ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR**

Fran Migliorino 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. She covered Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, and Lorain counties which includes three major cities: Cleveland, Lorain and Elyria. Fran also served as Interim Governor's Regional Representative for Akron, Summit, Portage, and Medina counties, for a six-month period. Her responsibilities included representing the administration at various functions, such as award ceremonies, ground breakings, grand openings, general announcements, and meeting with international delegations. She also served on various local economic development boards and committees.

Her main goals were heavily concentrated on the economic development vitality of the region working with private industry, non-profit, county and municipality organizations. She has experience and knowledge of the processes and procedures for the Ohio Department of Development's economic development programs which includes: loans, tax incentives, and grants. Fran also has working knowledge of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's enforcement programs and the new Voluntary Action Program; the Ohio Department of Transportation's processes; and Workers' Compensation Programs. She initiated a regional network with various non-profit organizations under the Governor's Regional Economic Development Advisory Board (65 members).

Fran facilitated teams within the NE Ohio arena to promote, retain, and secure new industries, employment, new facilities, highly visible exhibits and attractions. She developed professional partnerships with counties, cities, port authorities, chambers of commerce, non-profit organizations, consultants, real estate agencies, and financial institutions.

Fran Migliorino  
Economic Development Director  
City of Brooklyn  
216-635-4289 (office)  
440-539-2237 (cell)

**YOUTH SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM**



**Brooklyn Recreation Center Youth Sponsorship Program**

On behalf of the Brooklyn Recreation Center, we would like to thank the following companies who have agreed to sponsor a youth baseball team this summer. The children of Brooklyn truly appreciate your generosity. Stay tuned to find out which teams are part of the Chamber "league"!

Law Office of Scott Claussen  
Sup-R-Die, Inc  
Memphis Amusement Co., Inc  
Sam's Club  
Biddulph Plaza (Fodor Realty)

Ridge Park Square (2 teams!!)  
EmbroidMe  
Greg Frey, State Farm Insurance  
Parma Hospital  
KeyBank