

Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce Newsletter

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we enter the last two weeks of August, I want to encourage everybody, if you have not already been to Ridge Park Square, to see the Friday Night Cruise and our collection of pedal cars on display. You need to do so quickly as we will be raffling off the pedal cars Labor Day Weekend. If you have purchased a raffle ticket, you do not need to be present for the drawing to win. However, if you are able to make it, the raffle will be held on Friday, September 4th at 7pm at Ridge Park Square.

This has been a unique and very interesting fund raiser. I want to thank Mike Kissel for his many hours of dedication to attending the Friday Night Cruises, making

arrangements with Ridge Park Square for the event, and for selling the raffle tickets throughout the summer. We would welcome anybody who has some extra time to participate on Friday evening. Much of the burden for this project has fallen on Mike and it gets to be a little overwhelming.

We have set the date for the clam bake. It will be held on October 5th at Memphis Kiddie Park. More information will be forthcoming regarding cost. We hope to make this a fun social evening. We hope you will take the time to attend and participate with us as the summer season winds down and we move into fall.

Hopefully, the weather will hold out and this will be a successful evening.

Hope you have had an enjoyable summer and we hope to see you at the September Luncheon, which will be held at Carabbas on Thursday, September 17th.

Greg Frey



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1st Annual Clam Bake

The Chamber will be hosting its first annual Clam Bake on Monday, October 5th from 5-7:30pm. The event is being held at the Memphis Kiddie Park, located at 10340 Memphis Ave in Brooklyn. Along with great food and conversation, we will also have a hole in one contest at the miniature golf course. The cost of the event will be determined soon... please watch for information.

Please note...the rides will not be open, but we will have unlimited access to miniature golf.

GOOD LUCK MIKE!



Mike Kissel, Memphis Entertainment Group, has resigned from his position as a Board member for the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce. Mike has been a very active member since he joined the Chamber in

2002. Memphis Entertainment Group is one of our founding members. Mike has dedicated countless hours to improving and marketing the Chamber. In fact, several of our annual events would not be in existence today without Mike; including Taste of

Brooklyn, Pedal Car Fundraiser, and the various Cruise events we have had through the years. Mike will be missed...the Chamber's success through the years is in large part, because of Mike. Thank you and good luck!

UPCOMING LUNCHEONS

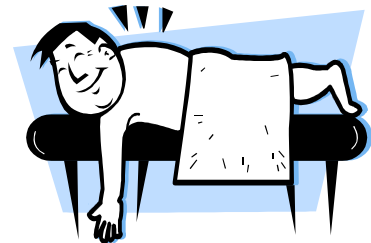


Our next luncheon is being held on Thursday September 17th at Carrabba's on Tiedeman in Brooklyn. The speaker for the luncheon is Lee-Ann Spacek who is the principal and owner of North Coast Residential Relocation. She has over 30 years of experience in the residential real estate and relocation business. The title of her presentation is "The Real State of Real Estate". The following is a synopsis of what she will speak about: Real estate is at the top of everyone's mind lately and a lot of what you hear sounds rather scary. Inaccu-

rate stories in the media have turned many consumers sour to the idea of buying a home. That's a shame because now is a great time to buy: Prices have moderated, interest rates are at 50-year lows and inventory is abundant. As the voice for real estate in Northeast Ohio, the Cleveland Area Board of REALTORS® (CABOR) wants to set the record straight. REALTORS® have their finger on the pulse of the real estate market and they help consumers navigate the home buying process every day. Our presentation combines national and local sales statistics with key economic indicators to give buyers and sellers the truth about today's market.

On Wednesday, October 14th, our luncheon is being held at HealthSource of Brooklyn, located at 4370 Ridge Road in Brooklyn.

The staff from HealthSource will make a presentation on Disc Lesions and Spinal Stenosis, their causes and treatment options.



Registration and networking for all of our luncheons begins at 11:30am and lunch is served at 12noon. Members are \$12 per person and \$17 for non-members. Hope to see you at the next two luncheons!

SPEAKER PROFILE SEPTEMBER LUNCHEON

Lee-Ann Spacek is the principal and owner of North Coast Residential Relocation. She has over 30 years of experience in the residential real estate and relocation business. In the last two and a half years, she has focused on advocacy for seniors downsizing and moving from the larger family home to a smaller more manageable residence or retirement community. She is also an instructor for the Tri-C Senior Encore Campus program, teaching a class entitled "Downsizing and Making the Move."

Lee-Ann has a B.A. from Baldwin-Wallace and has participated in Leadership Training at the Weatherhead School of Manage-

ment at Case Western Reserve. Her career positions include Vice President and General Manager at Smythe, Cramer Co., and Vice President of Relocation Services at the largest Northern Ohio real estate company.

She is a member of the Board of Directors of the Cleveland Area Board of Realtors, a member of the Planned Giving Committee of The Gathering Place, a member of the Patient Advisory Council of the Taussig Cancer Institute, and a member of the U.H. Bedford Senior Network and the Eldercare Professionals of Ohio. Lee-Ann is a recent graduate of the Cleveland Civic

Leadership Institute, dedicated to developing volunteerism in the city of Cleveland.

Lee-Ann lives in Solon, enjoys reading, skiing, and swimming, and particularly enjoys spending time with her three children and five grandchildren.



START SAVING NOW



Joe Turi knows the benefits of belonging to a local chamber of commerce.

And now the folks at Mentor Dental Clinic do, too. Ditto for Brian Moore, vice president of operations for Moore Counseling & Mediation Services in Euclid.

Turi, president of Myriad Benefits Agency in Wickliffe, helped Mentor Dental Clinic save more than 30 percent on the cost of its health care by switching to Anthem Blue Cross & Blue Shield via the Northern Ohio Area Chambers of Commerce. The small dental practice also received a 4 percent discounted group rate as a member of NOACC.

"In this economy, many companies don't join a local chamber of commerce," Turi says. "But the return on investment by belonging to one is worth it. In every meeting we have with a client, we ask them if they belong to a chamber of commerce. We've gotten a dozen and a half companies to join them the past couple years."

The cost to join a local chamber varies by the size of the business, from perhaps only \$50 to \$100 for a sole proprietor to an average of \$125 to \$250 for small- to medium-sized businesses. Larger businesses would pay more. Once a business joins a chamber that is a NOACC member, the business automatically becomes a member of NOACC. The chamber of commerce joins NOACC with an ini-

tiation fee of \$100 and then pays annual dues based on the size of the chamber.

With the cost of employee benefits rising, employers look to their health insurance plans to formulate long-term cost savings. They want to continue providing security for their employees, yet help alleviate the financial hardship some plans can have on a small business. For more than 15 years, NOACC has been working with local chambers on behalf of businesses to create cost-savings programs. Such programs can include as much as a 4 percent premium discount on Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield health insurance, group rating for workers compensation and significant discounts on other products such as credit card processing and office supplies.

As members of the Euclid Chamber of Commerce, Moore Counseling & Mediation Services leveraged group buying power through the NOACC office supplies program to furnish its new space from top to bottom. "As a small business owner, you look to get the best deal possible for your expenditures," Moore says. "However, the real savings for us was the time I saved working with Independence Business Supply. They took care of everything from start to finish. The level of professionalism and communication we received helped us to complete a project that would have been a headache to any business owner."

As a one-stop shop for business services, NOACC works with local chambers of commerce to ensure businesses have access to the group buying power of almost

35,000 chamber members throughout northern Ohio. With these savings, a business owner can look for ways to become a cornerstone in Northeast Ohio's economic development goals.

"NOACC is proactive," Turi says. "They get it. We're pleased to work with NOACC. They help us help our clients. They help businesses grow and reduce their cost of doing business." Kathy Berkshire, NOACC chairman and CEO and president of the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce, says a lot of businesses understand the value of their local chamber. "With the economic climate, businesses are joining their chamber of commerce to take advantage of the networking and other benefits we offer," she says. Now more than ever, employers need to be looking at long-term solutions to become more financially viable. That will remain true even after the recession passes.

Membership in the local chamber of commerce can help a business find the solutions it needs through NOACC. Visit noacc.org, and find where the cost savings begin and your business's recession ends.

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CHAMBER TIDBITS



Our newest members:
ABL Products, Inc.
C & W Touchtone Delivery



Friday Night Cruises

Every Friday night during this summer, the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce has been participating in the Friday Night Cruises at Ridge Park Square. It was estimated that over 100 cars and over 100 spectators came to the event each week. The Chamber sold raffle tickets for our pedal car fundraiser each Friday. All proceeds benefit our scholarship fund. We would like to thank Mike Kissel who gave up every Friday of his summer to volunteer his time at the Cruise. The Chamber greatly appreciates all the effort that Mike put into this event!

July Luncheon a Success!

On Thursday, July 23rd, our members attended a luncheon with the Brook Park and Middleburg Heights Chambers of Commerce. The event was held at the Middleburg Heights Community Center. Ricky Smith, Director for the Department of Port Control, was our very entertaining speaker! He spoke on the future of Hopkins Airport and all the changes that have already taken place to make the airport a success for the City of Cleveland.



Special thanks goes to Sharon Zimmer, Brook Park Chamber of Commerce, and Doris Wroble, Middleburg Heights Chamber of Commerce, for all of their help and support.