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Have you wondered how you can get more involved with the Chamber and the Brooklyn/Old Brooklyn community?...Have you ever thought about hosting a luncheon or after hours event or providing a speaker for one of our monthly luncheons? This is a great way to get local businesses and community leaders into your place of business to see all of your accomplishments! If you are interested, please contact Valerie Thompson for more information.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Chamber Members,

As we anticipate springtime, longer days, and warmer weather, I'd like to say we have had an extraordinary start to 2013. The strength of any organization is the positive participation of its members. We need to continue this pace, and have more of our members get involved in the success of our Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce.

"If one stays positive, you can never go wrong". One of my very first bosses told me that, and it has stuck with me ever since. Success breeds success and positivity breeds positivity. Think beyond your internal dialogue and assume a perspective on how to impact those around you for the better. It is contagious. The individuals from the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce that I work with maintain an upbeat and caring attitude, I could not ask for more from such willing individuals.

This year's Taste of Brooklyn was a huge success. We had a record turn out, with over 170 people in attendance. The Brooklyn High School Jazz band provided music, and food was donated by several vendors. Also, there were raffle baskets generously donated by Brooklyn businesses, a 50/50 raffle and pedal car tickets. All proceeds from this event go to the Scholarship/Education fund. Once again, we will be awarding three deserving recipients with an academic scholarship. The success of this event is not possible without each and every one of you, so thank you to everyone who attended. If you weren't able to attend, be sure check it out next year.

The Brooklyn Chamber is staying busy; with the return of the pedal cars, our annual golf outing, and Picnic in the Park. We are looking for 10 sponsors to purchase a pedal car kit, and currently we received commitment from seven. If you would like to purchase a remaining pedal car kit, contact Valerie Thompson for further details. The golf outing is slated for June 27<sup>th</sup> at Coppertop of Cherokee Hills. This is always such a fun and enjoyable time. If possible, please join us and have some fun in the sun. On August 17<sup>th</sup>, we are hosting the second annual Picnic in the Park, located behind Brooklyn City Hall. This one-day event is a nice way to help wind down summer. It will include music, games and food for the whole family.

We have so much to look forward to this year. We have built so much over the years, and we continue to get stronger. I look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming luncheons or events. Thank you for your continued support!



David Hill-Dollar Bank  
Chamber President

# *Taste of Brooklyn Huge Success!*



The 7<sup>th</sup> annual "Taste of Brooklyn and All That Jazz" Fundraiser, which benefited the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce's Scholarship & Education Fund, took place on Saturday, February 9, 2013. The event was a huge success in raising over \$4,800 for the fund! We had over 175 people in attendance. We set records in both net proceeds AND attendance!

"Taste of Brooklyn and All That Jazz" took place at Ridge Manor Party Center and featured the Brooklyn High School Jazz Band and the culinary expertise of many local restaurants and businesses. For the 7<sup>th</sup> year in a row, Sean Sullivan and the Brooklyn High School Jazz Ensemble amazed everyone in attendance with their music. They are truly an amazing group of students!

This year, we had raffle baskets and a 50/50 raffle. We also debuted the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce's pedal car, which will be raffled off in August. Special thanks to Mike Kissel with Memphis Kiddie Park for donating his time and supplies to build and paint our pedal car! Doug Hogan, the Chamber's Past President for 2011 & 2012, was presented with a plaque to show our appreciation for his service and dedication. David Hill, current Chamber President, presented Doug with his plaque.

Special thanks go to Don and Sharon Workman for inviting their family and friends to celebrate their 45<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary and Don's birthday at our event. They have celebrated at Taste of Brooklyn for the last 7 years! We cannot thank them enough for their support.

I would also like to thank all of the dedicated volunteers who helped in making this event a success: Denise Christescu, Gina Hylton, Christine Ferraro, & Tina Hughes (Westbrook Village Apts/K&D); Sharon Glagola (Ridge Manor Party Center); Pam Vizer (Polaris Career Center); David Hill (Dollar Bank); Sam Watkins (PNC Bank); Heather Miller & Laura Baker (Brooklyn City Schools); Fran & Bob Migliorino (City of Brooklyn); Daniel & Jessica Cliff (U.S. Shuai Chiao Kung Fu Academy West); David Nodge (Brooklyn Adults Activities Center); Greg Frey and Mary Frey (State Farm Insurance); Chuck & Ann Germana (Four Star Insurance).

The Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce is so thankful for all the people and businesses that donated their food, time, and space to make the "Taste of Brooklyn and All That Jazz" such a huge success. We look forward to working with all of you next year!

*Enjoy an evening of fun,*

## Thank You Food Providers!

Aldo's  
Applebee's  
Carrabba's Brooklyn  
Dina's Pizza & Pub  
Memphis Kiddie Park  
Polaris Career Center  
Rockne's  
The Sausage Shoppe



*great food and entertainment!*

## Thank You Donators!

Ameriflag  
Applebee's  
Brooklyn City Schools  
Administrators  
Dina's Pizza & Pub  
Dollar Bank  
Dots  
Dunkin Donuts  
EmbroidMe  
Five Below  
Great Clips  
Jukebox Music D.J. Service  
Jim Ptacek  
Marc's  
Mr. Hero  
Panera  
Penn Station  
Polaris Career Center  
Ridge Manor Party Center  
Ridge Park Square  
Rockne's  
Sam's Club  
Sean Sullivan & Brooklyn High  
School Jazz Ensemble  
The Sausage Shoppe  
Westbrook Village Apts/K&D

## Thank You Sponsors!

Ameriflag  
Cathy & Doug Hogan  
Council President  
Kathleen Pucci  
Dollar Bank  
Fifth Third Bank  
Four Star Insurance  
Greg Frey, State Farm  
Insurance  
Hampton Inn  
JB Stamping  
KeyBank  
Mayor Richard &  
Mrs. Balbier  
PNC Bank  
Ridge Manor Party Center  
Ridge Park Square  
Westbrook Village Apts/K&D



# Mastering ChamberMaster

*This section is dedicated to giving you tips on how to get the most of our partnership with ChamberMaster. We hope you find them useful!!*

Do you have a job vacancy that must be filled?  
Looking for new employees?  
Do you want to reach an employee pool from outside our area?

It's free! It's easy! It's included in your membership!

Post your job openings on [www.brooklynohiochamber.org](http://www.brooklynohiochamber.org)

Log into your chamber member portal to list your employment opportunities!

- Access [www.chamberlogin.com](http://www.chamberlogin.com)
- Enter your login name and password.
- Click **Job Postings** in the left-hand menu.
- Click **Add a Job Posting**.
- Complete the fields in the **Add a New Job Posting** screen.
- Click **Submit for Approval**.

Upon approval, your job posting will appear on our website within your Member Information Page and by category in a special location for job postings. Serious job seekers will take note of jobs posted on the Chamber's website by active chamber members like you.

Enter your login name and password to gain access to all of these features, update your information and more at [www.chamberlogin.com](http://www.chamberlogin.com). If you need your login information, please contact Valerie Thompson.

Try it out and contact us with additional questions or for more information.



## Advertising Opportunity

Are you looking for an economical way to advertise your business? For only \$100 you can have a banner space ad on the Chamber's website that will stay up for 6 months! The ad size is 468 pixels wide by 60 pixels tall. In the last month alone, we have had over 275 visits to our homepage and over 875 page views! We are limiting the number of website banner ads to only 5 members. We only have 2 spaces left so be sure to contact us ASAP if you would like to take advantage of this great opportunity! We would like to thank Dollar Bank, Hampton Inn, and Ridge Park Square for their support! If you are interested, please contact Valerie Thompson at [asstdir@brooklynohiochamber.org](mailto:asstdir@brooklynohiochamber.org) for more information

Advertise Here



## NOACC Bright Star Award



The Chamber Bright Stars for 2012 were recognized on Thursday, October 25th at the semi-annual Chamber Leadership meeting and fifth annual Bright Star Awards presentation of the Northern Ohio Area Chambers of Commerce (NOACC) at the Great Lakes Science Center in Cleveland, Ohio.

The recipient for the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce was Denise Christescu with Westbrook Village Apts/K&D. Denise has been a very active member since she joined the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce several years ago. When the Chamber was looking for new Board members this year, Denise stepped up to fill this vacancy. She has put forth a lot of work and effort over the past several years to assure the Chamber and its various events were a success. Denise has volunteered at all of our events, including Taste of Brooklyn and our Joint Golf outing. She has spent countless hours this past year on our "Picnic in the Park" community event, to organize volunteers, donate printing, and gather sponsorships, to name a few. Denise is always willing and eager to donate her time and support the Chamber and the Brooklyn community.

Almost 50 chambers of commerce across northern Ohio nominated a person from their chamber as their "Bright Star," to recognize a chamber member who has "made a significant impact on the chamber through membership, retention, sponsorship, economic development, operations and/or education." Each Bright Star is an active chamber member for no less than two years and is likely to be an unsung hero or a dedicated behind-the-scenes volunteer.

These volunteers represent a wide range of involvement with their respective chambers, some having been a member and or officer or committee chairman for 20+ years and some being newly involved but each of whom has given freely of his/her time, working hard for their chambers without any expectations.

This is the fifth year for the Bright Star Awards, and again has given an opportunity to recognize these volunteers among their peer groups, as chamber representatives, board members and spouses were also in attendance.

Wayne Lawrence, NOACC Chairman was pleased that this opportunity allowed the chambers and their communities to give these "Bright Stars" the thanks they deserve for everything they do to help their chambers succeed.



## Exhibitor Opportunities Picnic In The Park

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual, Picnic in the Park event is being held on Saturday, August 17<sup>th</sup> at Brooklyn Memorial Park. We are looking for exhibitors that would be interested in participating. The cost is \$25 for Chamber members and nonprofit organizations and \$50 for non members and for profit organizations. This is a great way to promote your business and/or product, while interacting with the community. If this is something you would be interested in, please contact Valerie Thompson and she can send you more information. Feel free to pass this on to anyone who might be interested, as well!



## Teacher Grant Awarded



Congratulations to the Kindergarten team at Brookridge Elementary for being the Chamber's 2013 Teacher Grant Recipient. The grant provided \$500 for a teacher or a group of teachers with a lesson idea which outlines a need, a purpose, a solution, and a product which will enable students to value a project-based unit of instruction with real-life application. Applicants were required to submit, in 1,000 words or less, a description of their ideas, how it corresponds to the Standards, the resources that are needed, and how it will provide an authentic learning experience for the class.

According to Michelle Hopkins, Brookridge Kindergarten Team Leader, "this generous grant will help us to implement our new Social Studies Economics Standard. Economics is one of the four strands that Kindergarten students will study. Under this strand, they must understand the following content: "Goods are objects that can satisfy people's wants. Services are actions that can satisfy people's wants." The grant will allow students to engage in authentic learning activities to help them understand the differences between goods and services, and why we need both. Kindergarten students will spend the month of April or May exploring community helpers, and the services they provide to meet our needs and wants. Our dramatic play centers will be transformed into construction zones, post offices, restaurants, and more as students play the roles of service providers. "Dramatic play permits children to fit the reality of the world into their own interests and knowledge. One of the purest forms of symbolic thought available to young children, dramatic play contributes strongly to the intellectual development of children" (Piaget, 1962). After exploring the roles of different service providers, students will choose their favorite to use in an informational writing piece. We will also be using digital cameras to take pictures of students exploring the roles of different service providers." Congratulations to the Kindergarten team!

## Sponsor Local Youth Programs

The Brooklyn Recreation Center is in need of corporate sponsors for their youth sports program. The Chamber of Commerce would like to be the first ones up to the bat in sponsoring a youth program. We would like to encourage all Chamber members to support the youth sports programs in the City of Brooklyn.

As a member, you are entitled to a discount on the sponsorship fee. The fee for this year is \$200. **The Chamber will pay for \$30 of your sponsorship fee, which means you will only owe \$170.** Your company name, along with the Chamber's initials, will appear on the back of the teams' shirts. It is a great way to promote your business.

This year, you have the option of sponsoring several different youth programs: spring soccer (deadline 3-25-13), youth baseball (deadline 4-15-13), day camp (deadline 5-25-13), or fall soccer (deadline 7-24-13). If you are interested in participating in this sponsorship program, please let me know via email or you can call me at (216)288-5484.

[Click here for sponsorship form](#) that the Recreation Center sends out to local businesses for more information. Make sure you review the deadline date for your desired sponsorship program. If you have already sent in your form and paid the total \$200, you are still eligible for the \$30 discount. Be sure to email me if this is the case, so I can send your discount check directly to you.

**Please note on your form that you are a Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce member.** Make checks payable to "Brooklyn Recreation Center" and mail forms & payment to the following:

Maria McGinty  
c/o Brooklyn Recreation Center  
7600 Memphis Ave  
Brooklyn, OH 44144



Thank you in advance for your support!!

# 2013 Pedal Car Fundraiser Underway!

For those of you that do not know, the Chamber held a Pedal Car fundraiser in 2009, 2010, & 2011. Last year, we were saddened to find out that the pedal car kits were on back order and we were forced to cancel the fundraiser. However, they are now in stock for 2013!

We have ordered 10 pedal car kits this year. We are looking for people to purchase a kit, put the car together, and then paint it. This is a great way to advertise your business! If you are interested in purchasing a pedal car kit, please let Valerie Thompson know ASAP. The cost is \$150. We will be filling orders on a first come, first serve basis!! This fundraiser has proven to be very popular in the past.

We will be selling raffle tickets over the next several months and the winners will be drawn at our Picnic in the Park event on Saturday, August 17<sup>th</sup> at Brooklyn Memorial Park at 8pm. The winner does not need to be present, but if they are, they get to have first pick of the cars.

If you have any questions or if you are interested in purchasing a kit, please contact Valerie Thompson at [asstdir@brooklynohiochamber.org](mailto:asstdir@brooklynohiochamber.org). We would like to thank the following companies who have already agreed to participate this year: Ameriflag, Greg Frey, State Farm Insurance, Kiwanis of Brooklyn-Cleveland, Mars Trucking, Signs on Brookpark, Speed Exterminating, & Truckin' Vantastiks.



## Grand Openings!



Walmart, a standing member of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce, opened their new Super Walmart Center on March 27, 2013. Mayor Balbier, Rick Gonzalez, Walmart Store Manager, plus numerous store associates and colleagues, were on hand for the festivities



US Bank, a new Chamber member, opens its new branch offices in the new Super Walmart located at 10000 Brookpark Road, Brooklyn, OH 44144. Presenting to US Bank's Teresa Elkins, Branch manager at the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony were: Sam Watkins, Chamber Board Member; and David Hill, Chamber Board President, and Mayor Balbier of Brooklyn.

## Newest Members!

### V and A Risk Services, LLC., Cleveland

John Motil  
801 Literary Road  
Cleveland, OH 44113  
216-938-6708  
[jmotil@varisksservices.com](mailto:jmotil@varisksservices.com)

### U.S. Bank

Teresa Elkins  
10000 Brookpark Rd.  
Brooklyn., OH 44130  
(216) 398-8005  
[teresal.elkins@usbank.com](mailto:teresal.elkins@usbank.com)

### Loving Cup Kids Academy

Anju Agarwal  
4476 Ridge Road  
Brooklyn, OH 44144  
(216) 496-9053  
[Leka.fleet@gmail.com](mailto:Leka.fleet@gmail.com)

## ***Members Can Save!***

Chamber members can now save on office supplies through IBS!!

We are pleased to announce that we have added ANOTHER member benefit!! Independence Business Supply has designed an exclusive program for NOACC Members for the purchasing of office supplies, ad specialties, furniture, janitorial and sanitary supplies, and full-service printing. The **Chamber Office Plus** program addresses the specific needs of Chambers of Commerce and significantly reduces their members' expenses and simplifies the ordering process.

Chamber members can participate in the **Chamber Office Plus** program which provides outstanding, pre-determined pricing across ALL Independence Business Supply products and services. In ADDITION, Chambers and their members will have exclusive access to 130 deeply discounted items. Participation in the **Chamber Office Plus** program will provide:

- **Free Shipping – Never Incur Fuel Surcharges or Delivery Fees**
- **No Minimum Order Fees Ever**
- **Outstanding, Pre-Negotiated “Every-Day” Pricing On All Products and Services**
- **Tremendous Pricing on a Hot List of 130 items**
- **Free Design, Delivery, Assembly, and Installation on All Furniture Orders**
- **Next Day Delivery (certain exceptions apply)**
- **Simple and Flexible Ordering – Online, Telephone, Fax, or Email**
- **Online History for Easy Reorders**
- **World-Class Customer Service – All Calls Are Answered Live By Dedicated Customer Service Professional**
- **Work with an Ohio owned and operated company, capable of shipping anywhere in the United States**

Call toll-free 1-800-621-6001 ext 355 for Doug Broome or call him on the Chamber Helpline at 216-440-2151. Or contact Doug by [email](#). Or speak with Jessica DeJean at 216-398-8880 x 302 or by [email](#)

[Click here](#) for more information!! Be sure to give our Chamber code 2400, when placing an order.



## ***Polaris Career Fair***

### **Job Seekers Invited to Attend the Sixth Annual Polaris/Westshore Career Fair**

Polaris, in collaboration with Cuyahoga County, is hosting the Sixth Annual Polaris/Westshore Career Fair on Wednesday, March 27, 2013, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. **This free event will link hundreds of local job seekers with over 100 area employers.**

Agencies and representatives from Polaris will also be on-hand to provide job seekers with access to educational resources, financial aid information and much more. Attendees are encouraged to bring their resumes and dress to interview.

Employers interested in participating in the event must register in advance - click [here](#). For additional information, call 216-987-7010.

**Prior to the Career Fair, job seekers are invited to attend a free Resume Writing Workshop on Thursday, March 21, 2013, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at Polaris. Space is limited. To register, visit [www.polaris.edu](http://www.polaris.edu).**

# Team Up and Save



## Save on *all* your FedEx® shipping—express, ground, inbound, and outbound, with the NOACC Chamber Shipping Program!

PartnerShip®, the endorsed shipping provider of NOACC, has been negotiating substantial carrier discounts on behalf of our customers since 1989. Members who enroll in the **free** NOACC Chamber Shipping Program will receive significant discounts through FedEx®, delivering expertise, great service and value for all your shipping needs—virtually anytime, anywhere.

- **Save up to 27%\*** on select FedEx Express® services
- **Save up to 15%** on select FedEx Ground® services
- Save up to 10%** on select FedEx Home Delivery® services

Visit [www.PartnerShip.com/89NOACC](http://www.PartnerShip.com/89NOACC) to enroll and start saving with this valuable member benefit!

After you enroll you'll **save on every shipment you send and receive** through the program. And you'll enjoy the unparalleled customer service that PartnerShip is committed to providing. This NOACC member benefit comes at **no cost to chamber members** and has no minimum shipping requirements or obligations.

Visit [www.PartnerShip.com/89NOACC](http://www.PartnerShip.com/89NOACC) for a full summary of your FedEx discounts, as well as for information on our other services, including discounts on **LTL (less-than-truckload) freight shipments**.

If you have any questions, please call PartnerShip at **800-899-2902** or email [sales@PartnerShip.com](mailto:sales@PartnerShip.com).

\*Includes a 5% online processing discount. Full details available at [www.PartnerShip.com/89NOACC/FedExdiscounts](http://www.PartnerShip.com/89NOACC/FedExdiscounts)

For full FedEx offer terms, contact your association or PartnerShip. All FedEx shipments are subject to the applicable FedEx





# Health Care Reform

## Health care reform update: exchanges



As an employer, you've heard a lot about health care reform. You probably have questions about what it means for you and your employees.

To help answer your questions, we're providing a series of articles in the coming months. Each article will discuss the latest in health care reform and highlight steps you may need to take to comply with the law.

### Health insurance exchanges

One of the biggest changes is the introduction of **health insurance exchanges**. They will be run by the state or federal government. Health care companies on the exchange offer their own set of plans which include a basic set of essential health benefits. Small businesses can shop, compare plans side by side and pick the plan that works best for them.

Enrollment in exchanges is scheduled to start in October 2013 and coverage should begin in January 2014. If you have questions about the exchange, you will be able to contact an exchange call center and talk with a live person who can answer your questions about your health insurance options.

To make buying health care coverage more affordable, you may qualify for a subsidy or tax credit so you pay less for coverage. Contact the exchange call center for more details.

### Flexible spending account change

Starting on January 1, 2013, employees who have flexible spending accounts (FSAs) must limit their contributions to \$2,500 a year.

Be sure to visit [www.anthem.com/healthcarereform](http://www.anthem.com/healthcarereform) to stay up to date on everything related to health care reform.

*This information is brought to you through collaboration between your chamber, NOACC and Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield.*

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**Contact Us:**

**Phone: (216) 288-5484**

**Email:**

asstdir@brooklynohiochamber.org

**We are on the web!**  
**www.brooklynohio**  
**chamber.org**

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**VICE PRESIDENT**  
Sam Watkins

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Pam Vizer  
Polaris Career Center

Cynthia Walker  
Brooklyn City Schools

Samuel Watkins  
PNC Bank

## Chamber Scholarship



The Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce that we will once again, be offering 3 scholarships. The Taste of Brooklyn was so successful this year, that we have increased the amount of each scholarship to \$1,000! The first scholarship will be awarded to a graduating Brooklyn High School senior who currently resides in the City of Brooklyn and will be attending a recognized college or university full time in the fall. The second will be awarded to a Rhodes High School graduating senior attending a recognized college or University full time in the fall. The third scholarship will be available to any Brooklyn or Old Brooklyn resident who will be attending a recognized college or university full-time in the fall. We encourage you to pass this information along to anyone who may qualify! Please see the criteria and application for more information [by clicking here](#). Completed packets must be post-marked by April 5, 2013.



## Upcoming Events

**Thursday, March 21st at 10am, Loving Cup Kids Academy Ribbon Cutting & Grand Opening** - Join us as we welcome this business into the Brooklyn community. Free registration, free gift, and free refreshments. [Click here for more information...](#)

**Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, Luncheon** – Join us on Thursday, April 11th, for our monthly luncheon at the Hampton Inn on Tiedeman Rd. Two of Cuyahoga County Council members will be giving an update on County government; Chuck Germana, Brooklyn's past Council Representative, and Dan Brady, Brooklyn's current Council Representative. Dan Brady is also the Vice Chairman of the Council and Chairman for Health & Human Services. Mr. Brady is the representative for District 3, which includes Brooklyn, Linndale, and a portion of Cleveland. Networking and registration begin at 11:30am and lunch will begin at 12noon. Cost for members is \$15 and non members is \$20. Hope to see you there! [Click here to register...](#)



**Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, Luncheon** – The luncheon on Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, will be held at the Brooklyn Historical Society, located at 4442 Ridge Road. Those in attendance will enjoy a great lunch provided by Ridge Manor Party Center, followed by a presentation on some new and exciting items the Brooklyn Historical Society now have at the museum. And of course, there will be time to tour the museum and learn more about the history of Brooklyn. Networking and registration begin at 11:30am and lunch will begin at 12noon. Cost for members is \$15 and non members is \$20. Hope to see you there! [Click here to register...](#)



**Save the Dates...**Joint Golf Outing on **Thursday June 27<sup>th</sup>**...more details to follow!

**Mark your calendars for Saturday August 17<sup>th</sup>!** The Chamber is in the early planning stages of planning its 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Picnic in the Park! Stay tuned for details.