

**INSIDE THIS  
ISSUE:**

All That Jazz	2
Dues	2
ChamberMaster	3
Upcoming Events	3
Board Members	4
Food Drive	4
Polaris	5
Anthem	6
NOACC	7
Things To Know	8

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Chamber Members,

As I sit down to write this message, a few things come to mind: Thanksgiving is only a few weeks away, Holiday parties are around the corner, and I'm wrapping up one year as president of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce. I realized how far I have come this year and I am very thankful for the great people and support that I have been given. This past year has been successful for not only me but the chamber as well. So remember, "It is not a successful climb unless you enjoy the journey". So, I encourage all of you to take a moment to reflect on this past year and realize all the great things the chamber and each of you have done.

The Brooklyn Chamber works to make the community a better place. Our programs that we have in place help to encourage academic excellence, stable business growth and community outreach to name a few. Most importantly, the chamber and the community work best when we all work together. It's good to know life has a lot to offer you, but even better to know that you have a lot to offer life!

In September, our luncheon was hosted by Ann Guess of Key Bank. This event was held at the operations center of Key Bank. This was a very informative and interesting topic on LEED (green) certification. I want to thank Key Bank and Ann Guess for hosting such a wonderful luncheon. In October we had our luncheon at Hooley House, and the topic was healthcare reform. Bob Gearhart and Bob Gearhart Jr. were the speakers, and I want to thank both of them for speaking on such an important topic. Also, I want to thank Hooley House for allowing us to use their facility. On October 30<sup>th</sup> I had the privilege of attending an award ceremony given by NOACC where a member of the chamber is given the annual Bright Star Award. This year's event was held at First Energy Stadium and this year's honoree is Fran Migliorino of City of Brooklyn. Fran is a very active member of the chamber board. She is involved in all of our activities and promotions throughout the year, and is always promoting the chamber to new businesses that come to Brooklyn. A well deserved CONGRATULATIONS goes out to Fran.

Upcoming events include our Annual Meeting, held at Ridge Manor Party Center. This event is held on November 14<sup>th</sup> from 4-6pm. We will be honoring the large and small business members of the year, along with a recap of this past year's successes. Hope to see you there! And on December 12<sup>th</sup> Polaris Career Center will be hosting the December luncheon. Please join us as you will be served a delicious lunch by the culinary students and get a chance to hear a very informative speaker.

So as we move into the New Year, I encourage all of you to make time for yourself, so that you may enjoy your families & friends, staff and celebrations during the holiday season. It is the time of the year to be thankful and put a smile on someone's face. Please be safe during these times and I'll talk with you in 2014!

David Hill-Dollar Bank  
Chamber President



## Annual Meeting

**Thursday,  
November 14<sup>th</sup>  
4-6pm**

The Annual Meeting will be held at Ridge Manor Party Center from 4-6pm. The 2013 Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce Member of the Year Award will be given out at this event.

## Taste of Brooklyn & All That Jazz February 22nd!!



The Taste of Brooklyn and All That Jazz will take place on Saturday February 22nd from 7-10pm. The event is once again, being held at Ridge Manor Party Center. All of the net proceeds benefit the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce's Scholarship & Education Fund. This is the Chamber's 8<sup>th</sup> year hosting the event!

This event has had great success in the past. Because of the proceeds made in 2013, we were able to award three \$1,000 scholarships to Brooklyn residents and Rhodes High School students who will be attending an accredited college or university. We are hoping to do the same in 2014.

*Enjoy an evening of fun,*



*great food and entertainment!*

Taste of Brooklyn features a "taste" of cuisine from local restaurants and establishments. The Brooklyn High School Jazz Band entertains all of those in attendance. The cost is \$20 and includes food, beer, wine, and entertainment. This year, we will also be selling raffle tickets for a chance to win gift baskets and 50/50 tickets!

If you are interested in sponsoring the event, the cost is \$150. All sponsors receive 2 admission tickets for the event. We are also looking for raffle basket donations and food donations. If you are able to help out in any way or if you are interested in purchasing tickets, please let Valerie Thompson know.

[Click here for flyer...](#)

[Click here for sponsorship info...](#)

## Let's DUE It!

It is that time of year again...time to renew your membership to the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce. 2014 invoices will be emailed out in December. Payment can be made by check or credit card. If you pay by January 31<sup>st</sup>, you will receive your membership at a discounted rate based on the # of employees you have. If you choose to pay after January 31<sup>st</sup>, a new invoice reflecting the increase will be sent to you. If interested in paying by credit card, please let Valerie Thompson know so she can send you the link. If you are interested in being a sponsor for Taste of Brooklyn, purchasing a website banner ad, or prepaying for lunches, those costs can be added to your payment for dues. Let us know if you have any questions or if you need a revised invoice to include the additional items.

# Mastering ChamberMaster

## Mastering ChamberMaster with Event Postings on our Website

*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 an upcoming event?  
Are you trying to generate additional traffic to your store?  
Do you want your event to reach an audience outside our area?*

**Advertise your event on [www.brooklynohiochamber.org](http://www.brooklynohiochamber.org)...It's free! It's easy! It's included in your membership!**

**Log into your chamber member portal** to submit your event for inclusion on the chamber calendar!

- Access [www.chamberlogin.com](http://www.chamberlogin.com)
- Enter your login name and password.
- Click **Events** in the left-hand menu.
- Click **Add an Event**.
- Complete the fields in the **Request to Add New Event** screen.
- Click **Submit for Approval**.

Upon approval, your event will appear on the [www.brooklynohiochamber.org](http://www.brooklynohiochamber.org) public website calendar which is viewed daily by potential customers from our community and around the world.

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

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## Upcoming Events!

**Thursday, November 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting 4-6pm** - The Annual Meeting will be held at Ridge Manor Party Center from 4-6pm. The 2013 Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce Member of the Year Award will be given out at this event. The cost is \$20 per person, which includes beer, wine, and hors d' oeuvres. If you are a sustaining member and choose to use one of your lunches for the event, you will need to pay an additional \$6 to cover the cost. [Click here to register...](#)

**Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup> Luncheon** - We invite you to a luncheon at Polaris to enjoy a delicious meal prepared by the Culinary Arts students on Thursday, December 12th. The presentation topic will be announced at a later date. Polaris is located at 7285 Old Oak Blvd in Middleburg Hts. Networking and registration begin at 11:30am and lunch will be served at 12noon. Hope to see you there! [Click to register...](#)

# Meet Our Newest Board Members

## Ronald Cordaro, PNC Bank



I live in Mentor with my wife Danielle and 3 month old daughter Cecelia. I graduated from Mentor High School in 2004. I went to Case Western Reserve for college where I played football and graduated with a finance degree in 2008. I then joined National City Bank in their corporate training program. I worked in branches for almost 4 years and held every position most recently as a branch manager of The Chagrin Falls Branch. In 2012, I received my MBA from Cleveland State and then joined PNC's business banking team in 2013. I cover four branches on the western side of Downtown Cleveland and specialize with companies that do between 1 and 10 million in annual sales. My wife teaches kindergarten in Mentor, where we both grew up and still live. I enjoy spending time with my family, boating, fishing and golfing.

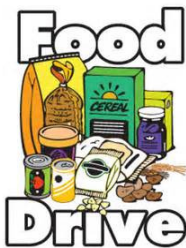
## Jessica M. Cliff, U.S. Shuai Chiao Kung Fu Academy West



Jessica M Cliff has worked throughout the Cleveland area for many small companies in Business Development before she decided to take on her own business with her husband Daniel. Although the Martial Arts School has been around for over 2 years, Jessica just came on full time in mid-October 2013. Jessica graduated from Cornerstone University with a Physical Education degree in 2005 and worked as a teacher in a large urban school in downtown Grand Rapids, Michigan. She was also employed at a small private school on Cleveland's East Side when she moved here after college. There are many things that Jessica is looking forward to while being at the Martial Arts school full time. A few of them include being able to spend more time with her family, helping build their business and helping the City of Brooklyn's children realize their potential, physically. U.S. Shuai Chiao Kung Fu Academy helps kids with focus, concentration, self-defense and self-control, as well as many other positive outcomes. Mention this article for a free trial class at our school, good for children as young as 4 or adults. We look forward to meeting you and your family soon!



# 2013 Annual City of Brooklyn Thanksgiving Food Drive



The City of Brooklyn along with St. Thomas More Church and School will be collecting food for Thanksgiving Baskets to help those in need. If you are able to donate please collect only those food items that relate to a Thanksgiving meal such as potatoes, cranberries, stuffing, vegetables, etc. You may drop off your donation to Brooklyn City Hall between 8:00-4:00pm Monday through Friday. Deadline for collecting food will be Friday, November 22. Food Baskets will be delivered on Tuesday, November 26. Thank you and Happy Holidays!!



**Best Wishes**  
Happy Thanksgiving

# Polaris News

## First-Ever State Career-Technical Report Card

The Ohio Department of Education recently released the new A-F report card which, for the very first time, included Polaris and the state's 90 other career-technical institutions. The career-technical report card includes letter grade ratings in three areas including: **post-program placement** and **four- and five-year graduation rates**. Post-program placement measures the proportion of students who were enrolled in postsecondary education, advanced training, military service or employed within six months of leaving high school. The graduation rates measure the proportion of career-technical students who graduated within four and five years after entering the ninth grade.

Polaris earned an **"A"** grade with a 92% post-program placement rate. In addition, Polaris received an **"A"** for its 94.3% four-year graduation rate and a **"B"** for its 94.2% five-year graduation rate. Polaris also fared well in other state measures including: **Higher Education Dual Enrollment, Industry Credentials, Academic Attainment - Reading, Academic Attainment - Math, Technical Skill Attainment, Nontraditional Participation** and **Nontraditional Completion**. Polaris met or exceeded target levels on all of these state measures.

Additional components, measures and grades will be added to the report card in the future. For additional information, [click here](#) or visit [www.polaris.edu](http://www.polaris.edu).

## It's Polaris Holiday Bake Sale Time Again!

The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Polaris Culinary Academy Bake Sale has begun! This year's sale features many of your old favorites as well as some new selections. These sweet creations are perfect for Thanksgiving dinner or Friday leftovers! All proceeds help support the Polaris Culinary Academy student educational activity fund.

**Bake sale pick-up will take place in the restaurant, *Mise en Place*, on Tuesday, November 26, 2013, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM.**

### Here's a partial list of some of this year's selections:

- Southern Pecan Pie
  - Tart Cherry Pie
  - Dutch Apple Pie
  - Pumpkin Pie
  - Pumpkin Roll (no nuts)
  - Tiramisu
  - Peanut Butter Pie
- Bread Pudding with Bourbon Sauce



# ***New Health Care Info***

Early renewal is an option Anthem is making available to small group employers in advance of coming health care reform. This option allows employers to modify their current renewal cycle, moving their renewal from the month of their Original Effective Date to December 1, 2013. We understand that health care reform will generate many questions for employers. The early renewal option allows interested employers and their brokers the time to navigate the changes brought on by health care reform and figure out the best plan and cost options.

This is a great way to help keep your business running smoothly while securing your benefits and costs during this time of change. Here's how it will work:

Anthem new clients with **effective dates of August 1, 2013 - November 1, 2013** can renew effective December 1, 2013. Changes in risk factor, base rate and/or demographic adjustments and benefit changes may apply.

Anthem Specialty coverage renewal dates will change too. That means any Anthem dental, vision, disability and life plans you have will be changed to match your new medical renewal date.

## **Changing your renewal date allows you to:**

- Lock in your current benefits a little longer
- Keep your plan stable during changing times
- Focus on running your business and leading your company
- Align your medical and Anthem Specialty coverage renewal dates

To change your renewal date or for more information please contact your broker or Anthem sales representative.

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



## Financial Relief for New Chamber Businesses

In an effort to support job growth within the state, the Ohio BWC has created the Grow Ohio Incentive Program to help minimize some of the financial pitfalls new companies tend to encounter within their first years of business. The BWC offers two options for significant premium reductions to businesses that have brand new policies and have created new jobs on or after July 1, 2011.

### Ways to Save.

New employers can select one of the following discounts:

- New businesses are now eligible to join a group-experience-rating program and can receive a premium discount (potentially up to 53%) effective on their first day of business. New businesses can elect to receive an automatic 25% discount on their workers' compensation premium.



### We're Here to Help.

Benefits 1 Group, our preferred provider for third party administrative services, is currently working with new businesses throughout our area to secure these discounts. Don't miss out on this timely savings opportunity!

If you believe you may be eligible or have general questions regarding other available discounts through the Ohio BWC, please contact our **Chamber Services Manager, Peter Young** at [peter@benefits1group.com](mailto:peter@benefits1group.com) or call him at **877.765.4200 ext. 254**.

To expedite the process, feel free to fill out an online temporary authorization form at [ac3.benefits1group.com](http://ac3.benefits1group.com). This information allows Peter to thoroughly assess your potential for savings in advance of your phone call.

### About Benefits 1 Group

Links to Share: <http://www.benefits1group.com/noacc> and [About Benefits 1 Group Savings Program](http://www.benefits1group.com:7080/resources/b1g/noacc/updates/2013/grow_ohio.pdf) ([http://www.benefits1group.com:7080/resources/b1g/noacc/updates/2013/grow\\_ohio.pdf](http://www.benefits1group.com:7080/resources/b1g/noacc/updates/2013/grow_ohio.pdf))

Benefits 1 Group (B1G) is our chamber's preferred provider for workers' comp third party administration. In 2013, **Benefits 1 Group saved the Northern Ohio Area Chamber Member an average of \$3,151.11 off of their workers' compensation premium.** Overall this year, B1G saved NOACC membership nearly \$385,000 in total.

Benefits 1 Group provides Third Party Administration (TPA) cost-control solutions designed to help employers minimize healthcare costs associated with workers' compensation and related employee absence. From strategy to implementation, the experts at Benefits 1 Group offer over 250 years of specialized expertise in Ohio BWC premium rate reduction, risk financing, claims management, and accident and loss prevention.

**Contact Us:**

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

**Email:**

[asstdir@brooklynohiochamber.org](mailto:asstdir@brooklynohiochamber.org)

**We are on the web!**  
[www.brooklynohiochamber.org](http://www.brooklynohiochamber.org)

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## Things To Know



### Still Using Windows XP? ~by Peter Saeger with ChamberMaster



After April 8th, 2014 Windows XP and Office 2003 will no longer be supported by Microsoft. This means there will be no new security updates, non-security hotfixes, nor any support as the product hits its 10 year anniversary.

You might be asking "How does this affect my organization?" After April 8th, new security risks will continue to be found and without any new patches from Microsoft, the longer you continue to use Windows XP, the more vulnerable your computer will be to various security exploits. To prevent any issues, we recommend you upgrade to Windows 7 or 8 and a newer version of Microsoft Office. You can find additional information from Microsoft [here](#).

### 2014 Website Banner Ads Available

#### Advertise Here



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 from January 1, 2014 to June 30, 2014! 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 so be sure to contact us ASAP if you would like to take advantage of this great opportunity! If you are interested, please contact Valerie Thompson at [asstdir@brooklynohiochamber.org](mailto:asstdir@brooklynohiochamber.org) for more information.

Did you know that as a thank you to our members, we periodically take out advertising in local publications that lists our members? Be sure to look for this on the 2014 City of Brooklyn calendar.

