

BROOKLYN CHAMBER NEWS

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Upcoming Luncheons!

Our March luncheon will be on Thursday, March 22nd at Carrabba's on Tiedeman. This month's speaker is Sean Gilmore from Baldwin Wallace College. The title of his presentation is "Regionalization of Safety Services". Mr. Gilmore will be presenting information from a study he is involved in that centers around the conjoining of local fire departments within Cuyahoga County. Our April luncheon will be held on the 18th at the new Brooklyn Fire Station. All those in attendance will receive a tour and information on the new station. Registration for all luncheons begins at 11:45am. Hope to see you there!

**MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT
GREG GENS - SUPERIOR PRODUCTS**

This is my first chance to speak to you as the new President of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce. I welcome the opportunity to talk to you about our community.

As an incoming President I would be negligent if I did not mention the great work of the previous three Chamber Presidents, Mark Heller, Ken Grodek and Glenn Skorko, along with past and current Chamber Board Members. Their leadership and effort has brought the Chamber from infancy to its current level of membership – just under 100 members and growing. It is a much different Chamber of Commerce today than when these volunteers began to contribute their time over four years ago.

Next I wish to thank Mayor Ken Patton for another update of the "State of the City" Presentation. It is always interesting to hear about what is happening in Brooklyn. The Mayor's presentation covers all departments of the city from street repair to finance. A lot of good things are happening in Brooklyn, and it is great to be able to hear about the positive direction the city is moving in. Some of these same highlights can be viewed on the City of Brooklyn's Website <http://www.brooklynohio.gov/files/>

nsltr107.pdf It is good to read, especially if you missed the Mayor's presentation.

With congratulations and thanks to current and past leaders behind me, I now turn my attention, and the rest of this letter, to the future of the Chamber of Commerce. In this small space, I think only one topic can be covered effectively. Today that topic is communication. To me the compelling element of the Chamber is the opportunity to communicate with my business peers and other members of the Brooklyn community. I would like to ask you to help enhance our communication between our members. Right now the Chamber affords its members with two principal means of communication.

The first is this newsletter. For many members this is their only contact with the Chamber. The Chamber Board endeavors to bring the important local business stories to you in this newsletter. But it can be even more informative with your help. Send in articles or stories about businesses (yours or others) or the community and we will try to fit it in the newsletter. Articles can be sent to the Chambers Assistant Director Valerie Thompson at

**PO Box 44038, Brooklyn
OH 44144**

**or they can be emailed to
asstdir@brooklynohiochamber.org**

More participation from a wider group of members can only make the newsletter better.

And finally the other way we communicate is through face-to-face meetings at Chamber luncheons and fundraising social events. The fundraisers "Cruisin' 42 to Memphis" and "A Taste of Brooklyn and All That Jazz" have been very successful as our first attempts. They are a great place to mingle with those you know and an opportunity to meet new people. All for a great cause!! And of course Members and their guests can attend the ten luncheons that the Chamber arranges throughout the year. Here again I ask your input. Come to the lunches, let us know what you like and don't like. Give us suggestions for speakers, or let us know if lunches are scheduled at times that are inconvenient for you. Again send your thoughts to the Chambers Assistant Director, Valerie Thompson. I thank you for any of your ideas and I look forward to seeing you (and talking to you) at a Chamber function.



MEET OUR NEWEST MEMBER, SAM'S CLUB

Sam's Club, a division of Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., started in 1983, and opened its first location in Midwest City, Oklahoma. Sam's Club has grown over the last decade to over 575 locations nationwide with 30 clubs operating in the State of Ohio. As the nation's leading members-only warehouse, Sam's Club offers a broad selection of general merchandise and large volume items at value prices. Sam's Club has been the preferred choice for small businesses, families or anyone looking for great prices on name-brand products. A nominal

membership fee (\$35 annually for businesses/\$40 annually for individuals) helps defray operating costs and keeps prices exceptionally low.

Sam's Club associates pride themselves in offering outstanding member service. Founder Sam Walton always believed that excellent customer service would distinguish Wal-Mart and Sam's Club from all others in the industry. Sam's Club offers a 100% satisfaction guarantee on membership and merchandise. Sam's Club works hard to understand our members and

meet their diverse needs.

The majority of all Sam's Club charitable donations are administered at the local level. The company recognizes the greatest impact on communities is made by supporting causes that are important to customers and associates right in their own neighborhoods. Each location recognizes the efforts of their hometown police, fire, rescue, or EMS teams through its Safe Neighborhood Heroes Program. In 2006, the Brooklyn Police Department received a \$2500 direct donation through this

program. Local grants that support organizations large and small are awarded through the Community Grant Program. The City of Brooklyn's holiday campaign and the Brooklyn Animal Shelter each received a \$1,000 grant through this program last year.

Sam's Club looks forward to doing business with you and being your partner for success in your business, your life, and your community

MEET OUR NEW BOARD MEMBER

**Joseph D. Salem, AVP
Relationship Manager
Chase Business Banking**



Joe has been a resident of Brooklyn for twenty years. Upon graduating from Brooklyn High he went on to get his degree from John Carroll University and is

currently pursuing his MBA. Joe has been in the banking industry since graduating from JCU. His experience within the industry includes time as a branch manager and commercial underwriter as well as his current position, which entails being the trusted advisor to many local business owners. Joe has been an active member of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce since its inception. He helped to create the Scholarship committee and still serves as its chairman.

Joe had served as a board member for almost two years with his previous employer. He willingly rejoined the board after another member was forced to step down due to time constraints. Joe is also very involved in his community. He is an auxiliary police officer in Brooklyn. He has served on several community boards and committees, including Zoning Board of Appeals. He is active with the JCU Entrepreneurs Association and is involved in the

JCU Alumni-in-Admissions program. He and his family (Ann, wife, Lauren, 5, and Danny, 3) are members of St. Thomas More parish. Joe also serves on the St. Thomas More School Advisory Board. If you would like to contact Joe, he can be reached at 216-781-2242 or Joseph.D.Salem@Chase.com.



Updates from the City of Brooklyn



Ridge Road Repairs

Ridge Road is scheduled for a Mill-Fill repair from I-480 to Memphis Avenue. It is slated to go to bid the first quarter of 2007 with work to be performed the second quarter of 2007. The project is a County project with 80% being funded by the County and 20% by the City of Brooklyn.

There will be a total reconstruction of Ridge Road by the County in 2011.

New Business Coming to Brooklyn

Business in Brooklyn continues to grow as several new establishments are opening in our community.

Wild Ginger Restaurant, an up-scale Asian restaurant, is now open at 5092 Tiedeman Road in Key Commons.

Fifth Third Bank is now open at 4653 Tiedeman Road.

BC Roosters Restaurant will be opening in the former Ponderosa location at 7106 Biddulph Road.

Roosters is a family style casual dining restaurant specializing in chicken wings, burgers, etc.

New Construction in Brooklyn

Construction on the West Park Assembly of God multi-purpose building is proceeding at 8707 Memphis Avenue (west of Rodoan Road). The completed building will include stucco finished exterior walls, and a metal roof. Construction should be completed this summer.

Construction on the Brooklyn Ridge Senior Housing Development will begin in the spring.



Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce Offers 4th Annual Scholarship

The Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce is once again offering two scholarships to Brooklyn residents who will be attending an accredited college or university this fall. The two \$2,000 scholarships will be awarded in two separate categories. The first will be for a graduating high school senior planning to attend college full-time in the fall and the second is offered to anyone who is seeking post-secondary education through an accredited school.

To be eligible for one of the awards, you must: (1) be a Brooklyn resident attending an accredited college or university; (2) You cannot have been a previous winner in the category for which you are applying; (3) Submit an application with recommendations; (4) Prepare an essay of no less than 1000 words on the following subject, "Ohio just passed new minimum wage legislation. Analyze the legislation's effects on Ohio's employ-

ees, its economy and its small businesses." Applications may be printed from the Chamber's website at www.BrooklynOhioChamber.org. The deadline for submission is Monday, April 30, 2007 and award recipients will be announced at the Chamber's monthly luncheon meeting on Thursday, May 17, 2007. Contact the Chamber's Assistant Director with any questions by phone at 216-288-5484 or by email at asstdir@brooklynohiochamber.org.

Brooklyn Library Winter Programs

It may be cold outside, but inside the Brooklyn Branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library, there are some hot ideas to help wither away the long winter hours. This is the perfect time to learn a foreign language and we have two databases, **Rosetta Stone Online Learning Center** and **Pimsleur Language Programs**, to help with over 30 different languages.

Most of our databases are available for home use. You can find current information on antiques at **p4a Antiques Reference**, print out a power of attorney form at **Legal Forms**, or research the complete federal census at **Heri-**

tage Quest. These and the dozens of other databases are both fun and easy to use. Stop in and ask a librarian for a demonstration.

Have you heard about "The Big Read"? The National Endowment of the Arts and library systems nationwide have joined together to promote reading by choosing one book, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston, for reading and discussion within their communities. Call the library at **216-398-4600** for more information about any upcoming discussions. We've made it easier than ever to request or renew borrowed library

materials. You can stop in, call us, or access your account by logging onto www.cuyahogalibrary.org, and if no other customers are waiting for the item, you can renew it up to 20 times. You can also sign up to receive text messages and email reminders regarding your library materials.

With wi-fi access for your laptop, word processors to type your resume, and fourteen internet terminals for surfing and research, the Brooklyn Branch is the one stop for all your information needs. Stop in today!

CHAMBER CALENDAR

1-Mar	Board of Directors	Hampton
14-Mar	Exec. Committee	Panera
22-Mar	Luncheon Meeting	Carrabba's
5-Apr	Board of Directors	Hampton
11-Apr	Exec. Committee	Panera
18-Apr	Luncheon Meeting	Fire Station
3-May	Board of Directors	Hampton
9-May	Exec. Committee	Panera
17-May	Luncheon Meeting	
7-Jun	Board of Directors	Hampton
13-Jun	Exec. Committee	Panera
20-Jun	Luncheon Meeting	
5-Jul	Board of Directors	Hampton
11-Jul	Exec. Committee	Panera
1-Jul	Chamber Social	
2-Aug	Board of Directors	Hampton
8-Aug	Exec. Committee	Panera
1-Aug	Community	
10-Aug	Home Days	
6-Sep	Board of Directors	Hampton
12-Sep	Exec. Committee	Panera
20-Sep	Luncheon Meeting	
4-Oct	Board of Directors	Hampton
10-Oct	Exec. Committee	Panera
17-Oct	Luncheon Meeting	
1-Nov	Board of Directors	Hampton
14-Nov	Exec. Committee	Panera
15-Nov	Annual Meeting	
6-Dec	Board of Directors	Hampton
12-Dec	Exec. Committee	Panera
19-Dec	Luncheon Meeting	

Brooklyn Chamber Mentorship Program



Graduation is an exciting time for most seniors at Brooklyn

High School, many students will be attending college, some are going into the military and others have employment lined up. But there are a few students that after they walk across the stage and receive their diploma, have no plans for the future. The Brooklyn Chamber, in conjunction with Brooklyn High School, will be providing a mentorship

program to help the handful of students that may need a little direction after graduation. We are looking for businesses that will be willing to mentor a student. The time commitment is minimal and there are no costs. Over a four week period starting in late March / early April, students will be visiting their mentor company two hours each week. During each visit the student will shadow a different department or aspect of your business. Many students don't understand that

there are many parts to a company and if we as a Chamber can show them that there is more to a business, this may inspire the students to reach higher. Times and days will be worked out between the mentor business and the student, what areas the student will shadow is up to you.

If you are willing to work with one of the seniors, please contact Kevin Corp at 216-459-1426 or email kelliekevin@wowway.com.





Contact Us:

Phone: 216 288-5484

Email:

asstdir@brooklynohiochamber.org



Officers

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VICE PRESIDENT

Mike Kissel

TREASURER

Donna Thompson

SECRETARY

Valerie Thompson

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Glenn Skorko
Quantum Digital Solutions

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American Greetings

Dale Winsberg
Lutheran Hospital

New Resident Packets

The City of Brooklyn sends out "Welcome" packets to new residents that move into the community. Businesses located in the city are encouraged to include information, promotions, flyers, etc. advertising their business. Some of our businesses send a letter welcoming the new residents with a discount available. One of our local dentists sent in dental floss as a promotional item. If you are interested in participating, please call Donna Thompson at (216) 635-4224.



Would You Like to Receive the Newsletter in your Inbox?

The Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce is now offering to its members the option of having the newsletter emailed. If you are interested in this service please email Valerie Thompson at asstdir@brooklynohiochamber.org

CALLING ALL MEMBERS...



We would like to extend an invitation to all of our members to join one of the Chamber's committees. The time commitment is very small and is a great way to meet new people and network. Please send an email to Valerie Thompson at asstdir@brooklynohiochamber.org if you are interested in being a part of one of the committees listed below.

Scholarship and Education

Marketing

Events

Membership

Programs

Newsletter

What's New in 2007?

The Chamber newsletter committee is looking for articles in regards to new and exciting things happening in your companies this year. If you are interested in submitting an article please email Valerie Thompson at asstdir@brooklynohiochamber.org