

Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce Newsletter

Volume 8, Issue 2
March 2010

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I don't know about you, but this is the time of year when I am really sick of winter and starting to anticipate spring. It seems that winter was longer this year. Possibly because of the severity of the winter weather, combined with the ongoing difficulties in the economy, especially here in Northeast Ohio. It appears recently that home prices have begun to stabilize and even move up a little bit... spring will eventually follow. Perhaps it's time for us to consider being a little more cheerful as we go forward.

The Chamber has purchased 10 pedal cars which we hope will be purchased by Chamber members and then customized so that we can again participate in the Friday Night Car Cruises at Ridge Park Square. Last year, the Car Cruise was a tremendous success. Each week, 300 cars showed up to parade around the parking lot. Car owners were able to see the other vehicles and to catch up with their friends and neighbors. Outside visitors were given the opportunity to see what kinds of offerings are available at Ridge Park Square. It was a great venue for the Chamber of Commerce to

showcase our organization. If you can help us with this event, either through the purchase and customization of a pedal car, or through helping us on Friday nights to work the event, please contact Valerie. We would be most appreciative!

On February 20th we held our annual Taste of Brooklyn celebration at the Ridge Manor Party Center. Once again, the Brooklyn High School Jazz Band gave a spectacular performance. We were feted with the taste sensations provided by local vendors and members of our organization. If you have not attended a previous Taste of Brooklyn, please consider doing so next year. It is a very fun social evening. On February 17th Mayor Balbier presented the annual State of the City address at our luncheon at Carrabba's. On March 18th, Superintendent Cynthia Walker with the Brooklyn City Schools will present her concept of a renovated Brooklyn School district to our members at our luncheon at Carrabba's.

We are beginning to organize for our Annual Golf Outing towards the end of June, date to be announced. We are also working on putting together a food fair event to take place in the early fall at the Memphis Kiddie Park. We will be looking for your help and patronage to make these events a success. Look for more details to follow on both events.

Other projects in the works will be a social gathering at the Brooklyn Branch of Dollar Bank, hosted by David Hill, the awarding of our scholarships at Brooklyn High School and Rhodes High School, an upcoming luncheon at Polaris, and an upcoming luncheon at the Brooklyn Historical Society. Please join us at any of the above mentioned events this year. The Chamber will have an active year and we need your help. We look forward to working with all of you in the future!



Greg Frey
President

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Luncheon on Thursday, March 18th

The speaker for this luncheon will be Superintendent Cynthia Walker. The Brooklyn Board of Education will be seeking out partners to create a multi-use, multigenerational facility in the future. She will be updating the community regarding the efforts thus far. The luncheon will be at Carrabba's, registration and networking begins at 11:30am.



UPCOMING LUNCHEONS



Networking and registration for all of our luncheons begins at 11:30am and lunch will be served at 12noon.



Wednesday, April 21st

The luncheon will be held at Polaris Career Center, located at 7285 Old Oak Blvd in Middleburg Hts. The presentation is titled "Shhhhhh! Don't tell anyone I've got a business:

10 steps to ensure the media never mention your company." How to get free publicity in radio, television and newspapers. An insider shares tips on getting your name and the name of your company into the local media. It's much easier than you think, especially today when most media are going "hyper local." The presenter is Saimi Bergmann, who has been a journalist in radio, TV, and newspapers for 25 years, has taught newswriting and communication at Kent State, and mass communication and public speaking at Mount Union College. Her current job is consumer/business writer for The Canton Repository and restaurant reviewer for ABOUT magazine. The students in the Po-

laris Culinary Arts Department will be preparing a delicious meal for us! We hope to see you there!

Wednesday, May 19th

The luncheon will be held at the Brooklyn Historical Society. Last year, everyone in attendance enjoyed a delicious lunch, followed by a tour of the museum. It was a great place for a luncheon! Look for more details to follow.



TASTE OF BROOKLYN



The 4th annual "Taste of Brooklyn and All That Jazz" Fundraiser, which benefited the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce's Scholarship Fund, took place on Saturday, February 20, 2010. The event was a huge success in raising over \$1,600 for the fund! We had over 100 people in attendance, the most we have ever had!

"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. The Jazz Band amazed everyone with their talent. Everyone in attendance received a gift bag of products, courtesy of Cathy Hogan and

Procter and Gamble.

A VERY special thanks goes to Don Workman with Ameriflag for turning the event into a 65th birthday celebration. He sold almost 40 tickets to his friends and family! Every year, Don goes above and beyond to make sure the event is a success. This year, he also donated his pedal car from last year for a raffle. Thank you, Don Workman and family!

The Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce would also like to thank the following people and businesses that donated their food, time, and space to make the "Taste of Brooklyn and All That Jazz" such a huge success.



- Aldo's**
- Applebee's**
- Brooklyn High School Jazz Band**
- Carrabba's**
- Doug & Cathy Hogan (Procter and Gamble)**
- Don Workman with Ameriflag**
- GFS Marketplace**
- Greg & Mary Frey**
- Memphis Kiddie Park**
- Mike Kissel and Family**
- Polaris Career Center Culinary Arts Dept.**
- Ridge Manor Party Center**
- Rooster's**
- Sam's Club**
- The Sausage Shoppe**
- The Town Planner**
- Wal-Mart**



NEWS FROM PARMA HOSPITAL

Parma Community General Hospital

Parma Hospital named to list of 20 Best Community Hospitals in America

Parma Community General Hospital has been named to the list of 20 Best Community Hospitals in America, as published in the March/April edition of *Becker's Hospital Review*. Hospitals named to the list were selected based on publicly available indicators such as quality outcomes, patient satisfaction and patient safety. Becker's reports that it considered industry rankings such as Thomson Reuters, which has named Parma Hospital among the 100 Top Hospitals for cardiovascular care in 2009, and HealthGrades, which placed Parma Hospital among America's 50 Best Hospitals in 2009 and gave it the clinical excellence and women's health excellence award.

"Quality care with a personalized touch is what Parma Hospital is known for, and we are extremely proud to be ranked among the best community hospitals in the country," said President & CEO Patricia A. Ruffin. "It is validating to be recognized nationally when judged on objective, publicly available indicators."

Parma Hospital will no longer hire smokers HR policy reflects hospi- tal's commitment to wellness

Reinforcing its commitment to the wellness of both its employees and the community, Parma Community General Hospital will no longer hire smokers, effective March 1, 2010.

"Wellness is a choice and a personal responsibility," said Larry Jeffries, senior director of Human Resources at Parma Hospital. "Parma Hospital wants its employees to model the healthy behaviors we teach our patients."

The policy change coincides with an emphasis on wellness to improve the quality of life for employees. The extensive offerings include:

- Opening WellFit, a new employee fitness center, in January 2009.
- Hiring of a Wellness Coordinator to manage WellFit, organize wellness initiatives like fitness and weight loss contests, perform individualized fitness evaluations, teach exercise classes
- Launching contests like the Biggest Loser Challenge, in which 217 employees are competing to lose significant weight and transform their lives
- Substantial changes to the Cafeteria selections, with lower-fat, lower-sodium alternatives
- A 30 percent discount for employees at all exercise and mind/body wellness classes offered through the hospital's Health Education Center

- An incentive program that pays cash to employees who receive preventive screenings through the hospital-sponsored medical insurance plan
- Smoking cessation support for existing employees

Employees hired prior to March 1, 2010, will not be affected by the change. Those seeking employment will be required to take a nicotine test as part of the pre-employment physical examination. The result of the test must be negative. Any job candidate who incurs a positive result will be offered smoking cessation resources and may be reconsidered 90 days later if their retest is negative.

H1N1 visitation policy relaxed as flu activity subsides

Effective immediately, visitors under 18 are now allowed access to public areas of Parma Community General Hospital and also are permitted to visit patients. "H1N1 Flu activity has lessened and there are currently low levels of flu activity in general," says Eva Szathmary, MD, director, Division of Infectious Diseases. Restrictions were put into place on October 23, 2009 as a proactive measure to protect patients, visitors and staff during a period of heightened H1N1 flu activity. Under the temporary visitation restrictions, no visitors under 18 were permitted in the hospital – unless they themselves were seeking treatment.



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CHAMBER TIDBITS



Please welcome our newest member
Top Dawg Delivery



For those of you that have sent in payment for your 2010 membership dues, thank you! We truly appreciate your support! We will be sending out 3rd notices to those of you who have not paid. Please let us know if you need to make special arrangements.

2010 Pedal Car Fundraiser

The Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce will once again, be participating in the Friday Night Cruises this summer at Ridge Park Square. If you are interested in purchasing a pedal car kit please contact us for more information! It is a great way to advertise your business!

