

Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce Newsletter

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 6

NOVEMBER 2011

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Condolences

In remembrance...

The Chamber received very sad news in regards to one of our members, Allen Koson, who passed away on September 27th. He was one of our founding members and a dear friend of the Chamber. Al was the representative for Ferrous Metals when the Chamber started in 2002. Our deepest sympathies to his wife, Phyllis, and the entire Koson family. Al will be missed dearly.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Chamber Members,

Fall is upon us. We now watch another World Series without the Tribe and the Browns fighting to be respectable in a tough Division. Other than that we have had a very eventful couple of months.

The Fall Fest held at Kid-die Park provided several of our members and residents to get outside while the weather was still good and enjoy themselves. Our attendance was up dramatically and several of our food vendors exceeded what they sold last year. However, we feel that our efforts still did not get the results that we are striving for. So our Chamber Board has decided to go back to the drawing board and try to revamp the event into something else. We are looking for any suggestions that you may have. It could be an arts fair or something along those lines.

Our September and October luncheons were very interesting and well attended. We met at Aldo's

Restaurant and enjoyed a wonderful meal from one of Brooklyn's hidden treasures. Our Speaker was Wayne Lawrence who spoke to us on the advantages of being a Chamber member and the benefits given to us by our association with the Northern Ohio Area Chamber of Commerce's (NOACC). In October we enjoyed the wonderful food at TGI Friday's and heard from David Tur-ovic, a representative from the Ohio Treasurer's Office. He spoke of the several programs and offers that his office makes available to businesses and residents throughout Ohio.

Recently, I had the honor of attending an award ceremony given by NOACC where one of our members was given the annual Bright Star Award. This year's honoree was Anne Guess of Key Bank. Anne is currently the Chambers Vice President and has been thoroughly involved in all of our activities and promotions throughout the year. Our

Congratulations go out to Anne.

This past Thursday on November 10th, we held our annual meeting at Ridge Manor Party Center. We had a great turnout as we welcomed our newest 2012 Board of Directors and awarded this years Chamber Member of the Year to Ken Grodek with EmbroidMe.

Lastly, as I reflect on this years Annual Meeting I just wanted to share with you that this has been a very trying year for Brooklyn's Chamber members, our businesses and its' residents. Through all of this the Chamber Board of Directors appreciates your support and efforts. I am sure that next year will be a rewarding one for all of us.

Doug Hogan

FirstEnergy[®]

Thank You To Our Sponsors!

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Our Fall Fest event was held on the weekend of September 23-25, 2011 at Memphis Kiddie Park. Those in attendance enjoyed a variety of food, including ribs, custard, corn on the cob, pierogies, gyros, fresh squeezed lemonade, traditional carnival food, and much, much more! Not only was there plenty of food, but vendors provided entertainment such as a dunking tank, face painting, games, and live music, to name a few. We sold raffle tickets for our pedal car fundraiser. All 10 cars were raffled off on Sunday of the event.

On Friday night, Greg Frey's son's band, The Mediocres, dazzled the crowd with their music. Another local band, Funkology, was on stage Saturday and drew quite a crowd. On Sunday, The Highlighters, also from Brooklyn, played for afternoon crowd. Also on Sunday, the Cleveland Metroparks Nature Tracks mobile classroom was on site to teach children about our local environment.

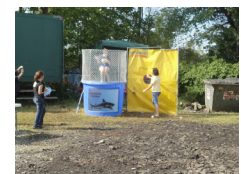
Special thanks go to Peggy and Tina Hovan for donating their time to do face painting as clowns on Sunday.

The Brooklyn City Schools provided an amazing number of student volunteers during both days of the event. Special thanks go to Heather Miller for coordinating and overseeing all of the students! Special thanks also go to Ann Guess with KeyBank who coordinated the adult volunteer schedule for the event.

Fall Fest turned out to be bigger and better than last year with more vendors, exhibitors, and larger attendance numbers. Without the help of our many volunteers, sponsors, Mayor Richard Balbier & the City of Brooklyn, Mike Kissel & his staff at Memphis Kiddie Park, Brooklyn City Schools, and the Parma Area Chamber of Commerce, the event would have never run so smooth!

Thank you to all of our Volunteers: Peggy & Tina

Hovan; Brooklyn Adult Activities Center – David Nodge; Brooklyn City Schools – Cynthia Walker, Heather Miller, Rick Cyngier, Kevin Aufmuth, Jacinta Bader & Ann Marie Yarman (Middle School Student Council), Sherrin Frate (Brooklyn Middle School National Junior Honor Society), Gary Plucinsky (Brooklyn High School Key Club), Michelle Hirsch (Brooklyn High School National Honor Society & Student Council); City of Brooklyn – Bob & Fran Migliorino; Dollar Bank – David Hill, Jason Baran, Autumn Muniak, Mike Chase, Jane Johns, & Lorraine Besch; Four Star Insurance – Bob Durante & Chuck Germana; KeyBank – Brian & Ann Guess; PNC Bank – Sam Watkins; Polaris Career Center – Pam Vizer; State Farm Insurance – Greg Frey; Superior Products – Greg & Carolyn Gens; Westbrook Village Apartments/The K&D Group – Denise Christescu, Christine Ferraro, & Gina Hylton



What's Next for Brooklyn Chamber?

In order to continue to provide our members with quality monthly programs, we will be increasing our monthly meeting fees. Beginning in 2012, our meeting fees will increase to \$14 for sustaining members, \$15 for non sustaining members, and \$20 for non members.

Also changing in 2012 will be the time of day our meetings will occur. We will be planning a mix of luncheon and breakfast meetings next year to try and accommodate everyone's schedules so be sure to watch your emails for more information.

A 2012 calendar has been included with this newsletter. I will send out emails as the details are all worked out for each monthly meeting.

Thursday, December 8th Joint Luncheon at LaVilla - Join us on Thursday, December 8th for our monthly luncheon. Members from the Parma Area Chamber of Commerce will also be joining us. George Sleight, a 9/11 survivor, will be giving a presentation on his account of that historical day that changed American lives forever. The

event is being held at LaVilla Conference & Banquet Center, located at 11500 Brookpark Road. Networking and registration for all of our luncheons begin at 11:30am and lunch will be served at 12noon. The cost for this luncheon is \$15.

Saturday, February 4th, "Taste of Brooklyn and All That Jazz", 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 Fund. This is the Chamber's 6th year hosting the event! This event has had great success in the past. Because of the proceeds made in 2011, we were able to award three \$600 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 2012.

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, door prizes, and entertainment. This

year, we will also be selling raffle tickets at the event for a chance to win a cash prize!

We are looking for businesses that are able and willing to donate their time and food to the event. We are also looking for corporate sponsors to help offset the cost of the event and generate more money for the scholarship fund.

If you are able to help out in any way or if you are interested in purchasing tickets, please let Valerie know.

We would like to thank the following members who have graciously donated as sponsors for the event. We hope you will join them!

Cleveland Peterbilt

Hampton Inn Brooklyn

KeyBank



Mastering Chamber Master

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...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!

1. Access www.chamberlogin.com
2. Enter your login name and password.
3. Click **Events** in the left-hand menu.
4. Click **Add an Event**.
5. Complete the fields in the **Request to Add New Event** screen.
6. Click **Submit for Approval**.

Upon approval, your event will appear on the 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.

Brooklyn Library Upcoming Events

CUYAHOGA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY WILL BE CLOSED SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24TH AND SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25TH FOR THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY AND SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31ST AND SUNDAY, JANUARY 1ST FOR THE NEW YEAR HOLIDAY.

ADULT PROGRAMS

GED Classes

The Brooklyn Branch offers free GED classes at the library in partnership with Parma ABLE. Call Parma ABLE at 440.885.8797 to register.

Tuesdays & Thursdays / 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Friday Morning Book Discussion

Registration requested

Join us for good books and great conversation.

Fridays, December 2ND, January 6TH, February 3RD / 9:30 a.m.



Holiday Guide to Video Games / *Registration required.*

Looking to buy a video game console for your family but not sure which one to buy? Looking for a video game for your husband, teen or child for the holidays but not sure what to buy them? Stop by the Brooklyn Branch for a hands-on afternoon trying out the Nintendo Wii™, Xbox 360® and PlayStation 3®. Learn about the pros and cons of each console and the latest in technological upgrades and find out which one is right for you or your loved ones.

Saturday, December 3RD / 2:00 p.m.



Monday Evening Book Discussion

Registration requested

Join us for good books and great conversation.

Mondays, December 5TH, January 2ND, February 6 / 7:15 – 8:30 p.m.

Technology Petting Zoo / *Registration requested.*

Take technology for a test drive. Visit our Technology Petting Zoo for hands-on interaction with the iPad®, iPod®, Nook™ and more. Staff will be available to answer questions and share tips for interacting with your library through technology. Stop in and give something new a try!

Saturday, December 10TH / 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.



Holiday Concert / *Registration required.*

Enjoy a special concert of holiday music performed on the hammered dulcimer, electric guitar and fiddle by Lisa and Heather Malyuk. These accomplished folk musicians have performed throughout the United States and abroad. They've produced several recordings, including *Merry Christmas From Lisa and Heather Malyuk*. Refreshments will be provided. Sponsored by the Friends of the Brooklyn Branch Library.

Thursday, December 15TH / 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Monday Afternoon Book Discussion

Registration requested

Join us for good books and great conversation.

Mondays, December 19TH, January 16TH, February 20TH / 12:30 – 2:30 p.m.



The Music of the Beatles / *Registration required.*

Join renowned acoustic guitarist Rick Iacoboni as he plays interpretations of many of the most popular songs of the Beatles. Hear the fascinating stories behind the Beatles' influences in composing the songs, how the songs were written and the little known facts about how they were recorded. Sponsored by the Friends of the Brooklyn Branch Library.

Tuesday, January 17TH / 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

There are many more events and classes and the Brooklyn Library this Winter for more information or registration please contact them at 216 398-4600 or visit their website at <http://www.cuyahogalibrary.org/BrooklynBranch.aspx>

Parma Community General Hospital *Parma Hospital...Surgical Advances*

Parma Community General Hospital is pleased to introduce the da Vinci® Si™ Surgical System to our operating room and our community. This is significant because of the value it offers our surgical staff and those in the region we serve.

The da Vinci® Si™ has several unique features designed to provide additional clinical benefits and efficiency in the operating room compared to prior generations of this technology, which translates to improved patient outcomes. Examples of these features include:

- Enhanced 3D, high-definition (HD) vision of operative field with up to 10x magnification
- Superior visual clarity of tissue and anatomy
- Surgical dexterity and precision far greater than even the human hand
- Updated and simplified user interface
- New ergonomic settings for greater surgeon comfort

These enhancements provide surgeons at Parma Hospital with unparalleled 3D HD vision, precision and dexterity that facilitate a minimally invasive approach for many complex surgical procedures.

“We believe that the features of the da Vinci® Si™ Surgical System will help us provide the best possible clinical outcomes and is a testament of our commitment to provide our community access to the latest advancements in minimally invasive surgery,” said Carson Wong, MD, FRCSC, FACS, medical director, Center for Minimally Invasive and Robotic Surgery at Parma Community General Hospital. “This allows us to provide the type of care one would expect from a large academic medical center, in a more personalized setting.”

da Vinci’s advanced level of technology takes surgery beyond the limits of the human hand. This acquisition complements our goal of extending minimally invasive surgery to the broadest possible base of patients. It can be used for a multitude of disciplines, including urology, gynecology, general surgery and bariatric surgery.

“Parma Hospital begins offering robotic-assisted surgery to our patients with the latest robot and superior 3D image capability,” said Parma Hospital President & CEO Terry Deis. “We are thrilled to have a nationally known surgeon who has had experience launching previous, successful robotic surgery programs, leading our venture. This is a great benefit to our patients and community.”

Welcome to our newest members!!

Vendors Exchange International, Inc.
 Kimberly Hosey
 8700 Brookpark Road
 Cleveland, OH 44129
 216-706-7396
kim.hosey@veii.com



The Incorporated Trustees of the Union Gospel Press
 Mark Akers
 2000 Brookpark Road
 Cleveland, OH 44109
 216-749-2100
makers@uniongospelpress.com

← MEMBER UPDATES ↘

2012 Membership Dues

It is that time of year again...time to renew your membership to the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce. 2012 invoices will be emailed out in December. Payment can be made by check or credit card. If interested in paying by credit, please let Valerie Thompson know so she can give you the correct paperwork.



Contact Us:

Phone: (216) 288-5484

Email:

asstdir@brooklynohiochamber.org

We are on the web!
www.brooklynohiochamber.org

Officers

PRESIDENT
Doug Hogan

VICE PRESIDENT
Ann Guess

TREASURER
David Hill

SECRETARY
Valerie Thompson

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John Bundy
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Key Bank Operations Center

Dr. Eric Braunscheidel
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State Farm Insurance

Greg Gens
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Mark Heller
Fodor Realty

David Hill
Dollar Bank

Doug Hogan
FirstEnergy

Eric Manfredi
Weleski Transfer of Cleveland

Fran Migliorino
City of Brooklyn

Mayor Richard Balbier
Ex-Officio

David Nodge
Brooklyn Adults Activities Center

Glenn Skorko
Quantum Digital Solutions

Pam Vizer
Polaris Career Center

Cynthia Walker
Brooklyn City Schools

Help Your Business

The Alphabet Soup of Health Plans-HSA & HRA
Health Savings Accounts (HSA)
Health Reimbursement Accounts (HRA)



As health care costs have risen in recent years, small businesses have turned to consumer-driven health plans (CDHP) in an attempt to keep costs in check while continuing to provide employees with the health coverage they expect.

CDHPs have higher deductibles, so more health care expenses are borne by the employee at the time of service. However, they carry lower premiums, so for most people they will cost less than traditional HMO or PPO plans.

There are two primary types of CDHPs: Health Savings Accounts (HSA), and Health Reimbursement Accounts (HRA).

The HSA, paired with a high-deductible health plan (HDHP), is a savings account into which employers or employees, or both, make pre-tax deposits for health care-related expenses such as office visits, prescriptions and copayments. The account earns interest, which is also tax-deferred, and any money left in the account at the end of the year can be rolled over and used to pay for future health care expenses, or retirement.

If the funds in the HSA are exhausted before the plan deductible is met, the employee pays the remaining deductible amount. This is referred to as the "bridge" amount, because it bridges the HSA and the traditional health coverage part of the plan. Once the deductible is satisfied, the traditional coverage protects employees from further expenses.

An HRA is similar to an HSA, but it is funded entirely by the employer. This gives an employer a greater tax advantage, in addition to the option to customize the account to the company's needs. For example, the employer can decide whether to allow funds to roll over from year to year. The employer pays to reimburse expenses as they occur, rather than funding the plan upfront. Funds received by employees are tax free.

HRAs are used to reimburse only items that are not covered by the company's health plan, such as copayments, deductibles, and other services approved by the employer. HRAs can also couple with other types of health insurance, and are not limited to high-deductible plans. Debit cards linked to the plan for participants, and third-party administration for the employer, keep HRAs convenient and easy to use for all involved.

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

Helping Small Businesses GrowNOW

GrowNOW, brought to you by State Treasurer Josh Mandel, enables small business owners to receive a 3% interest rate reduction on their bank loan when they link the loan to job growth or retention in the State of Ohio. GrowNOW can reduce the interest rate on a new or existing loan up to \$400,000, potentially saving business owners \$12,000 per year. The program is a partnership between State Treasurer Josh Mandel's office and the state's participating banks. GrowNOW also stimulates Ohio's economy and rewards small businesses that drive it.

How Do Small Businesses Qualify?

To qualify, businesses must meet the following criteria:

- Have less than 150 employees
- Be organized for profit
- Have offices and operating facilities in Ohio
- Must have a majority of employees be Ohio residents
- Link the loan request to job growth or retention in the State of Ohio by saving or creating one full-time or two part-time jobs for every \$50,000 borrowed

Questions? Visit State Treasurer Josh Mandel's GrowNOW website at www.grownow.ohio.gov or call 1-800-228-1102 option #3.





| Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce Monthly Meetings | | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| DATE | TIME | SUBJECT | LOCATION | DETAILS |
| January-December 2012 | | | | |
| Thurs 1/12/2012 | TBD | Monthly Meeting | TBD | Details to follow |
| Sat 2/4/2012 | 7-10pm | Taste of Brooklyn & All That Jazz | Ridge Manor Party Center | Details to follow |
| Thurs 2/9/2012 | TBD | Monthly Meeting | Westbrook Village Apts | Details to follow |
| Thurs 3/8/2012 | TBD | Monthly Meeting | TBD | Details to follow |
| Thurs 4/12/2012 | TBD | Monthly Meeting | TBD | Details to follow |
| Thurs 5/10/2012 | TBD | Monthly Meeting | TBD | Details to follow |
| Thurs 6/14/2012 | TBD | Monthly Meeting | TBD | Details to follow |
| Summer 2012 | TBD | Golf Outing | TBD | Details to follow |
| Thurs 9/13/2012 | TBD | Monthly Meeting | TBD | Details to follow |
| October 2012 | 5pm - 7:30pm | Clam Bake | Memphis Kiddie Park | Details to follow |
| Thurs 10/11/2012 | TBD | Monthly Meeting | TBD | Details to follow |
| Thurs 11/8/2012 | 4-6pm | Annual Meeting | Ridge Manor Party Center | Details to follow |
| Thurs 12/13/2012 | TBD | Monthly Meeting | TBD | Details to follow |





6th Annual “Taste of Brooklyn and All That Jazz” Sponsors needed...

The Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce is hosting its annual “Taste of Brooklyn and All That Jazz” on Saturday February 4, 2012. The event is being held at Ridge Manor Party Center from 7-10pm. All of the net proceeds benefit the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce’s Scholarship Fund.

We are looking for sponsors to help offset the cost of the event and generate more money for the scholarship fund. If you are willing to be a sponsor for the event, your name and logo will appear in the event program, on our website, in newsletters and emails leading up to the event and you will be recognized the evening of the event. The cost for a sponsorship is \$150. If you are interested in being a sponsor, please fill out the attached form.

This is the Chamber’s 6th year hosting the event! This event has had great success in the past. Because of the proceeds made in 2011, we were able to award three \$600 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 2012.

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, door prizes, and entertainment. This year, we will also be selling raffle tickets at the event for a chance to win money! If you are interested in tickets or donating door prizes, please contact Valerie Thompson.

We thank you for your support!

Taste of Brooklyn Committee



Please fill out the sponsorship form below for the Taste of Brooklyn. The cost is \$150.

Contact Name _____

Company Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Total: \$150

Pay by Check

Pay by Credit Card

Bill Me

Please make checks payable to Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce. If paying by credit card, please email asstdir@brooklynohiochamber.org to receive the necessary documents. Mail checks and forms to:

**Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce
PO Box 44038
Brooklyn, OH 44144**

If you have any questions, please contact Valerie Thompson at 216-288-5484 or asstdir@brooklynohiochamber.org.