

Lemont Area Chamber of Commerce Newsletter

August 2006

Volume 6, Issue 8

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Mission Statement

"To develop, encourage, promote and protect the commercial, professional, financial and general business interests of the greater Lemont area."

Vision

Accomplish Together What No One Business Can Do Alone

Get Money, Keep Customers

B2B 2006: Breakout Panels Help Small Businesses

The advantages of attending the Business to Business Event, scheduled for September 12 at the Tinley Park Convention Center, just keep growing.

"Our breakout session speakers are incredible," says Vivette Payne, Avery Payne Group, co-coordinator of the event. Rebecca Palumbo, Rollins Palumbo Creative, co-coordinator, stated, "Over 20 local chambers of commerce are actively involved in the planning of this regional networking day and they have put together an impressive array of speakers focused on issues of importance to all businesses."

Business to Business is a region-wide opportunity for local businesses to exhibit their products and services, network throughout the day, and attend seminars that will help them succeed.

The first session, beginning at 9:30am, is "Do You Need Money?" geared towards small business owners and entrepreneurs who are looking to increase cash flow through low interest loans, grants, or tax relief. Panelists include: Bill Browne of enterpriz Cook County, John Cieslik of the Illinois State Treasurer's Office STEP Program, Bryan Stubbs of the Small Business Administration and also a representative from Illinois DCEO (Department of Commerce

and Economic Opportunity). Each panelist will speak for 10 minutes, detailing programs available through their organization, then the floor will be opened for questions.

At 10:30 the second session, "Getting and Keeping Customers" begins. This session will discuss how to close a sale, techniques for outstanding customer service, and customer retention. Panelists include: Joe DeWald of Best Buy Corporation, Dave Chapman and Randy Conn of McDonald's Corporation, Micheal Colky PhD, Dean of Workforce Development and Community Services at Moraine Valley Community College and Sam Walter of Southwest Airlines.

At noon, Pat Rea, Regional Administrator with the U.S. Small Business Administration will give an economic forecast over lunch. Palumbo stated, "Mr. Rea is an informative, engaging speaker who analyzes global situations, policies and trends and makes them relevant to the Southland business environment."

Business to Business is designed to celebrate and promote the products and services available in the south and southwest suburbs. Exhibiting businesses will pay only \$175 until July 15 for space, one seat at breakfast, one seat at lunch,

and an exhibitor-only appetizer reception, registering through their local chambers. After July 15, businesses will pay \$195. "We recommend businesses register as quickly as possible, as the floor is filling up faster than expected", says Payne.

Attending the event for on-the-floor networking is free with a business card. Break-out sessions are free, a progressive networking breakfast is \$15 and the economic forecast lunch is \$25.

The event is exclusively sponsored by the Daily Southtown and Star newspapers.

Communities represented at the Business To Business Event thus far are: Alsip, Bedford Park, Blue Island, Bridgeview, Country Club Hills, Crestwood, Crete, Flossmoor, Frankfort, Glenwood, Homer Glen, Homewood, Lemont, Lockport, Matteson, Midlothian, New Lenox, Oak Lawn, Olympia Fields, Orland Park, Palos Heights, Park Forest, Richton Park, South Holland, Steger, Tinley Park and University Park.

For more information about Business To Business on September 12 at the Tinley Park Convention Center, contact Dawn (630.257.5997) at your local chamber, or call Vivette Payne at 708.747.0844.

Letter From Your President

As the summer progresses the car shows have continued and are doing well. We've had a few weather problems, but all in all they are going well. I would like to give a special thank you to the Lemont Police Chief Kevin Shaughnessy for organizing the Police Car Night and parade last month. It was a good time and

everyone who attended enjoyed it. As always, we thank our Lemont Legend volunteers for their continued support and help with this event.

Congratulations to Woodbine Golf Course for hosting a grand opening for their new banquet facility. It is a beautiful new facility and I would recommend

our members to check it out. Also congratulations to Phil Sullivan for his new venture (Sullivan & James Kitchen and Bath), which had their ribbon cutting in July (also a beautiful facility).

Our chamber year just completed 6 months for the year 2006. We will be looking

for some new directors and volunteers for projects. It is not too early to start thinking about helping your chamber by being a director. Please call the chamber office if you are interested.

Remember to shop your CHAMBER local businesses.

Pat O'Brien

Retreat - Focus

The board is gathering information to compile a date and time for our upcoming workshop. More information will be following in next month's newsletter.

2006 Business & Community Expo

Join your fellow Chamber members for exposure of your business to both the business market then keep your table intact for exposure to the community the next day! You can participate in either one or both expos.

Business Expo

Friday, November 3
Set Up 3-5 pm
Expo 5-7 pm

(Complimentary pizza & pop will be served.)

Community Expo

Saturday, November 4
Set Up 8-10 am

Expo to Public 10-2 pm

Please visit the Lemont Chamber website for registration information.

Lemont Legends Cruise Night 2006

The Cruise Night committee and Board of Directors would like to personally thank the Lemont Classic Car Club, Lemont Park District, Original Krusin' Car Club, and the Village of Lemont, for volunteering for the month of July! Not to be forgotten is our Chamber Directors who all sign up for an evening or two (actually four) to support the program! Last but not least we need to thank John Senese, as he works extremely hard week after week to make this work.

Grand Opening

Congratulations to Woodbine Golf & Banquets for the celebration they had on July 20, 2006 commencing the opening of their new addition for their facility. What a great way to spend an evening with superb appetizers (could not decided which station to go back to they were all so excellent) and great networking opportunities.

Ribbon Cutting

A ribbon cutting was held on July 19. Phil Sullivan (Callahan Plumbing) finally has his own name on something! Best wishes are extended to his new venture of Sullivan & James Kitchen and Bath at 900 Main Street.

Check it out as they are a major distributor for all Kohler products, plus the showroom is gorgeous.

Our Own Business/Community Expo

Mark your calendars for November 3 & 4 for two exciting expos. First a Business Expo will be held Friday evening (5-7 pm), followed by a Community Expo on Saturday (10-2 pm) for residents of our town. More information including early bird specials will be in next month's newsletter.

Congratulations!

Great expectations have arrived for the Nowakowski (Keith, Echo Design Group) family with their addition of their new son, Harrison William. Best wishes and hopeful thinking for a good nights sleep!



Tell Us What You're Doing!

Is your business sponsoring any charity events or scholarships? Are you expanding or moving to a new location? Have you received an award recently?

Let us know!

Member News is something we can put in the newsletter as space permits. Please email us at lacc@core.com with any updates.

Gift Certificates

Use at over 285+ businesses in the Lemont area.

Call 630.257.5997 (Please give 24 hour notice) to order your personalized gift certificate today!

Your recipient will truly appreciate the choices they will be able to make.

Chamber members, please do not hesitate to take one of the Lemont Chamber Gift Certificates. The dollar amount of the gift certificate will be reimbursed to your business after receiving at the Chamber office. This is a win-win situation for both the consumer and you the merchant.

Reinvestments

Two Rivers Event Center

Received as of 07.26.06

Your name may be on a previous month's newsletter.

Edward Jones Highest in Investor Satisfaction

The financial-services firm Edward Jones ranks highest in full-service investor satisfaction for the second consecutive year, according to the J.D. Power and Associates 2006 Full Service Investor Satisfaction Study (SM), Brad Grcevic, investment representative in Lemont, announced today.

The J.D. Power and Associates study found that strong customer service representative performance, convenience, account set-up/offers, account statements and product and service offerings combined with competitive investment performance drive Edward Jones' first-place finish. Edward Jones does particularly well serving its more affluent clients, the survey found.

"As a firm, all of us are committed to providing outstanding client service," said Grcevic. "Our clients are the true judges of our service, and these surveys show that our clients think highly of the firm and their relationships with their local investment representatives and branch office administrators. Their satisfaction is reflected by the fact that they would recommend Edward Jones to their friends, as reported in the study results."

According to the study, satisfaction translates into advocacy, and Edward Jones clients recommend their investment representative more often than other firm, according to the survey.

Meeting face to face with one's investment professional is the best way to increase satisfaction, the survey found.

"We believe that individual investors prefer to conduct business face to face in offices that are conveniently located," Grcevic said. "We treat our clients the way we would want to be treated, and we appreciated the honor that they bestow upon us."

Edward Jones ranked highest by J.D. Power and Associates in 2005, and highest in 2002, when the study began. Recently Edward Jones in Canada announced the firm's highest ranking in J.D. Power and Associates' Canadian study.

Welcome New Members

At Your Bark and Call, Inc.

Ms. Cathryn Smith
2 Partridge Lane
Palos Park, Illinois 60464
708.274.3789
www.barkandcallmobilepet.com
admin@barkandcallmobilepet.com

Mobile pet grooming which will go to anyone's home to groom their dog and/or cat in the driveway.

Rag's Electric

Mr. Richard A. Grant
16244 Bluff Road
Lemont, Illinois 60439
630.739.7347
630.739.7424 Fax
ragselectric@aol.com

Performing electrical construction and maintenance for commercial, industrial and residential applications.

Tri County Special Recreation Association

Ms. Sandra Olson
201 Normantown Road, Suite LL East
Romeoville, Illinois 60446
815.407.1819
815.407.1829 Fax

www.tricountysra.org
solson@tricountysra.org
Provide recreation opportunities for individuals of all ages with disabilities.

Woodbine Golf Course

Ms. Claudia Rallis
14240 West 151st Street
Homer Glen, Illinois 60491
708.301.1252
708.301.2154 Fax

www.woodbinegolf.com
claudia@woodbinegolf.com
Golf course with restaurant and banquet facility.

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2006 Board of Directors

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gradwanski@msn.com

Calendar of Events

August and September 2006

- Aug 2, 9, Cruise Night
16, 23, 30 6-9pm
- Aug 10 Board of Directors Meeting
@ Echo Design Group
- Sept 1-4 Lemont Keepataw Days
- Sept 12 B2B Expo Regional Chambers
- Sept 14 Board of Directors Meeting
@ Resicom
- Sept 20 Combined Business After Hours
Wilson Rental, Mokena

Newsletter Advertisement:

Provide 350, 8.5 x 11 flyers for \$40 is available to Chamber Members (\$20 for Clubs and Organizations) for direct marketing to other chamber businesses and dignitaries in and around Lemont. Call approximately 4-6 weeks

in advance to reserve space in the next upcoming newsletter. All copies must be received by the 20th of the month for insertion. The Chamber does not endorse any advertiser who uses this newsletter to promote their products or services.