



The Networker



The newsletter for the business community in Oak Lawn.

President's Message

Anne Marie Casey

Happy New Year to everyone! Holiday traditions, especially at the end of one year and the beginning of a new year, always seem to combine a celebration of the present with a reflective look at the past. As we welcome this new year, and as we look to the installation of a new President, new officers and new directors, join me in looking back at the year that has just passed and at the growth and development of our Chamber. What a year it has been! Our Chamber has its own annual traditions in which we can all take pride.

To begin, let me say that the state of our Chamber of Commerce is strong and better than ever, and the growth and improvement show every indication of continuing in the coming year. At the heart of everything, and probably most importantly, our membership has increased, and new members continue to join us each month. The average attendance at our monthly luncheon meetings is consistently higher. Partly in connection with membership growth, we have had more frequent Business After Hours events than in years past.

Our annual Business Showcase held in March was once again a tremendous success and, like so many other things this year, was bigger and better. As a joint venture with Oak Lawn Community High School and its annual craft show, it has always been an opportunity to showcase our businesses to a large audience, and this year was no exception. Because past participants have recognized and shared the value of this event, each year more businesses take advantage of the opportunity, and the 2004 version featured more participants than ever.

As the marquee fund raising event for our organization, the golf outing continued to be as strong as ever. This year continued a renewed and growing excitement for its being held at Oak Lawn's own Stony Creek Golf Course which provided quality golf and an extraordinary evening in every way.

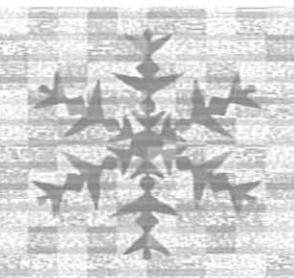
This year's 26th Annual Fire Safety Coloring Book continued to be a great joint venture between the Chamber and the Oak Lawn Fire Department. Advertising was up significantly both in the number of ads and revenue generated, and we were once again able to make our contribution to the fire and safety education of the children of our Village. The book is one of the many ways that the Chamber works hand in hand with the Village to enhance the quality of life in Oak Lawn.

Looking forward to the coming year, our 2005 Business Directory and Planner will continue to be a useful resource and tool for our members. As with the coloring book, advertising has greatly increased, both in number of ads and revenue, and it seems that more and more Chamber members are taking advantage of the Directory/Planner as an advertising medium.

Despite the specific challenges I have faced with respect to the future of my own business as development occurs in the Village, this year we have been able to improve the positive working relationship and an open-door policy between the Chamber and the Village. The Chamber supports and participates in various events throughout the Village. We are especially proud of our sponsorship and organizational roles in the Oak Lawn Community High School Annual Homecoming Parade and the Annual Village Santa on the Green Celebration. We have always shared the common goal of making Oak Lawn a great place to work

Photo of Anne Marie

January
2005



Shop
Oak Lawn
First

Continued on page 2

President's Message

Continued from page 1

and to live. Acting Mayor, Ron Stancik, Village Manager, Joe Faber, and I believe that to still be the case, and we have always been able to respect and listen to each other's thoughts and concerns. The night of the 2004 Installation Dinner, Ron Stancik told me that his door was always open, and I have always found that to be true. Our door is open as well, and that's how it should be.

All of this growth, and all of these accomplishments have been facilitated by our own internal administrative growth and development. We have upgraded our office technology and our accounting and financial systems. With the help of a professional web designer—who is also a member of the Chamber—we have revamped the Chamber's website to make it more functional, informative and user-friendly. Most importantly, we are fortunate now to have Jennifer Busk as our Executive Director. In addition to her prior marketing and public relations experience, she has brought a heightened professionalism and renewed optimism and enthusiasm to her position and to the Chamber as a whole. At her side every day, we have Joan Rhoads, a tech-savvy quick learner who has shown herself to be adept at doing whatever it takes to accomplish a task. If any of you has not yet met Jennifer or Joan, you probably will in the near future. Their pride and enthusiasm are contagious.

Our Chamber has always worked better as a team. This year, as a team, we enjoyed the benefits of increased and improved communication among the officers and directors, and also between the board and the members. We were without an Executive Director for the first eight months of the year, and there was a greater need for that involvement and leadership, and we got it. Our officers and directors assumed their responsibilities and duties extremely well and took on stronger and more effective leadership roles than ever before, in many cases beyond expectations. All of the officers and directors should take pride in this past year, and each of you should know that you will always have my gratitude for your contributions to the Chamber this past year, not only for the successes of specific events, but for improving the overall tone and spirit of the Chamber.

It has been an interesting year - challenging, frustrating, rewarding, most often fun, but never dull - and I wouldn't trade a single moment. Most of all, it has been a privilege to have had the chance to serve as your President for this past year. I wish each and every one of our members and supporters continued success in the coming year and always.

Don't forget, "Shop Oak Lawn First!"

Sincerely,

Anne Marie Casey

2004 OFFICERS

Anne Marie Casey, President
Annie's, Ltd.

Jack Baker, 1st Vice President
Marquette Bank

Leo Gutchewsky, 2nd Vice President
Century 21 Accent-Homefinders

Peter Schwarz, Secretary
Hawk Lincoln Mercury

Helen Makina, Treasurer
Allegra Print & Imaging

David C. Kobak, Immediate Past President
Blake-Lamb Funeral Home

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Term Expiring 12/31/04

Chris Augle (Christopher John Designs, Ltd.)

Dr. Sandra Bury (Complete Vision Care)

George Cachares (Southwest Physical Therapy)

John Crivellone (Illinois Security Services)

Dr. David Finkelstein (Oak Lawn Foot & Ankle)

Irene Lovitt (Bank Financial)

Gene Mondello (Geno's Decorating)

Susan Peppia (Bridgeview Health Care)

Dan Perrino, Jr. (D & D Printing)

Karen Clark (Hope Children's Hospital)

Ted Young (Circle Creations)

Term Expiring 12/31/05

Brian Anderson (Hilton Oak Lawn)

Dr. Joseph Brannigan (Brannigan Chiropractic)

Joann Buschbach (Buschbach Insurance)

Michael Gutchewsky (Gootch & Assoc.)

Noreen Mikols (Fifth Third Bank)

Linda Olsen (Oak Lawn Public Library)

Patricia Stasik (Oak Lawn Park District)

ADVISORY BOARD

Brian Anderson (Hilton Oak Lawn)

Milton Anderson (Andersen Builders)

Chris Augle (Christopher John Designs)

Jim Buschbach (Buschbach Insurance)

Joann Buschbach (Buschbach Insurance)

LeRoy Corradino (Founders Bank)

Chuck Dinolfo (Century 21 Pro-Team)

Tom Gavin III (Southwest Messenger Press)

Barbara Gliege (Kozlerek & Assoc. Realtors)

David C. Kobak (Blake-Lamb Funeral Home)

Robert Kuenster (Thompson & Kuenster F.H.)

Doris Marks (Park Lawn Assoc.)

Laura Shallow (Fifth Third Bank)

Executive Director's Column

Jennifer Busk

No doubt this New Year's Eve many of us raised a glass at the stroke of midnight and belted out "Auld Lang Syne" without ever knowing the true meaning of this traditional tune. So, here's a piece of trivia that will surely get you noticed next New Year's: "Auld Lang Syne" is a Scottish folk song whose lyrics translate into "for times gone by." It seems appropriate to take a moment and reflect on the recent "times gone by" of the Chamber.

December was a busy month for hosting a Business After Hours (BAH). Thanks to AAA Chicago Motor Club, Advocate Hope Children's Hospital and U.S. Cellular, respectively, for sponsoring a BAH. And thanks to those members who despite the holiday rush, found time to attend and enjoy some holiday cheer. We're well on our way to meeting my goal of hosting at least two BAH per month.

Our annual holiday luncheon was another success. Held at the Hilton Oak Lawn, we topped out with 70 people in attendance! We were joined by the Oak Lawn Community High School Chamber Singers who blessed us with their beautiful voices by singing several holiday songs. Thanks to Meredith Morris, Choir Director, and these young ladies for such a festive treat.

And looking ahead to the new year, we're already off to a running start! We're in the midst of final preparations for the Installation Dinner. I hope many of you will make an effort to attend and show support for your fellow members who will be installed as Officers and Directors. I hope also you'll join us to toast the Chamber's efforts of the past year and celebrate all that lies ahead in 2005. Come raise a glass to those who so willingly give their time and talent to benefit the Oak Lawn Business Community. Wouldn't it be great to start off 2005 with record attendance at this important event?

Although I've only been with the Chamber a few months, I'm thrilled with the contagious spirit expressed by our members and I expect this same spirit to continue into the New Year. We're planning many new and exciting events for 2005, along with everyone's annual favorites, such as the Golf Outing. Cheers!

Village Update

The Village Hall will be closed on January 3 in honor of New Year's Day and on January 17 for the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

As a reminder, the Village Hall is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. every Monday through Friday. On the second and fourth Tuesday of every month, the Village Hall cashier's window remains open until 8:00 p.m. These extended hours correspond with the regularly scheduled Village Board meetings which begin at 8:00 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month.

The Police Department and Public Works would like to remind everyone of the winter parking restrictions. Please be mindful of the snow route postings.

Calendar of Events

January 1	New Year's Day
January 11	Oak Lawn Village Board Meeting, 8:00 pm, Village Hall
January 17	Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday, Village Hall Closed
January 22	59th Annual Installation Dinner, 6:30 p.m., Hilton Oak Lawn
January 25	Oak Lawn Village Board Meeting, 8:00 pm, Village Hall

Bonanza Raffle Winners December

\$100	Ray May
\$50	Brian Cornelison—Christ Hospital
\$25	Ruta Susinkas—Century 21 Pro-Team
\$25	David Finkelstein—Oak Lawn Foot & Ankle Center

CHAMBER EVENTS



Join us for the 59th Annual Installation Dinner!

Saturday, January 22, 2005, the 59th Annual Installation of the Officers and Directors of the Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce will take place at the Hilton Oak Lawn. The evening promises to be a great success as we celebrate the accomplishments of 2004 and welcome the new year.

Tickets are selling fast! Call the Chamber office to reserve your spot. Tickets cost \$65 per person and include dinner, open bar and live entertainment by the Steve Edwards Orchestra.



For gentlemen interested in renting a tuxedo for the Installation Dinner, the following Chamber members have graciously offered the following discounts:

Men's Wearhouse

Tuxedo: \$55.00*

Vest: \$10.00

Shoes: \$10.00

Modern Tuxedo

Tuxedo: \$69.00*

Vest: \$10.00

Shoes: \$15.00

*Basic tuxedo includes jacket, slacks, shirt, tie, suspenders and cummerbund.

Ho-Ho-Holiday Happenings

It was rainy and chilly the Saturday after Thanksgiving when Santa and Mrs. Claus paid a visit to the children of Oak Lawn for the annual Santa on the Village Green Festival. The event was a great success and featured traditional horse-drawn carriage rides, sponsored by the Oak Lawn Chamber. Thanks to Jim and Becky's Horse and Carriage Rides for providing a driver and "Smoke" the horse and Jewel Foods for donating the candy canes distributed to parents and children. A special thanks to Anne Marie Casey, Jack Baker, Leo Gutchewsky, Mike Gutchewsky, Laura Shallow, Joan Rhoads and Jennifer Busk for assisting at the event.

Photo 1

Chamber Directors pose in front of Santa's Fire Sleigh.

Photo 2

Jennifer Busk, Anne Marie Casey, Mike Gutchewsky and Leo Gutchewsky assist with the carriage rides.

Photo 3

Families enjoy a ride on the horse-drawn carriage.

LIBRARY NEWS

The Oak Lawn Public Library, 5300 W. 95th St., will offer the following programs free of charge on a first-come, first-seated basis in their lower level meeting rooms. For more information, call 708-422-4990.

Sunday With Friends: Dyed in the Wool

Sunday, January 9 at 2:00 p.m.

Celtic music at its finest! This Beverly-based troupe will perform many of your favorites from the Emerald Isle. Sponsored by the Friends of the Oak Lawn Library.

Beat the Unemployment Blues

Monday, January 17 at 7:00 p.m.

Shirley Moore will present the "Dynamic Do's" to help you land a great job. Learn about career assessment, professional presentation, referrals, networking, interviewing, resumes and win-win negotiation.

Investment Basics

Thursday, January 27 at 7:00 p.m.

Charles Schmitz of Heritage Partners will show you where to start, strategies for investing and ways to determine if your investments are performing well. This program is intended for both new and experienced investors.

PADS Clothing & Toiletries Drive

The Oak Lawn Public Library will serve as a drop-off site for a collection drive initiated by the Oak Lawn Community Partnership to aid guests of the local Public Action to Deliver Shelter (PADS) program. You may help the homeless by donating these items from January 10 to March 1:

- New: socks, underwear (men's sizes 32-44 and women's sizes M-XL), and men's undershirts.
- New or gently used: sweatshirts and sweatpants.
- Toiletries: shaving cream, razors, and travel size deodorant, toothpaste and shampoo.

Free Health Screenings

The Oak Lawn Community Partnership offers Free Health Screenings at the Oak Lawn Public Library the second Wednesday of most months at 1:00-3:00 p.m. Stop by for a blood pressure check and much more on January 12 and February 9. For details, call 708-346-3289 or visit

www.oaklawncommunitypartnership.com

SAVE THE DATE — BUSINESS SHOWCASE!

The Chamber of Commerce will sponsor its annual Business Showcase on Saturday, March 19, 2005 from 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. in the Spartan Gym at the Oak Lawn Community High School. All Chamber business are invited to participate. More details to come!

Sell! Sell! Sell!

Bonanza Raffle tickets are now on sale! Tickets cost \$10 each and offer 48 chances to win throughout the year. \$100, \$50 and two \$25 prizes are awarded each month during the member luncheon and at other Chamber events throughout the year. Why bother with a trip to the riverboat when you've got odds like these? Good luck!

Business After Hours

Photo 4

Hope Children's Hospital's BAH on December 7th.

Photo 5

Chamber members enjoyed a December 15th BAH sponsored by U.S. Cellular.

D & D Printing Ad to be placed
here

Rescigno's Rapid Mailing Service
Ad to be placed here

Evergreen Door & Window

Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce Members

Do you or someone you know need some improvements in your home or business appearance? GENO'S DECORATING, INC. can help your house or building look just the way you want. Take advantage of the season and take care of the improvements that are needed or just wanted to give you that "professional" touch. Please call Gene Mondello or Ninae Mondello at (708) 423-6961 for any assistance you may need.

Geno's Decorating
5435 West 110th Street, Unit 3A
Oak Lawn, IL 60453

Phone (708) 423-6961 or Fax (708) 423-7088

Great Lakes Bank Ad
To be placed here

Luncheon News

PHOTO 6

Members of the Oak Lawn Community High School Chamber Singers joined members for the December luncheon at the Hilton Oak Lawn. The singers entertained attendees with traditional holiday songs, such as Carol of the Bells.

Welcome New Members!

PHOTO 7

Marge Papas of A1 Screen Printing, Brian Brace and Patrick Parrish of Loyalty Mortgage Company, Jeanette Howell of Propertytax.com and Jeff Choate of U.S. Cellular received their plaque from Anne Marie Casey during the December luncheon.

We also welcome to the Chamber:

Oak Lawn Firestone

10327 S. Cicero Ave.

Owl Hardwood

4655 W. Southwest Hwy.

JC Link DBA Midas

11009 S. Cicero Ave.

Crystal Clear Intercom Inc.

5757 W. 95th Street, #13

O'Connor Quality Hyundai

8920 S. Cicero Ave.

For Sale

The Oak Lawn Chamber has a Nurit 2080 credit card terminal available for purchase. The machine is in mint condition thanks to very limited use and includes a phone jack and power supply cord. Warranty not included. Please call the Chamber office at 708-424-8300 if you'd like more information.

Luncheon Notes...

As a reminder, there will be no luncheon this month as we will celebrate the installation of the 2005 Officers and Directors on January 22. We will resume our regular luncheon schedule in February and meet at the Hilton Oak Lawn on Tuesday, February 8, 2005.

Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce

5314 W. 95th Street

Oak Lawn, IL 60453

(708) 424-8300

Fax (708) 229-2236

e-mail: oaklawnchamber@sbcglobal.net

Web Site: www.oaklawnchamber.com

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Oak Lawn, IL

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**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
LUNCHEON**

59th Annual Installation Dinner!

Saturday, January 22, 2005

Hilton Oak Lawn

6:30 p.m. Cocktails

7:30 p.m. Installation

8:00 p.m. Dinner

Entertainment by The Steve Edwards Orchestra

February Luncheon

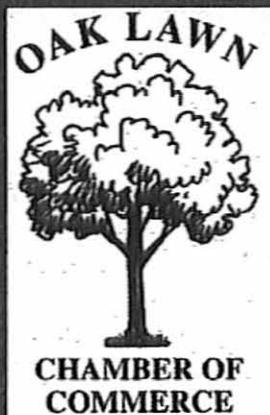
Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Hilton Oak Lawn

11:30 a.m. Social Hour

12:00 p.m. Luncheon

Cost: \$15.00



Oak Lawn
Chamber of
Commerce
Mission
Statement

"The Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce works to represent and advance the Oak Lawn business community, striving with constant integrity, fairness and cooperation to promote and improve the economic atmosphere, business climate and image of Oak Lawn."

OAK LAWN



CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE



The Networker



The newsletter for the business community in Oak Lawn.

President's Message

Jack Baker

What a wonderful night it was at the Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce Installation Dinner on the 22nd of January at the Hilton Oak Lawn. Although the winter storm prevented some people from attending, those who were able to make it had a great time. Thanks go out to Brian Anderson and Joan Geary for the wonderful food and service, and for the flowers, supplied by Chris Aogle and John Valentino of Christopher John Design, which made the place light up. The entertainment, provided by the Steve Edward's Orchestra, kept the music going and the people dancing. Noreen Mikols (5th/3rd Bank) and her committee, including the office staff of Jennifer Busk and Joan Rhoads, should be congratulated for putting together another great event. And thank you to the many businesses that placed an ad in the program book. This is the event where the new slate of Officers and Directors were sworn in, and what a terrific group of people they are.

Photo of Jack

I would like to thank Anne Marie Casey for all of the hard work, time and dedication she put into the Chamber over the past year as our President. She put both personal and business priorities aside to ensure that things got done. Annie stepped up to the plate and hit a home run. The entire Chamber sends you our gratitude for everything you.

**February
2005**

As I mentioned in my speech given at the Installation, I believe that Oak Lawn is the gem of the Southside. We have a lot of things going for us in Oak Lawn, including an outstanding police force, top rated fire department, excellent medical facilities, a great commercial base, a terrific library, super park district, dedicated village personnel and so much more. Things have been changing for some time in our village, a little more so in the past few years. I hope the Chamber and the Village continue to collaborate to make these changes work for all.

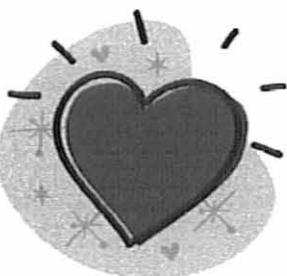
This year, a focus is to expand our membership and add new programs and events to increase our visibility to the community. On Wednesday March 9th, the Chamber, along with the *Daily Southtown Economist*, will sponsor a Mayoral Debate, followed by a Trustee debate on March 15th. I encourage anyone who has an interest in Oak Lawn's future to attend.

The Chamber also will hold its annual Business Showcase on March 19th at the Oak Lawn Community High School. George Cachares and his committee have been working hard to host an event that grows bigger every year. It proves to be worth the time and money for participants and is a great way to showcase your business to the community. To host a booth, please complete the enclosed flier. I am sure spaces will fill up quickly.

Don't forget to buy your monthly raffle tickets. It's not too late to enter for 48 chances to win. This fundraiser was established many years ago so the Chamber offices could move out of the old Cook School and have a presence on 95th Street. It is a fundraiser that needs your support. Call the Chamber office for ticket information.

The Chamber is only as good as its members. Please become a more active member. Remember to SHOP OAK LAWN FIRST!!

Jack



**Shop
Oak Lawn
First**

From the Desk of the Executive Director

Jennifer Busk

A new year, a new month a new Board! On a very snowy January 22, more than 200 people gathered to celebrate the installation of the 2005 Officers and Directors of the Chamber. Thanks to those that braved the snowy, blizzard-like conditions. It was not an easy task. To borrow the motto of the U.S. Postal Service, "neither rain, nor sleet nor snow" could keep you away. I'd like to echo the sentiments Jack expressed in his letter and send a sincere thanks to all those that worked tirelessly to ensure a triumphant evening.

With a successful Installation under our belts, we've already begun work on other exciting events. We'll host our first member luncheon of the new year on Tuesday, February 8 at the Hilton Oak Lawn. We hope to see many of you, and don't forget to R.S.V.P. to the Chamber office! On Wednesday, February 16, Bally Total Fitness will host the first "Business After Hours" of 2005. Please join us from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. for casual conversation, food and drink. Please see the enclosed flier for more details.

Looking ahead to March, keep your eyes out for more information on the Mayoral and Trustee Debate. And, mark your calendars for Saturday, March 19th when we'll host our annual Business Showcase at the Oak Lawn Community High School. We hope to have a record number of exhibitors! You'll find additional details on this event on page four.

And that's a wrap for now. The snow may be deep but our spirits run high as we work to help the Oak Lawn Chamber continue as one of the most supportive and progressive Chambers in the area. We hope you'll help by supporting our various programs and activities.

Jennifer



2005 OFFICERS

Jack Baker, President
Marquette Bank

Leo Gutchewsky, 1st Vice President
Century 21 Accent-Homefinders

Peter Schwarz, 2nd Vice President
Hawk Lincoln Mercury

Helen Makina, Treasurer
Allegra Print & Imaging

Irene Lovitt, Secretary
Bank Financial

Anne Marie Casey, Immediate Past President
Annie's, Ltd.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Brian Anderson (Hilton Oak Lawn)

Dr. Joseph Brannigan (Brannigan Chiropractic)

Peggy Burke (First American Bank)

Dr. Sandra Bury (Complete Vision Care)

Joann Buschbach (Buschbach Insurance)

George Cachares (Southwest Physical Therapy)

Karen Clark (Hope Children's Hospital)

Carey Cranston (Fox College)

John Crivellone (Illinois Security Services)

Dr. David Finkelstein (Oak Lawn Foot & Ankle)

Michael Gutchewsky (Gootch & Assoc.)

Rhonda Martin (Manor Care Healthcare East)

Kevin Mathers (Bally Total Fitness)

Noreen Mikols (Fifth Third Bank)

Gene Mondello (Geno's Decorating)

Ginger Morgan (Thompson & Kuenster F.H.)

Linda Olsen (Oak Lawn Public Library)

Tom Orłowski (Men's Wearhouse)

Susan Peppia (Bridgeview Health Care)

Laura Roman (Archer Bank)

Jerry Spearman (Standard Bank & Trust)

Patricia Stasik (Oak Lawn Park District)

Dan Walsh (Hallberg Insurance)

Ted Young (Circle Creations)

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Tom Gavin III (Southwest Messenger Press)

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David C. Kobak (Blake-Lamb Funeral Home)

Robert Kuenster (Thompson & Kuenster F.H.)

Doris Marks (Park Lawn Assoc.)

Laura Shallow (Fifth Third Bank)

LIBRARY NEWS

The Oak Lawn Public Library, 5300 W. 95th St., will present the following cultural programs free of charge on a first-come, first-seated basis in their lower level meeting room. For more information, call 708-422-4990.

A Valentine from Paris **Sunday, February 6 at 2:00 p.m.**

Claudia Hommel will perform a cabaret concert for lovers in both French and English, accompanied by pianist Bob Moreen and accordionist Troy Neihardt. This romantic musical revue will feature many well-known songs, such as "Moulin Rouge," "April in Paris" and "I Wish You Love," along with new delights to be discovered. Sponsored by the Friends of the Oak Lawn Library.

Decoding Da Vinci: The Art of Leonardo **Tuesday, February 8 at 7:00 p.m.**

Jeff Mishur of Art Excursions, Inc. will give a slide lecture focused upon Leonardo Da Vinci's artistic innovations and his impact on painting during the Italian Renaissance period. Please note: This is not a book discussion. Although, there will be some references made to "The Da Vinci Code" novel by Dan Brown.

George and Martha's House **Wednesday, February 16 at 7:00 p.m.**

Mount Vernon was on the verge of collapse 150 years ago. Betsy Green will present a slide show and lecture on George Washington's home and the grassroots campaign to save and restore it for future generations.

Income Tax Forms & Publications

Visit the Oak Lawn Public Library web site (www.lib.oak-lawn.il.us) for links to 2004 federal and state income tax forms and publications that are available online.

Reproducible versions of the most common forms are kept in 3-ring binders near the library's photocopy machines.

Pick up federal and Illinois state income tax forms at these locations:

* Federal: Internal Revenue Service (IRS), 5860 W. 111 St., Chicago Ridge, IL 60415. Phone: 708-346-7910 -- M-F: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

* IL State: Illinois Department of Revenue, 100 W. Randolph St., Chicago, IL 60601. Phone: 312-814-5232 -- M-F: 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Order forms and publications by phone at:

* Federal: 1-800-829-3676

* IL State: 1-800-356-6302

VILLAGE UPDATE

The Village Hall will be closed on February 21 in honor of Presidents' Day.

During the winter months, the Public Works Department handles snow removal and water main breaks as needed. For questions, or to report a problem, please call the Department of Public Works at 499-7756.

The Village of Oak Lawn business and housing breakfast is scheduled for February 15 at the Hilton Oak Lawn. This annual event provides information on current developments in our community. This year, the Oak Lawn Children's Museum will discuss its upcoming plans. For more information, please contact the Economic Development office at 499-7837.

The last day to register to vote in the April election is March 5. For more information on voter registration, please contact the Village Clerk's office at 499-7738.

Calendar of Events

February 3	Orientation for 2005 Officers and Directors, 8:15 a.m., Park Lawn Association
February 8	Directors meeting, 11:00 a.m. Hilton Oak Lawn
February 8	Chamber member luncheon, Noon, Hilton Oak Lawn
February 16	Business After Hours, 5:30—7:30 p.m., Bally Total Fitness
February 21	Presidents' Day, Village offices closed

Upcoming Fundraisers

The Spartan Educational Foundation, established to support the academic programs and student scholarships at the Oak Lawn Community High School, will host a SuperBowl Pre-Game fundraiser on Sunday, February 6th, from 12:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Stony Creek Golf Course (5850 W. 103rd Street). Tickets cost \$50 per person and include prizes, drinks and appetizers. For more information, contact Dr. Jim Briscoe at 708-741-5601.

JOIN US FOR THE 6TH ANNUAL BUSINESS SHOWCASE!

- WHEN:** Saturday, March 19, 2005
10:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m.
- WHERE:** Oak Lawn Community High School, Spartan Gym
- WHAT:** A great opportunity to showcase your products and/or services to hundreds of attendees and local residents! The Business Showcase is held in conjunction with the annual Spring Arts & Crafts Fair.
- COST:** \$85.00 (per 8"x10" booth with table)

RESERVE YOUR SPACE EARLY!

_____ Yes, I would like to feature my business at the 2005 Business Showcase !

Business: _____

Contact Name: _____

Address: _____ City/ST/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Number of booths: _____ (Unless otherwise requested multiple booths will be adjoined.)

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____ Will you need electricity? Yes _____ No _____

I agree to the fees, rules and regulations as set for this event by the Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce and outlined in the agreement packet.

Signature (Company Representative) _____ Date _____

Please return this application with payment to:

Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce
5314 W. 95th Street
Oak Lawn, IL 60453
708-424-8300 (p) 708-229-2236 (fax)
jbusk@oaklawnchamber.com

Please make checks payable to the Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce. Sorry, we do not accept credit cards.

A True Public Servant— Oak Lawn Fire Chief Tom Moran Retiring

by Anne Marie Casey

For those of you who may not have yet heard, our own fire chief, Tom Moran, retired effective February 1, 2005. Anyone who has had the pleasure of meeting Chief Moran will know what a wonderful man he is and what a tremendous asset he has been, and will continue to be for our Village. Best described, and destined to be remembered always as a "fireman's fireman", Tom first came on the job in Oak Lawn on February 1, 1966. Moving through the ranks, he spent considerable time in the Oak Lawn Fire Department's Fire Prevention Bureau. Many of our members probably first got to know Tom during his time in the Bureau as he and his partners dedicated their time to routine inspections and providing fire safety and prevention guidance for homes and businesses.

Tom has worn the uniform and served our Village through the Blizzard of 1967, the devastating tornado that tore through and forever changed the face and the mind of Oak Lawn in April, 1967, the riots and unrest of 1968, and the bitter and brutal winter storms of 1979. He has led the Fire Department through the tragic and shocking instability of September 11, 2001, and all that has followed that day. To those who have ever suffered loss, he was always a reassuring presence at the scene. To those of us who have been blessed enough to avoid that loss, he has been just as reassuring.

Most of us who are not fire fighters will likely remember Tom as a dedicated husband and father, a devout and active religious man, and a respectful and respected gentleman who makes his community better for his presence. Tom and his wife, Jeannette, have raised six children in Oak Lawn. Without risking embarrassment to them, we have to share these facts: From oldest to youngest, daughter, Cindy, lives in Plainfield with her husband, Steve Gunderson, who is an electrical technician. Son, Tom, is a fireman/paramedic in Naperville, married to Maria, with three children. Son, Tim, is a fireman/paramedic in Lombard, married to Anne, with two children. Son, Ted, is a Fire Engineer in Oak Lawn, married to Tricia, with two children (and one on the way). Daughter, Kim, is married to Phil De Mik, who is a Lieutenant in Naperville, with two children. Son, Marty, is a fireman/EMT in Arlington Heights, married to Missy, with three children. Both Jeannette and Tom consider their children and their families to be the greatest gifts they have received.

When the Village finally realized his true potential, Tom became the Chief of the Oak Lawn Fire Department on October 1, 1993. Under his watch of almost twelve years, Oak Lawn residents and businesses have been safer, more informed and more confident than ever - and justifiably so. Based on the combined efforts of the Village's Fire Department, Water Department, and the Communications Center, Oak Lawn has consistently been one of only four municipalities in the State of Illinois with a Class 1 ISO Public Protection Classification rating, the highest possible ranking of level of public protection. The ISO collects certain public service information on municipalities, including response time, and fire fighting and suppression ability, and formulates an objective ranking system. For fire departments, this rating system is the real deal, and so are the Oak Lawn Fire Department and its outgoing Chief.

The most recent example that made the news in a big way and that got everybody's attention would no doubt be the fire at the La Salle Bank headquarters at 135 South La Salle Street, in Chicago. People came home from work that night to meet the images of fire, smoke, injuries and tremendous hurt and loss. It hits us only when it confronts us. We go to work every day; we come home every night, and we give very little thought to fire and its tremendous and voracious capacity for destruction and death. Every single person who eats, drinks, lives and breathes in Oak Lawn, 24/7, owes a part of their comfort level to the men and women of our fire department and to their Chief, Tom Moran.

A quote from an old fraternity poem seems to be more than appropriate in this case: "The true gentleman is the man whose conduct proceeds from good will and an acute sense of propriety, and whose self-control is equal to all emergencies. Who does not flatter wealth, cringe before power, nor boast of his own possessions or achievements. Who thinks of the rights and feelings of others rather than his own. Whose deed follows his word. A man with whom honor is sacred and virtue safe."

God speed Tom Moran, our Chief, in whatever you do and wherever you go. And thank you.

P.S. The official community retirement party for Chief Moran will be held on Sunday, February 27, 2005 at The Lexington House, 7717 West 95th Street Hickory Hills. Cocktails begin at 4:00 P.M. Dinner at 5:00 P.M. The ticket price for the evening is \$35. For tickets, please call Marie or Pam at the Oak Lawn Fire Department at (708) 499-7700. Please join us and help the Chamber say thank you and give its best wishes to Chief Moran.

D & D Printing Ad to be placed
here

Rescigno's Rapid Mailing Service
Ad to be placed here

Evergreen Door & Window

Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce Members

Do you or someone you know need some improvements in your home or business appearance? GENO'S DECORATING, INC. can help your house or building look just the way you want. Take advantage of the season and take care of the improvements that are needed or just wanted to give you that "professional" touch. Please call Gene Mondello or Ninae Mondello at (708) 423-6961 for any assistance you may need.

Geno's Decorating
5435 West 110th Street, Unit 3A
Oak Lawn, IL 60453

Phone (708) 423-6961 or Fax (708) 423-7088

Great Lakes Bank Ad
To be placed here

MEMBER NEWS

Bonanza Raffle Ticket Update

We're off to a great start with our 2005 Bonanza Raffle! The first drawing was held at the January 22 Installation Dinner. We encourage you to continue to sell tickets as drawings are held once per month, offering a total of 48 chances to win. Tickets cost \$10 each and \$100, \$50 and two \$25 prizes are awarded each month. Good luck!

Congratulations to the following winners of our January Bonanza Raffle Drawing!

- \$100 Donna Herpich—Great Lakes Metals Corp.
- \$50 Dominic Bartollini, Jr.—Bellissimo, Inc.
- \$25 Gene Furmanek—G&L Trophies
- \$25 Richard Malinowski—Spitfire Automotive

Workforce Development & Community Services Open House

Come learn about the best kept secret of the southwest suburbs! The Workforce Development & Community Services area of Moraine Valley Community College will host an **Open House on Wednesday March 16, 2005 from 2-7pm in the T-Building**. There will be demonstrations and general information on customized training solutions, leading-edge technology training, programs for community residents (children, teens, adults, active retirees), refreshments, free drawings and **more!** For more information call 708-974-5735 or visit our website at <http://www.morainevalley.edu/wdcs/drawing.htm>.

The Oak Lawn Chamber is donating a basket of member goodies to be raffled off at the Open House. We welcome members to donate items featuring their logos. These may include coffee mugs, hats, pens, paper, stress balls, etc. We hope you'll consider this great opportunity to help generate publicity for your business. Items may be delivered to the Chamber Office no later than Friday, March 4.

Antique Show

The Hilton Oak Lawn will host an Antique and Collectibles Show on Sunday, February 13. The sale runs from 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. Featured items include antique furniture, dolls, glass, linens, china, books, jewelry and more. Collectibles include Disney, Hallmark, Beanie Babies and Barbie. Admission is \$2.00; children under 10 are free.

Luncheon News

Members are invited to join us for our first luncheon of the new year on Tuesday, February 8 at noon at the Hilton Oak Lawn. Cost is \$15 per person. Representatives from the Saint Xavier University Counseling & Career Services, and Fox College will speak about services to assist members looking to fill full and part-time employment positions, as well as internships.

Change of location for March luncheon!

Our March luncheon will be held at the Oak Lawn Community High School on Tuesday, March 8th. Mark your calendars.

Calling all home-based business owners!

The Chamber is interested in hosting a Business After Hours for members who maintain a business out of their home. Although we have yet to schedule a date, the event will be held at a local restaurant with costs (light food and drink) for the evening split evenly between participating businesses. If you are interested in participating please call the Chamber Office.

Got an email address?

The Chamber aims to broaden our communication with members by updating its list of member emails. If you have a new or existing email address, or to make sure your information is current, please call the office or send an email to oaklawnchamber@sbcglobal.net.

2005 Business Directory

The 2005 Business Directory and Planner is complete. Copies were mailed in late January. If you've not yet received your copy, please call the Chamber office and we'd be happy to deliver one to you.

Welcome new members!

Organizing Solutions, Inc.

Pam Colovos

www.organizing-solutions.org

Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce

5314 W. 95th Street
Oak Lawn, IL 60453

(708) 424-8300

Fax (708) 229-2236

e-mail: oaklawnchamber@sbcglobal.net

Web Site: www.oaklawnchamber.com

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**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
LUNCHEON**

February Luncheon

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Hilton Oak Lawn

11:30 a.m. Social Hour

12:00 p.m. Luncheon

Cost: \$15.00

March Luncheon

Tuesday, March 8, 2005

Oak Lawn Community High School

11:30 a.m. Social Hour

12:00 p.m. Luncheon

Cost: \$15.00



**Oak Lawn
Chamber of
Commerce
Mission
Statement**

"The Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce works to represent and advance the Oak Lawn business community, striving with constant integrity, fairness and cooperation to promote and improve the economic atmosphere, business climate and image of Oak Lawn."



The Networker



The newsletter for the business community in Oak Lawn.

President's Message

Jack Baker

Well, it has been one full month as President of the Oak Lawn Chamber and I still have my hair, although my kids are telling me it looks a lot grayer. And my wife tells me that my hair looks a little thinner. I just think they are trying to tease me, as I often tease them.

We have been busy this past month. Planning for the Oak Lawn Candidates' Forums is well under way. The Mayoral and Clerk Forum will be at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 9th at the Oak Lawn Community High School and the Trustee Forum will be at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 15th at the same place. We are looking forward to a large turn out not only from Chamber members, but also the public. If you are not able to attend but would like to have a question presented to a candidate, please submit one to the office and it will be given to the League of Women Voters, the group moderating the event.

George Cachares and Gene Mondello are off to another great start for the Business Showcase, scheduled for Saturday, March 19th at the Oak Lawn Community High School. If you have not yet reserved your table, you better hurry. Tables are filling up fast. Call the Chamber TODAY.

Linda Olsen and her committee have met to discuss plans for the Appreciation Luncheon on Wednesday, April 27th, which will be held at the Hilton Oak Lawn. This is a great way for you to show how much you really think about your employees. This event gets bigger and better every year thanks to the hard work of the committee. More news on this event soon.

Believe it or not, the golf committee has already started planning this year's outing, which will be held Wednesday, July 13th at Stony Creek in Oak Lawn. Mike Gutchewsky and his father Leo are working on putting together another successful outing. We have just received word that for the first time ever, we will have a grand sponsor for the golf outing. Mid-America Development Partners, along with Morningside Group, is pleased to be our Grand Golf Sponsor. We welcome their support and look forward to more collaboration between our groups.

Thank you to Bally Total Fitness for hosting a Business After Hours last month. Although the turnout was small, everyone had a good time. If you have not visited the location recently, call Kevin Mathers to arrange your personal tour. You'd be surprised at how much the place has evolved.

Finally, don't forget that this month's Chamber Luncheon will be held at the Oak Lawn Community High School. We will award the winners of the Fire Safety Coloring Book Contest and enjoy entertainment provided by the high school students. Please do your best to attend this luncheon and check out your local high school. If you have time, the staff would be happy to take you on a tour of the school after the luncheon.

Keep SHOPPING OAK LAWN FIRST!!!

Photo of Jack

**March
2005**



**Shop
Oak Lawn
First**

Executive Director's Report by Jennifer Busk



Top O' the Morning to you! There's never a dull moment here at the Chamber office. March looks to be another exciting month, and I count on seeing many of you at our various events. So, let's get to the latest and greatest happenings...

Please note the change in venue for our March 8th luncheon. The Oak Lawn Community High School will welcome us. While we can't promise you green eggs and ham in honor of Saint Pat's, you can count on a delectable meal and delightful entertainment. The charge is \$10 per person, payable at the door.

At press time, Election Day in Oak Lawn is little more than a month away. Although there's been much publicity about the various candidates, we encourage you to attend our Candidates' Forums. The event is open to all and attendees will have the opportunity to submit questions for the League of Women Voters (which will moderate) to ask the candidates. Your voice and vote counts, so we hope many of you attend. See page four for more details.

George Cachares and his committee are hard at work planning for the 6th Annual Business Showcase. Spots are filling fast, so be sure to get your reservation in soon. An application is included in this newsletter. Our goal is 60 exhibitors, so help us meet or beat it!

On a sad note, our office assistant Joan Rhoads accepted a full time position with another employer. Joan was a tremendous asset to the office and she will be missed. For those of you who had the opportunity to meet or work with Joan, she always wore a smile on her face. With her departure, we've begun searching for a replacement. Interested candidates may call the office for more information.

With St. Patrick's Day just around the corner, it seems appropriate to close with a blessing that embraces the strong Irish heritage of the Southside. (And remember, everyone is Irish on St. Patrick's Day!)

*May your thoughts be as glad as the shamrocks,
May your heart be as light as a song,
May each day bring you bright, happy hours,
That stay with you all the year long.*

2005 OFFICERS

Jack Baker, President
Marquette Bank
Leo Gutchewsky, 1st Vice President
Century 21 Accent-Homefinders
Peter Schwarz, 2nd Vice President
Hawk Lincoln Mercury
Helen Makina, Treasurer
Allegra Print & Imaging
Irene Lovitt, Secretary
Bank Financial
Anne Marie Casey, Immediate Past President
Annie's, Ltd.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Brian Anderson (Hilton Oak Lawn)
Dr. Joseph Brannigan (Brannigan Chiropractic)
Peggy Burke (First American Bank)
Dr. Sandra Bury (Complete Vision Care)
Joann Buschbach (Buschbach Insurance)
George Cachares (Southwest Physical Therapy)
Karen Clark (Hope Children's Hospital)
Carey Cranston (Fox College)
John Crivellone (Illinois Security Services)
Dr. David Finkelstein (Oak Lawn Foot & Ankle)
Michael Gutchewsky (The Gootch Financial Group)
Rhonda Martin (Manor Care Healthcare East)
Kevin Mathers (Bally Total Fitness)
Noreen Mikols (Fifth Third Bank)
Gene Mondello (Geno's Decorating)
Ginger Morgan (Thompson & Kuenster F.H.)
Linda Olsen (Oak Lawn Public Library)
Tom Orłowski (Men's Wearhouse)
Susan Peppia (Bridgeview Health Care)
Laura Roman (Archer Bank)
Jerry Spearman (Standard Bank & Trust)
Patricia Stasik (Oak Lawn Park District)
Dan Walsh (Hallberg Insurance)
Ted Young (Circle Creations)

ADVISORY BOARD

Brian Anderson (Hilton Oak Lawn)
Milton Anderson (Andersen Builders)
Chris Aogle (Christopher John Designs)
Jim Buschbach (Buschbach Insurance)
Joann Buschbach (Buschbach Insurance)
LeRoy Corradino (Founders Bank)
Chuck Dinolfo (Century 21 Pro-Team)
Tom Gavin III (Southwest Messenger Press)
Barbara Gliedge (Kozlarek & Assoc. Realtors)
David C. Kobak (Blake-Lamb Funeral Home)
Robert Kuenster (Thompson & Kuenster F.H.)
Doris Marks (Park Lawn Assoc.)
Laura Shallow (Fifth Third Bank)

LIBRARY NEWS

Spring Food Drive

Help feed needy families in our area by donating nonperishable food and canned goods at the Oak Lawn Public Library from Monday, March 7 through Monday, April 11. All donations will go to Oak Lawn food pantries. Thank you for your generosity!

Spring Adult Library Programs

The Oak Lawn Public Library, 5300 W. 95th St., will present the following cultural programs free of charge on a first-come, first-seated basis in their lower level meeting room. For more information, call 708-422-4990.

Serenity Garden

Tuesday, March 8 at 7:00 p.m.

Landscape designer and educator, Kathleen Obirek, will present a slide show and lecture on how to inexpensively transform your backyard or patio into a tranquil haven. Creative gardens developed by local gardeners will illustrate ways to create relaxing areas in your yard.

Forest View Express

Sunday, March 13 at 2:00 p.m.

Enjoy an afternoon of Bluegrass music. This dynamic four member group shares both lead and harmony vocals while trading solos and licks. Forest View Express has been pulling out wooden instruments, pickin', grinnin' and stompin' their feet to real American music since 1995. Sponsored by the Friends of the Oak Lawn Library.

Above the Smoke

Wednesday, March 30 at 7:00 p.m.

Admire picturesque views of Smoky Mountain National Park as seen through the eyes of nature photographer Ronald Kuroski. Marvel at images of spring flowers, autumn colors, misty mountain vistas, waterfalls and flowing streams in this slide show program featuring the nation's most popular national park.

Poetry Slam Workshop and Contest

Saturday, April 2 at 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Poet George David Miller will lead a half-day program on this expressive, performance style of poetry. Participants will learn the rules of Slam and be guided through writing and performing their own original works. The program ends with a Poetry Slam Contest, where winners will be awarded prizes. There is a \$5 fee per person for workshop materials and light refreshments. Advance in-person registration begins Saturday, March 5 at the library's Reception Booth. Fee payment required to sign up. Limit: 40 participants.

Calendar of Events

- | | |
|----------|--|
| March 3 | Ambassadors' meeting, 8:00 a.m.
Chamber Office |
| March 8 | Directors meeting, 11:00 a.m.
Oak Lawn Community H.S. |
| March 8 | Chamber member luncheon, Noon,
Oak Lawn Community H.S. |
| March 9 | Mayoral and Clerk Candidates' Forum
7:00 p.m., Oak Lawn Community H.S. |
| March 11 | Golf Committee Meeting, 8:00 a.m.
Stony Creek Golf Course |
| March 15 | Trustee Candidates' Forum
7:00 p.m., Oak Lawn Community H.S. |
| March 19 | 6th Annual Business Showcase
10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m., Oak Lawn
Community H.S. |

Chamber Job Corner

Help Wanted: The Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce is seeking an administrative assistant to work 20-25 hours per week. The qualified individual must be computer proficient (MS Office and QuickBooks preferred), have excellent writing skills and a personable demeanor for interfacing with individuals at all levels. 2-3 years office experience required. Please fax resumes to the Chamber office.

Help Wanted: Part-time administrative assistant; 15 hours per week; flexible hours. Must be computer literate; QuickBooks experience preferred. Please fax resume to Steve at 229-9469, or email steve@southwestpainting.com

Have a position you're looking to fill? Consider listing it with us! Cost: \$10 per four lines.

Bonanza Raffle Winners

Congratulations to the following winners of our February Bonanza Raffle Drawing!

- | | |
|-------|------------------------------------|
| \$100 | Jacki Bartollini —Bellissimo, Inc. |
| \$50 | Greg Fifer—A&G Radio |
| \$25 | Gene Furmanek— G&L Trophies |
| \$25 | Melinda Evans |

MEMBER NEWS

2005 Appreciation Luncheon

Mark Your Calendar! The Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce will host its annual Employee and Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on Wednesday, April 27 at the Hilton Oak Lawn.

Looking for a way to thank your hardworking staffers, indispensable assistants and valued volunteers? Then, this is the event for you! It's also a wonderful opportunity for bosses, employees and coworkers to relax, socialize and meet up with others who work and help out at area businesses. The event promises...

- ** A delicious lunch with a delectable dessert!
- ** Marvelous musical entertainment program!
- ** Fabulous door prizes!
- ** Special gifts for all!

For more details, pick up a registration form at the March 8 luncheon or look for it in the Chamber's April newsletter. The deadline for reservations will be Wednesday, April 20.

Here's how your business can help make this program a success -- Please donate larger items for door prizes and/or smaller promotional items that will be distributed to each attendee (150 needed). The deadline for all donations will be Friday, April 15.

Photo #1

New Chamber member Cheryl Doman of Countrywide Home Loans poses with President Jack Baker at the February luncheon.

The Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce and *Daily Southtown* newspaper will sponsor the following:

CANDIDATES' FORUMS

Mayoral and Clerk Forum

Wednesday, March 9th

7:00 p.m.

Oak Lawn Community High School
Auditorium Gym

Trustee Forum

Tuesday, March 15th

7:00 p.m.

Oak Lawn Community High School
Auditorium Gym

Moderated by the League of Women Voters of Palos-Orland. Both events are free and open to the public. For more information, contact the Chamber office.

Don't forget to cast your vote on April 4th !



Check out the updated Chamber website,

<http://www.oaklawnchamber.com>

for news on the latest events and a list of our Chamber members.

Welcome new members!

Countrywide Home Loans

Cheryl Doman

(708) 364-9733

S.E.S. Physician Management

Sandra Swies

(708) 422-2023

Seminetta Enterprises, Inc.

Tony Seminetta

(708) 422-1111

Budget Blinds of Oak Lawn

Henry Senk

(708) 346-0785

59th Annual Installation Dinner

The 2005 Installation Dinner truly was a “winter wonderland” with more than six inches of snow covering the ground the evening of the event. Despite the frosty conditions, more than 200 people turned out to recognize members of the 2005 Board of Directors who were installed by Acting Mayor Ronald Stancik. A special thanks to all those who worked to make the evening a success: Chairperson Noreen Mikols, Jack Baker, Christopher John Floral Designs, Joan Geary, Brian Anderson and their staff at the Hilton Oak Lawn and the Chamber office staff.



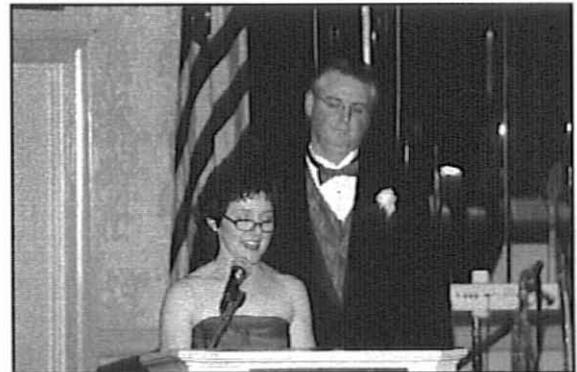
2005 Executive Officers



2005 Board of Directors



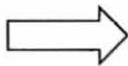
Acting Mayor Ron Stancik congratulates incoming President, Jack Baker



Outgoing President Anne Marie Casey introduces 2005 President, Jack Baker

Business After Hours

Thanks to those members that attended the February 16th Business After Hours held at Bally Total Fitness. Thanks to Kevin Mathers and his staff for hosting this wonderful event.



Save the date!

And mark your calendars for our next Business After Hours scheduled for Wednesday, April 6th. Bank Financial will host the event at their Chicago Ridge location, 6415 W. 95th Street.

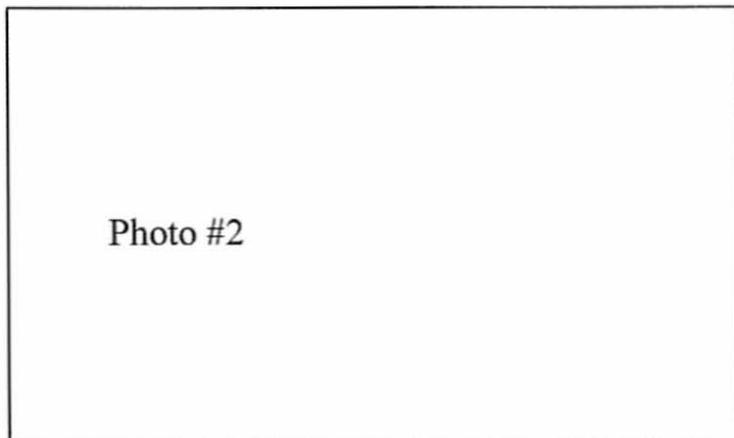


Photo #2

D & D Printing Ad to be placed
here

Rescigno's Rapid Mailing Service
Ad to be placed here

Evergreen Door & Window

Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce Members

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Geno's Decorating
5435 West 110th Street, Unit 3A
Oak Lawn, IL 60453

Phone (708) 423-6961 or Fax (708) 423-7088

Great Lakes Bank Ad
To be placed here

JOIN US FOR THE 6TH ANNUAL BUSINESS SHOWCASE!

WHEN: Saturday, March 19, 2005

10:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m.

WHERE: Oak Lawn Community High School, Spartan Gym

WHAT: A great opportunity to showcase your products and/or services to hundreds of attendees and local residents! The Business Showcase is held in conjunction with the annual Spring Arts & Crafts Fair.

COST: (Per 8"x10" booth with table)

Members: \$85.00

Non-members: \$175.00



 Yes, I would like to feature my business at the 2005 Business Showcase!

Business: _____

Contact Name: _____

Address: _____ City/ST/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Number of booths: _____ (Unless otherwise requested multiple booths will be adjoined.)

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____ Will you need electricity? Yes _____ No _____

I agree to the fees, rules and regulations as set for this event by the Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce and outlined in the agreement packet.

Signature (Company Representative) _____ Date _____

Please return this application with payment to:

Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce

5314 W. 95th Street

Oak Lawn, IL 60453

708-424-8300 (p) 708-229-2236 (fax)

jbusk@oaklawnchamber.com

Please make checks payable to the Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce. Sorry, we do not accept credit cards.

Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce

5314 W. 95th Street

Oak Lawn, IL 60453

(708) 424-8300

Fax (708) 229-2236

e-mail: oaklawnchamber@sbcglobal.net

Web Site: www.oaklawnchamber.com

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Oak Lawn, IL

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**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
LUNCHEON**

March Luncheon

Tuesday, March 8, 2005

Oak Lawn Community High School

11:30 a.m. Social Hour

12:00 p.m. Luncheon

Cost: \$10.00

April Luncheon

Tuesday, March 12, 2005

Hilton Oak Lawn

11:30 a.m. Social Hour

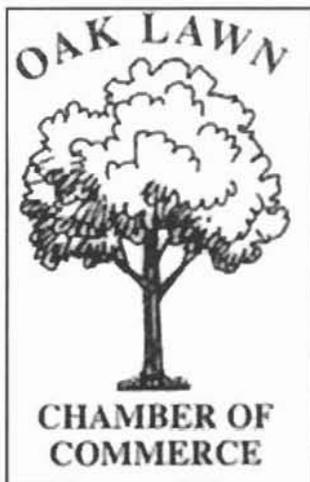
12:00 p.m. Luncheon

Cost: \$15.00



**Oak Lawn
Chamber of
Commerce
Mission
Statement**

"The Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce works to represent and advance the Oak Lawn business community, striving with constant integrity, fairness and cooperation to promote and improve the economic atmosphere, business climate and image of Oak Lawn."



The Networker



The newsletter for the Oak Lawn business community.

President's Message

Jack Baker

I can't believe another month has flown by so quickly. The calendar tells me that it's spring, but the weather forecasters are not. Like many of you, I can't wait to get outside and enjoy warmer days.

The past month we had many happenings with the Chamber. We said goodbye to Chief Moran and were at the Oak Lawn Community High School (OLCHS) *four* times! I was at the High School so much it brought back memories (some not so fond) of my own days in school.

After 39 years of service to Oak Lawn Fire Department (OLFD), Chief Tom Moran said farewell and opted to spend more time with his family. A retirement party was thrown in his honor at the Lexington House and many came to wish the Chief well, including his many children and grandchildren. It was a treat to see those with whom he'll now be spending his days. The Chamber wishes him a long and happy retirement.

Our first visit to the OLCHS was on March 8th for the monthly luncheon. We enjoyed music by the high school Chamber Chorus and two members of the Forensics Team presented their award-winning presentation of the plays of William Shakespeare – in under 7 minutes! The talent that our local schools produce is always outstanding. Also present was Captain Don Mundo of the OLFD to award our winners of the Fire Safety Coloring Book contest. This book is distributed annually to local students in grades K-4 to educate them about fire safety. Children are invited to enter a coloring contest each year with the hope of having their entry appear on the book's cover the following year. The top three winners are awarded a U.S. Savings Bonds, donated by Kevin Mavity and Gary Wesner of Great Lakes Bank. Our 2005 1st place winner was Brandie Nauseda from Columbus Manor School, 2nd place was Matthew Figus from St. Louis DeMontfort and the 3rd place winner was Kamila Swietoslawki, also from St. Louis DeMontfort. Congratulations!

On March 9th and March 15th, the High School once again opened their doors to us. The Chamber, along with the *Daily Southtown* newspaper sponsored the Candidates' Forums. On March 9th, more than 400 people attended to hear remarks by the Clerk and Mayoral Candidates. On March 15th, the nine candidates for the three Trustee positions took the stage. Both nights, the Palos/Orland League of Women Voters moderated the events. Thank you to Joe McCurdy, the assistant principal of OLCHS and his staff for all of the work setting up the gym each night. Thanks also to the ladies of the Palos/Orland League of Women Voters and to John Ligda our public access cameraman.

On March 19th, the Chamber held its 6th Annual Business Showcase in conjunction with the Arts and Craft Show. George Cachares and Gene Mondello once again co-chaired this event. It's a successful way for members to present their business to the public. If you've not participated, please consider doing so next year. Each year the Chamber donates two \$500 scholarships to the Oak Lawn Community High School.

With the inevitable warm up coming our way, our calendars are also heating up. Starting with what many people are calling the most important election in years on Tuesday, April 5th. I encourage every person in Oak Lawn to get out and vote. Once the winner is announced, let's work with our newly elected officials to continue to make Oak Lawn the "Gem of the South Side".

Other events.....Bank Financial is hosting a Business After Hours on April 6th at their Chicago Ridge location. We are back at the Oak Lawn Hilton on April 12th for our monthly luncheon and a presentation on the 2005 property tax reassessment—we know this topic is top of mind with many members. We will host the Employee Appreciation Luncheon on April 27th at the Hilton Oak Lawn. Linda Olsen and her committee have been hard at work putting together a fun event for those who attend. Remember those people who work for you or even your customers. This is a great way to show them how much you truly appreciate everything they do for you.

Keep SHOPPING OAK LAWN FIRST!!!!!!



**April
2005**



**Shop
Oak Lawn
First**

Executive Director's Report

by Jennifer Busk



Whew! We're coming off quite a busy month of Chamber activity! Two candidates' forums, one luncheon and a Business Expo. All successful thanks to many people, especially Joe McCurdy and the staff of the Oak Lawn Community High School who worked hard to accommodate all four events. Thanks also to the League of Women Voters of Palos-Orland for lending their expertise to help moderate the forums, and to George Cachares and Gene Mondello, co-chairpersons for the Business Showcase.

Flower and the tree buds are bloomin' and so are things at the Chamber. We're looking forward to a fabulous Appreciation Luncheon on Wednesday, April 27th. It seems most appropriate that our theme is "It's a Spring Thing". We hope many of you will take this opportunity to celebrate your business and the people that help it succeed.

And with the advent of warm weather comes America's favorite pastime – baseball. And, the Chamber is no exception. We're forming a Chamber-sponsored softball team to compete against other Village entities, i.e., fire Department, Police Department, Village Officials, etc. We're looking for willing participants to join, so brush off your bat and get in the game! Thanks to B.J. McMahon's which has graciously offered to sponsor the team. We hope to schedule our first game for May (competitor TBD) so give a call to the office to sign up.

And for those of you interested in more leisurely sports, the Chamber's annual Golf Classic is just around the corner. We're well underway with our plans for another spectacular event and are soliciting prizes and donations. Please consider providing something – it's a great way to generate interest in your business.

Over the next few months the membership committee will unveil some exciting new incentives to grow membership and entice current members to become more involved with Chamber activities. Keep an ear and eye out for more information.

Spring and summer look to be exciting times with the Chamber and I hope you'll show your support. For now, that's a wrap!

2005 OFFICERS

Jack Baker, President
Marquette Bank

Leo Gutchewsky, 1st Vice President
Century 21 Accent-Homefinders

Peter Schwarz, 2nd Vice President
Hawk Lincoln Mercury

Helen Makina, Treasurer
Allegra Print & Imaging

Irene Lovitt, Secretary
Bank Financial

Anne Marie Casey, Immediate Past President
Annie's, Ltd.

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Peggy Burke (First American Bank)

Dr. Sandra Bury (Complete Vision Care)

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George Cachares (Southwest Physical Therapy)

Karen Clark (Hope Children's Hospital)

Carey Cranston (Fox College)

John Crivellone (Illinois Security Services)

Dr. David Finkelstein (Oak Lawn Foot & Ankle)

Michael Gutchewsky (The Gootch Financial Group)

Rhonda Martin (Manor Care Healthcare East)

Kevin Mathers (Bally Total Fitness)

Noreen Mikols (Fifth Third Bank)

Gene Mondello (Geno's Decorating)

Ginger Morgan (Thompson & Kuenster F.H.)

Linda Olsen (Oak Lawn Public Library)

Tom Orłowski (Men's Wearhouse)

Susan Peppia (Bridgeview Health Care)

Laura Roman (Archer Bank)

Jerry Spearman (Standard Bank & Trust)

Patricia Stasik (Oak Lawn Park District)

Dan Walsh (Hallberg Insurance)

Ted Young (Circle Creations)

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Milton Anderson (Andersen Builders)

Chris Augle (Christopher John Designs)

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Tom Gavin III (Southwest Messenger Press)

Barbara Gliedge (Kozlarek & Assoc. Realtors)

David C. Kobak (Blake-Lamb Funeral Home)

Robert Kuenster (Thompson & Kuenster F.H.)

Doris Marks (Park Lawn Assoc.)

Laura Shallow (Fifth Third Bank)

LIBRARY NEWS

Spring Adult Library Programs

The Oak Lawn Public Library, 5300 W. 95th St., will present the following cultural programs free of charge on a first-come, first-seated basis in their lower level meeting room. For more information, call 708-422-4990.

Poetry Slam Workshop and Contest

Saturday, April 2 at 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Poet George David Miller will lead a half-day program on this expressive, performance style of poetry. Participants will learn the rules of Slam and be guided through writing and performing their own original works. The program ends with a Poetry Slam Contest, where winners will be awarded prizes. There is a \$5 fee per person for workshop materials and light refreshments. Advance in-person registration begins Saturday, March 5 at the library's Reception Booth. Fee payment required to sign up. Limit: 40 participants.

Container Gardens

Wednesday, April 6 at 7:00 p.m.

In-person or phone registration requested. \$3 fee optional. Lift landscape design off the grounds and onto decks, patios, terraces and balconies with these "movable gardens." Landscape designer and educator, Kathleen Obirek, will share her expertise in successfully growing and overwintering trees, shrubs, ornamental grasses and evergreens in containers for many years. She will teach you how to select and insulate containers and prepare a soilless potting mix. There is a \$3 fee per person for handouts and samples of professional products. Door prizes and money-saving coupons will be given out. Register by phone or in-person at the library's Reception Booth. Fee payment will be accepted at the program.

Genealogy: Exploring Your Family Tree

Monday, April 11 at 7:00 p.m.

In-person or phone registration requested. No fee. Kathy O'Leary, genealogical expert and reference librarian, will lead an introductory program of techniques for researching your family's history. Learn about the print and Internet resources that can aid in tracing your lineage and locating ancestors. Register by phone or in-person at the library's Reception Booth. Non-registered patrons are welcome to attend this program and listen in.

Windy City Harmonica Club

Sunday, April 17 at 2:00 p.m.

Back by popular demand! This lively troupe of talented harmonica players will perform songs from the 1930s, 40s and 50s. A highly entertaining program for patrons of all ages.

Calendar of Events

- April 6 Business After Hours, 5:30—7:30 p.m.
Bank Financial
- April 7 Golf Committee Meeting, 8:00 a.m.
Stony Creek Golf Course
- April 12 Directors meeting, 11:00 a.m.
Hilton Oak Lawn
- April 12 Chamber luncheon, 12:00 p.m.
Hilton Oak Lawn
- April 27 Appreciation Luncheon, 11:30 a.m.
Hilton Oak Lawn

Bonanza Raffle Winners

Congratulations to the following winners of our March Bonanza Raffle Drawing!

- \$100 Leo Gutchewsky — "A" Service Company
- \$50 Jim Collis
- \$25 Evergreen Door & Window
- \$25 Bob Thompson

Congressman Lipinski to Speak

Congressman Dan Lipinski will address members of the West Lawn Chamber of Commerce, Bedford Park Clearing Business Association, Greater Southwest Development Corporation, Burbank Chamber of Commerce and Bridgeview Chamber of Commerce at a joint meeting scheduled for:

Tuesday, April 12

11:30 a.m.

Holiday Inn Select (6520 S. Cicero)

Cost: \$20.00

Contact Edie at the West Lawn Chamber at 773-735-7690 or fax your reservation to 773-284-8110.

Check out the updated Chamber website,

<http://www.oaklawnchamber.com>

for news on the latest events and a list of our Chamber members.



MEMBER NEWS

Get Your Name Out There!

Looking for a way to advertise your business to people who live and work in and around Oak Lawn? Would you like to reach out to potential customers and be affiliated with an event that recognizes hardworking employees and valued volunteers?

The Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce is now seeking donations of door prizes and goody bag items for the 2005 Employee and Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on Wednesday, April 27 at the Hilton Oak Lawn. During the luncheon program, several door prizes will be awarded to participants through a random drawing. If you are interested in extending your generosity, we ask that all door prizes be valued at a minimum of \$25. As each attendee leaves, they will receive a package of goodies and promotional items from local businesses. We are asking for a minimum of 150 items to ensure that everyone is included. All donations will be acknowledged in a future issue of the Chamber's monthly newsletter and a program booklet to be distributed at the event. The donation deadline is Friday, April 15.

Please drop off items at the Chamber Office, 5314 W. 95th St. You may also bring them to the next Chamber luncheon on April 12. For more information, call 708-424-8300.

Committee Updates

Please join us on Tuesday, April 12 for our monthly member luncheon at the Hilton Oak Lawn. Tax attorney John P. Fitzgerald will address the 2005 Triennial Tax Reassessment and what it means to local business owners. Time will be allotted for questions. Cost for the event is \$15.00, payable at the door.

Please note the change in location for our May luncheon. In anticipation of our July Golf Outing, we will meet at Stony Creek Gold Course. Details to follow!

Social Committee

All are invited to join the Social Committee for dinner at Fox's Pizza (9240 S. Cicero Ave.) on Friday, April 15th at 5:30 p.m. Attendees must cover the cost of their own dinner and drinks. Come mingle with your fellow Chamber members!

Softball

The Chamber is starting a softball team! Join us as we compete against various Village organizations. Each participant will receive a team shirt. Thanks to B.J. McMahon's for sponsoring the team!

Welcome new members!

Sherwin Williams Paint Company

Scott Lorenz
(708) 424-3355

Bartello Limousine

Bill Bartkus
(708) 837-2181

Home Instead Senior Care

Michael Quirk
(708) 671-2648

Waddell & Reed (Financial Planning)

Bridget Sullivan
(630) 789-0044

Vijit Consulting

Dave Madsen
(708) 425-2529



New Chamber member John Marozus and Dwayne Hock of Bean Bag Games Unlimited, Inc. (708-229-1367) pose with President Jack Baker at the March luncheon.

Fire Safety Coloring Book Winners

Winners of the 2005 Fire Safety Coloring Book contest were honored during our March Chamber luncheon at Oak Lawn Community High School. Captain Don Mundo of the Oak Lawn Fire Department was on hand to recognize the winners for their wonderful drawings, chosen from hundreds submitted by local school children. The first, second and third place winners each received a U.S. Savings Bond, awarded at the luncheon by Kevin Mavity of Great Lakes Bank. A special thanks to Joe McCurdy and staff of the Oak Lawn Community High School for hosting the luncheon, Gary Wesner and Kevin Mavity of Great Lakes Bank, and to the Oak Lawn Fire Department for their continued support of this project.



(L-R) Jack Baker, Capt. Don Mundo of the OLFDF and Kevin Mavity of Great Lakes Bank with the winners of the Fire Safety Coloring Book contest: (l-r) Brandie Nauseda, Matthew Figus and Kamila Swietoslowski.

CANDIDATES' FORUMS



Oak Lawn residents made a strong showing in support of the Mayoral and Trustee candidates up for election this month. Mayoral candidates gathered on March 9th and Trustee Candidates gathered on March 15th, respectively, to participate in a Candidates' Forum sponsored by the Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce and the *Daily Southtown*. Both events were held at the Oak Lawn Community High School and moderated by the League of Women Voters of Palos-Orland. All candidates provided opening remarks then responded to questions solicited from the audience.

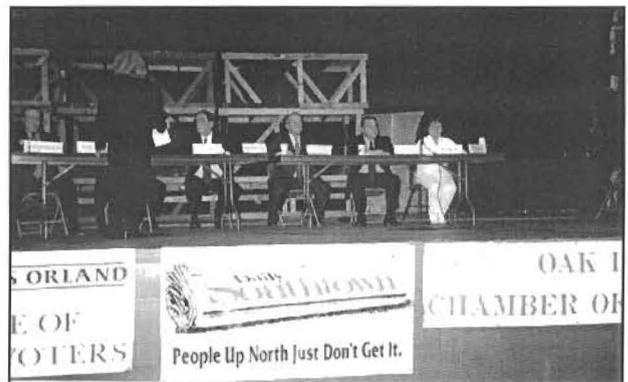
Participating in the Mayoral/Clerk Forum and representing the Village Vision Party was Jayne Powers, Mayoral candidate and Mary Cerceo, Clerk candidate. Representing the Unity Party was Dave Heilmann, Mayoral candidate and Jane Quinlan, Clerk candidate. Independent Mayoral candidate Lind Shelton also participated, as did independent Clerk candidate Mary Allison.

Participating in the Trustee Forum were 2nd District representatives Ron Stancik, Village Vision Party; Alex Olejniczak, Unity party; Mary Lou Harker, independent. 4th District representatives included: Steve Rosenbaum, Village Vision Party; Mark Maciasz, Unity Party; Tom Duhig, independent. 6th District representatives included: Bill Keane, Village Vision Party; Tom Phelan, Unity Party; Beverly Ring, independent.

Please check your local cable access program listings to find out when the forums will be rebroadcast.



Mayoral Debate



Trustee Debate

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Oak Lawn, IL 60453

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Fax: 708-425-2206

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Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce Members

Do you or someone you know need some improvements in your home or business appearance? GENO'S DECORATING, INC. can help your house or building look just the way you want. Take advantage of the season and take care of the improvements that are needed or just wanted to give you that "professional" touch. Please call Gene Mondello or Ninae Mondello at (708)423-6961 for any assistance you may need.

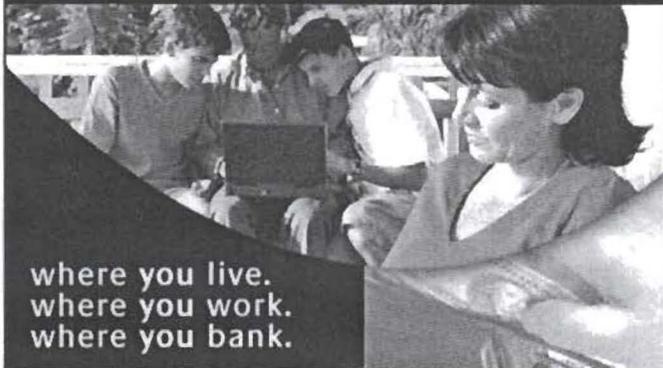
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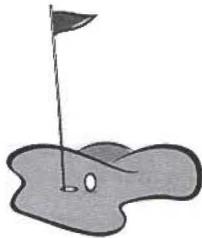
BUSINESS SHOWCASE 2005

More than 400 visitors walked the Spartan Gym of the Oak Lawn Community High School on Saturday, March 19 to visit with participants in the 6th annual Business Showcase. More than 40 exhibitors were featured, including banks, cellular phone companies, clothing retailers and fitness clubs, to name a few. A special thanks to the Showcase co-chairs, George Cachares and Gene Mondello and their committee including Rhonda Martin, Tom Orłowski, Nancy, Ninae, Tina and Michael Mondello. Joe McCurdy and his staff at the High School were invaluable—a special thanks to them and students from the National Honor Society and Art Club for assisting with photos of the Easter Bunny.



2005 OAK LAWN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE GOLF CLASSIC

Sponsored by Mid-America Development Partners and Morningside Group



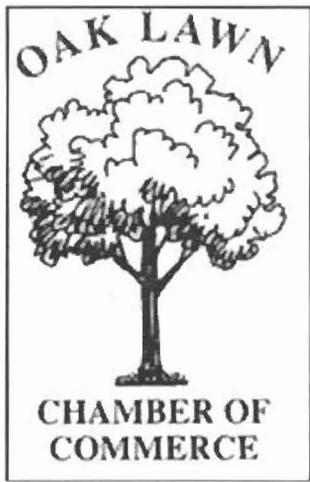
Summer is just around the corner and that means the Chamber is gearing up for our annual Golf Classic. This year's event is scheduled for **Wednesday, July 13** at Stony Creek Golf Course. We'll again provide lunch, followed by a 12:30 p.m. shot-gun start and dinner at 5:30 p.m.

The Golf Committee currently is soliciting raffle items and sponsorships. We'd also like to provide each golfer golf balls, tees, a drink holder as well as a door prize with a minimum value of \$15.

All sponsors will have their company name prominently displayed in the golf program booklet and signs recognizing their sponsorship, where applicable. Below please find a list of available sponsorship opportunities.

- Hole: \$150 for one hole or \$250 for a hole on front and back nine
- Lunch at \$300 per sponsor (2 sponsors needed)
- Dinner at \$400 per sponsor (2 sponsors needed)
- Beverages on course at \$250 per sponsor (2 sponsors needed)
- Beverages at dinner at \$250 per sponsor (4 sponsors needed)
- Golf Cart Sponsorship at \$600 (1 sponsor needed)
- Putting Contest Sponsorship \$300 (1 sponsor needed)

For more information, or to become a sponsor, please contact the Chamber office at 708-424-8300.



The Networker



The newsletter for the Oak Lawn business community.

President's Message

Jack Baker

I hope that all of you are doing well and your business continues to prosper. I think that the cold grip of winter is finally letting go as we've already seen the flowers starting to bloom. I've cleaned my garage, worked in the yard, gotten rid of things in my house that I will never use (but felt some reason to keep), but most importantly, I have my golf clubs and a change of clothes in my car so I can hit the course at a moment's notice.



April brought us some nicer weather and it also brought us some changes in our village government. Congratulations to our new Mayor, Dave Heilmann and Clerk Jane Quinlan. Also, congratulations to Alex Olejniczak & Tom Phelan for being elected as Trustees in Districts 2 and 6, respectively, and to Steve Rosenbaum for being re-elected as Trustee of District 4. We look forward to working with the village officials to keep Oak Lawn a great place to work, live and own a business.

**May
2005**



Irene Lovitt, the Branch Manager of Bank Financial hosted a Business After Hours on April 6th at the Chicago Ridge location. Although the attendance was rather low, the people who attended really enjoyed themselves. Thanks to Irene and her staff for making the evening so enjoyable. Len Walters was guest speaker and addressed several topics on the economy and talked extensively on the importance of government and public bodies using local business owners. He helped spark a small group of members to convene in late April to discuss this very topic. If you would like additional information on this subject, or are interested in joining the group, please contact the Chamber office.

On April 27th, Linda Olsen and her committee hosted the Appreciation Luncheon. This event was a great way for employers to show their staff how much they mean to them. The day went beautifully and all those in attendance had a great time. Thanks to Vondrak Publishing for supplying roses to each of the attendees, the Hilton for a great meal, the Richards High School choir for providing entertainment, Dr. Sandra Bury for the goodie bags and all those that donated door prizes.

**Shop
Oak Lawn
First**

The Golf Committee is busy planning this year's Golf Classic. Thanks again to MidAmerica Development Partners and Morningside Group for their generous donation. Mike and Leo Gutchewsky are working to make this outing better than ever and they need your help. If you have a donation for the outing, please contact the Chamber office. There are many ways to advertise your business through sponsorships for lunch, carts, holes, etc. Please join them in making the golf outing a tremendous success.

Remember to keep shopping Oak Lawn first!

Executive Director's Report

by Jennifer Busk



They say April showers bring May flowers, but the flowers were popping up all over in April. They were in abundance at the annual Employee and Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on April 27th. The theme of "It's a Spring Thing" was most appropriate as the Hilton was brimming with bright colors, flowers and plenty of good cheer! A heartfelt thanks to Linda Olsen and her committee for providing us with a beautiful event, to the staff of the Hilton for a delicious meal, the Richards High School Chorus, under the direction of Kathleen Madden, and all members who supported the event either by attending, sending employees or donating prizes and/or goodie bag items.

Thanks to Irene Lovitt and her staff at Bank Financial who were kind to host a Business After Hours on April 6th. Besides the delicious spread of food, attendees enjoyed a wonderful speaker—Len Walters of WBBM-AM radio.

Things are in swing (pun intended) with the Golf committee meeting regularly to coordinate what is sure to be another great event. The Golf Classic remains the largest fundraiser for the Chamber. We appreciate the generosity of all those who support it, whether they participate as a golfer, a sponsor or provide a raffle item. Donations continue to come in, although there's always room for more. Please contact the Chamber officer if you would like to make a donation.

Many members have approached me about ways to provide more varied events for networking. I'm pleased to announce that we're working to schedule a Networking Breakfast Club that will meet regularly to discuss timely business topics and swap business leads. Although dates and location are still being finalized, please contact the Chamber office if you're interested in becoming part of or forming a networking group.

One final reminder that our June member luncheon will be held on Tuesday, May 10th at the Oak Lawn Park District Stony Creek Golf Complex, 5860 W. 103rd Street. Please be sure to R.S.V.P. to the Chamber office!

Thanks for your continued support of the Chamber!

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Leo Gutchewsky, 1st Vice President

Century 21 Accent-Homefinders

Peter Schwarz, 2nd Vice President

Hawk Lincoln Mercury

Helen Makina, Treasurer

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Robert Kuenster (Thompson & Kuenster F.H.)

Doris Marks (Park Lawn Assoc.)

Laura Shallow (Fifth Third Bank)

LIBRARY NEWS

Library Closings

The Oak Lawn Public Library will be closed on Sundays after May 22. Sunday hours will resume in mid-September. The library will also be closed on Sunday and Monday, May 29 and 30 for Memorial Day.

Adult Programs

The following programs are offered free of charge on a first-come, first-seated basis at the Oak Lawn Public Library, 5300 W. 95th St., in their lower level meeting rooms. For more information, call Linda Olsen, 708-422-4990.

A Chicago Firehouse:

Stories of Wrigleyville's Engine 78

Thursday, May 12 at 7:00 p.m.

Author Karen Kruse will share excerpts from her book about the firehouse across from Wrigley Field and the diverse neighborhood that it serves. Come hear first-hand accounts of some of Chicago's most fiery tragedies and the brave men who battled them. Copies of her book will be available for purchase and autographs.

Sunday With Friends: Maevis Jazz Quartet

Sunday, May 15 at 2:00 p.m.

This exceptional jazz quartet performs standards from the Swing Era to Be-bop and Cool, along with many original contemporary jazz compositions. Their line up includes piano, bass, drums and a vocalist. Sponsored by the Friends of the Oak Lawn Library.

Open Mike Short Story and Poetry Reading

Wednesday, May 18 at 7:00 p.m.

Share original poetry, short stories! Five minute time limit for all readers. Sign in at the door to read. You are also welcome to sit in and listen. Coffee & refreshments.

Auto Detailing Class

Monday, May 23 at 7:00 p.m.

Car care specialist Gary Kouba of Perfect Auto Finish will demonstrate techniques that will help you detail your car, truck or SUV like the pros. Find out the difference between wax and polish. Learn how to prepare your vehicle for waxing, how to care for leather and the proper care for tires.

VILLAGE UPDATE

Vehicle Stickers

Village vehicle stickers will go on sale June 1. All vehicles registered in Oak Lawn are required to display a sticker. The final day to purchase a 2005-2006 sticker without paying a penalty fee is August 15.

Village Hall Closings

The Village Hall will be closed on Monday, May 31 in observance of Memorial Day.

Summer Concerts

Summer concerts again will be held on the Village Green. A schedule of performer includes Dyed in the Wool and the Katie Sullivan Band on June 26; Bopology on July 17; and The Chauffeurs on August 14. All concerts begin at 7 p.m.

Calendar of Events

May 5	Golf Committee Meeting, 8 a.m. Stony Creek Golf Course
May 8	Mother's Day
May 10	Directors meeting, 11 a.m. Stony Creek Golf Complex
May 10	Chamber luncheon, 12 p.m. Stony Creek Golf Complex
May 14	Oak Lawn Park District— Clean Up the Creek Day
May 30	Memorial Day—Village and Chamber closed
June 2	Chamber Night at Windy City Thunderbolts, 7:05 p.m. Hawkinson Field

MEMBER NEWS

Grand Opening!

All are invited to attend the Grand Opening Celebration of A Scrapbooker's Legacy (9517 S. Cicero Ave.) on Saturday, May 7 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. The event will feature live crop demonstrations and door prizes for all that attend. A raffle drawing will be held every hour and one grand prize winner will receive a weekend retreat for one at the Scrapbook Mansion in Walworth, Wisconsin.

A Scrapbooker's Legacy offers a variety of tools and accessories to meet one's scrapbooking needs, including items from popular designers like Anna Griffin, K and Company, and Mrs. Grossman's. The facility also features a large cropping room which may be reserved (for a small fee) for private parties.

For more information, contact Cindy Phillips of A Scrapbooker's Legacy at 708-229-9256, or the Chamber office at 708-424-8300.



Check out the updated Chamber website,

<http://www.oaklawnchamber.com>

for news on the latest events and a list of our Chamber members.

Committee Updates

Luncheon

Please note the change in location for our May luncheon. In anticipation of our July Golf Outing, we will meet at Stony Creek Gold Course. We will host a "Networking Roundtable" luncheon, allowing each member who attends to speak briefly about their business.

Softball

The Chamber is starting a softball team! Join us as we compete against various Village organizations. Each participant will receive a team shirt. Thanks for B.J. McMahon's for sponsoring the team!

Golf

The Golf Classic committee will meet on Thursday, May 5th at 8:00 a.m. at Stony Creek Golf Complex.

Networking Breakfast Club

Several Chamber members have expressed interested in starting a networking group to meet periodically over breakfast to discuss business and share leads. If you are interested in joining a group, please contact the Chamber office. Groups will begin meeting in the coming weeks at a local restaurant.

Welcome new members!

A Scrapbooker's Legacy

Cindy Phillips

9517 S. Cicero (in Green Oaks Center)

(708) 229-9256

Cellular Connection

Brian Hostetter

10646 S. Cicero Ave.

(708) 499-4088



Cindy Phillips and Brian Hostetter pose with Jack Baker at the April member luncheon.

OAK LAWN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE GOLF CLASSIC



Sponsored by the
MID-AMERICA DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS & MORNINGSIDE GROUP

MIDAMERICA
DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS LLC

MORNINGSIDE GROUP

WEDNESDAY, JULY 13

Oak Lawn Park District Stony Creek Golf Complex
5850 West 103rd Street, Oak Lawn, IL

Check in 11:00 a.m. • Lunch 11:30 a.m.

SHOTGUN START 12:30 p.m.

MINIATURE GOLF 4:00 p.m.

Open Bar 5:30-8:30 p.m. • Dinner 6:30 p.m.

Door prizes for every golfer • Special and Grand Raffle Prizes



ADVANCED RESERVATIONS taken on a first-come, first-served basis.
All payments must be received in full no later than July 1, 2005 to secure your reservation.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- ★ Sponsorship opportunities
- ★ Donate a raffle prize
- ★ Volunteer during the Classic

RESERVATIONS

\$60	GOLF ONLY (18 holes)
\$45	DINNER ONLY
\$100	GOLF & DINNER
\$15	MINIATURE GOLF
\$60	MINI GOLF & DINNER

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- \$150 Hole Sponsor or 2 @ \$250
- \$250 Beverage Sponsor
- \$400 Dinner Sponsor
- \$300 Lunch Sponsor
- \$600 Cart Sponsor
- \$300 Putting Contest Sponsor

Join us for our annual Miniature Golf Tournament! Play 18 holes on Stony Creek's newly renovated miniature golf course, complete with waterfalls and spraying fountains.

Fee: \$15/Golfer • Tee time: 4:00 p.m.

Like to golf with only one club?

MINIATURE GOLF

Prizes will be awarded in this new competition.

Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce

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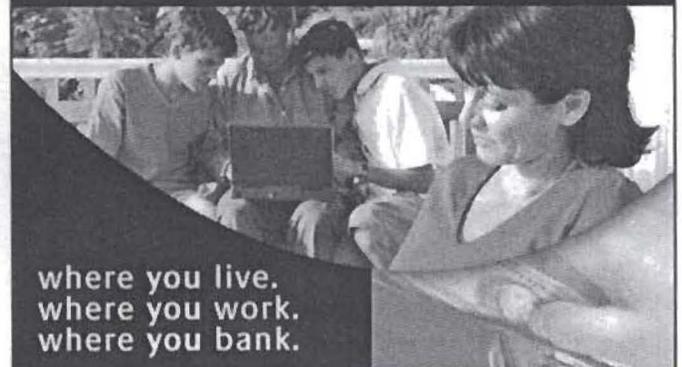
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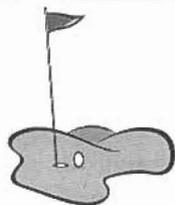


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2005 GOLF CLASSIC—SPONSORSHIPS AND DONATIONS

The Golf Committee is in need of raffle items and sponsorships for the July 13 event. We'd also like to provide each golfer golf balls, tees, a drink holder and a door prize with a minimum value of \$15.

All sponsors will have their company name prominently displayed in the golf program booklet and signs recognizing their sponsorship, where applicable. Below please find a list of available sponsorship opportunities.

- Hole: \$150 for one hole or \$250 for a hole on front and back nine
- Lunch at \$300 per sponsor (2 sponsors needed)
- Dinner at \$400 per sponsor (2 sponsors needed)
- Beverages on course at \$250 per sponsor (2 sponsors needed)
- Beverages at dinner at \$250 per sponsor (4 sponsors needed)
- Golf Cart Sponsorship at \$600 (1 sponsor needed)
- Putting Contest Sponsorship \$300 (1 sponsor needed)

For more information, or to become a sponsor, please contact the Chamber office at 708-424-8300.

Mother's Day Brunch!

The Hilton Oak Lawn will host its annual Mother's Day Champagne Brunch on Sunday, May 8 from 10:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m. in the Grand and Astoria Ballrooms. The buffet will feature custom omelet, Belgian waffle, and prime rib carving stations, fruit, seafood and more. An entire room is dedicated to fabulous desserts!

The cost for adults is \$42.00 per person, \$18.50 for children aged 6-12 and \$11.50 for children aged 3-5. Children under age two are free. Reservations required. Please call 708-229-8850.



Advertisers Wanted!

Take the opportunity to advertise your business in *The Networker*, the monthly newsletter for the Oak Lawn business community. Ad space is available at the following rates:

Member rates:

1/6 page ad: \$65.00 per month (\$500 annually)

Full page insert: \$85.00 per month

Non-member rates:

1/6 page ad: \$85.00 per month

Full page insert: \$110 per month

Full page insert (non-profits): \$65.00

Bonanza Raffle Winners

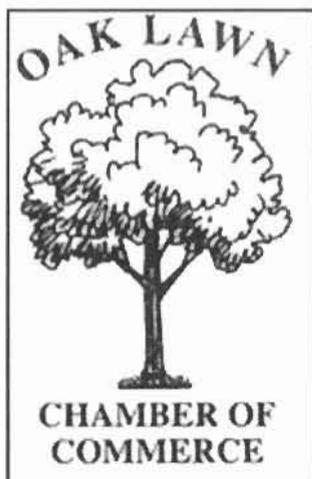
Congratulations to the following winners of our April Bonanza Raffle Drawing!

\$100 Judd Perlson—Perlson Enterprises, Ltd.

\$50 Bernice Kosobucki—B.E.S.T. Maintenance

\$25 Jack Murphy

\$25 John McGowan



The Networker



The newsletter for the Oak Lawn business community.

President's Message

by Jack Baker

I have really come to enjoy the month of May. The temperature increases, Mother's Day is celebrated, flowers are planted in the neighborhood, and when I was a kid, it always marked the ending of another school year. The best thing that the end of May brought was the many Cub fans resigning themselves to "wait until next year". Recently, this has not been the case as much as I would like, but I remain hopeful. May now has a new meaning for me. This is the first month where the Chamber can catch its breath, reflect on what it has accomplished over the past four months and contemplate what lies ahead.



I would like to thank the many officers, board members, staff and the general membership for working hard to put together the great events we've celebrated thus far. Without their many hours of hard work and commitment, my year would not be going so smoothly. A big thank you to those involved in bringing in Jennifer Busk as our Executive Director. She has proven to be worth the wait. Those involved have worked hard to make the Chamber of Commerce the best it can be. As of late, however, there has been a growing problem: attendance at Grand Openings, Business After Hours and Luncheons has decreased significantly. Please make an effort in the coming months to join your fellow members at as many events as possible. Not only will you meet new people and foster friendships, but it is a great opportunity to network your business. Our next event will be on Thursday, June 2 when the Chamber will watch the Windy City ThunderBolts take on the Mid Missouri Mavericks at Hawkinson Field. See inside for more details.

June
2005



Mike and Leo Gutchewsky, along with their committee have been hard at work putting together what I think will be the best Golf Classic in years. The Classic, which is sponsored by Mid-America Development Partners and Morningside Group will be held on Wednesday, July 13 at Stony Creek Golf Complex in Oak Lawn. Please submit your registration form as soon as possible as space is limited. Back by popular demand is the Miniature Golf Outing. It's a great way for those who do not play golf to have some fun. We'll also be providing a DJ and karaoke during dinner, so tune up your vocal chords. We're still seeking sponsors, as well as securing door and raffle prizes, respectively so please contact the Chamber office regarding any donations.

**Shop
Oak Lawn
First**

I would like to mention briefly a new program we will be rolling out at our next member luncheon on Tuesday, June 14 at the Hilton Oak Lawn. This luncheon meeting is a must for you as a business owner/manager in Oak Lawn and as a Chamber member. A committee was formed recently to find ways for our members to reach out to the taxing bodies in our area and create more business. A program is being designed that will help our members obtain additional business from these groups, including the Village, Public Schools, Park District, Library and Township. Thank you to John Crivellone of Illinois Security Services for pushing for this program. We must work collaboratively to keep our tax dollars local.

I urge you to become more involved not only in the Oak Lawn Chamber, but also your community. Thank you for being a member and remember to SHOP OAK LAWN FIRST!!

Executive Director's Report

by Jennifer Busk



It seems appropriate that while the weather is in the time of transition, so is the Village. The Chamber is excited to collaborate with the new administration to reinforce Oak Lawn as the "gem of the Southside" by enhancing the many programs and services available to residents and businesses within the community. As Jack mentioned on page one, we've already sought support from the village on a program that will aid our members in securing business with taxing bodies within our village. And speaking of business...

Thanks to those that were able to join us for our May luncheon at Stony Creek. Don Revis and his staff provided a fantastic spread of food, complemented by stellar service. Unlike previous luncheons which featured a speaker, we hosted a "Networking Roundtable" during which attendees were allotted two minutes to introduce themselves and their business to others at their respective table, then rotate to 2-3 additional tables and repeat the process. Each attendee (hopefully!) left the luncheon with several business cards and leads. The positive feedback has been tremendous and we're anxious to plan additional Roundtable sessions, at various times and locations. Look for our next event to be a "Breakfast Roundtable."

On that note and as Jack mentioned in his column, attendance at recent Chamber events has been low. Members are our livelihood, and without your support, it's difficult to rationalize providing new programs and services. I encourage you to make time to attend Chamber events.

Last, but certainly not least, it's a time of transition at the Chamber office, too! We have a new face in the Chamber office. Deanne Adasiak, our new administrative assistant, is in the office five days a week. Her typical hours are 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Please be sure to introduce yourself next time you call or visit the office. A great self-starter, we're excited to have Deanne on board.

Thanks for your continued support!

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Marquette Bank

Leo Gutchewsky, 1st Vice President
Century 21 Accent-Homefinders

Peter Schwarz, 2nd Vice President
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Helen Makina, Treasurer
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Doris Marks (Park Lawn Assoc.)

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LIBRARY NEWS

Library Hours

The Oak Lawn Public Library will be closed on Sundays during the summer months. Sunday hours will resume in mid-September.

2005 Summer Reading Program: "Superheroes – Powered by Books"

Up, up and READ! Oak Lawn residents and students in preschool through eighth grade, teens and adults are invited to join the 2005 summer reading program at the Oak Lawn Public Library, 5300 W. 95th Street for eight weeks of reading, programs and prizes. Registration begins Monday, June 6. This year's theme is "Superheroes – Powered by Books." For more information, call 708-422-4990, or visit the library's web site (www.lib.oak-lawn.il.us).

Calendar of Events

June 2	Chamber Night with Windy City ThunderBolts, Game begins at 7:05 p.m. Hawkinson Field (14011 S. Kenton Ave., Crestwood)
June 14	Chamber Directors' Meeting 11:00 a.m. Hilton Oak Lawn
June 14	Monthly Chamber Luncheon Hilton Oak Lawn 11:30 a.m. Social Hour 12:00 a.m. Luncheon
June 18	Parks Foundations' Annual Pig Roast, 5:30 p.m. at Stony Creek Golf Course
June 26	Summer Concert Series 7:00 p.m. "Wool" and "The Katie Sullivan Band" on the Village Green
June 29	Farmers' Market Opens 7:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. Village Hall parking lot

VILLAGE UPDATE

Farmers' Market

The Farmers' Market will be held every Wednesday beginning June 29 through October 12 in the parking lot behind the Village Hall, located at 9446 S. Raymond Ave. Opening day will feature the Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce providing donuts and coffee to visitors.

Vehicle Stickers

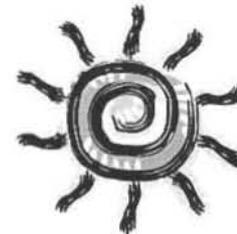
Village vehicle stickers will go on sale June 1. All vehicles registered in Oak Lawn are required to display a sticker. The final day to purchase a 2005-2006 sticker without paying a penalty fee is August 15.

Summer Concerts

Summer concerts again will be held on the Village Green. A schedule of performer includes Dyed in the Wool and the Katie Sullivan Band on June 26; Bopology on July 17; and The Chauffeurs on August 14. All concerts begin at 7 p.m.

Holiday Hours

The Village and Chamber will be closed Monday, July 4 in observance of Independence Day.



Bonanza Raffle Winners

Congratulations to the following winners of our May Bonanza Raffle Drawing!

\$100	Geraldine Burek—South Division C.U.
\$50	Mark Kleeman
\$25	Bob Grilec—Evergreen Door & Window
\$25	Geraldine Burek— South Division C.U.

MEMBER NEWS

Welcome new members!

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Phil's Pizza

Phyllis Wegner
8932 South Ridgeland Avenue
(708) 599-9633

21st Century Chiropractic Family Wellness, S.C.

Dr. Gerald Helwig, Sheryl Edl
4907 W. 95th Street
(708) 422-3300

Committee Updates

Luncheon

We will welcome newly-elected Village Clerk, Jane Quinlan as our special guest at the June luncheon at the Hilton Oak Lawn. Be sure to call the Chamber office to reserve your spot!

Softball

Last chance to sign up for the Chamber softball team! Games will begin in July. Call the Chamber if you're interested in playing.

Networking Breakfast Club

Several Chamber members have expressed interested in starting a networking group to meet periodically over breakfast to discuss business and share leads. If you are interested in joining a group, please contact the Chamber office. Groups will begin meeting in the coming weeks at a local restaurant.

GRAND OPENINGS

The Chamber is pleased to welcome two new businesses to Oak Lawn and the Chamber. A Scrapbooker's Legacy and 21st Century Chiropractic Wellness, S.C. celebrated Grand Openings in May. Congratulations and best wishes to these two new ventures!



Representatives from the Village and Chamber gather with Cindy and Jeff Phillips, owners of A Scrapbooker's Legacy, for the Grand Opening Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony on May 7th.



Dr. Gerald Helwig of 21st Century Chiropractic Family Wellness, S.C. and members of his office staff gather with representatives of the Chamber at the business's May 12th Open House.

OAK LAWN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE GOLF CLASSIC

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MORNINGSIDE GROUP



WEDNESDAY, JULY 13, 2005

Check in 11:00 a.m. • Lunch 11:30 a.m.
SHOTGUN START 12:30 p.m. • MINIATURE GOLF 4:00 p.m.
Open Bar 5:30-8:30 p.m. • Dinner 6:30 p.m.
Oak Lawn Park District Stony Creek Golf Complex

RESERVATIONS taken on a first-come, first-served basis.
All payments must be received in full no later than July 1, 2005 to secure your reservation.

GOLF CLASSIC RESERVATION FORM

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- \$150 Hole Sponsor or 2@ \$250
- \$250 Beverage Sponsor
- \$400 Dinner Sponsor
- \$300 Lunch Sponsor
- \$600 Cart Sponsor
- \$300 Putting Contest Sponsor

RESERVATIONS

- \$60 GOLF ONLY (18 holes)
- \$45 DINNER ONLY
- \$100 GOLF & DINNER
- \$15 MINIATURE GOLF
- \$60 MINI GOLF & DINNER

\$ _____ TOTAL ENCLOSED (Advance payment required to reserve your reservation)

Make check payable to the Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce 5314 West 95th Street, Oak Lawn, IL 60453

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Business Name _____ Contact Name _____

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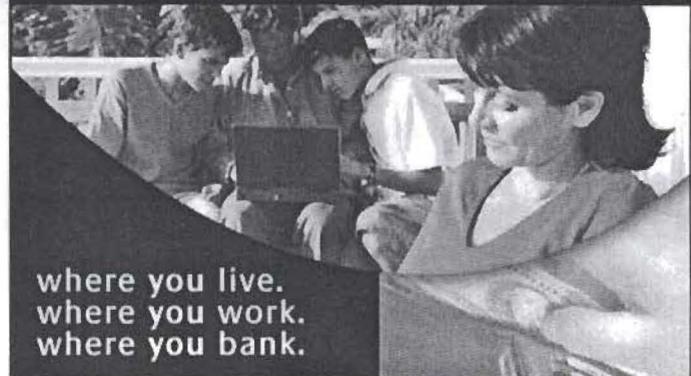
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Sixth Annual Employee and Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon Recap

On Wednesday, April 27, 93 employees and volunteers from area businesses gathered for a delightful afternoon of music and revelry following the theme of "It's a Spring Thing". Thanks to the creative eye and ingenuity of Pat Stasik, the banquet room was transformed into a garden paradise, complete with white-picket fences, trees, colorful flowers, a decorated arbor and a park bench. Upon entering the room, luncheon participants were escorted across a wooded bridge generously on loan from Mike Gutchewsky. At the tables, attendees were presented with giveaway items provided by local businesses and packaged quaintly in colorful "goody pots" that were donated and decorated by Complete Vision Care. As participants enjoyed lunch, local resident Grace Girdwain played beautiful music on the grand piano. Twenty-two door prizes were awarded through a drawing conducted by Doris Marks. Afterwards, the Richards High School Choir delighted everyone by performing an upbeat variety of show tunes, led by their choir director Kathleen Madden. To top off the day, everyone received a lovely long-stem, red rose donated by Vondrak Publishing.

It was an especially wonderful event due to the time, efforts and energy afforded by the dynamic Appreciation Day Luncheon Committee and Chamber staff. Besides the contributions named above, others were involved in making this year's luncheon a success. The event was expertly publicized far and wide by Nicole Walsh. Menu arrangements and other details were handled ably and graciously by Ginger Morgan. This year, Jerry Spearman led the way with acquiring many of the wonderful door prize and giveaway donations. Assistance throughout the event was handled most capably by Irene Lovitt. Taking reservations, collecting prizes, coordinating the sign in and other important details were handled by Jennifer Busk, and new Chamber employee Deanne Adasiak got her feet wet by helping out at the check-in table.

Special thanks go out to all of the employers who participated in this event and to the Hilton Oak Lawn for their exceptional service and gracious hospitality.

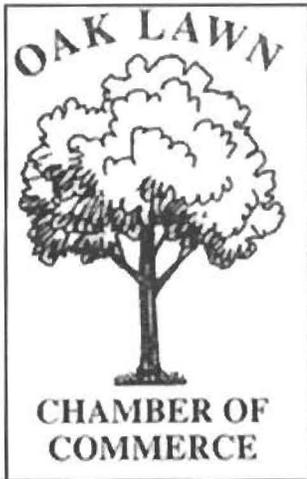
We'd also like to recognize the following businesses that donated door prizes and/or raffle items:

- Allegra Print & Imaging
- Annie's Ltd.
- Bally Total Fitness
- Bank Financial
- Bean Bag Games Unlimited Inc.
- Cell-Air Communications
- Cellular Connection
- Fox's Restaurant
- Freshline Foods
- Hilton Oak Lawn
- Lover's Lane
- Milex Tune Up & Brake Center
- Oak Lawn Park District
- Oak Lawn Public Library
- Panera Bread
- Park Lawn Association
- Progressive Financial Planning
- Scissorhands
- Standard Bank and Trust Co.
- Top Notch Beefburgers
- Windy City ThunderBolts



The Appreciation Day Luncheon Committee

(Top row, l-r) Nicole Walsh, Oak Lawn Park District; Pat Stasik, Oak Lawn Park District; Jerry Spearman, Standard Bank & Trust; Mike Gutchewsky, The Gootch Financial Group; Doris Marks, Park Lawn Association
 (Bottom row, l-r) Linda Olsen, Oak Lawn Public Library; Ginger Morgan, Thompson & Kuenster Funeral Home; Irene Lovitt, Bank Financial



The Networker



The newsletter for the Oak Lawn business community.

President's Message

by Jack Baker

As no one wants to spend time indoors reading, I'll keep this month's letter short. I know that all of you are planning your Fourth of July activities, packing for vacation or working on your golf game in anticipation of the upcoming Chamber Golf Classic.



The Golf Classic is taking shape and Mike and Leo Gutchewsky have put together a great event. The Classic is not only a way to reward your employees for their contribution to the success of your business, but also a great way to entertain current or prospective clients/customers. As a former caddie, I have seen many business deals made and strengthened on the golf course. If you don't golf, come on out for miniature golf and dinner. Show your support of the Chamber and network with your fellow members.

**July
2005**

At the last general meeting, I rolled out the L.E.A.P. (Local Economic Awareness Program). I have personally met with the Village, Library, Park District, Worth Township and each of the public schools in Oak Lawn. Every one of them has vowed to make a greater effort to shop locally when soliciting bids on jobs and purchasing items. The Oak Lawn Chamber office will be setting up an email database of our members who wish to be a part of L.E.A.P. When a bid goes out to a newspaper, it also now will go to the Chamber office. The Chamber office will then send it out to members in L.E.A.P. who may be interested in bidding. If you would like to know more about L.E.A.P. or would like to join, please fill out the form that has been included in this mailing. We've already seen progress in this area. Although we cannot confirm, we believe at least two businesses have received business recently through this new program.



We are still looking for a few members for the Softball team. As this is a co-ed team, we really could use a few more ladies. If you don't want to play, maybe one of your employees would like participate. At the very least, please come out and cheer on your fellow members. After the games, we will be heading up to B.J. McMahon's for some refreshments and socializing. Details of the time and place for the games are inside.

**Shop
Oak Lawn
First**

Thanks for being a member of the Chamber. Please come out and show your support. We would love to see ALL of you! And, from my family and the Officers and Board members, we wish you a happy and safe Fourth of July. The Village and Park District will be putting on their fireworks annual show at Richards High School on the Fourth at dusk. It is always a great show.

KEEP SHOPPING OAK LAWN!!!

Executive Director's Report

by Jennifer Busk



After months of planning, the Golf Classic is finally upon us. I'm particularly excited as this will be my first outing. I wish I could proclaim myself a regular Tiger Woods on the course. However, I'm more comfortable handling a registration table than a golf club. I'm looking forward to seeing many of you enjoy a nice round of golf (or mini golf!) followed by an evening of cocktails, dinner, karaoke (yes, karaoke!) and our raffle drawing. We've got some great prizes. A special thanks to all those that provided raffle donations.

Thanks to the Windy City ThunderBolts for hosting the Oak Lawn Chamber Night on Thursday, June 2. The rainy weather was no match for the crowds who turned out to support the event. And, after a few rain showers, the skies cleared and the players took the field at 8 p.m. to take on the Mid Missouri Mavericks. We hope to host another Chamber Night soon.

For those of you that missed the June luncheon, Jack Baker introduced L.E.A.P. – a new program to assist Chamber members in securing work for local projects. If you'd like more information on this program please contact the Chamber office. We've already received a number of proposals from various groups and organizations.

We kicked off another successful opening day at the Oak Lawn Farmers' Market. The market opened June 29 and will run every Wednesday through October 12, from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Thanks to Huck Finn Donuts and Panera Bread for donating the delicious coffee and breakfast items that greeted early morning shoppers.

Finally, a big welcome to our new intern Nancy Mott! She joined our team in mid-June and will be helping in the office over the next several weeks while she is receiving her Certificate in Meeting/Event Planning from Moraine Valley. She's excited to get some hands-on event planning experience assisting with the Golf Classic.

Thanks for your continued support of the Chamber. Enjoy the July sunshine!

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Marquette Bank

Leo Gutchewsky, 1st Vice President

Century 21 Accent-Homefinders

Peter Schwarz, 2nd Vice President

Hawk Lincoln Mercury

Helen Makina, Treasurer

Allegra Print & Imaging

Irene Lovitt, Secretary

Bank Financial

Anne Marie Casey, Immediate Past President

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Tom Gavin III (Southwest Messenger Press)

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Doris Marks (Park Lawn Assoc.)

Laura Shallow (Fifth Third Bank)

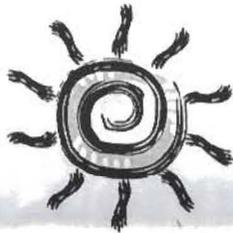
LIBRARY NEWS

Library Hours

The Oak Lawn Public Library will be closed on Sundays during the summer months. Sunday hours will resume in mid-September.

Assistance for Job Hunters

Oak Lawn Public Library cardholders can now access vocational guidance from the Institute of Career Research online via our website (www.lib.oak-lawn.il.us). This resource provides detailed information about careers and scholarship opportunities. For additional information, call Adult Reference Services (708) 422-4990.



VILLAGE UPDATE

Farmers' Market

The Farmers' Market will run every Wednesday (until October 12) from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the parking lot behind the Village Hall, located at 9446 S. Raymond Ave.

Vehicle Stickers

All vehicles registered in Oak Lawn are required to display a sticker. The final day to purchase a 2005-2006 sticker without paying a penalty fee is August 15.

Summer Concerts

The next summer concert will be held on the Village Green on Sunday, July 17. Bopology will perform at 7:00 p.m.

Holiday Hours

The Village and Chamber will be closed Monday, July 4 in observance of Independence Day.

Calendar of Events

July 6	Before Business Hours U.S. Cellular (7464 S. Cicero) 8:00 a.m.—10:00 a.m.
July 6	Farmers Market 7:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.
July 12	Grand Opening Ribbon-Cutting 4:00 p.m. Standard Bank & Trust 4700 W. 111th Street
July 13	Farmers Market 7:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.
July 13	Annual Golf Outing Stony Creek Golf Course
July 20	Farmers Market 7:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.
July 21	Chamber Softball game against the Oak Lawn Park District 6:00 p.m., Centennial Field
July 27	Farmers Market 7:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.
July 27	Health & Wellness Committee Mtg. 8:00 a.m., Chamber office
July 28	Chamber Softball game against the Oak Lawn Police Department 6:00 p.m., Centennial Field

Southland Chamber News

The Chicago Southland Chamber of Commerce will host an Executive Network Lunch

Thursday, July 7
11:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.
Hilton Oak Lawn
\$35.00 per person

Don't forget your business cards! Participants will have 2 minutes to discuss their products and services at their table then rotate to 2 more tables. Only two Network Luncheons remaining this year!

MEMBER NEWS

Welcome new members!

Riteway Masonry, Inc.

Kathryn Below
5451 West 110th St.
(708) 422-4545

Washington Mutual

Chris Solomon
10545 South Cicero Ave.
(708) 423-1468

Smith Kruse & Nicolau

Michael R. Davies
162 North Franklin
Chicago
(312) 634-0734

Committee Updates

Softball

You still can sign up for the Chamber softball team! Our first game will be held at 6:00 p.m. on July 21 at Centennial Park. We'll play the Oak Lawn Park District.

Luncheon

Our next member luncheon will be Tuesday, August 9 at the Hilton Oak Lawn. A representative from the Cook County State's Attorney Office will speak about the new Bad Check Restitution Program. This program is available at *no cost* to taxpayers and businesses.

Health & Wellness

The Health & Wellness committee will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, June 28th at 8:00 a.m. at the Chamber office.

Bonanza Raffle Winners

Congratulations to the following winners of our June Bonanza Raffle Drawing!

- \$100 Jackie Truty—Art Clay World
- \$50 Jim Briscoe—Oak Lawn Community H.S.
- \$25 Susan Kelly—Hallberg Insurance Agency
- \$25 LeRoy Corradino—Founders Bank

Save the Date!

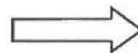
Business Before Hours

U.S. Cellular

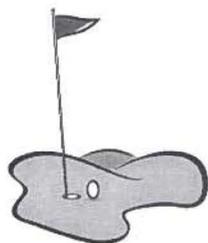
7464 S. Cicero Ave.
8:00 a.m.—10:00 a.m.

Grand Opening—Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

4700 W. 111th Street
4:00 p.m.



Jack Baker, Chamber President, poses with new members Kathryn Below (left) of Riteway Masonry and Phyllis Wegner (right) of Phil's Pizza.



2005 GOLF CLASSIC—LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER!

WEDNESDAY, JULY 13, 2005

OAK LAWN PARK DISTRICT STONY CREEK GOLF COURSE

CHECK IN 11:00 A.M. * LUNCH 11:30 A.M.

SHOTGUN START 12:30 P.M. * MINI GOLF 4:00 PM

OPEN BAR 5:30-8:30 P.M. * DINNER 6:30 PM

GOLF ONLY (18 HOLES)	\$60
DINNER ONLY	\$45
GOLF & DINNER	\$100
MINIATURE GOLF	\$15
MINI GOLF & DINNER	\$60

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES STILL AVAILABLE!

For more information, or to register, please contact the Chamber office at 708-424-8300.

Chamber Member Earns Membership in Million Dollar Round Table

Congratulations to Chamber member Tom Cusack of Cusack Insurance. Outstanding product knowledge and client service have enabled Tom to earn membership in the prestigious Million Dollar Round Table (MDRT). Cusack is a 3-year MDRT member.

Achieving membership in MDRT is a distinguishing career milestone, attained only by those who have demonstrated exceptional professional knowledge, expertise and client service. The Round Table's membership represents the top life insurance and financial service professionals worldwide.

MDRT, The Premier Association of Financial Professionals, is an international, independent association of more than 29,000, or less than 1 percent, of the world's best life insurance and financial services professionals. Regarded as business and community leaders, membership in MDRT is recognized internationally as the standard of sales excellence in the life insurance and financial services business.

Hilton Oak Lawn to Host Summer Wedding Faire and Fashion Show

The Hilton Oak Lawn will host a Summer Wedding Faire and Fashion Show on Wednesday, July 6. Door open at 5:30 p.m. The Fashion Show begins at 8:00 p.m.

Eva's Bridals of Oak Lawn, featuring fashions by Demetrios, and Black Tie Formalwear of Oak Lawn and Orland Park will be showing their latest bridal attire.

Prospective brides are invited to come early and visit with the more than 50 exhibitors on hand to help plan the perfect wedding. Register for door prizes and enjoy cheese and champagne when you take a tour of the hotel suites and Tower Room. Every bride that tours the suite receives a chance to win an overnight in our Jacuzzi Suite. Special discounts are available to show attendees; book a Honeymoon Package the evening of the Bridal Show and receive a 20 percent discount. Sample wedding cakes created by the Hilton's pastry chef, Noel Santos.

Door prizes will be raffled off following the Show. Winners must be present to win. Admission is \$5.00.

Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce

5314 W. 95th Street
Oak Lawn, IL 60453

(708) 424-8300

Fax (708) 229-2236

e-mail: oaklawnchamber@sbcglobal.net

Web Site: www.oaklawnchamber.com

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**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
LUNCHEON**

Save the date...

August Luncheon

Tuesday, August 9, 2005

Hilton Oak Lawn

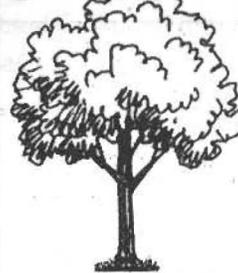
11:30 a.m. Social Hour

12:00 p.m. Luncheon

Farmers Market Donation

Many thanks to **Huck Finn** for donating the delicious donuts and to **Panera Bread** for their donation of sweet rolls and coffee for the opening day of the Farmers' Market on June 29th. We appreciate your support of the Chamber!

OAK LAWN



CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE

Oak Lawn
Chamber of
Commerce
Mission
Statement

"The Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce works to represent and advance the Oak Lawn business community, striving with constant integrity, fairness and cooperation to promote and improve the economic atmosphere, business climate and image of Oak Lawn."



The Networker



The newsletter for the Oak Lawn business community.

President's Message

by Jack Baker



IT WORKED!!! I washed my car and the next day it rained. We are still far behind the rain that we need, but it is a start. Maybe the next rainfall will wash away our current softball record. The team has won only one game against three losses (of course, I am *predicting* the one win as this letter will go to print before we actually play Kevin Mathers and his team from Bally Total Fitness on August 25.) If you haven't been out to one of the games, please join us. We play the Oak Lawn Park District on Wednesday the September 15 at 6 p.m. It's always a great time and we can use your support. If you or someone you work with would like to play, have them call the Chamber office for more details. We play at the Oak Lawn Pavilion fields, located at approximately at 94th and Oak Park Avenue. There's some talk about forming a volleyball team for the colder months of the year. Any interested players?

September
2005

The Fire Safety Coloring book is coming along just fine thanks in large part to John Crivellone and the Chamber office. This is the 27th year that the book has been produced. It is a very useful tool that the Oak Lawn Fire Department uses to help educate the young children in the Village. Every child in 1st through 4th grade receives a book during Fire Safety Week in October. This book teaches our local children what to do in case of a fire. Talks are already underway with the Police Department to make this a joint project next year. It's also important to educate our children on how to stay out of harm's way.

Aa



If you missed last month's Chamber luncheon, you may have lost some money for your business. Our August speaker was Christina Flores from the office of Cook County State's Attorney Dick Devine. She introduced a new Bad Check Restitution Program which assists individuals and businesses in collecting on bad checks. For more information on this program call the Chamber office or visit our website.

Shop
Oak Lawn
First

In regards to speakers, make sure you attend our next luncheon on Tuesday, September 13 at the Oak Lawn Hilton. We will welcome a speaker who will do a brief seminar on Memory Training. His name is Tim, or Tom, or Paul - I forget - and he works for a company whose name escapes me right now. Obviously, I desperately need to attend this meeting. (For the record, his name is Tom Weber of Freedom Speakers.)

The L.E.A.P. is starting to pick up some steam. We need everyone's help to make this program and our local businesses a success. Keep praying for rain and ALWAYS SHOP OAK LAWN FIRST!!!

Executive Director's Report

by Jennifer Busk



August marked my one year anniversary with the Chamber. I guess you can say I've run the entire circuit of Chamber activities. I've come to know a great many of you and value the contributions you make to enhance the ever-changing economic landscape of Oak Lawn. I want to thank you for the outpouring of support during the past year. It's been an honor and privilege to work with so many talented people and I look forward to more rewarding opportunities.

Over the past year I've truly come to appreciate the value of membership with the Chamber of Commerce. I understand how challenging it can be to run a successful business, particularly in the face of economic hardships. It is the knowledge and commitment to helping one another that provides a strong foundation for the Chamber and contributes to a healthy local economy. And, realizing the hectic pace we often maintain, it's difficult to stop and think about all the Chamber has to offer. So, here are a few key reasons your support is important.

1. You're committed to the future of Oak Lawn by contributing to a strong economic climate.
2. Networking and new business contacts help your business grow.
3. Targeted, effective and affordable advertising maximize your budget – **don't miss your opportunity to advertise in the 2006 Member Directory & Planner!**
4. Referrals and sales opportunities offer a return on your investment.
5. Chamber publicity contributes to heightened name recognition for potential customers.
6. Involvement with committees and events offers the chance to become a leader within the Chamber.
7. Learning / professional development opportunities help you run a smarter, more profitable business.
8. You provide a network of support to residents who value the importance of shopping and keeping tax dollars within the community.
9. You encourage us to seek out new ways to assist you in your business growth and development.
10. With nearly 250 members the Chamber, you are never alone! The united voice of the Chamber is a powerful representative.

Thanks for your continued support. The Chamber champions activities and programs that foster business retention and development and help our community grow.

2005 OFFICERS

Jack Baker, President
 Marquette Bank
 Leo Gutchevsky, 1st Vice President
 Century 21 Accent-Homefinders
 Peter Schwarz, 2nd Vice President
 Hawk Lincoln Mercury
 Helen Makina, Treasurer
 Allegra Print & Imaging
 Irene Lovitt, Secretary
 Bank Financial
 Anne Marie Casey, Immediate Past President
 Annie's, Ltd.

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 Peggy Burke (First American Bank)
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 David C. Kobak (Blake-Lamb Funeral Home)
 Robert Kuenster (Thompson & Kuenster F.H.)
 Doris Marks (Park Lawn Assoc.)
 Laura Shallow (Fifth Third Bank)

VILLAGE UPDATE*Farmers' Market*

The Farmers' Market will run every Wednesday (until October 12) from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the parking lot behind the Village Hall, located at 9446 S. Raymond Ave.

Village Board Meetings

Meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, September 13 and Tuesday, September 27, respectively. Both meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Village Board Room.

LIBRARY NEWS

The Oak Lawn Public Library will be closed:

* Monday, September 5 in observance of Labor Day

* Friday and Saturday, September 9 and 10 for staff training and special projects

Sunday hours, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., resume on September 18.

The Oak Lawn Public Library will hold a "Patron Appreciation Day" Sunday, September 18 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. to celebrate the first Sunday that the library reopens. They've planned an afternoon of fun and festivities, including, musical entertainment throughout the building, light refreshments in the lobby, giveaways at the door, prize drawings and a children's craft in Youth Services.

All Village of Oak Lawn residents are eligible for a free library card from by the Oak Lawn Public Library. This privilege also is extended to Oak Lawn businesses and owners of property located in Oak Lawn. Stop by the Circulation Desk for more details or call 708-422-4990.

Bonanza Raffle Winners

Congratulations to the following winners of our August Bonanza Raffle Drawing!

- \$100 Sheila Pijus
- \$50 Tom Truty—Art Clay World
- \$25 Terecita Gomez—Enterprise Car Rental
- \$25 Ira Fellner—PayDay Loans

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 5	Labor Day Village and Chamber offices closed
September 6	Officers' Meeting Chamber office 8:00 a.m.
September 7	Farmers' Market 7:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.
September 13	Directors' Meeting Hilton Oak Lawn 11:00 a.m.
September 13	Chamber Member Luncheon Hilton Oak Lawn 12:00 p.m.
September 14	Farmers' Market 7:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.
September 15	Softball game Chamber v. Park District 6:00 p.m. Centennial Park
September 16	Last day to submit ad for 2006 Directory & Planner!
September 21	Farmers' Market 7:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.
September 28	Farmers' Market 7:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.



MEMBER NEWS

Committee Updates

Luncheon

Our next member luncheon will be Tuesday, September 13 at the Hilton Oak Lawn. Tom Weber of Freedom Speakers will offer a brief seminar on Memory Training. Read on to find out more.

A simple slip of the mind can result in thousands of dollars in lost sales or credibility. Your profession demands that you remember a wealth of knowledge. Build your competitive advantage by learning how to train your memory.

Find out how to remember...

- Names and faces
- To-do lists
- Numbers
- Answers to objections
- Dates, times & appointments
- Information from books and meetings
- Presentations without notes

Tom Weber is an award-winning sales leader who knows what it takes to succeed. Over the course of his career, he has delivered more than 22,000 sales presentations. Don't miss this entertaining and informative luncheon — call the Chamber office today to reserve your spot!



Softball

The Chamber softball faced three devastating defeats last month. The first to the Oak Lawn Park District with a score of 14-6. The following week the team lost to the Police Department with a score of 6-5, only to be topped by a 22-10 loss to the Police on August 18. Thanks to everyone who came out to support us and please join us on September 15 when we play the Park District.

Chamber vs. Police Dept. 

Welcome new members!

Illinois Department of Employment Security

Clyde Redfield
(708) 458-0500

New Health Wellness Center

Dr. Joe Jasper
(708) 444-2225

Westfield Chicago Ridge Mall

Lindsay Maxon
(708) 499-0840

Nominate Your Fellow Chamber Member!

The Economic Development Council for the Southwest Suburbs (EDCSS) is soliciting nominations for the following awards:

- Business Advocate of the Year
- Government Contractor of the Year
- Entrepreneur of the Year
- Small Business Person of the Year
- Training Excellence Award

Self-nominations are welcomed and individuals/businesses can be nominated for multiple categories, but may win only one award. Nominations forms are available at the Chamber office.

Awards will be presented during the EDCSS annual Business Awards Luncheon on Wednesday, October 26 at Silver Lake Country Club. Lunch begins at 11:30 a.m. and the cost is \$35 per person. Please contact the Chamber office for more information.





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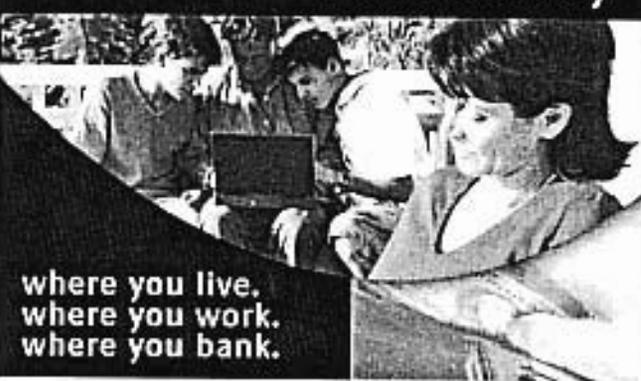
Do you or someone you know need some improvements in your home or business appearance? GENO'S DECORATING, INC. can help your house or building look just the way you want. Take advantage of the season and take care of the improvements that are needed or just wanted to give you that "professional" touch. Please call Gene Mondello or Ninna Mondello at (708)423-6961 for any assistance you may need.

Geno's Decorating
5435 West 110th Street, Unit 3A
Oak Lawn, IL 60453

Phone (708)423-6961 or Fax (708)423-7088

Check out our Web Site
www.genosdecorating.com...

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2005 Village of Oak Lawn Fall on the Green

**Friday, Sept. 9, 6:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.
Saturday, Sept. 10, 11:00 a.m. -11:00 p.m.
Sunday, Sept. 11, 11:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

FOOD, GAMES AND ENTERTAINMENT

Arts and Craft Show Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m.—7 p.m.

BEER GARDEN ENTERTAINMENT

Dennis Stella Experience * 5 Guys Named Moe * Hurricane Gumbo * The Crabs * A Week Back * Network * Guitar Red * Giggle Water * Bernie Glim & Country Roads

MAIN STAGE PERFORMERS

New Colony Six * OLHS Marching Band * Trinity Irish Dancers * Brit Beat * Infinity * Kids Hour * Military Jazz Band

Food provided by B&B Popcorn, Chicago Classics, Brother Rice Dad's Club, Maxwell Street Delight, Palermo's, New China Express, Zorba's, O'Brien's and more!

Free Admission — Free Parking

OAK LAWN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

2006 MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY/PLANNER

Show your support for the Chamber by purchasing an ad in the 2006 Membership Directory and Planner.

<u>SIZE</u>	<u>PRICE</u>
1/8 Page/Business Card (3"x 2 1/4")	\$110
1/4 Page (3"x 4 1/2")	\$135
1/2 Page (6"x 4 1/2")	\$165
Full Page (6"x 9")	\$250
Inside Front or Back Cover (6"x 9")	\$350
Outside Back Cover (6"x 9")	\$550

(Coupon ads also are welcome)

AD COPY AND PAYMENT DUE FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2005

Ad Specifications:

- Ads must be submitted as PDF, Quark 6.5 file or camera-ready art ONLY
- No photocopies accepted!
- Microsoft Publisher files not accepted.
- Business cards welcome (no ink marks or staples!)

Name of Business _____

Contact Person _____

Address _____ City _____ ST/ZIP _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

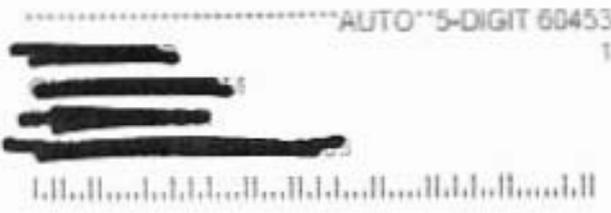
Check here if we may use your same ad from last year.

Check is enclosed _____

Please invoice me _____

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**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
LUNCHEON**

October Luncheon

Tuesday, October 11, 2005

Hilton Oak Lawn

11:30 a.m. Social Hour

12:00 p.m. Luncheon

November Luncheon

Tuesday, November 8, 2005

Doubletree Hotel Alsip

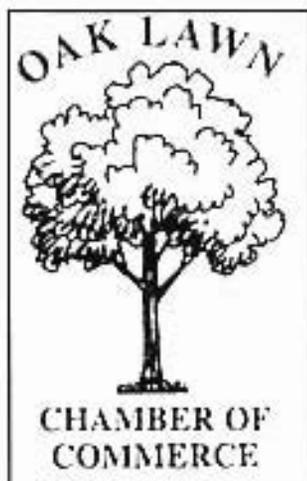
11:30 a.m. Social Hour

12:00 p.m. Luncheon



**Oak Lawn
Chamber of
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Mission
Statement**

"The Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce works to represent and advance the Oak Lawn business community, striving with constant integrity, fairness and cooperation to promote and improve the economic atmosphere, business climate and image of Oak Lawn."



The Networker



The newsletter for the Oak Lawn business community.

President's Message

by Jack Baker

I am looking at the calendar and it is telling me that summer is now over. I think someone needs to have a conversation with Mother Nature as the thermometer is still putting out readings in the mid 80's. Don't get me wrong, I love the warm weather. I don't have to wear a jacket when I am out golfing. But I really miss the campfires my family shares on cooler evenings, all snuggled up together on the bench roasting marshmallows.



Speaking of the weather, on behalf of the officers and board members, our hearts and prayers go out to the victims of Hurricane Katrina. Many of our businesses and local organizations are coordinating fundraising efforts or gathering items for the victims. If you would like to know how you can help out, the Chamber office has been collecting information about the many groups who currently are doing such things. As a Chamber, we are discussing ways we may assist victims in the upcoming months when the second and third wave of support and supplies are requested. Please continue to keep the victims in your prayers.

October
2005



We are excited to be putting out the 27th edition of the Fire Safety Coloring Book. John Crivellone and his small committee have worked hard to put together another great book for the children of Oak Lawn. The bad news is that this will be the last year of the book. The GREAT news is that the Police Department and Fire Department, along with the Chamber will be putting out a joint book next year. This book will be bigger and better than any prior publication of it.

The final touches are being put on next year's planner directory. Peter Schwarz has done another great job in getting the 2006 book done in plenty of time for distribution to everyone. Expect to see yours in December. If you have not advertised in this book in the past, please think about it for next year. It's a great way to reach out to your fellow chamber members.

Shop
Oak Lawn
First

At our upcoming member luncheon, we are bringing back a very popular format. We will once again have our round table sessions. At this luncheon, you will be seated at a table with other members. Once the meeting starts, each person will have 3 minutes to discuss their business. After that, there will be 2 minutes of open discussion at your table. Once the time is up, you will be reassigned to another table with different members. The process will be done a total of three times, giving you the opportunity to talk to up to 20 people in one hour about your business. Not a bad way to spend one hour. Bring plenty of business cards.

See you soon and KEEP SHOPPING OAK LAWN!!!!

Executive Director's Report

by Jennifer Busk



Fall ushers in a flurry of activity for the Chamber office. We just completed our ad solicitation for the 2006 Business Directory & Planner and I'm pleased to report we're on track to have the books available to members in early December. Kudos to Peter Schwarz and his committee for their diligent solicitation efforts. Thanks to those members that supported the Chamber by purchasing an ad.

Our September luncheon was entertaining and enlightening, thanks to Tom Weber of Freedom Speakers. Tom's expertise in the field of memory training made us all work our brains a little harder and we had fun doing it. Don't forget (no pun intended) that our October 11 luncheon at the Hilton will be another networking roundtable luncheon. Be sure to RSVP to the Chamber office and plan to bring your business cards!

Thanks to Bally Total Fitness for humoring us with a game of softball on August 25. I'm proud to say that the Chamber revealed in its first win of the season, with a final score of 19 to 10. We have one final game against the Park District before we close the season. As this will be at print at the time, I'm crossing my fingers I'll have good news to report next month.

Art Clay World hosted a wonderful Business After Hours on Friday, September 16. Although attendance was low, artwork was in abundance! A beautiful selection of award-winning, hand-crafted silver jewelry was on display. Thanks to Jackie Truty, Linda Michel and the staff for welcoming us.

And looking ahead to cooler weather...Oak Lawn Community High School Homecoming is just around the corner. Please make an effort to come out and cheer on our students on Saturday, October 10 beginning with the parade leaving at 10 a.m. from 95th and Raymond Ave. And please patronize the many auto dealers in Oak Lawn that will graciously donate cars for the parade.

And much, much cooler weather...Mark your calendars! the Installation Dinner will be held Saturday, January 21 at the Hilton Oak Lawn.

Thanks for your continued support of the Chamber!

2005 OFFICERS

Jack Baker, President
Marquette Bank

Leo Gutchewsky, 1st Vice President
Century 21 Accent-Homefinders

Peter Schwarz, 2nd Vice President
Hawk Lincoln Mercury

Helen Makina, Treasurer
Allegra Print & Imaging

Irene Lovitt, Secretary
Bank Financial

Anne Marie Casey, Immediate Past President
Annie's, Ltd.

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Peggy Burke (First American Bank)

Dr. Sandra Bury (Complete Vision Care)

Joann Buschbach (Buschbach Insurance)

George Cachares (Southwest Physical Therapy)

Karen Clark (Hope Children's Hospital)

Carey Cramton (Fox College)

John Crivellone (Illinois Security Services)

Dr. David Finkelstein (Oak Lawn Foot & Ankle)

Michael Gutchewsky (The Gombas Financial Group)

Rhonda Martin (Manor Care Healthcare East)

Kevin Mathers (Bally Total Fitness)

Noreen Mikols (Fifth Third Bank)

Gene Mondello (Geno's Decorating)

Ginger Morgan (Thompson & Kuenster F.H.)

Linda Olsen (Oak Lawn Public Library)

Tom Orlovski (Men's Wearhouse)

Susan Peppas (Bridgeway Health Care)

Laura Roman (Archer Bank)

Jerry Spearman (Standard Bank & Trust)

Patricia Stasik (Oak Lawn Park District)

Dan Walsh (Hallberg Insurance)

Ted Young (Circle Creations)

ADVISORY BOARD

Brian Anderson (Hilton Oak Lawn)

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Joann Buschbach (Buschbach Insurance)

LeRoy Corradino (Founders Bank)

Chuck Dinolfo (Century 21 Pro-Team)

Tom Gavin III (Southwest Messenger Press)

Barbara Glioge (Kozlarek & Assoc. Realtors)

David C. Kobak (Blake-Lamb Funeral Home)

Robert Kuenster (Thompson & Kuenster F.H.)

Doris Marks (Park Lawn Assoc.)

Laura Shallow (Fifth Third Bank)

VILLAGE UPDATE***Farmers' Market***

The Farmers' Market will close for the season on Wednesday, October 12. The hours are 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Village Board Meetings

Meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, October 11 and Tuesday, October 25, respectively. Both meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Village Board Room.

Leaf Bags

Leaf bags are available at the Village Hall until November 23. They are sold in rolls of 20 for \$5.00. Leaf bag pick-up will continue through the end of November. Please remember that no yard waste will be picked up between December 1 and March 31, 2005. All leaves and other yard waste not collected in November must be stored until April.

**LIBRARY NEWS****ILA Librarian of the Year**

Dr. James B. Casey, director of the Oak Lawn Public Library, is the latest recipient of the prestigious Illinois Librarian of the Year Award issued by the Illinois Library Association. Each year, the award recognizes "a librarian's distinguished service and leadership in Illinois libraries." Recipients are chosen for their impact and positive contributions to libraries on the local, state and national level. Casey was nominated for this award by peers in the library field. In his more than 13 years at the Oak Lawn Public Library, Casey has led several capital projects, including the building expansion and renovation project completed in 2004 that increased the library's overall size by 25 percent and allowed for countless additions and improvements to the facility and library services.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 4	Officers' Meeting Chamber office 8:00 a.m.
October 10	Columbus Day Village closed
October 11	Directors' Meeting Hilton Oak Lawn 11:00 a.m.
October 11	Chamber Member Luncheon Hilton Oak Lawn 12:00 p.m.
October 12	Southwest Business Cooperative Networking Event Hilton Oak Lawn 5:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.
October 15	Oak Lawn Comm. High School Homecoming Parade begins at 10:00 a.m. 95th and Raymond Ave.

Bonanza Raffle Winners

Congratulations to the following winners of our September Bonanza Raffle Drawing!

\$100	Paul & Valerie Wisnoski—Carpet Interiors
\$50	Ira Fellner—PayDay Loans
\$25	Gene Furmanek—G & L Trophies
\$25	Maury Barger

Holiday Showcase

The Hilton Oak Lawn will host a Holiday Showcase on Sunday, October 30 from 9:00 a.m.—4:00p.m. The show will features holiday décor, handmade crafts, seasonal gifts, fashion accessories, gourmet foods, home accents and much more. Admission is \$2.00.

MEMBER NEWS

Committee Updates

Luncheon

Our next member luncheon will be Tuesday, October 11 at the Hilton Oak Lawn. We will host a "Networking Roundtable" luncheon, allowing each member who attends to speak briefly about their business. Don't forget your business cards!

Please note the change in location for our November luncheon. We will meet at the Doubletree Hotel Alsip on November 8.

Membership

The committee is planning a Recruitment Walk for October 7th. Members will walk the Village in an effort to promote Oak Lawn business and membership in the Chamber. If you'd like to help out, please contact the Chamber office.

OLCHS 2005

Oak Lawn Community High School will celebrate Homecoming on Saturday, October 15. The day begins with a parade departing from 95th and Raymond Ave. and proceeding west to the high school. The Chamber will provide cars and drivers for the Homecoming Court. Come show your support!

Village and Chamber representatives joined with employees of SportClips—a unique concept in haircuts for men—at their Grand Opening celebration.



Welcome new members!

Evergreen Park Office Max

Tim Rodriguez
(708) 423-5533

SportClips

Eddie Sircher
(708) 636-5490

Van Witz Real Estate Services

Pamela Van Witzenburg
(708) 974-1100

Mark Your Calendars!



Saturday, January 21, 2006 the Installation of the Officers and Directors of the Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce will take place at the Hilton Oak Lawn. Join us for an evening of great food, music and fun. Details to follow shortly!

Jack Baker poses with new members **Clyde Redfield** of the Illinois Department of Employment Security and Eddie and Jim Sircher of SportClips.





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Oak Lawn, IL 60453

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Fax: 708-425-2206

email: dxprinting@aol.com

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2006 SLATE OF OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

Below please find the official ballot for the 2006-2007 Board of Directors. We have seven positions to be filled. Please indicate your acceptance by signing and faxing your response to the Chamber office no later than October 28, 2005. All Officers and Directors will be sworn in at the Installation Dinner on January 21, 2006. Thanks you. (An asterisk denotes new board members.)

President

Leo Gutchewsky ("A" Service Company)

1st Vice President

Peter Schwarz (Hawk Lincoln Mercury)

2nd Vice President

Irene Lovitt (Bank Financial)

Treasurer

*George Cachares (Southwest Physical Therapy)

Secretary

*Kevin Mathers (Bally Total Fitness)

Immediate Past President

Jack Baker (Marquette Bank)

Term Expiring 12/31/06

Dr. Sandra Bury (Complete Vision Care)

Karen Clark (Hope Children's Hospital)

John Crivellone (Illinois Security Services)

Dr. David Finkelstein (Oak Lawn Foot & Ankle)

Rhonda Martin (Manor Care Healthcare East)

Gene Mondello (Geno's Decorating)

Ginger Morgan (Thompson & Kuenster F.H.)

Tom Orłowski (Men's Wearhouse)

Susan Peppia (Bridgeview Health Care)

Jerry Spearman (Standard Bank & Trust)

*Jackie Truty (Art Clay World)

Ted Young (Circle Creations)

Directors: Terms expiring 12/31/07

Dr. Joseph Brannigan (Brannigan Chiropractic Center)

Peggy Burke (First American Bank)

Carey Cranston (Fox College)

Michael Gutchewsky (The Gutch Financial Group)

*Donna Herpich (Great Lakes Metals)

*Glen Kato (GlenKato.com Web Design)

Linda Olsen (Oak Lawn Public Library)

Laura Roman (Archer Bank)

*Roscoe Rush (Oak Lawn Bank)

Patricia Stasik (Oak Lawn Park District)

*John Valentino (Christopher John Designs)

Dan Walsh (Hallberg Insurance)

VOTING MEMBER & COMPANY NAME: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

SOUTHWEST BUSINESS COOPERATIVE NETWORKING EVENT

OCTOBER 12, 2005

Cocktails & Hors d'oeuvres

5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Hilton Oak Lawn

9333 South Cicero Avenue

TICKET PRICE: \$25.00 PER PERSON

You are cordially invited to attend the 2nd Southwest Business Cooperative Networking Event. Local Chambers are uniting to offer this unique networking opportunity to our members. Come make new contacts with area business owners and employees.

Don't forget your business cards!

NO RESERVATIONS ACCEPTED AFTER OCTOBER 10, 2005!

Please complete with company name & attendee(s).

Company Name: _____

Attendee Name(s): _____

Payment enclosed: \$_____ (NO REFUNDS FOR CANCELLATIONS!)

Please return with your check to the Oak Lawn Chamber office at 5314 W. 95th Street, Oak Lawn, IL 60453. Questions? Please contact the Chamber office at 708-424-8300.

Hosted By:

Alsip Industrial Association * Bedford Park Clearing and Industrial Assoc. * Blue Island Chamber * Bridgeview Chamber * Burbank Chamber * Frankfort Chamber * Oak Lawn Chamber * Orland Park Chamber * Tinley Park Chamber * West Lawn Chamber * Economic Development Council for the Southwest Suburbs

Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce

5314 W. 95th Street
Oak Lawn, IL 60453

(708) 424-8300

Fax (708) 229-2236

e-mail: oaklawchamber@sbcglobal.net

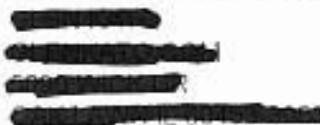
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**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
LUNCHEON**

November Luncheon

Tuesday, November 8, 2005

Doubletree Hotel Alsip

11:30 a.m. Social Hour

12:00 p.m. Luncheon

December Luncheon

Tuesday, December 13, 2005

Hilton Oak Lawn

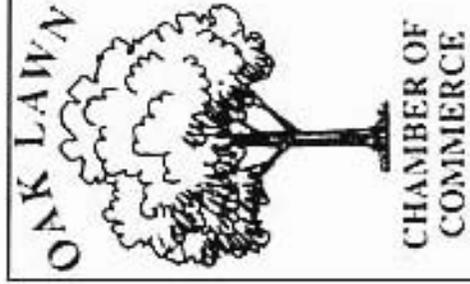
11:30 a.m. Social Hour

12:00 p.m. Luncheon



**Oak Lawn
Chamber of
Commerce
Mission
Statement**

"The Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce works to represent and advance the Oak Lawn business community, striving with constant integrity, fairness and cooperation to promote and improve the economic atmosphere, business climate and image of Oak Lawn."



The Networker



The newsletter for the Oak Lawn business community.

President's Message

Jack Baker

I'm writing this the morning after the White Sox clenched the American League Pennant. As a life-long Sox fan, I was beginning to think this day would never come. Coming out of spring training this year, no one picked the Sox to be where they are right now. The players, many of them no-names, have stepped up and have had career years, playing "above their heads". They have been able to be at their best when it counted. One thing I think has been the inspiration to this year's team has been how the current players looked to the past players and staff for help. This collaboration has made the team a success. As there is a rich tradition with baseball and the White Sox, the same may be said of the Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce. We, too, must continue to work together to make our team and this community a success.



The Fire Safety Coloring book was distributed to the many school children in Oak Lawn last month. The book is both a fun activity and a learning tool, teaching our little ones about the importance of safety and planning in case of a fire. Thanks to the Oak Lawn Fire Department for getting the message and books out to the children, the many businesses that supported the book through the purchase of an ad, and to John Crivellone and his committee for their hard work in coordinating its production and distribution.

**November
2005**



You heard it here first! The 2006 Membership Directory & Planner will be distributed at the December 13 luncheon. Peter Schwarz and his committee have worked diligently to make this very important directory a success. Please keep it close at hand, as it lists all of your fellow Chamber Members.

The Installation Dinner will be Saturday, January 21 at the Hilton Oak Lawn. This year's theme is Mardi Gras. We are sure it will prove both colorful and entertaining. I would like to thank the many people working on the event, especially co-chairs Jerry Spearman and Noreen Makols.

Next year, we welcome seven new board members and two new officers. I would like to thank them for stepping up and committing to help make the Oak Lawn Chamber the best chamber in the Southland. Thanks also to the current board for all of their hard work over the past year and to the many Past Presidents for their help, knowledge and support.

I look forward to seeing you at the next luncheon which will be at the Doubletree Hotel Alsip (a chamber member) located at 127th Street, just two blocks west of Cicero. The Oak Lawn Police will be there to give a presentation on how to help keep your business safe during the holiday season.

**Shop
Oak Lawn
First**

Keep shopping Oak Lawn first and GO WHITE SOX!!!!

Executive Director's Report

by Jennifer Busk



Students from Oak Lawn Community High School certainly looked like stars on Saturday, October 15 as they celebrated Homecoming 2005 with the theme of "Spartans on the Red Carpet". The day began with a parade down 95th Street to the high school. Many thanks to Joe McCurdy, Mary Saint Angelo, Chris Repa and Amy Cryan of the high school for the stellar collaboration on another memorable Homecoming.

As always, thanks to the various Chamber members who supported the event. First, our drivers: Jack Baker, Leo Gutchewsky, Jim Buschbach, Tom Orlowski, Carey Cranston, David Kuenster and Rhonda Martin. And, what's a parade without automobiles. Thanks to Webb Chevrolet, Mike Haggerty Volkswagen and Hawkinson Ford for generously providing the beautiful convertibles which transported members of the Homecoming Court.

Beth Andersen, Oak Lawn High School graduate of class of 1979, was gracious enough to resume her role in leading the judging committee for the parade floats. Thanks for her assistance. Last but certainly not least, thanks to Bank Financial for donating the cash prizes awarded to winners of the float contest.

In other news...There is one winning team in the Southland, but I'm sad to report it's not the Chamber's softball team. The team lost its final game to the Oak Lawn Park District with a score of 16-10. At one point, the Chamber was able to tie the game 10-10, despite having only six players on the field - an impressive feat! There is talk of forming a volleyball league during the winter months. Please contact the Chamber office if you're interested in participating.

Several area Chambers collaborated on the Southwest Cooperative Business Networking Event, held Wednesday, October 12 at the Hilton Oak Lawn. More than 200 business professionals from surrounding communities attended! Thanks to the Hilton staff for a beautiful event.

And looking ahead to the holidays...The Chamber is excited to unveil an "Adopt-a-Family Holiday Program" in conjunction with Oak Lawn Family Services. Beginning this month, Chamber members are invited to stop by the office to pick up an ornament with the name and gift wish list of a local family. Look for more information in the coming weeks.

Finally, invoices for 2006 dues will be mailed in early December. Your assistance in prompt remittance is appreciated.

2005 OFFICERS

Jack Baker, President

Marquette Bank

Leo Gutchewsky, 1st Vice President

Century 21 Accent-Homefinders

Peter Schwarz, 2nd Vice President

Hawk Lincoln Mercury

Helen Makina, Treasurer

Allegra Print & Imaging

Irene Lovitt, Secretary

Bank Financial

Anne Marie Casey, Immediate Past President

Annie's, Ltd.

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Brian Anderson (Hilton Oak Lawn)

Dr. Joseph Brannigan (Brannigan Chiropractic)

Peggy Burke (First American Bank)

Dr. Sandra Bury (Complete Vision Care)

Joann Buschbach (Buschbach Insurance)

George Cachares (Southwest Physical Therapy)

Karen Clark (Hope Children's Hospital)

Carey Cranston (Fox College)

John Crivellone (Illinois Security Services)

Dr. David Finkelstein (Oak Lawn Foot & Ankle)

Michael Gutchewsky (The Gutch Financial Group)

Rhonda Martin (Manor Care Healthcare East)

Kevin Mathers (Bally Total Fitness)

Noreen Mikols (Fifth Third Bank)

Gene Mondello (Geno's Decorating)

Ginger Morgan (Thompson & Kuenster F.H.)

Linda Olsen (Oak Lawn Public Library)

Tom Orlowski (Men's Wearhouse)

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Chuck Dinolfo (Century 21 Pro-Team)

Tom Gavin III (Southwest Messenger Press)

Barbara Gliede (Kozlerek & Assoc. Realtors)

David C. Kobak (Blake-Lamb Funeral Home)

Robert Kuenster (Thompson & Kuenster F.H.)

Doris Marks (Park Lawn Assoc.)

Laura Shallow (Fifth Third Bank)

VILLAGE UPDATE

Village Board Meetings

The next meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, November 8 and Tuesday, November 22 and will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Village Board Room.

Leaf Bags

Leaf bags are available at the Village Hall until November 23. They are sold in rolls of 20 for \$5.00. Leaf bag pick-up will continue through the end of November. Please remember that no yard waste will be picked up between December 1 and March 31, 2005. All leaves and other yard waste not collected in November must be stored until April.

Santa on the Village Green

Santa on the Village Green is scheduled for Saturday, November 26 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The Chamber again will offer free carriage rides for families. Cookies, hot chocolate, and candy canes will all be available free of charge. The evening will conclude with the lighting of the Village Christmas Tree.



Executive Directors from surrounding Chambers gathered at the Hilton Oak Lawn on October 12 for the second Southwest Business Cooperative Networking Event. More than 200 business professionals from local communities attended the event. Thanks to all who participated!

LIBRARY NEWS

Mind Your Business

Reference USA Online Directory Training

Twelve million business listings are available at the Oak Lawn Public Library. A hands-on introduction to researching companies through the Reference USA online directory will be presented in the library's Computer Center on Thursday, November 10 at 9:00-10:30 a.m.

Italian-Americans of Chicagoland

Thursday, November 10 at 7:00 p.m.

Explore Italian-American culture and cuisine with the Italian-American Women's Club and the authors of two books, "Italian-American Women of Chicagoland" from the Arcadia Publishing "Images of America" series and a self-published cookbook. Discover the distinctive flavors of traditional Italian recipes. A limited number of books will be available for purchase and autographs.

Sunday with Friends: Right Way Band

Sunday, November 14 at 7:00 p.m.

An afternoon of big band favorites from the 1930s, 40s, and 50s, presented by a talented four-member group. Sponsored by the Friends of the Oak Lawn Library.

Pompeii: Ashes to Archaeology

Monday, November 14 at 7:00 p.m.

In this educational lecture program, Dr. Michelle Paluch-Mishur of Art Excursions, Inc., will introduce Roman wall paintings, ancient architecture, and artifacts. This program relates to the Field Museum's exhibit that ends March 26, 2006.

Arabs of Chicagoland

Thursday, November 17 at 7:00 p.m.

Award-winning Chicago journalist and author Ray Hanania will present an informative lecture based upon his recently released book "Arabs of Chicagoland". Hanania's work examines the history of Chicago's Christian and Muslim Arab community from the mid-19th century to the present time.

MEMBER NEWS

COMMITTEE UPDATES

November Luncheon

Please note the change in location for our next member luncheon which will be held on Tuesday, November 8 at the Doubletree Hotel Alsip. Representatives from the Oak Lawn Police Dept. will be our guest speakers. They will discuss keeping your business safe during the holidays with an emphasis on financial security.

December Luncheon

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, December 13 when we will welcome the Oak Lawn Community High School Choir to join us for our holiday luncheon at the Hilton Oak Lawn.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 1	Officers' Meeting Chamber office 8:00 a.m.
November 8	Directors' Meeting Doubletree Hotel Alsip 11:00 a.m.
November 8	Chamber Luncheon Doubletree Hotel Alsip 12:00 p.m.
November 24	Thanksgiving Day Chamber office closed
November 26	Holiday Parade / Santa on the Village Green 4:00—6:00 p.m.
November 29	Chicago Fire Stadium Tour (Chamber members <i>only!</i>) 71st & Harlem Ave. 11:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

BONANZA RAFFLE WINNERS

Congratulations to the following winners of our October Bonanza Raffle Drawing!

\$100	John McGowan
\$50	Lucille Anderson
\$25	John McGowan
\$25	Tom Orlowski—Men's Wearhouse

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Bennigan's

Jeanette Yohe
6401 W. 95th Street
Chicago Ridge, IL
(708) 499-6808

Evergreen Community Bank

Maureen McDonagh
3842 West 95th Street
Evergreen Park, IL
(708) 229-1010

Fannie May

Marge Dzielski
6351 W. 95th Street
Oak Lawn, IL 60453
(708) 423-1754

SouthLand Design Studio

Christina Czeszewski
5341 W. 88th Street
Oak Lawn, IL
(708) 227-6859

Staples

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Oak Lawn, IL
(708) 425-3084

The Chicago Fire

Mike Beauvais
71st & Harlem Avenue
(312) 705-7230



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- Security Doors • Siding • Gutters

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FAX: 708-443-2683
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Gage: 773-471-1330

www.chicagolandheatingandac.com

Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce Members

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2006 SLATE OF OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

Below please find the official slate for the 2006-2007 Board of Directors, as elected by the general membership and approved by the Board of Directors. Congratulations to everyone!

President

Leo Gutchewsky ("A" Service Company)

1st Vice President

Peter Schwarz (Hawk Lincoln Mercury)

2nd Vice President

Irene Lovitt (Bank Financial)

Treasurer

George Cachares (Southwest Physical Therapy)

Secretary

Kevin Mathers (Bally Total Fitness)

Immediate Past President

Jack Baker (Marquette Bank)

Term Expiring 12/31/06

Dr. Sandra Bury (Complete Vision Care)

Karen Clark (Hope Children's Hospital)

John Crivellone (Illinois Security Services)

Dr. David Finkelstein (Oak Lawn Foot & Ankle)

Rhonda Martin (Manor Care Healthcare East)

Gene Mondello (Geno's Decorating)

Ginger Morgan (Thompson & Kuenster F.H.)

Tom Orłowski (Men's Wearhouse)

Susan Peppia (Bridgview Health Care)

Jerry Spearman (Standard Bank & Trust)

Jackie Truty (Art Clay World)

Ted Young (Circle Creations)

Directors: Terms expiring 12/31/07

Dr. Joseph Brannigan (Brannigan Chiropractic Center)

Peggy Burke (First American Bank)

Carey Cranston (Fox College)

Michael Gutchewsky (The Gootch Financial Group)

Donna Herpich (Great Lakes Metals)

Glen Kato (GlenKato.com Web Design)

Linda Olsen (Oak Lawn Public Library)

Laura Roman (Archer Bank)

Roscoe Rush (Oak Lawn Bank)

Patricia Stasik (Oak Lawn Park District)

John Valentino (Christopher John Designs)

Dan Walsh (Hallberg Insurance)

Save the Date!

Join the Chamber for an evening of great food, music and fun!

Saturday, January 21, 2006 the 60th Annual Installation of the Officers and Directors of the Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce will take place at the Hilton Oak Lawn. The evening promises to be a great success as we celebrate the accomplishments of 2005 and welcome with anticipation the new year. Invitations will be forwarded soon, but please mark your calendar now!



OAK LAWN COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL HOMECOMING 2005



On Saturday, October 15, the 2005 Oak Lawn Community High School Homecoming Parade was celebrated by friends and families of the community. A special thanks to Hawkinson Ford, Mike Haggerty Volkswagen and Webb Chevrolet for donating convertibles and to Bank Financial for donating the cash prizes awarded to winners of the float contest. Thanks also to our drivers: Jack Baker, Leo Gutchewsky, Jim Buschbach, Tom Orlowski, Carey Cranston, David Kuenster, and Rhonda Martin.



Stephanie Bauer, 2005 Homecoming Queen, is driven by Chamber Director Rhonda Martin.



Chamber Director Tom Orlowski with OLCHS Alumni (and cousins) Tom and Jim Purpura.



Chamber Officer Leo Gutchewsky drives OLCHS teacher, Nick Grijalva.



The 2005 Oak Lawn Community High School Homecoming Court

Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce

5314 W. 95th Street
Oak Lawn, IL 60453

(708) 424-8300

Fax (708) 229-2236

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**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
LUNCHEON**

December Luncheon

Tuesday, December 13, 2005

Hilton Oak Lawn

11:30 a.m. Social Hour

12:00 p.m. Luncheon



**Oak Lawn
Chamber of
Commerce
Mission
Statement**

"The Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce works to represent and advance the Oak Lawn business community, striving with constant integrity, fairness and cooperation to promote and improve the economic atmosphere, business climate and image of Oak Lawn."



The newsletter for the Oak Lawn business community.

President's Message

Jack Baker



I'm happy to say that I did not explode from all of the turkey and stuffing I ate over the Thanksgiving weekend. I did put on those ever important five pounds that will make me feel guilty enough to set another New Year's Resolution that I most likely will break...again. Although the golf season is my favorite season of all, Christmas is a close second. We decorate our house with festive things and there is always holiday music playing. My two children, Brendan and Shannon, are on their best behavior. And what better season is there for my wife Erin. It is almost mandated that shopping be done several times a week, if not every day. We also take more time to spend with each other as a family. From my family to yours, I would like to wish you all a Happy Holiday Season and we hope yours is as wonderful as ours.

**December
2005**



**Shop
Oak Lawn
First**

At our November luncheon, I was privileged to introduce the Holiday Needy Family Program. This program is a joint effort between the Chamber and the Oak Lawn Family Service Department. We are asking fellow members and residents of Oak Lawn to help out those in need, right here in our back yard. Many families in Oak Lawn will not be able to enjoy the Holidays because they have fallen on hard times. The Oak Lawn Family Service Department, in conjunction with the Village has been helping out such needy families for almost 40 years. Included in this newsletter is a flier, explaining how you, your business or customers can help.

On November 26th, the Village hosted their annual Holiday Parade, highlighted by a parade welcoming Santa and allowing children to visit and have their photos taken with the man in the red suit. The Chamber also was part of this great event for the families, as we once again supplied the horse drawn carriage rides. The Village Green looked amazing with all of the lights and decorations. Make an effort to check it out this season. Thank you to the Village officials who have worked so hard to put this event together. It seems to be the official start to the Holiday Season in Oak Lawn.

From all of the Officers, Board Members and Staff of the Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce, a Happy Holiday Season and a very Prosperous New Year. And, keep SHOPPING OAK LAWN!!

Executive Director's Report

by Jennifer Busk



It's difficult to believe another year has come and gone. Many of us are busy with the usual holiday activities, from trimming the tree, to shopping, to baking cookies. And, many of us are looking ahead to next year and the anticipation of what may lie ahead. However, I thought it appropriate to take a moment to reflect on some of the Chamber milestones of 2005.

In March, the Chamber sponsored its first Mayoral and Trustee Forum, allowing local residents to hear first hand from those individuals campaigning to represent our community. The Spartan Gym at the Oak Lawn Community High School was filled, a clear indication of the importance of giving the community a voice. Just a few weeks later, Oak Lawn welcomed a new mayor, clerk and two trustees to the administration.

This summer, Chamber President Jack Baker introduced L.E.A.P., the Local Economy Awareness Program. A collaborative effort between the Chamber and local government and organizations, this program provides Chamber businesses the opportunity to bid on local projects. A notice of the solicitation of bids is mailed to the Chamber office and in turn the staff communicates the information to the applicable member businesses.

In November, we launched the Holiday Needy Family Program in conjunction with Oak Lawn Family Service. I am pleased and excited that that our two organizations can work together to provide support to the needy families in our community. Realizing that the economic landscape for business – local and beyond – is in a constant state of flux, we appreciate your willingness to give just a little back to those in our community. Thank you for your generosity.

I hope this snapshot of our efforts renews in you a sense of pride for the wonderful programs we offer our membership. They are prime examples of how the Chamber continues its work to strengthen the relationship between businesses, residents and the leaders in our community.

Happy Holidays and Cheers to a fabulous New Year!

2005 OFFICERS

Jack Baker, President
Marquette Bank

Leo Gutchewsky, 1st Vice President
Century 21 Accent-Homefinders

Peter Schwarz, 2nd Vice President
Hawk Lincoln Mercury

Helen Makina, Treasurer
Allegra Print & Imaging

Irene Lovitt, Secretary
Bank Financial

Anne Marie Casey, Immediate Past President
Annie's, Ltd.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Brian Anderson (Hilton Oak Lawn)

Dr. Joseph Brannigan (Brannigan Chiropractic)

Peggy Burke (First American Bank)

Dr. Sandra Bury (Complete Vision Care)

Joann Buschbach (Buschbach Insurance)

George Caclares (Southwest Physical Therapy)

Karen Clark (Hope Children's Hospital)

Carey Cranston (Fox College)

John Crivellone (Illinois Security Services)

Dr. David Finkelstein (Oak Lawn Foot & Ankle)

Michael Gutchewsky (The Gootch Financial Group)

Rhonda Martin (Manor Care Healthcare East)

Kevin Mathers (Bally Total Fitness)

Norwen Mikals (Fifth Third Bank)

Gene Mondello (Gemo's Decorating)

Ginger Morgan (Thompson & Kuenster F.H.)

Linda Olsen (Oak Lawn Public Library)

Tom Orłowski (Men's Wearhouse)

Susan Peppas (Bridgeview Health Care)

Laura Roman (Archer Bank)

Jerry Spearman (Standard Bank & Trust)

Patricia Stasik (Oak Lawn Park District)

Dan Walsh (Hallberg Insurance)

Ted Young (Circle Creations)

ADVISORY BOARD

Brian Anderson (Hilton Oak Lawn)

Milton Andersen (Andersen Builders)

Chris Angle (Christopher John Designs)

Jim Buschbach (Buschbach Insurance)

Joann Buschbach (Buschbach Insurance)

LeRoy Corradino (Founders Bank)

Chuck Diolfo (Century 21 Pro-Team)

Tom Gavin III (Southwest Messenger Press)

Barbara Gliege (Kozlurek & Assoc. Realtors)

David C. Kobak (Blake-Lamb Funeral Home)

Robert Kuenster (Thompson & Kuenster F.H.)

Doris Murks (Park Lawn Assoc.)

Laura Shallow (Fifth Third Bank)

VILLAGE UPDATE*Village Board Meetings*

The next meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, December 13 and Tuesday, December 27 at 7:30 p.m. in the Village Board Room.

Holiday Hours

The Village will be closed Friday, December 23 and Monday, December 26 in observance of the Christmas Holiday. The village also will be closed Friday, December 30 and Monday, January 2 in observance of the New Year's holiday.

BONANZA RAFFLE WINNERS

Congratulations to the following winners of our November Bonanza Raffle Drawing!

- \$100 Ira Fellner—PDL Financial Services
 \$50 Tom Galateo—Kenwood Liquor
 \$25 Heather Huscher
 \$25 Alexis Huscher

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 6	Officers' Meeting Chamber office 8:00 a.m.
December 13	Directors' Meeting Hilton Oak Lawn 11:00 a.m.
December 13	Monthly Luncheon Hilton Oak Lawn 12:00 p.m.
December 23	Village closed
December 26	Village and Chamber closed
December 30	Village closed
January 2	Village closed

LIBRARY NEWS*Library Holiday Closings*

The Oak Lawn Public Library, 5300 W. 95th St., will be closed on the following holidays: Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24; Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25; New Year's Eve, Saturday, December 31; and New Year's Day, Sunday, January 1.

Special Needs Access

The Oak Lawn Public Library Adult Computer Center has software and hardware to meet the needs of patrons with disabilities and other limitations. All 30 workstations offer WebEyes software, allowing users to change the font size, font style and page layout to improve visibility and reduce eye strain. For those who need it, two computers have "big keys" keyboards and a touchpad instead of a mouse. For additional information, call 708-422-4990.

The Western Lights Chorus

Sunday, December 4 at 2:00 p.m.

Get in the spirit of the season with a 45-minute a capella concert of holiday favorites performed by a Sweet Adeline Chorus of nearly 20 female vocalists. Sponsored by the Friends of the Oak Lawn Library.

Fabulous Holiday Decorating

Wednesday, December 7 at 7:00 p.m.

Interior stylist Julea Joseph will show you how to refresh your existing holiday decor and "wow" family and friends with a fresh, new festive look. Learn quick and easy decorating tips, seasonal trends and how to use "good bones" pieces that instantly transform "blah and predictable" to "fabulous and unexpected." Joseph specializes in "one day room makeovers," and has recently been featured on HGTV's "Decorating Cents."



MEMBER NEWS

MEMBER UPDATES

December Luncheon

Please join us for our monthly luncheon on Tuesday, December 13. We welcome the Oak Lawn Community High School Choir to share some holiday spirit by singing traditional Christmas carols. The luncheon will begin at 11:30 a.m. at the Hilton Oak Lawn.

Installation Dinner

Invitations to the 2006 Installation Dinner were mailed in late November. If you have not received your invitation and would like to purchase tickets, please contact the Chamber office.

2006 Membership Directory and Planner

Directories will be available December 5 and members are welcome to stop in the office to pick up a copy. Directories also will be distributed at the December 13 Holiday Luncheon. Those directories not picked up by December 14 will be mailed.

2006 Membership Dues

Invoices for 2006 membership dues will be mailed in early December. We ask for your prompt assistance in remitting payment. If you have questions regarding your dues, please call the Chamber office.



Chamber Sponsors Needy Family Holiday Program

Jack Baker is shown here with Gene Wesolowski (left) Director of Oak Lawn Family Service, and Joan O'Sullivan, Community Outreach Liaison. At the November luncheon the Chamber introduced its "Needy Family Holiday Program", sponsored in conjunction with Oak Lawn Family Service. Residents and local businesses are asked to consider donating food, clothes, toy and other items to local families who are experiencing a financial hardship this season. Additional details on the program can be found on page 7.



Jack Baker poses with new members (left to right) Jenni Yohe of Bennigan's, Tim Rodriguez of Office Max, Maureen McDonagh of Evergreen Community Bank and Mike Beauvais of the Chicago Fire.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Bridgeview Bank Group

Joanne Wenzel
7940 S. Harlem Ave.
Bridgeview, IL
(708) 728-7828

The Children's Museum in Oak Lawn

Cathy Cepican
9600 East Shore Drive
Oak Lawn, IL
(708) 423-6709





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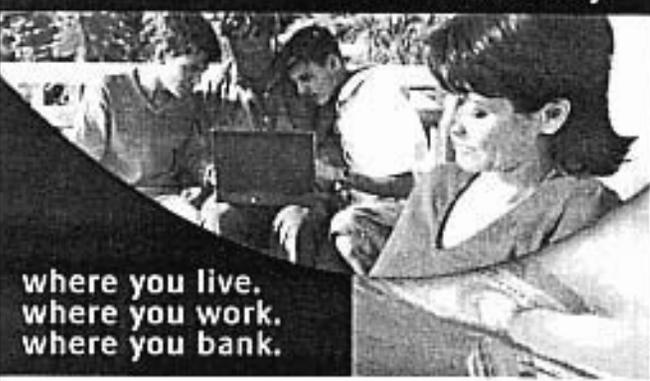
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It's Mardi Gras!

Join the Chamber for an evening of great food, music and fun!

Saturday, January 21, 2006 the 60th Annual Installation of the Officers and Directors of the Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce will take place at the Hilton Oak Lawn. The evening promises to be a great success as we celebrate the accomplishments of 2005 and welcome with anticipation the new year.

Chicago Southland Chamber News

Business After Hours

Monday, December 5

5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Brunswick Zone

3043 183rd Street

Homewood, IL

\$5.00 member cost; \$15.00 non-member cost

Holiday Sports Luncheon

The Southland Chamber of Commerce will host its annual Holiday Sports Luncheon on Tuesday, December 13. The featured speaker will be Steve Trout, pitching coach for the Windy City Thunderbolts and former White Sox player. Additional details are below.

Tuesday, December 13

11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

The Odyssey Country Club

19110 S. Ridgeland Ave.

\$35.00 per person

For more information on these events please contact the Chicago Southland Chamber at (708) 957-6950.

Moraine Valley Community College Events

Merry Christmas Music!

Saturday, December 3

7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Dorothy Menker Theater

Seasonal harmonies fill the air with performances by the Moraine Chorale, Chamber Singers, and Instrumental Ensemble.

A Rockapella Holiday

Tuesday, December 13

7:30 p.m.

Dorothy Menker Theater

Adult \$20; Student/Senior/Staff \$15

This is your "gift of music" for the holidays. A New York-based a cappella vocal quintet, has recorded jingles for Folger's, Mounds and Almond Joy. Singing creative renditions of Perry Como's *Home for the Holidays* to Carpenters' *Merry Christmas Darling*, Rockapella's signature all-human, all-vocal sound will be a holiday experience not to be matched.

Call the MVCC Box Office for details (708) 974-5500.

Breakfast with Santa

The Hilton Oak Lawn will host its 5th Annual "Breakfast with Santa" on **Sunday, December 11**. Join Santa and his helpers in the festive Grand Ballroom for an abundant holiday breakfast buffet, featuring a kid's buffet.

Seating times are 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

Adults = \$18.00

Children aged 3-12 = \$12

Children 2 and under = free.

Reservations required. Please call (708) 229-8850.



Give a Little Bit this Holiday Season!

The Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce and Oak Lawn Family Service are sponsoring a Holiday Needy Family Program this year. The program is designed to help local residents and their families currently experiencing a financial hardship due to illness, unemployment, etc., by providing food, clothing, gift certificates and gifts. Your contribution will provide a bit of holiday happiness to many individuals and families. Below is list of suggested donations.

Gift certificates

Boston Market * Burger King * Dominick's * Home Depot * Jewel * K-Mart * Kohl's * McDonald's *
Movie theatres * Local restaurants * Sears * Wal-mart * Walgreens * Gas station cards

Clothing for men, women and children

Winter coats * hats * scarves * gloves * pajamas * sweaters * long underwear * socks * boots * gym
shoes * baby clothes * sweatsuits

Toys

Barbie and other dolls * Legos * toy trucks and cars * videos (DVD & VHS) * board games * stuffed ani-
mals * books * footballs, basketballs, soccer balls, etc. * superhero figures * crayons, markers, coloring
books

Food, Toiletries, Miscellaneous

Diapers * baby formula & food * shampoo * soap * toilet paper * toothpaste/toothbrush * feminine hy-
giene products * deodorant * first aid supplies * laundry detergent * powdered milk * canned food *
sheets * blankets * pillows * bath towels

Contributions may be delivered to the following locations:

Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce
5314 W. 95th Street
(708) 424-8300
Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Oak Lawn Family Service
9401 S. 53rd Court
(708) 423-3361
Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

DEADLINE FOR DONATIONS IS FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16TH.

ALL ITEMS WILL BE DELIVERED TO FAMILIES DECEMBER 19TH-21ST.

New and gently used items are welcome. Please do not wrap gifts!

Sorry, no cash donations accepted.

Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce

5314 W. 95th Street

Oak Lawn, IL 60453

(708) 424-8300

Fax (708) 229-2236

e-mail: oaklawnchamber@sbcglobal.net

Web Site: www.oaklawnchamber.com

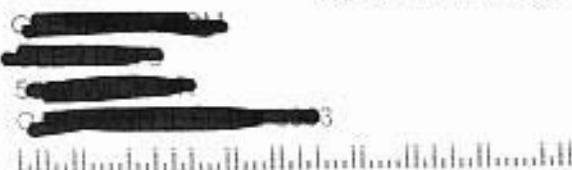
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**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
LUNCHEON**

Join us for our Christmas Program!

Tuesday, December 13

Hilton Oak Lawn

11:30 a.m. Social Hour

12:00 p.m. Luncheon

Save the Date!

60th Annual Installation Dinner

Saturday, January 21

Hilton Oak Lawn

6:30 p.m. Cocktails

7:30 p.m. Installation

8:00 p.m. Dinner

OAK LAWN



CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE

**Oak Lawn
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Mission
Statement**

"The Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce works to represent and advance the Oak Lawn business community, striving with constant integrity, fairness and cooperation to promote and improve the economic atmosphere, business climate and image of Oak Lawn."