

Hoffman Estates

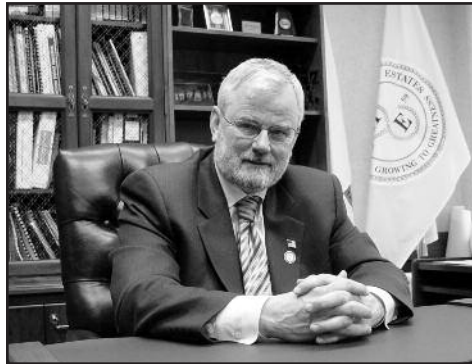
CHAMBER of Commerce and Industry

NEWSLETTER

February 2009

What's Happening in Hoffman Estates?

Get the answers at the Mayor's annual update breakfast on Tuesday February 10. This year the breakfast will be held at **The Stonegate Conference & Banquet Center**. This is your opportunity to ask the Mayor questions and learn what is new for 2009. Don't miss a great breakfast and a very informative morning. Call the Chamber now to register!



It Was a Very Good Year, Chamber Style

2008 was a great year for the Hoffman Estates Chamber of Commerce. We went through a very important Executive Director leadership change mid year and we successfully began to implement our strategic plan all while continuing to provide the events and services you have come to expect from your Chamber.



Tony LaFrenere

What can we do to top these items for 2009? First and foremost we will reach out to you, our members, to find out what you need, as our success is based solely on the value we provide to you and your business. We will utilize surveys and other standard measurement devices to help determine what items are critical to you. The best way for you to evaluate us as an organization is to get involved and our numerous committees provide a great conduit so that your ideas and feedback can be heard on a regular basis. Remember, getting involved also leads to getting the most out of your chamber membership through networking and generation leads.

So if you are looking to have a positive 2009, there's no better way than to get your business involved in the Hoffman Estates Chamber of Commerce!

*Tony LaFrenere
Chairman of the Board*

Look What's New at the Chamber for 2009!

The Chamber has just started to change over to an exciting new Web database powered by Chamber Master. Our goal here is to bring the Chamber up to date technologically. The database will help increase our efficiency with our members and the community. Within the next few months all Chamber members will have access to the system through a login name and password. The Chamber Master program will enable you to update your company information and manage your own account. Not only will you be able to make changes to your company profile, but you will also be able to post "Hot Deals" and "Job Offers." Since this program is web-based, all of your company information will not only be available to your fellow Chamber members, but it will also be available to everyone searching the Internet.

A major plus of this software is its compatibility with QuickBooks, an accounting software used to track expenses, prepare and send invoices, prepare financial statements, and track inventory. Chamber Master talks to QuickBooks, which will allow us to streamline our invoicing. We hope to begin our new invoicing within the month.

We also have a new look to our email communication through the use of Constant Contact. Each month we will be sending updates on our upcoming events that will have a web link to each featured business. We hope that these hyperlinks will drive more people to your company's web site, as well as to get more information out to our membership. Please take a look at your next event update and click through the links. You may learn something new about a fellow member.

Changes are coming and we hope that you are as excited about them as we are. These changes will not only give you more value for your Chamber dollars, but they will also be able to enhance the events and services of the Chamber that you have come to enjoy. The Chamber staff and Board of Directors are working hard to make this a great 2009 for everyone!

Member News

GiGi's Playhouse, (847) 885-7529, is hosting its third annual "Spread the Love Gala" on Saturday, February 7, 2009 at the Belvedere in Elk Grove Village. The evening will benefit the lives of hundreds of children and families touched by the blessing that is Down syndrome. GiGi's Playhouse is a not for profit Down syndrome awareness center, offering activities, resources, educational programs and support for individuals with Down syndrome, their families, and the community. All proceeds will benefit our FREE Literacy, Awareness and Educational Programs. When a child can read, their possibilities are endless! Your donations are always tax-deductible as GiGi's Playhouse is a 501(c)3 organization.

Sears Centre, (847) 649-2222, announces that The Eagles "Long Road Out of Eden Tour" will be performed live on March 26. Eagles' fans will have the opportunity to purchase tickets without Ticketmaster convenience fees. Additionally, fans using Ticketmaster's print-at-home convenient TicketFast® option will have the added benefit of no added delivery or handling fees. Tickets may be purchased at ticketmaster.com or charged by phone at (312) 559-1212.

Jet Photo Lab and Studio, (847) 310-8660, announces that Anthony Long is the new owner of the business. Please stop in and welcome Anthony to the business and the Chamber!

EOS Salon, (847) 839-1338, located at 2567 W. Golf Road, announces its 10 year anniversary. The salon will be celebrating during the entire month of February with raffles, balloon popping for discounts on services and retail products, give-aways and more. Call today to schedule an appointment and join in the celebration!

Cory Walther, DDS, (847) 882-3683, has moved! The dental office is now located at 1880 N. Roselle Road, Suite 214, in Schaumburg.

The Tyson American Cup is coming to the Sears Centre! This event, scheduled for Saturday, February 21 at 1:30 p.m.' is one of the most prestigious annual international gymnastics competitions in the world! The event's rich history includes gymnasts such as Mary Lou Retton, Bart Conner, Shannon Miller, Nastia Liukin, and others. Come see top U.S. stars compete against an international field at the 2009 American Cup at the Sears Centre. Tickets start at \$35.00 per person and group discounts are available. Call (312) 559-1212, or go to www.searscentre.com

It's Coming on March 19!

Back by popular demand, our member to member trade show will be held at Prairie Stone Sports and Wellness 5050 Sedge Blvd. in Hoffman Estates on March 19. Members will have the opportunity to reserve a table where they can set up a display promoting their business. The cost of the table is only \$50.00. This is a great way to show our members your products or services.

This year's theme is Go Green. The table display using the best presentation of the theme will win our peoples choice award. The 2008 winners were the creative girls from the Millrose.

Put this event on your calendar today! Call the Chamber office for details.



Congratulations!!



(right photo) Mayor Bill McLeod presents William O'Kane, CEO & President American Heritage Investments, with a key to the Village.



(Above photo) Village and Chamber officials, as well as officials from Barrington Lakes Apartments and Fox Property Management join in cutting the ribbon celebrating remodeling of the Barrington Lakes complex, located on Hassell Road. Pictured above are Richard Eislie, Eislie Painting and Decorating (behind Mayor McLeod); William O'Kane, CEO & President American Heritage Investments; Mayor Bill McLeod; Karen O'Kane; Kandice Polz, Director of Operation, Barrington Lakes Apartments; and Phillip Modelski, General Manager Group Fox Property Management.!



Great Food, Great Friends, Great Fun!

A new twist to our Holiday Luncheon was the addition of booth space for our not-for-profits. It was a great was to give back to our committee. Thank you to all of our volunteers and sponsors. We had a great 2008 and we could not have done it without you.



Chamber News You Can Use!

The Exchange Networking Group has elected new officers for 2009:

Chairman: Keith Evans, **Key Financial Insurance Agency**
(847) 874-7016; kjevans@kfia.net

Program Chair: Chrissy Tighe, **Mary Kay Cosmetics**
(847) 567-0927; rctighe@yahoo.com

Membership Chair: Sebastian Dolce, **First Priority Funding**
(847) 364-9995; jsebastiandolce@hotmail.com

Treasurer: John Albright, **Home Inspections by Mr. Perfection, Inc.**
(847) 524-9015; john@mr-perfection.com

The Exchange is a non-compete networking group and it does have a few openings in certain categories. Please contact Sebastian at (847) 364-9995 if you are interested in this group. They meet twice each month at the Devonshire.

Compliment? Concern? You are invited to fax or mail your comments to the Chamber office: attention Chairman Tony LaFrener and/or Vice Chair Karen Mills of the Board of Directors. The mailing address is 2200 W. Higgins Road, Suite 201, Hoffman Estates, IL 60169; fax (847) 781-9172.

Roll Up Your Sleeve To Save a Life

We're teaming up with LifeSource for the first-ever Hoffman Estates Chamber blood drive to be held during the week of February 11-18.

Here's how it works: Call (847) 372-2555 to make an appointment at the LifeSource donor center, 1145 N. Roselle Road, Hoffman Estates, mentioning the code "R." The entire process takes about an hour and is perfectly safe and comfortable. The time it actually takes to acquire the blood donation is about 10 minutes. Blood donors must weigh at least 110 pounds and be in general good health. There is no upper age limit. Donors are eligible to give blood every 56 days.

Check the flyer in this newsletter for complete details.



**Hungry?
Cabin fever setting in?**
Visit one of our many Chamber member restaurants for the solution to both problems! Check the Chamber's website for a complete list of great places to enjoy a great meal.



Sharing the Spirit of the Holiday Season

More than 40 area children were treated to a day of Christmas shopping, followed by a memorable holiday lunch provided by **Buffalo Wild Wings**, thanks to the Hoffman Estates Police Benevolent Fun's 9th annual "Shop with a Cop" program.

The day was equally memorable for kids, cops, and Buffalo Wild Wings employees! A world of thanks goes out to all of the people whose time, talent and resources made this such a big success.



Happy Anniversary!!!!

Please join us in recognizing the following organizations and individuals who are celebrating the anniversary of their membership in the Chamber during February.

arrington Lakes Apts*	18 years
Baymont Inn & Suites* **	18 years
Management Accounting Services, Ltd.*	18 years
ComEd	16 years
Village Profile.Com	14 years
Brighton Gardens Assisted Living of HE **	10 years
Meridian Chiropractic Health Center	8 years
State Rep. Suzie Bassi	7 years
Active Foot & Ankle Center**	4 years
Image Design Group	4 years
Mitcor Business Support Services	4 years
CCB Services, Inc.	2 years
IDES/Worknet NCC	2 years
Algonquin Longhouse, Inc.	1 year
The Anvil Club	1 year
AdminStaff, Inc	1 year
Hitchcock Counseling Ser.	1 year

*Charter member

**Platinum member

2009 Chamber Membership Dues Increase by \$15.00

Our Chamber membership continues to be strong and we are receiving great support for our members from the community. New programs and technology are also planned for this year that will continue to give you even more value for your Chamber dollars.

These changes, along with the increasing operating costs, has lead to a slight dues increase for 2009. The Board of Directors has voted to increase all membership rates by \$15.00 per company. This minimal increase will stabilize the 2009 budget and keep your Hoffman Estates Chamber of Commerce as one of the best in the area.



Meet the Committee

Here is the AM Business Connection Committee hard at work. Mary Jane Garvey, **Hoffman Estates Community Bank**; Syed Hussaine, **Harris Bank**; Ashwan Parikh, **Harris Bank**; Mike Hanson, **Alliance for Affordable Health**, Chairman; Gloria Katz, **Mitcor Business Sport Services**. Missing from the photo are Mary Anne Muscat, **Milestone Mortgage**, and Linda Scheck, **Village of Hoffman Estates**.

The committee meets the first Tuesday of every month at Harris Bank, 1100 N. Roselle Road, at 10:00 a.m. They hold their monthly morning networking groups on the 4th Tuesday of every morning at 7:30 a.m.

This committee has recently changed its name from Cheers to AM Business Connection. Their focus is to offer morning networking, and a scheduled speaker each meeting. They recently sent out a business survey to the membership looking for topics of interest to be addressed. This business survey will be used to create focus groups and working seminars. The results of the survey and the announcement of the drawing for \$100 for completing the survey will be made at the February 24 meeting. Please contact Mike Hanson if you would like to know more about the committee, host an upcoming meeting or if you have any questions. All Chamber members are welcome to attend the next meeting on February 24 at Macaroni Grill, where the topic will be "Resetting Your Expectations."

Education, recreation, community services and more

Consult these Chamber members for all your needs!

Not for Profit Organizations

Algonquin Longhouse, Inc.	(847) 660-1230
American Cancer Society	(847) 368-1166
Barrington Square Improvement Assn.	(847) 885-1157
Bright Hope International	(847) 519-0012
Children's Advocacy Center	(847) 885-0100
Clearbrook Center	(847) 991-4100
District 15 Educational Foundation	(847) 963-3238
Gigi's Playhouse	(847) 885-7529
HECPAAA	(847) 517-3151
Hoffman Estates Chamber of Comm.	(847) 781-9100
Hoffman Estates Museum	(847) 882-3698
Hoffman Estates Park Dist. Foundation	(847) 885-7500
Hoffman Estates Police Benevolent Fund	(847) 781-2846
Hoffman Estates Professional Firefighters	(847) 710-2061
Hospice of Northeastern Illinois, Inc.	(847) 381-5599
League of Women Voters Palatine Area	(847) 885-4412
Leyden Family Services/S.H.A.R.E. Pgm.	(847) 882-4181
Life Changers International Church	(847) 645-9100
Little City Foundation	(847) 221-7840
Northwest Sub. Council/Boy Scouts	(847) 824-6880
Schaumburg Area Democrats	(847) 843-0744
Schaumburg Twp. Historical Society	(847) 891-8633
Wings Resale	(847) 884-7411

Churches/Temples

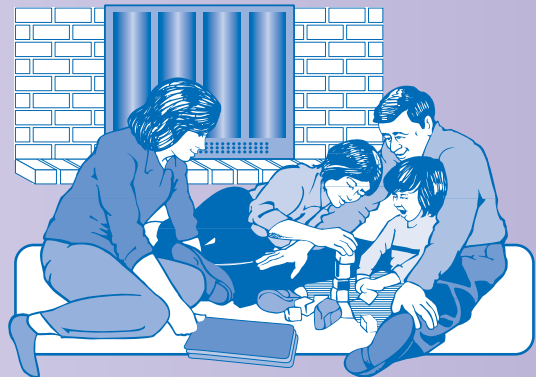
Beth Tikvah Congregation	(847) 885-4545
Church of the Cross	(847) 885-1199
Life Changers International Church	(847) 645-9100
Saint Hubert Church	(847) 885-7700

Civic

HE Park District Foundation	(847) 885-7500
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Membership Services

Hoffman Estates Chamber of Commerce	(847) 781-9100
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Clip & save

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Congratulations, Plum Grove Printers!

Plum Grove Printers was recently honored for its significant achievements in protecting the environment and boosting the economy. The Governor's Pollution Prevention Award was presented to Plum Grove Printers on December 1st, 2008, the 28th anniversary of the firm's opening in 1980.

Plum Grove Printers designed a 20-point program to reduce waste and increase sustainability through each aspect of production, including buying only renewable power, using soy based inks, increasing the availability of quality recycled papers to its clients, and offsetting 100% of paper use with donations to the Nature Conservancy to protect old growth forests. The program actively encourages employees to think of new ways to increase eco-friendliness, like using real coffee cups instead of disposable dishware in the company lunchroom. Congratulations!



We'd Like You to Meet ...

Each issue of the Chamber newsletter includes an interview with two Chamber members whose names were selected at random from among those attending the previous month's Business After Hours. It's our way of helping our members become more acquainted and of saying "Thanks for being a part of the Hoffman Estates Chamber of Commerce." If you would like to be featured, please call the Chamber office.

photo by Jet Photo Lab



Name: Rita Lavelle, Account Executive, Millrose Restaurant, Banquet, and Country Store
Phone number: (847) 382-ROSE
How long in business: 11 years
Born in: Evergreen Park, IL
Educational background: B.A. in English from St. Xavier University

I'd like you to know: We offer contemporary American cuisine in a rustic atmosphere. We are a full service restaurant and bar. In addition to our banquet facility, we have the ability to accommodate parties from 10 people to closing the restaurant for larger events. At Millrose, we place the customers first and foremost, and take special attention to every detail of your event.

Interesting facts: The restaurant is comprised of seven barns transported here and connected. The barns are complimented by beautiful outdoor patios with large fireplaces.

The best business advice I ever heard: Watch your pennies and the dollars take care of themselves.

The best business advice I could give: There is no substitute for hard work.

The way I plan to participate in the Chamber is: Formulate activities to stay local and within the Chamber, and serve on the Golf Committee.

My idea of a great meal is: French fried shrimp.

My prized childhood possession: An Easy Bake oven.

My first job: Cashier at Edmar Foods when I was 15 years old.

The last good movie I saw was: *The Wizard of Oz*

Nobody knows I: Really, really love Christmas.

I have always wanted to: Travel.

The best time of my life: Now.

My goal in life is: To be a really good mother, wife and friend.

To me, a really good day is: Volunteering at Mt. Saint Joseph Home for handicapped women.

If I won the lottery I would: Make Christmas special for needy children.

If I've learned one thing in life, it's: Take time out and spend it with your family.

Three words that describe me: Loyal, dependable, responsible

Name: Dr. David Charles Renner, Applied Chiropractic Arts

Phone number: (847) 934-4144

How long in business: 2 years

Born in: Arlington Heights

Educational background: B.A. in International Business and Japanese, North Central College; Doctor of Chiropractic, National University of Health Sciences

I'd like you to know: At Applied Chiropractic Arts, we focus on a diagnostic technique called Applied Kinesiology (AK). AK allows us to provide state of the art healthcare to high performance athletes and make it available to families.

Interesting facts: Physicians here have over 1000 hours of combined post doctoral work in this cutting-edge technique. We use structural correction, laser acupuncture and nutritional counseling to fix the problem and prevent recurrence, providing optimal holistic health care.

The best business advice I ever heard: Honesty is the best policy.

The best business advice I could give: Excel at whatever you do, being mindful of how your decisions will affect others – large and small.

The way I plan to participate in the Chamber is: Participate in Chamber events to better familiarize myself with the community.

My idea of a great meal is: One cooked at home – it's affordable. I love gourmet cooking and I always know exactly what I am eating.

The best advice my mother ever gave me: Always be a gentleman.

My first job: Assistant karate instructor when I was 15 years old.

The last good movie I saw was: *Bank Job*

Nobody knows I: Recently trained at the Shaolin Temple in China. I am a third degree black belt instructor for the Illinois Shotokan Karate Clubs. I've been training in the martial arts since I was eight.

I have always wanted to: Travel around the world.

The best time of my life: When I trained in Urasenke Chano-yu (tea ceremony) in Kyoto, then bicycled across Japan with my best friend Josh in the summer of 2000.

If I could drive any vehicle, it would be: The Dolorean from *Back to the Future*, or a Lamborghini.

Three words that describe me: Diligent, conscious, dependable

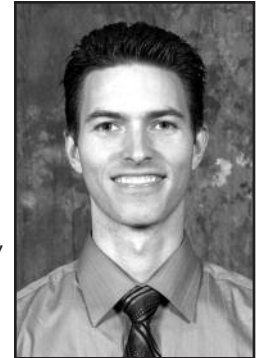


photo by Jet Photo Lab

Board of Directors

Tony LaFrenera, Chair Hoffman Estates Park District	(847) 781-3634
Karen Mills, Vice Chair Barrington Square Improvement Assn	(847) 885-1157
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Misty Redman Sears Holdings Corp.	(847) 286-1535
Linda Gump, St. Alexius Medical Center	(847) 884-3754
Dr. Robert Steinberg Active Foot & Ankle Center	(847) 885-8806
Ginny Roncoli Harris Bank	(847) 885-3366
Mayor Bill McLeod Village of Hoffman Estates	(847) 882-9100
Jim Cook Daily Herald	(847) 427-4380
John Haniotes Hoffman Estates Community Bank	(847) 842-9981
John Moser The Stonegate Conf. & Banquet Ctr.	(847) 884-7000
George Moser, Dir. Emeritus Charter National Bank and Trust	(847) 882-1000
Allen Gabe, Legal Counsel Gabe, Calzasretta, LLC	(847) 241-5000
Cheri Sisson, President Hoffman Estates Chamber of Commerce	(847) 781-9100

Opportunity Knocking: Calendar of Upcoming Chamber Events

February 2009

Mon., Feb 2	Membership Committee	8:00 a.m.
Tues., Feb. 3	AM Business Connection Committee Meeting	10:00 A.M.
Mon., Feb. 9	Board of Directors	7:30 A.M.
Tues., Feb. 10	Mayor's Update Breakfast	8:00 A.M.
Tues., Feb. 10	Random Acts of Kindness Week	
Wed., Feb. 11-18	Chamber Blood Drive	
Thurs., Feb. 12	Chit & Chat/Apple Villa	11:30 A.M.
Mon., Feb. 16	Presidents Day - Chamber office closed	
Tues., Feb. 17	Golf Committee	8:00 A.M.
Wed., Feb. 18	Business After Hours/Laser Quest	5:00 P.M.
Thurs., Feb. 19	Fishing Derby Committee	8:00 A.M.
Tues., Feb. 24	AM Business Connection/Macaroni Grill	7:30 A.M.
Fri., Feb 27	Biz 6+ Legislative Luncheon	11:30 A.M.

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Hours: Monday-Thursday -- 9:00 AM-4:30 PM
Friday - 9:00 AM-1:00 PM

Website: <http://www.hechamber.com>
E-mail: info@hechamber.com
Cheri Sisson, President

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