

Hoffman Estates

CHAMBER of Commerce and Industry

NEWSLETTER

June 2009

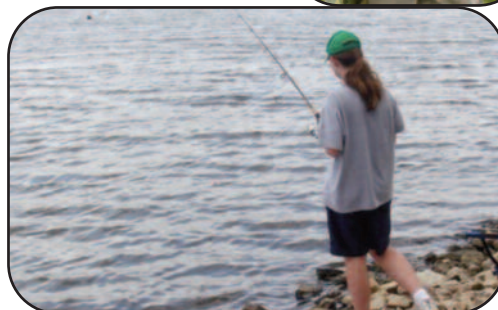
Cast Your Line for Fun and Big Prizes At Hoffman Chamber and Sears Holdings Company Community Fishing Derby

Bring family, friends and the whole neighborhood!

Grab your fishing gear and come on over to South Ridge Lake from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Saturday, June 6th for the Community Fishing Derby. Scores of tagged fish worth \$25 - \$100 sponsored by local businesses will be put into the lake for you to snag. There is even a fish worth a \$1,000 gift card at Cabela's. There will be door prizes, goody bags and tee shirt give-aways. Food vendors will be on hand so you don't have to pack a lunch!

There are no age or residency restrictions and no fishing license is necessary. Just be sure that you and all the anglers in your group are registered before they start fishing. Pre-registration is available prior to the event for \$3 or you can register at the event for \$5. Contact the Hoffman Estates Chamber of Commerce at (847) 781-9100 or www.hechamber.com for registration information.

The Chamber thanks the derby's benefactor **Sears Holdings Company** and its major sponsors **Hoffman Estates Community Bank** and **Cabela's** as well as the other derby sponsors: **Active Foot & Ankle Center, Alden Poplar Creek, AT&T, BT&D Big Visual Graphics, BIK&Co, LLP, Carpenter's Union Local 839, The Daily Herald, FedEx Kinko's, Harris Bank, Hoffman Estates Park District, Marylee Nowak RE/MAX Suburban, St. Alexius Medical Center** and **Village of Hoffman Estates.**



Learn About Opportunities To Attract New Customers Through the Web

In the last few months, the Chamber office has been working on getting our new web based membership directory through ChamberMaster, which is now up and running. We just recently went "live" on our web site. I am sure that many of you have already noticed some of the changes to the web site. The list of our events is now scrolling on the right side of the home page. You can click on the events to view additional information. Many of the events will also include pictures and down-loadable registration forms.

The membership directory has also changed and it will now be available for you to log-in and make changes to your company's page. Your member log-in and pass code will be emailed to you within the next three weeks.

I encourage anyone who is not receiving regular emails from the Chamber Office to call (847) 781-9100 to update your email address. If you have not received an email with you log-in information by June 5, please contact the Chamber Office. We want to make sure that everyone has access to this wonderful tool.

As always, check the Chamber's website, www.hechamber.com for the latest information on all Chamber events and opportunities. Make the most of your Chamber membership!

Member News

Clearbrook, (847) 991-4100, is sponsoring three golf outing fundraisers to support its work with adults and children with disabilities: the Women's Classic Golf Event will be held on June 4 at Makray Memorial Golf Club in Barrington; the Clearbrook Guardians/PAL program Golf Outing will be held on June 10 at Old Orchard Country Club in Mount Prospect; and the Palm Court Charity Golf Outing will be held on June 22 at Old Orchard Country Club in Mount Prospect. Visit www.clearbrook.org for further information about any of these events.

Sears Centre Arena (847) 649-2222, announces that it will again host the FIVB League and USA Volleyball World League matches on July 10-11. The U.S. Men's National Volleyball Team, ranked No. 2 in the world by the FIVB, will face Italy on July 10-11 (7 p.m. both nights) at the Sears Centre Arena.

Last year, Hoffman Estates hosted the U.S. Men's National Team in its World League matches against Bulgaria. The U.S. Men went on to win the World League final round and then the gold medal at the 2008 Olympic Games.

The World League is an exciting elite

men's volleyball competition in which the world's best teams are divided into four pools and play for six straight weekends from June 12 to July 18.

Winners from each pool will go to the final round on July 22-26 in Belgrade, Serbia, along with the host country and an FIVB wild card pick. The total World League prize purse is more than \$20 million, with the winning team collecting a prize of more than \$1 million.

Reserved tickets for Team USA's World League matches against Italy will be \$30. General admission tickets are \$20, with a \$5 discount for USA Volleyball members, senior citizens and military members. Group tickets are also \$15. Two-day packages are \$35 and \$50. Tickets will be on sale at the Sears Centre Arena box office, and online at searscentre.com and Ticketmaster.com (additional fees may apply). Tickets may also be purchased by phone through Ticketmaster at (800) 745-3000 or at Ticketmaster outlet locations. For more information, visit www.searscentre.com/events/127.

ThoughtWorthi Solutions, LLC, (847) 490-4785, was recently featured on Fox Chicago News and the Daily Herald. The company's founder and owner, Sheila Henry, utilizes the experience she gained while working in project management at a major corporation to analyze clients' work flow or staffing analysis. She took advantage of the Small Business Development Center at **Harper College** to get her business rolling about eight months ago. She said the center helped her with her specific needs which included marketing, how to narrow her target market and to better define the products and services she offers. For more information, go to thoughtworthi.com.

SAVE THE DATE

Business Under the Big Top

the Chamber's annual business to consumer expo

Saturday, August 29

This year's theme is "Return to the Fabulous Fifties" in honor of the Village's 50th anniversary.

BIG Kaiser Precision Tooling Breaks Ground for New Facility

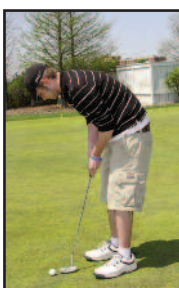
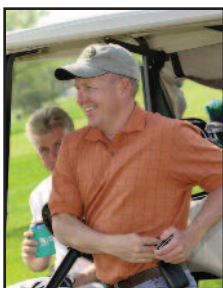
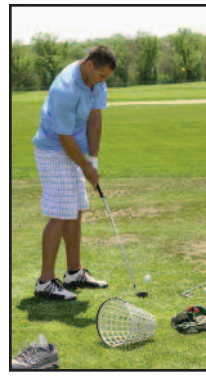
Dixon Construction Group, Inc. together with BIG Kaiser Precision Tooling Inc. hosted an official groundbreaking ceremony on April 24 at the site of its new location at 2600 Huntington Blvd., Hoffman Estates. *Members of the Chamber Board, Chamber members and Village Trustees along with Mayor McLeod attended the groundbreaking ceremonies.*

Dixon Construction will build a 32,916 square foot office/warehouse facility, which will feature more than 14,000 square feet of office space, 10,000 plus square feet of warehouse, a 5,000 square foot showroom, a theatre-style training room and more.

BIG Kaiser Precision Tooling is a market leader in the development, manufacture and distribution of precision boring tools, precision tool holders, modular tooling systems, carbide and indexable drills and end mills, tool measurement and presetting systems, workholding systems and machine tool accessories.



Golf Outing, 2009



Check Out These Exclusive Offers for Chamber Members Only

The Hoffman Estates Chamber of Commerce and Industry Partners with Constant Contact® to Help You Grow Your Business with Email Marketing

Use the leading email marketing service to connect with your customers - and take advantage of a special member benefit

The Hoffman Estates Chamber of Commerce and Industry has partnered with Constant Contact®, the leading email marketing service for small businesses, to bring you a great way to stay in touch with your most important audience: your customers. With Constant Contact, email marketing is easy, affordable, & effective.

In just minutes, you can:

- Send great-looking email newsletters, promotions and announcements
- Build and manage your email addresses
- Communicate consistently with your customers and prospects
- Track which customers are opening your emails and links they are clicking on.

And because you are a member of the Hoffman Estates Chamber of Commerce and Industry, you qualify for a **special discount**. If you prepay for six months, you receive a 20% discount. Prepay for a year and save 25%! There's no better time to try email marketing. If you haven't opened an account yet, you can start with a 60-day free trial. To begin your trial, log on to constantcontact.com

If you already have a Constant Contact account and would like your discount, please send an email to businesspartner@constantcontact.com with your user name

telling them you are a member of the the Hoffman Estates Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Office Depot Offers Chamber Members the Opportunity to Save Time & Money on Office Supplies

Did you know . . .

- The average employee consumes \$350 of office supplies each year.
- 25% of all office supply expenditures is for copy paper and toner.
- Companies in the Office Depot Program save an average of \$150 per employee per year.

Program highlights:

- Deep discounts on a core list of 232 most ordered office supplies, including paper and toner.
- Guaranteed savings of at least 10% on orders over \$150.
- Free next day delivery on in-stock items.
- 50% off all in-store copy, print and binding services.
- Four convenient ways to order: online, phone, fax, or in the retail store with as store purchasing card.
- Significant savings on technology products through Tech Depot.

Ordering is easy. Every Chamber member is automatically entitled to the savings! Call the Chamber office today to get set up to receive your discounts.

It's Coming . . . It's Coming

The Village of Hoffman Estates will soon be launching its new tourism website. The URL will be www.visithoffman.com. The Village staff has been working with Links Technology to develop the site.

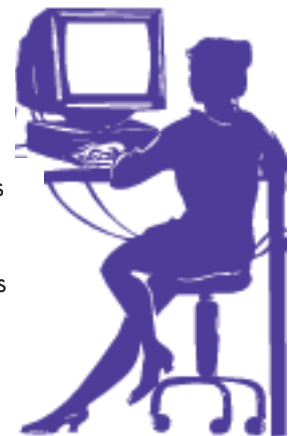
The intent of the site will be to bring visitors and tourists to Hoffman Estates to stay in our hotels, eat in our restaurants, make purchases in our shopping centers, and bring their children to play in our parks - among other things such as attending a show or two at the Sears Centre Arena.

The site will prominently feature our hotels with links to all of them for easy reservations. Restaurants will be featured in alphabetical order with a drop down click communicating their addresses and phone numbers. Village attractions such as the Sears Centre Arena, Cabela's, bowling alley, laser tag, and more will be featured, including links to their websites.

For the shoppers, all of our shopping districts and centers will be included, along with number legends to find them on a map. Hoffman Estates has an award winning park district and many of their facilities will be featured, as well as local golf courses and the Grand Sports Arena, with all of their links.

The site should go live in June, so give it a try. The Village would like all of the hotels, restaurants, attractions, and recreational venues listed to link to the site as well.

If you have questions about the site, please contact Linda Scheck, Tourism Department, at (847) 781-2664. And be sure to tell your friends about www.visithoffman.com.



Know the Dangers of Debt Settlement Companies

If you find yourself mired in credit card debt, you may be tempted by flashy advertisements that promise to free you from your financial woes by negotiating reduced payoff amounts with your creditors. The truth is, these companies cannot do anything to help you that you could not do yourself for free.



Q. "My credit card balances have gotten out of control and I am in over my head. Recently, I saw an ad for a "debt settlement company" offering debt reduction and help avoiding bankruptcy court. I called the company and they said they could help me pay off my debt for a fraction of what I owe. This sounds like the perfect solution to all my financial troubles. Is this offer really too good to be true?"

A. You are right to be hesitant—debt settlement companies make tempting promises, but they don't deliver. Signing a contract with such a company could leave you in a far worse financial situation than you are in now.

Consumers who find themselves under a mountain of debt, particularly credit card debt, may be tempted to turn to companies that offer debt settlement. Debt settlement firms claim to be able to arrange deals with creditors to satisfy consumer debts at reduced amounts. Once hired, they typically will advise you to quit paying your monthly credit card bills and instead make monthly payments into an escrow account to accumulate a lump sum (supposedly to make your final payment). They tell you that they will negotiate with your creditors and convince them to accept partial payment in full satisfaction of the amount you owe.

What really happens is that these companies take your money and often leave you even deeper in debt. If you sign up for this company's services, the first thing the company will do is charge you several non-refundable fees: these include a hefty up-front fee (often 10-15 percent of your total debt), fees to set up escrow accounts, and even monthly "maintenance" fees. Meanwhile, if you do as advised and quit paying your creditors, late charges and finance charges will begin to accrue, and your interest rates can increase to much higher penalty rates. To top it off, many credit card companies simply refuse to work with debt settlement firms and instead choose to sue the card holder for the balance due.

If you feel like you need help to manage your credit card debt, there are legitimate alternatives to help you:

- Contact your credit card companies directly to see if they offer repayment programs for consumers struggling to repay their debts. Some credit card companies offer these programs.
- Talk to a reputable credit counselor. To find a legitimate credit counselor in your area, consult the National Foundation for Credit Counseling at www.nfcc.org. Also, make sure that the company is licensed in Illinois, as credit counselors must be by law. To check whether a credit counselor is licensed, visit the Web site of the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation at www.idfpr.com/dfi/ccd/licensees/Debt_Management_Licensees.HTM.
- Consider consulting with a bankruptcy attorney.

Remember—before dealing with any type of debt settlement or credit counseling firm, check their record with the Better Business Bureau. You can also check with my office's Consumer Fraud Bureau by calling 1-800-243-0618 (TTY: 1-877-844-5461). – Lisa Maddigan

Happy Anniversary!!!!

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

Hoffman Estates Park District	19 years*
St. Alexius Medical Center	19 years*
Stonegate Properties	19 years* **
Dover Straits	17 years
Alfred Campanelli YMCA	16 years
Barrington Square Improvement Assn.	15 years
RE/MAX Central/ Ken Lemberger	15 years
Frank C. Whitley School	14 years
Thomas Jefferson School	14 years
Sign-A-Rama	13 years**
Stonegate Conference & Banquet Center	9 years**
Valli Produce	9 years
Ryland Homes	8 years
Bright Hope International	8 years
Tyre Works	8 years
Seville	7 years
American Laser Center	6 years
B & F Technical Code Services, Inc.	6 years**
Planet Chiropractic, H. E.	5 years
Domino's Pizza/Golf Road	4 years**
Hoffman Estates Park District Community Center	4 years
Romano's Macaroni Grill	4 years
Hoffman Estates Police Benevolent Fund	2 years
Hoffman Estates Museum	2 years
Key Financial Ins. Agency	2 years
Milestone Mortgage	2 years
Party Lite Candles & Gifts	2 years
Regular Joe, Inc.	2 years
Spectrum Consulting Services	2 years
Applied Chiropractic Arts	1 year
Athletico Facility/Prairiestone	1 year
Bathfitter	1 year
Edward Jones Investments	1 year
RE/MAX Destiny/Bhatt	1 year
Sportclips	1 year

*Charter member

**Platinum member

OFFICE HELP OF ALL KINDS: Whether it's business security or employment training, paper clips or computer chips, these Chamber members have what you need!

Check out what's available from these Chamber members!

Alarm/Locksmith Companies

Cross Points Inc. (847) 888-1800

Computer Sales/Service/Training

Document Retention Services, Inc. (847) 991-5824

Geekz, Inc. (630) 855-1800

Nerds on Site (847) 525-3250

Technical Consulting (847) 479-8608

White Hat Computer Support, Inc. (847) 496-4584

Employment Services

Administaff, Inc. (847) 233-3721

IDES/Worknet, NCC (847) 437-0214

Little City Foundation. (847) 221-7840

Volt Services, Inc. (847) 969-0311

Equipment Leasing/Rental

Affiliated Financing Services, Ltd. (847) 884-8686

Snow Plowing Services

Horabik, Inc. (847) 528-4407

Tent Rental

Classic Party Rental/Braun Event
& Tent (800) 322-5868

Workforce Training

B & F Technical Code Services, Inc. (847) 490-1443

NIU Outreach (815) 753-8980

Industrial Packaging

FedEx/Kinkos (847) 882-5532

Office Supplies/Equipment/Sales/Service

Data Tel, Inc. (847) 519-0753

Imagetec (815) 759-6000

Aktiva. (847) 687-2402

Office Depot (847) 848-4268

Admin & Beyond (800) 850-3907

Scanning/Electronic Documenting

Document Retention Services, Inc. (847) 991-5824

Imagetec L.P. (815) 759-6000

Clip & save

Clip & save

NIBAC Sets Legislative Agenda, Hosts June Breakfast

Hoffman Estates Chamber President Cheri Sisson will be representing the Chamber with the newly reformatted Northern Illinois Business Advocacy Coalition (NIBAC) at the direction of the Board of Directors. NIBAC is a grass roots lobbying organization with chamber memberships that include Arlington Heights, Barrington, Buffalo Grove, Des Plaines, Lake Zurich, Mount Prospect, Rolling Meadows, Wheeling-Prospect Heights, and the Greater O'Hare Association.

NIBAC's focus is on public policy programs that inform and educate its members on key state, county, regional and national business-related issues by presenting events and forums, and maintaining and putting on its website issues-

oriented information obtained from its members and associated organizations.

The group has established 2009 Legislative Agenda Guidelines that focuses on the key issues of : Transportation/Infrastructure, Budget/Finance, Healthcare, Labor/Workforce, and Taxation/Fees

NIBAC currently is working on two special events: a June breakfast to hear from and present Illinois State Chamber annual awards to local Legislators and Congressmen, and a Fall/September event with a high profile speaker.

For further information see the NIBAC website at NIBACACTION.com.

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. 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: Marla L. Hart, Marketing and Sales Manager, Medieval Times Dinner & Tournament

Phone number: (847) 882-1496

How long in business: 18 years

Born in: Chicago although I have had the opportunity to live in New England, Dallas, Milwaukee and Kansas during my career

Educational background: Associates Degree in Business from the University of Phoenix.

I'd like you to know: Travel through the mists of time to a forgotten age and tale of devotion, courage, and love—at Medieval Times Dinner & Tournament. Don't miss the pageantry, romance, and excitement of the new show with an even newer ending at Medieval Times Dinner & Tournament. Experience heroic knights on spirited horses displaying the astounding athletic feats and thrilling swordplay that have become hallmarks of this unique entertainment experience.

Interesting facts: You eat with your hands. The castle began in Majorca Spain in 1973 inspired by the principal shareholders family's bloodline. He holds the title of Count of Peralada, Viscount of Rocaberti.

The best business advice I ever heard: Inspect what you expect. In other words, define your expectation and then measure your progress (growth, maturity, etc.) toward that goal at specific intervals/milestones (events or points in time). It's always more costly to make changes at or near the end of an activity.

The best business advice I could give: Be knowledgeable in "all" things. You don't have to be an expert at something, but you should have enough knowledge/awareness to ask the right questions or to know when you're being "snowed."

The way I plan to participate in the Chamber is: Review any potential way that my talents can help assist others.

My idea of a great meal is: Anything with good friends and family.

My prized childhood possession: A large stuffed turtle.

The last good movie I saw was: *Doubt*

My first job: I ran my own little day camp in 6th grade. I was a creative marketer even then.

To me, a really good day is: When my feet hit the floor.

Nobody knows I: Am tone deaf.

Three words that describe me: Loving, Happy and full of smiles



Name: Kara Williams, Outreach Development Manager, Wellness Place

Phone number: (847) 221-2400

How long in business: 9 years

Born in: Stamford, Conn.

Educational background: Oklahoma City University, Bachelors of Performing Arts

I'd like you to know: Wellness Place provides support and guidance to people living with cancer, their family members, friends and caregivers. Our professionals help navigate the cancer experience by assisting people being touched by cancer with the following: Coping with physical and emotional responses; sorting through treatment side effects; preparing thoughts and questions for doctor's visits; communicating matters to children, other family members, friends and employers.

Interesting facts: All of our programs services are provided at no cost to people facing cancer, their family members, close supportive friends and professional caregivers. We offer counseling, support and networking groups, programs for children and teens with cancer or who have loved ones with cancer, art therapy, stress management and educational programming. All are provided within a comfortable home-like environment.

The best business advice I ever heard: If you can't get the experience you want through your current employer or position, get that experience through volunteer work.

The best business advice I could give: Don't assume that people know what you know.

My first job: Sales Associate for TeePee Togs the Campfire Girl retail store in Dallas, Texas when I was 12 - I didn't make money but I got a bunch of yellow business beads and purple triad beads and a very cool patch.

The way I plan to participate in the Chamber is: Networking and making as many connections as possible. My goal is to make sure that every chamber member knows about Wellness Place and to encourage them to share the information with their staffs and families.

My idea of a great meal is: Steak, baked potato, salad, good bread and something chocolate for dessert.

If I've learned one thing in life, it's: There is plenty to think about, but nothing to worry about.

Nobody knows I: Worked with Dolly Parton.

My prized childhood possession: A sterling silver rose ring my grandpa made for me. I still wear it. He engraved my name into it in case I lost it.

I have always wanted to: Go to the Galapagos Islands.

Three words that describe me: Loyal, Tenacious, Enthusiastic

Board of Directors

Tony LaFrener, Chair Hoffman Estates Park District	(847) 781-3634
Karen Mills, Vice Chair Barrington Square Improvement Assn	(847) 885-1157
Linda Scheck, Secretary Village of Hoffman Estates	(847) 781-2664
Wanda Piccolo, Treasurer B&F Technical Code Services, Inc.	(847) 490-1443
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Jim Norris Village of Hoffman Estates	(847) 882-9100
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Linda Gump, St. Alexius Medical Center	(847) 884-3759
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
Mike Hanson Alliance for Affordable Health	(847) 401-6049
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 • Calzaretta LLC	(847) 241-5000
Cheri Sisson, President Hoffman Estates Chamber of Commerce	(847) 781-9100

Opportunity Knocking: Calendar of Upcoming Chamber Events

June 2009

Mon., June 1	Board of Directors	7:30 A.M.
Tues., June 2	Expo Committee	8:30 A.M.
Tues., June 2	AM Business Connection Committee Meeting	10:00 A.M.
Sat., June 6	FISHING DERBY	9:00 A.M.
Mon., June 8	Membership Committee	8:00 A.M.
Wed., June 10	Business After Hours/Rahl Jewelers	5:00 P.M.
Thurs., June 11	The Exchange	7:30 A.M.
Thurs., June 11	Chit & Chat/Buona Beef	11:30 A.M.
Tues., June 16	Seminar – “Getting Started with Constant Contact”	9:00 A.M.
Fri., June 19	Government Relations Committee	12:00 noon
Mon., June 22	Board of Directors	7:30 A.M.
Tues., June 23	AM Business Connection/ Sam’s Club	7:30 A.M.
Thurs., June 25	Biz 6 Progressive Networking Breakfast	7:15 A.M.
Thurs., June 25	The Exchange	7:30 A.M.
Tues., June 30	Business Before Hours/ Massage Envy	7:30 A.M.

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June 2009



2200 W. Higgins Road, Suite 201
Hoffman Estates, Illinois 60169
847-781-9100 FAX: 847-781-9172

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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