

The Chamber of Commerce FOCUS

Serving the Cuyahoga Valley Region, Rockside Road Corridor & the Communities of Brooklyn Heights, Cuyahoga Heights, Independence, Seven Hills, Valley View & Walton Hills.



Winter 2014

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Mayor Kevin Hurst, Walton Hills

Annual State of the Cuyahoga Valley Region Another Success!

The Cuyahoga Valley Chamber of Commerce annual State of the Cuyahoga Valley Region Luncheon was held on Wednesday, Nov. 20 at the Holiday Inn on Rockside Road in Independence. Sponsored by Walthall, Drake and Wallace, LLP and Dollar Bank, this event hosted approximately 200 community members and business professionals who were there to hear the panel of Cuyahoga Valley region mayors speak about their cities and villages.



Former radio personality for WMMS radio and current owner of Flashpoint Communications, Ed Flash Ferenc, was the MC. The Mayor's panel included Mayor Jack Bacci from the Village of Cuyahoga Heights; Mayor Mike Prociuk from the Village of Brooklyn Heights; Mayor Gregory Kurtz from the City of Independence, Mayor Richard Dell'Aquila from the City of Seven Hills; Mayor Jerry Piasecki from the Village of Valley View and Mayor Kevin Hurst from the Village of Walton Hills.

Ferenc led the panel in discussions over important issues about their cities and villages. The Mayors got the audience excited, talking about some of the new businesses that have moved into the Cuyahoga Valley region. Each Mayor also explained the expansions and renovations that businesses in their communities have had in the past year, as well as public improvement projects that continue to be done throughout the Cuyahoga Valley region. The panel discussed quite a few different resurfacing projects, road repairs, and other changes and improvements that are being done to keep the Cuyahoga Valley region the beautiful place it is to work and to live.

The Mayors ended the discussion by talking about the great sense of community pride each has for their own staff, residents, schools, businesses, and the many community-related events that take place.



2014 Calendar of Events

Important
DATE!

Subject to Change.

Visit our website for updates:
www.cuyahogavalleychamber.org

RSVP to 216-573-2707
cvcc@cuyahogavalleychamber.org

TUESDAY

January 14, 2014

Chamber Luncheon

Bob DiBiasio from the Cleveland Indians
Holiday Inn - Rockside

11:30 - 1:30 pm

After the season the Indians just had...
this is surely an event you won't want to miss!

\$20 /members \$25/non-members

WEDNESDAY

February 19, 2014

Chamber Luncheon

Author JJ DiGeronimo

Holiday Inn - Rockside

11:30 - 1:30 pm

"Proven and Practical Leadership
Strategies for High Impact Businesses
to effectively prioritize, align and achieve
their individualized goals."

\$20 /members \$25/non-members

THURSDAY

February 20, 2014

Young Professionals

Holiday Inn - Rockside

Impuls II - Newly Renovated

5:00 - 7:00 pm

Check out the newly renovated lounge
and network with your peers.

FREE Cash Bar

THURSDAY

March 13, 2014

Evening Event

5th Annual Impact Awards

Holiday Inn - Rockside

5:30 pm

Come celebrate with our award winners
and find out their achievements at this
highly regarded formal event.

\$35 memers \$45/non-members

WEDNESDAY

April 16, 2014

Chamber Luncheon

Annual Health Fair

Holiday Inn - Rockside

11:30 - 1:30 pm

\$20 /members \$25/non-members

WANT TO BECOME A SPONSOR FOR THE 5TH ANNUAL IMPACT AWARDS?

LIMITED AVAILABILITY - CALL 216-573-2707 OR EMAIL CUYAHOGAVALLEYCHAMBER@AOL.COM

New Chamber Members

Members Update: Please help us update our records!

Email your updated information to: cvcc@cuyahogavalleychamber.org

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Welcome!

www.asgc.org

**CHILI
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FOR
AUTISM**

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, 2014

6:00-9:30 PM

HOLIDAY INN

6001 Rockside Road | Independence, OH

TICKETS

\$20 in advance

\$25 at the door

Sponsorships Available: \$100 to \$10,000

Professional & Amateur Chefs Needed

Door Prize Donations Accepted

Sample Chili from over 40 chefs

FOX 8 News-Todd Meany's Band

ACE MOLAR

Contact:

Eileen Hawkins 216-524-0424

Jim Wotowec 216-407-0139

AUTISM SOCIETY
Improving the Lives of All Affected by Autism
Greater Cleveland

a 501(c) 3 Organization serving all those with autism and their families in the Greater Cleveland Area.





A Message from...

our President

Charlene Paparizos, CMP Communications

Dear Chamber Members:

It has been a pleasure serving as the president of the Cuyahoga Valley Chamber of Commerce the past four years. The chamber and its mission have always been important to me. I've been involved in some way since the beginning of the Independence Chamber of Commerce back in the early 90's. We have much to be thankful for in the Cuyahoga Valley region. Our communities, schools, businesses, retail, restaurants, parks, and recreation...all make this the best place to live and/or work. I'm happy to have hopefully contributed just a tiny bit to the success of our region.

A special thank you to my fellow chamber board members, as well as Eileen Hawkins, our former executive director. We have an amazing team of leaders and I encourage more

of our members to consider joining our board or getting more involved. Our lunch and networking programs, especially our State of the Region and State of the Schools, Impact Awards, after hours, summer picnic, golf outing that allows us to give scholarships to graduating seniors, and the numerous resources and benefits available are all there for you, as a member.

I wish all of you a healthy and prosperous New Year and look forward to seeing you at our next chamber event.

Sincerely,

Charlene Paparizos
President

our Executive Directors

Nancy Prucha & Melissa LaPorta



Dear Chamber Members,

The Board of Directors from the Cuyahoga Valley Chamber of Commerce wishes you and your family a very happy new year filled with good health and prosperity! We had a wonderful 2013 and thank every one of our members for your continued support. We continue to provide quality programming and offer numerous ways for you to promote your business within the Chamber.

We would like to thank Charlene Paparizos for her dedication to our Chamber as President for the past four years. Under her leadership we have grown and prospered. She will remain on the board to help guide us in the future.

Our January 14 Luncheon at the Holiday Inn features Bobby DiBasio, Vice President of Marketing for the Cleveland Indians. It is also our annual meeting, so we look forward to seeing you there.

February 19, we are honored to have author and motivational speaker, JJ DiGeronimo who provides "Proven and Practical Leadership Strategies for High Impact Businesses to effectively prioritize, align and achieve their individualized goals."

The 5th Annual Impact Awards will be the evening of March 13. We are looking for your nominations for this fabulous event, so check out our website at cuyahogavalleychamber.org and

download the nomination form and let us know who you think deserves these outstanding awards.

Our annual Health Fair will be in April at the Holiday Inn and of course, our Annual State of the Schools will be in May.

There are numerous opportunities to sponsor these events to promote your business to the Cuyahoga Valley Region. Please contact Nancy or Melissa at cuyahogavalleychamber@aol.com or by calling 216-573-2707 to make arrangements or to advertise your business in our newsletter or via an e-blast.

Remember to take advantage of your discounts through NOACC for health insurance, workers comp, business supplies and FedEx delivery.

We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events.

Sincerely,

Nancy Prucha
Executive Director

Melissa LaPorta
Asst. Executive Director



The Confident Business Leader, “The Power of No”

Co-Author: **JJ DiGeronimo**

Technology Executive, Author, Speaker, Entrepreneur and STEM Advocate

Yes, Yes, Yes, and Yes! How many “yesses” do you think you say in a day, a week, a month, a year? Many, I’m sure. Likely, you recently have been asked to lend a hand, lead a project or kickoff an initiative. Many of us often find ourselves spread too thin across too many initiatives that leave us exhausted and feeling guilty since we can’t be everywhere and do everything expected of us.

Professionals who attend this session will walk away with:

- Proven formulas for doing less & achieving more
- Actionable strategies to effectively align professional commitments and choices
- Valuable guidelines on career planning with an emphasis on mentors and sponsors



Chamber Luncheon

Wednesday, February 19, 2014

11:30am - 1:00pm

Holiday Inn - Rockside

6001 Rockside Rd | Independence, OH

\$20/members

\$25/non-members

RSVP to 216-573-2707 or

www.cuyahogavalleychamber.org

JJ's new book will be available for purchase.



5th IMPACT ANNUAL awards

NOW ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS!

Person/Organization of the Year
Excellence in Customer Service

Educational Outreach
Sponsored by The ESC of Cuyahoga County
New Business of the Year



SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE:

Award Sponsor
\$200

Event Sponsor
\$500



Thursday, March 13, 2014

5:30 - 7:00pm

Holiday Inn - Rockside

6001 Rockside Rd | Independence, OH

\$35/members

\$45/non-members

RSVP to 216-573-2707 or

www.cuyahogavalleychamber.org



News of Note...

Amazing! WOW!
GREAT JOB!
Congratulations!

Chamber member, **Cuyahoga Valley Career Center** will hold their Job Fair on Wednesday, March 19 from 3:30 - 6:00 pm. If you are looking for part-time and/or seasonal employees, contact Darden Blake at 440-746-8242 or dblake@cvccworks.edu. They usually have between 900 and 1000 students in attendance and companies have much success with their hiring needs. Thank you CVCC!

Cuyahoga Heights High School Math Teacher Al Martin has been awarded the Crystal Apple Award from Northeast Ohio Media Group. His nomination from Megan Dankle states "He helped me realize my true potential, not only in math but in life itself...he kept pushing me to achieve my full potential. Mr. Martin is not only an excellent math teacher, but also a father, football coach and basketball coach. He truly cares about his students and wants the best for them." Congratulations!



Thank you to so many of our chamber members for participating in the Mock Interviews held at Independence High School in November.



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The Cuyahoga Valley
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Thursday, February 20
5:00 - 7:00 pm

**Impulse II
Holiday Inn**
6001 Rockside Road
Independence
FREE • Cash Bar

*Newly
Renovated*



Holiday Inn

ALL ARE WELCOME!
FREE ADMISSION

Come network with the emerging leaders of the Cuyahoga Valley region at the Cuyahoga Valley Chamber of Commerce's NEW Young Professionals events. Throughout the year, we will have various events and programs specifically for those young adults that are working hard to network, increase business, or just want time to relax and enjoy the company of their peers.

RSVP to 216-573-2707 or
www.cuyahogavalleychamber.org


The Cuyahoga Valley
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Bridging Our Communities





Cuyahoga Valley Chamber of Commerce
5th Annual Impact Awards
Nomination Form

Business/Person of the Year Achievement Award

This award is given to a business, organization, or person who, through creativity, perseverance, and education has developed a successful business, whose efforts have created jobs, products, and opportunities; whose high moral and ethical values have set a standard of excellence in the region, and have made an outstanding contribution to the betterment of life in the communities our chamber serves. The winner will demonstrate all-round excellence in business. In addition, the winner has the following qualities:

- * Respect of the community.
- * A commitment to local organizations.
- * Respect for his/her employees.

Educational Outreach Award

This award is given to a business that has developed a strong partnership with both the Independence and Cuyahoga Heights Local Schools. To meet the growing challenges of preparing students to compete in a global workplace, this business realizes the significance of dedicating their time, expertise, and resources to assist their local schools in developing programs and expanding learning opportunities for not only students but teachers as well.

Entrepreneur/New Business of the Year

This is the award for an individual or new business that is three years old or younger. The award will recognize performance of the business over the last three years, what the entrepreneur believes makes them different and their vision for the future of the business. Nominees must be active in the community and exhibit the entrepreneur spirit and encourage others to follow suit.

Excellence in Customer Service Award

This award recognizes companies with a focus on customer service and care and who demonstrate excellence and achievement within the field of customer service. Judging criteria will include customer service objectives and strategy, business performance, customer care, staff development plans and how this has driven business growth.

Nomination Deadline
January 31, 2014

Nominated Business/Organization/Individual: _____

Nominee Contact Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Nomination Submitted By: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

AWARD NOMINATED FOR: (only one category per nominee)

☐ Business/Person of the Year

☐ Educational Outreach

Sponsored By: ESC of Cuyahoga County

☐ New Business of the Year

☐ Excellence in Customer Service

****Winner should do business and have an impact in one of the following communities: Brooklyn Heights, Cuyahoga Heights, Independence, Seven Hills, Valley View or Walton Hills. Non-chamber members can be nominated but, if they win, are encouraged to become a member of the Cuyahoga Valley Chamber of Commerce.**

On a separate sheet of paper – please describe
why you feel this business/organization/individual is deserving of this award.
Please use as much detail as possible.



The Cuyahoga Valley Chamber of Commerce Chose Anthem. Shouldn't You?

For more information, contact your broker,
your chamber or Anthem at

800-551-3119

anthem.com



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Once-In-A-Lifetime Opportunity!

BOB DIBIASIO

SR. VICE PRESIDENT
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Chamber Annual Meeting and Luncheon
Tuesday, January 14, 2014
11:30am - 1:00pm
Holiday Inn, Rockside

Presentation and discussion
on the State of the Indians
Ticket Sales Opportunity
Q and A Session

Clevelanders are die hard sports fans! So after the season the Indians just had and with Terry Francona being named American League Manager of the Year... I am sure there's a lot to talk about with Bob DiBiasio!



\$20/members \$25/non-members
Please RSVP to 216-573-2707 or
cuyahogavalleychamber@aol.com

Scan the code on your
mobile device to be
directed to the Cuyahoga
Valley Chamber of
Commerce's website!



(216) 642-3838

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