



P.O. BOX 38 • BROOKFIELD, ILLINOIS 60513 • TELEPHONE (708) 268-8080

www.brookfieldchamber.net

MARCH 2010 NEWSLETTER

CHAMBER EVENTS FOR 2010

April 19, 2010 – *SPRING INTO SPRING* Fashion Show to be held at *Nino's Buona Cucina*. Co-chaired by Charles Hitzeman, Hitzeman Funeral Home and Dave LeClere, Betty's Flowers and Gifts.

May 22, 2010 – 2nd Annual *STREET DANCE*, to be held on Grand Blvd. this year. Chaired by Mike McNeily, *Edward Jones Investment*.

June 5, 2010 – *FARMER'S MARKET* begins and goes to October 30th. It is held at the Village of Brookfield parking lot, just west of the building. Chaired by Patricia Weber, *Le Grand Décor*.

July 2010 – *4TH OF JULY PARADE* and our *AUTO and BIKE SHOW* on **July 25th**. The Auto and Bike Show is held on Broadway, just west of the Memorial Circle. The Auto Show is chaired by Anne Clark, *Anytime Fun Store*.

September 18, 2010 – 3rd Annual *PIG ROAST*, to be held on Grand Blvd. this year. Chairman is Chris DiBraccio, *Brixie's*.

October, 2010 – *Farmer's Market* ends on the 30th, *Monsters on Main Street*.

December 4, 2010 – *SANTA FLY IN / HOLIDAY WALK*.

There will be many opportunities for you to either help out as a volunteer or be a sponsor, such as the Fashion Show, Auto and Bike Show, Santa Fly In / Holiday Walk to name a few. The Chamber sponsors the Street Dance and the Pig Roast as a whole so we do not ask for sponsors for them. The Street Dance does have vendors selling food that any members who sell food of any sort, can join in for a slight fee.

We always need volunteers for all events, so think about donating a couple of hours of your time to help out at one, or all, of these events. I think you might have an enjoyable time, I know my family did at the Street Dance last year and even at the Pig Roast. My granddaughters have already asked when the events are going to be held as they helped out last year and had a lot of fun.

BROOKFIELD CHAMBER NOW ON FACEBOOK

The Brookfield Chamber of Commerce now has a page on Facebook. Thanks to Fred Gade, Central Auto Rebuilders of Brookfield, and Amy Weinert, First National Bank of Brookfield, we now have a page on Facebook. We already have over 106 fans, and we are trying to get as many fans as possible. We plan on adding photos of all our events on the page, as well as on our website, to make this even more fan friendly. Stop by and become a fan.

Do you have a website? Be sure to have a link to www.brookfieldchamber.net

BROOKFIELD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2010 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President

Betty LeClere

Betty's Flowers & Gifts

485-3893

First Vice President

Mike McNeily

Edward Jones Investments

485-8291

Second Vice President

Allen Goodcase

Future Electronic Systems

485-8940

Secretary/Treasurer

Amy Weinert

Anytime Fun Store 485-4298

First National Bank of Brookfield 485-2770

Directors

Term Ending 2010

Charles Hitzeman (Hitzeman Funeral Home) 485-2000

Patricia M. Weber (Le Grand Decor, Ltd.) 485-2204

Term Ending 2011

Chris Borzým (Christopher Mark Fine Flowers) 387-7112

Phillip Richard (First National Bank of Brookfield) 485-2770

Term Ending 2012

Jerrold Dobs (JD Pro Productions, Inc.) 485-2126

Ellen Frantzen (Joe's Saloon) 485-7042

Term Ending 2013

Deborah Barta (Chefsahoy) (312) 560-3975

Christopher DiBraccio (Brixies) 387-0050

A Message from the President

Betty LeClere



Hey hey, it's March Madness. Does that mean basketball or does that mean big sales in our stores. Well I do know the Chamber is fastly working on all our projects for 2010. If anyone would like to volunteer to work any of these events, please feel free to contact any of the chairman. There is a listing of the events on the front page of this newsletter, along with the chairperson's name. Give them a call and donate some time, you might make some new friends that could even become your customers.

The Senior Social was held on Sunday, February 14th at Joe's Saloon. We had over 80 seniors present. I would like to thank the *Visiting Angels* for chairing this event, *Ellen Frantzen* for donating Joe's Saloon's Party Room and *Toby Rhodes* for donating the music. Also to *Mike McNeily* from Edward Jones and *Amy Weinert* from the First National Bank of Brookfield

for all of their help in putting this event together.

At this time I'd like to thank *Chuck Hitzeman*, Hitzeman Funeral Home, and *Dave LeClere*, Betty's Flowers and Gifts, for stepping up to co-chair our **Fashion Show** which will be held on Monday, April 19th at Nino's Buona Cucina. See the article on page 4 for more information on this event.

Our **Street Dance** will be held on Saturday, May 22nd. This year it will be held on Grand Blvd. Hey hey, how sweet is that.

The **Auto and Bike Show** will be held on Sunday, July 25th, on Broadway Ave., just west of the Memorial Circle. More details in the coming months.

Also our **Pig Roast** this year will be held on Saturday, September 18th, also on Grand Blvd. Chris DiBraccio, from Brixies, will be our chairman, so please give Chris a call and offer your support for this event.

See you all at the Fashion Show!

Thank you,
Betty LeClere
Betty's Flowers and Gifts
Chamber President

VALENTINE'S SOCIAL

On Valentine's Day we had a huge turnout from the community. Well over 80 seniors, mostly from Brookfield, came out to celebrate a great afternoon with us. The team from **Visiting Angels**, Rose and Laura, put everything together and decorated a beautiful party room at **Joe's Saloon**. We all enjoyed some delicious food, some punch and raffles throughout the afternoon. **Toby Rhodes** also supplied the music!

Special thanks to **Ellen Frantzen**, *Joe's Saloon*, for donating her party room, and **Toby Rhodes** for donating his services.

Also, a HUGE thanks to our sponsors, **First National Bank of Brookfield**, **Hitzeman Funeral Home**, and **Linda Sokol Francis**. We could not do it without you!

Happy St. Patrick's Day

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

If anyone is interested in being featured in the Member Spotlight section please contact Mike McNeily at 708.485.8291 or email him at mike.mcneily@edwardjones.com. This is free and other members would like to know more about you and your business or organization. So contact Mike to set up a month for you to be featured in our newsletter!



SERVING CHILDREN AND ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES

Become a Volunteer

At the: **Helping Hand Thrift Shop**
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Brookfield, IL 60513

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Contact: **Maria Urban** at 708 485-2324
Brookfield.thrift@hhcenter.org www.hhcenter.org

See our *Donate your Car Program*

FEATURE MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Le Grand Decor, Ltd.

Retail and Consignment Decor for the Home

3748 Grand Boulevard
Brookfield, IL 60513
(708) 485-2204



Started by Patty Weber, Le Grand Décor, Ltd. is a retail and consignment shop designed to meet home décor needs. A potpourri of items is presented by the shop, bringing in merchandise that is unique and one of a kind. Lamps and mirrors

combined with select furniture and some consignment pieces are presented along with custom jewelry and art to bring to the area an abundant variety from which to select. Le Grand Décor, Ltd. offers a little bit of something for everybody with a philosophy of bringing in high quality items at affordable prices.

Weber came to the area after a career in teaching at the urging of her daughters to try something different than she had previously been doing. Upon seeing Grand Boulevard, she was taken with the main street similarity to her hometown in Kansas and made the commitment to open a shop, patterned after Legacies and Lace of Western Springs. Weber had been liaison for Legacies and Lace while serving three terms on the Board of Directors of a local mental health association for the area.

Community involvement has always played a major part in her life, so it was natural to work with other area business owners in the founding of the Grand Prairie Business Association. Weber is also a Director on the Brookfield Chamber of Commerce and their chairperson for the Brookfield Farmers Market. Serving for 29 years on the Environmental Quality Control Commission in La Grange and her love of green has made this a perfect fit for her.

The main thing Weber has always strived for is to make a difference for the community or organization with which she is involved. In this economic time, another major goal is to entice people to come to the

area and to shop locally. Brookfield offers much for the consumer and community and attempting to bring this to reality has become one of her major goals.

With two grown daughters, Jessica and Joanna — her pride and joy, came an opportunity to try different things. With a love of the environment and working with people that share like values, Weber feels tremendously at home here — fortunate to be involved with the village, the chamber, the business district, and the people of Brookfield.

CHAMBER COOK BOOKS ARE STILL AVAILABLE

The **CHAMBER COOK BOOK** has been a hit so far. It has 190 pages of recipes and information that everyone can use. The recipes are from Chamber members and also from some of the vendors at the Farmer's Market. It is divided into 8 categories, Appetizers, Beverages, Breads, Soups and Salads, Main Dishes, Vegetables and Side Dishes, Desserts and This & That, which is a collection of helpful hints, measurements and substitutions, etc. In the back there is an Alphabetical Index of all the recipes in the book.

The Cook Book is an attractive book besides being very informative. The cover is quite colorful and we went with a burgundy comb bind to top it off. We have them for sale in various stores thru-out the Village.

CHAMBER CHECKBOOK A GREAT BUY

Have you seen the Brookfield Chamber Checkbook? Packed with checks good for purchases at 25 local businesses and restaurants, all Chamber businesses. There are restaurants, bars, party rentals, landscaping, accountant service, dental, dog training, jewelry, collision repair, home theater systems, flowers and gifts, consignment decor, chiropractic services, massages, plumbing, inflatable jumpy house, etc. The total value is over \$750. You can purchase yours for only \$30. This is not only a great gift that helps promote Brookfield businesses as well as giving you a break on the cost of going out. many people have commented on how great the idea is and they hope we continue selling them. The checks are valid thru December 31, 2010. Get one soon!

BROOKFIELD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FASHION SHOW

The Annual Brookfield Chamber of Commerce Fashion Show will be held **Monday, April 19, 2010**. At *Nino's Buona Cucina*, 9237 W. Ogden Ave., Brookfield. Social Hour begins at 6 P.M. Dinner will be served at 7 P.M. The cost is the same as last year, \$37 a person. Women's Fashions by *The Dress Barn*, Men's Tuxedo's by *Betty's Flowers and Gifts*, Jewelry by *Kat's Designs*. This year's event is being Co-Chaired by **Dave LeClere** of Betty's Flowers and Gifts and **Chuck Hitzeman** of Hitzeman Funeral Home.

The Brookfield Chamber of Commerce has for the last several years tried to promote its members in any way possible. This year's fashion show committee is trying even harder to promote our members and offer opportunities to promote your products and the services you offer. Business specific categories that are still being sought for this year's show are: hair styling, manicured nails, cosmetics and jewelry. If you are at all interested in participating in the show, there is still time. If you have a business that does not fall into one of these categories and would like to sponsor the event or promote your business to local loyal Brookfield patrons, there are many other ways you can participate.

You will have the opportunity to sponsor this year's

event via the ad book and or participate in one or all of the 3 separate raffles this year. One raffle will be the famous, and most sought after, *Liquor Basket*, please feel free to contribute a bottle to it with your business card attached. The second raffle will be a *Basket of Beauty & Spa* related products, please feel free to donate gift certificates or products from your business to this basket. The last raffle that will be ongoing throughout the night will have a little different spin on it from years past. Each item will be on display and be raffled off in a bag raffle style. Allowing the patrons to weigh their chances based on the items of their choosing. This will create an environment of paying attention to specific items/gifts that are donated.

As always, volunteers for models are always appreciated. Special recognition is always given to businesses with volunteers offering Models. There are always repeat models every year and newcomers are always welcome. The ladies truly have a good time choosing their fashions and then getting to show them off.

The fashion show committee is expecting a sold out event this year of 110 guests. If you are interested in getting involved, sponsoring, or promoting your business, new and fresh ideas are strongly encouraged. Please call **Charles Hitzeman** at **708-485-2000** for more information and to order your tickets.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS AT BROOKFIELD ZOO ANNOUNCED

March 1 – Spring Lecture Series

Polar Bears: The Disappearing North American Icon

March 2 – Annual Conservation Dinner

March 6 – National Pig Day

Pig lovers of all ages will be in hog heaven during Brookfield Zoo's annual National Pig Day celebration. Hoof it over to Children's Zoo at 1:00 p.m. for the best pig porkformance in town. Then sing a rousing rendition of "Happy Pig Day" to our popular porcine as they are presented with special cakes. Immediately following, zoogoers of all ages can join in a parade led by the Pigmobile and a pig costumed character. Fun pig-themed activities, including a scent game, mud play, "Pin the Tail on the Pig," and storytelling, will take place at Hamill Family Play Zoo throughout the day. In addition at 2:00 p.m., The Dreamtree Shakers Duo from the Old Town School of Folk Music will perform

children's music also in the Play Zoo. Children's Zoo and Hamill Family Play Zoo are free on Pig Day. For further information, visit www.CZS.org or call (708) 688-8000.

March 16 – Spring Lecture Series

Great Plains: American's Lingering Wild

March 25 – American Association of Zookeepers Spaghetti Dinner

Bring the family to Brookfield Zoo's Discovery Center for an all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinner featuring spaghetti with vegetarian and meat sauces, salad, bread, dessert, and non-alcoholic beverages. Throughout the evening event, which is from 4:00 to 7:45 p.m., there will also be music, door prizes, costumed characters mingling with diners, and a silent auction. The cost is \$6 for adults and \$3 for children 5 to 12. Children under 5 eat for free. Proceeds from the dinner will go toward one of the Chicago Zoological Society's conservation partners: The Vital Ground Foundation. This nonprofit organization works to reconnect

fragmented grizzly bear landscapes in the U.S. and Canada that are critical to wildlife movement and biodiversity. For further information and to purchase tickets online, go to www.CZS.org/czs/AAZK or call (708) 688-8911. Tickets will also be available at the door the night of the dinner.

March 27-28 and April 3 – Breakfast with the Bunny

Enjoy an all-you-can-eat breakfast at Brookfield Zoo's Discovery Center. Mr. and Mrs. Bunny costumed characters will be on hand for photo opportunities, and there will be visits from some of Children's Zoo's furry critters. Seatings are offered at 9:00 or 11:00 a.m. Seating is limited and reservations are required. The cost, which includes zoo admission, is \$38 for adults and \$26.50 for children 3-11 (zoo members pay \$28 and \$20.50). For further information, visit www.CZS.org and click on "Events" or call (708) 688-8355.

April 4 – Easter Brunch

Hippity hop to Brookfield Zoo for a delectable all-you-can-eat Easter brunch buffet featuring an appearance by Mr. and Mrs. Bunny costumed characters, who will be available for photos. In addition, Children's Zoo keepers will join the festivities with some furry critters that youngsters can see up close. Seatings are offered at 11:00 a.m. or 1:30 p.m. Seating is limited and reservations are required. The cost, which includes zoo admission, is \$49 for adults and \$35 for children 3-11 (zoo members pay \$39 and \$29). For further information and to make reservations, visit www.CZS.org and click on "Events" or call (708) 688-8355.

April 3-4, 10-11, 17-18, and 24-25 – Ape Awareness Month

April 13 – Spring Lecture

Where the Grizzly can Walk, the Earth is Healthy and Whole

April 24 – The Whirl

Be one of the first to see Brookfield Zoo's new Great Bear Wilderness exhibit while supporting the Chicago Zoological Society's animal conservation and education programs at the 29th annual Whirl, the zoo's premier black-tie fund-raising gala hosted by the Women's Board. This year's theme, A Whirl in the Wilderness, highlights the grand opening of this 7.5-acre naturalistic exhibit, which is home to polar bears, brown bears, bison, eagles, ravens, and Mexican gray wolves. Cocktails, held at Great Bear Wilderness, begin at 6:30 p.m. followed by dinner and dancing in the grand tent

on the zoo's grounds. The spectacular evening also includes a raffle and live auction featuring jewelry, special bear-themed trips, and unique zoo experiences. The cost is \$600 per person. For tickets or further information, call (312) 553-2000.

May 2 – Party for the Planet

Every day is Earth Day at Brookfield Zoo, but a very special one will be Party for the Planet. The tremendous event will provide educational fun for the entire family and will have everyone thinking "green" with live Earth-themed music, crafts for kids, and much more! For further information, visit www.CZS.org or call (708) 688-8000.

May 8 – Public Opening of Great Bear Wilderness

Great Bear Wilderness is the new home for Brookfield Zoo's polar bears, grizzly bears, bison, bald eagles, and ravens and is adjacent to the Mexican gray wolves already exhibited at Regenstein Wolf Woods. The 7.5-acre North American habitat features a hilly terrain, prairie, rockwork, pools, a waterfall, and deadfall. The exhibit is landscaped with nearly 31,500 new plantings, including trees, shrubs, prairie grasses, shrubs, perennials, and groundcover. Guests first encounter bison exhibited in a prairie setting followed by views of bald eagles and ravens. Continuing along the pathway guests can see the Mexican gray wolves habitat and then on to the bears' yards, which are approximately three times the space of the zoo's former Bear Grottos. An underwater viewing area will allow guests to see the polar bears swimming in pools and also to watch them above the waterline. The exhibit, which is free with paid zoo admission, also features a gift shop and restaurant. For further information about Great Bear Wilderness, visit www.CZS.org.

May 9 – Mother's Day Brunch

Treat Mom to a special day at Brookfield Zoo. Start with a scrumptious all-you-can-eat brunch in the zoo's Discovery Center. Seatings are offered at 11:00 a.m. or 1:30 p.m. Afterwards, take a stroll around the park to see some of her favorite animals. The cost, which includes zoo admission, is \$49 for adults and \$35 for children 3-11 (zoo members pay \$39 and \$29). For further information and to make reservations, visit www.CZS.org and click on "Events" or call (708) 688-8355.

Watch for more dates in future Chamber Newsletters.

FEBRUARY AFTER HOURS THANK YOU

Thank you to all of you who attended our After Hours event on Thursday, February 18th. To our many customers that attended, please don't become accustomed to beer and wine at the information desk, Sue is friendly enough as is! To those of you that attended that are not yet customers, I hope you are questioning why you don't Bank with such a wonderful, community focused institution. Finally, I would like to thank Tequila Mockingbird for providing such wonderful food and to Lakeshore Payments, our Merchant Processing provider, for sponsoring the event. I look forward to continuing to host the monthly Chamber Board meetings and future After Hours events.

Thank You, Phil Richard

BROOKFIELD FARMERS MARKET

A family friendly market featuring organic and sustainably-grown produce.

While it is still snowing here – hope is in our hearts for blue skies, good weather, and the Brookfield Farmers Market. Vendor letters and contracts have been sent, the committee is meeting, and plans are under way for a great 2010 market.

The market will begin this year on Saturday, June 5th and continue throughout the month of October. The vendor list is strong, with most of our vendors returning and several new vendors joining us. The market will again be selling everything from organic and sustainable vegetables, fruit, meat, and eggs, to flowers, plants, vinegars, honey, and bakery goods. Our emphasis will center on having the market be a gathering place as well as offering produce and will be having special events focusing on local talent and different activities throughout the season.

The Farmers Market is again a recipient of a grant from the Illinois Department of Agriculture. Grant money will be used in advertising, publicizing our operation, and extending and promoting local farms, farmers, and their products. An additional component of the grant for this year is directed toward education and the market will partner with the Brookfield Public Library for this portion of the grant.

We are again aiming high both in attendance and in

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becoming a destination place, a friendly place to come to shop, to meet friends, and to enjoy the camaraderie while shopping with home baked goods, chef cooked offerings, partnered with coffee and teas.

Community is the highlight of the Brookfield Farmers Market. Come and join us and experience the growing season with an ever-changing and healthy harvest. Plan to enjoy the friendly family farmers who take pride in their product and in sharing it with you – along with chefs, bakers, and confectioners using fresh, healthy ingredients for your family.

The market will again be located at the Brookfield Municipal Building parking lot, next to the creek side. There is easy access by walking and biking and plentiful, free parking. Plus, there is always a smile waiting for you at the Brookfield Farmers Market—proud member of “Illinois Where Fresh Is” and ranked in the top 100 Farmers Markets in the Nation in the Local Harvest contest for 2009.

Market sponsored by: the Brookfield Chamber of Commerce (www.brookfieldchamber.net)

Host facilities provided by: the Village of Brookfield

Happy St. Patrick's Day

WE ARE LOOKING FOR A HOST FOR AN AFTER HOURS EVENT?

It's your turn! How about having an informal get together with other Chamber members? Maybe provide some beverages and snacks? We try to get Chamber members together on the third Thursday, 5:30pm - ???, to stay in touch with each other - no agenda. We've had some really good turnouts. How about having it at YOUR place of business?

You get to show off your facility - maybe to those who have never been there before. Think about it and let Amy Weinert know. (708) 485-2770 ext. 139. We are asking people, as a courtesy, to let the host know if they will be able to make it, so he or she will have an idea of the number of people coming.

CHAMBER BENEFITS

We are pleased to provide every Chamber member access to over 100 other business owners in town through events like our monthly After Hours social and our monthly luncheon.

We also provide a link from our website, www.brookfieldchamber.net, that has consistently over 850 visitors a month. With that, we provide a directory and map of each location on the web and in a directory that is hand delivered to every household in Brookfield every summer - listing each business and contact information.

Also, at events like our Senior Valentine's Social, Fashion Show, Street Dance, Pig Roast, Car Show, Holiday Walk, etc. we provide unique opportunities to get involved, meet community members and sponsor events that specifically target the Brookfield community. You can get your business name out in the public and depending on whether you participate in some of our events, you can meet a lot of great people who could become your customers.

We are pleased to do this for an extremely low cost to our members. So make sure your membership is up to date.



Hitzeman Funeral Home, Ltd.

ESTABLISHED 1904

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A NOTE FROM THE PUBLISHER

If you are interested in taking out an ad in this newsletter, please call JD Pro Productions at (708) 485-2126 and we will be more than happy to help you. We also would like to hear any comments or suggestions for the newsletter.

Please call or email your comments today.

Thank You.

— DATES TO REMEMBER —

March 11, 2010 — Business Meeting, 12:00 noon at *Irish Times*, 8869 Burlington, Brookfield.

March 18, 2010 — Chamber After Hours, 5:30 pm at *Citibank*, 9009 W. Ogden Ave., Brookfield.

March 25, 2010 — Board Meeting, 12:00 noon at the *Brookfield Library*.

April 4, 2010 — EASTER

April 8, 2010 — Business Meeting, 12:00 noon at *Tequila Mockingbird*, 3733 Grand Blvd., Brookfield.

April 15, 2010 — Chamber After Hours, 5:30 pm at *Joe's Saloon*, 9220 W. 47th St., Brookfield.

April 19, 2010 — SPRING FASHION SHOW. Cocktails 6 pm, dinner at 7 pm at *Nino's Buona Cucina*, 9237 W. Ogden Ave., Brookfield.

April 22, 2010 — Board Meeting, 12:00 noon at the *Brookfield Library*.

May 13, 2010 — Business Meeting, 12:00 noon at *TBA*.

May 20, 2010 — Chamber After Hours, 5:30 pm at *TBA*.

May 22, 2010 — STREET DANCE

May 27, 2010 — Board Meeting, 12:00 noon at the *Brookfield Library*.

NEW MEMBERS

Following is a list of business and resident members that have recently joined the Chamber:

For The Birds, *Keith Brennan*, 9207 Broadway Ave., Brookfield, IL, (708) 485-5711; **Infinite Promotions LLC**, *Keli Hardtke*, 2243 S. 2nd Ave., North Riverside, IL 60546, (708) 853-1688; **To Do Or Dye Salon**, *Patti Schmidt*, 3749 Grand Blvd., Brookfield, IL, (708) 485-9091; and **resident members Tim Heilenbach** and **Rasa Plioplys**, 8615 Riverside Ave., Brookfield, IL 60513, (708) 387-7441.

We welcome all new members and look forward to meeting you and having you get involved in our Chamber. We are a very active Chamber now and look forward to continuing to be so with the help of our members. We are always looking for people to help out at our events, so think about volunteering. If you have any ideas or concerns, please bring them to us so that we may act upon them. A strong Chamber is one that has active members involved in all aspects of the Chamber's doings.

