



Palos Progress

Volume 27, Number 2

February 2012

Chamber Officers

Chairman of the Board – Eileen Fetta
 Archer Bank
 President – Amy Richards
 The Regional News
 Vice President – Susan Withers
 Standard Bank & Trust
 Secretary – Steve Georgiou
 Computer Greeks
 Treasurer – Peggy Brown-Schaefer
 MMBS & Associates

Board of Directors

Bill Flowers
 Edward Jones, Palos Park
 Tom Hullinger
 First Midwest Bank
 Matthew Hunt
 Hunt Insurance Group
 Marty Linderborg
 Great Harvest Bread Co.
 Dan McCarthy
 Goldstine, Skrodzki, Russian,
 Nemecek and Hoff, Ltd.
 Margie Zeglen
 Palos Community Hospital
 Bridget Sullivan
 Waddell & Reed

Chamber Committees

Annual Dinner
 Scholarship
 Golf
 Christmas
 Retail/Sidewalk Sale
 Newsletter/Publicity
 Membership
 Hospitality/Programs
 Expo

Contact Us

Chamber of Commerce
 PO Box 138
 Palos Heights, IL 60463
 708-480-3025
 708-361-9711 Fax
 708-923-2300 Answering Service
 info@palosareachamber.org



Member Spotlight: Sid's Flowers in Palos Hills

Sid's Flowers opened at 11164 Southwest Highway in Palos Hills this past September after Sid's Greenhouse closed last August.

Owner Phil Schaafsma said the new space is a lot larger and offers much more than flowers.

"Our fruit baskets and gourmet food baskets are sort of our signature, so we have a lot of those," he said. "This year, for Christmas, we had 10 themed Christmas trees, so people could buy ornaments, lights, and accessories for their trees. We've got a new baby section, with baby clothes, receiving blankets, and stuffed animals. We also have a complete fashion boutique department, with jewelry, purses, handbags, and scarves. It is very, very popular."

Phil said the business is still remaining true to what got them started all those years ago – floral design.

"We have over 4,000 square feet, and we still have all kinds of fresh flowers," Schaafsma said. "It's a beautiful new building. We do custom floral and custom silk floral work for weddings, parties, funerals, and anniversaries.

"This shop is classier, and it has a very homey feeling. We stayed in town to the delight of the mayor and aldermen. We have had such awesome responses from people when they walk in. They love it. It's been great."

The store is open from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday to Friday, and from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays.

President's Message

Dear Fellow Chamber Members,

I am honored to be the new Palos Area Chamber of Commerce President.

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Amy Richards and I am the publisher of your local newspaper *The Regional*



Amy Richards

News. My family and I have quite a long history with the chamber and the City of Palos Heights. My grandfather, Carl Richards, helped found the chamber in 1949. He was responsible for starting *The Enal* as you know it today in this same spot at 123rd and Harlem in 1947. Carl was president of the chamber in 1953. Later my father, Charles Richards, would take over the business and he too was chamber president in 1978. I believe I am the first third generation chamber president here in Palos Heights - and I am so excited to begin working on behalf of local businesses. I grew up in Palos Heights, and attended Palos East, Palos South and A.A Stagg High School. I also attended the University of Illinois at Champaign. I moved to Chicago after graduation and still live on the north side with my husband Derek. After a short stint working at Kraft, I have been back at *The Regional* and active in the chamber for 10 years. I find my work both at the paper and with the chamber to be extremely rewarding.

I have been an active member of six chambers over the past several years and I hope to bring the knowledge

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 visit www.palosareachamber.org

Chamber Elects New Officers and Board of Directors

Introducing your new Chamber Board and Directors for 2012:

Chamber Officers:

Chairman

Eileen Fetta – Archer Bank

President

Amy Richards – The Regional News

Vice President

Susan Withers – Standard Bank

and Trust

Secretary

Steve Georgiou – Computer Greeks

Treasurer

Peggy Brown-Schaefer – MMBS & Associates

Board of Directors:

Bill Flowers

Edward Jones, Palos Park

Tom Hullinger

First Midwest Bank

Matthew Hunt

Hunt Insurance Group

Marty Linderborg

Great Harvest Bread Co.

Dan McCarthy

Goldstine, Skrodzki, Russian, Nemecek and Hoff, Ltd.

Bridget Sullivan

Waddell & Reed

Margie Zeglen

Palos Community Hospital

School District 118 Preschool Screening and Kingergarten Registration

Palos Community Consolidated School District 118 Kingergarten registration will be held the week of February 6-10, 2012 at Palos West and Palos East school from 9:15 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. For further information on kingergarten registration please contact Palos West School at 708-761-3802 or Palos East at 708-761-3502.

Valentine Special at The Center in Palos Park

Cabaret Dinner: Saturday, February 13, 5:30 pm : “An Evening in Paris” with Claudia Hommel and her musicians.

Claudia returns with her clear and beautiful voice, her romantic songs from Paris, and her sometimes zany antics, to bring us an evening of great entertainment, accompanied, as always, by a great 5-course French dinner menu, prepared by Chef Rob. Advance tickets are required (\$40) and will be available January 15. We make an advanced seating arrangement for this event, so please indicate your preference of table companions when you register. Visit www.thecenterpalos.org.

February Chamber Luncheon Tuesday, February 14

February’s chamber luncheon will be held at Moraine Valley Community College, Building M, Moraine Business & Conference Center on Tuesday, February 14th at 11:45 a.m. Cost is \$20.00. Topic: “City of Palos Heights” Address presented by Mayor Robert Straz of Palos Heights. Please R.S.V.P. by calling 708-480-3025 or email info@palosareachamber.org

Facebook & Twitter Workshop

Thursday, February 16: 2:00 pm

“Social media” is a way to communicate with friends and colleagues using the internet sites of Facebook & Twitter. Facebook is a quick and easy way to connect with friends. Learn how to set up a Facebook account and profile. You can create “wall posts” or use the inbox to send private messages to a specific recipient. Enhance your comments by attaching website addresses, photos and videos (YouTube) with just a few clicks.

Create “groups” and use “event pages” to post information. Lecture will include an introduction to Twitter; starting with how to setup an account, how to connect a Twitter account to your facebook page and how to tweet messages. Contact the Palos Heights Public Library for more information at www.palosheightslibrary.org

Tips on New Technology from the Geek Squad at the Palos Park Public Library

Saturday, February 18: 1:00 - 3:00 pm

Thinking about buying an eReader? Confused about new technology? Learn about the latest mobile devices with the help of the Geek Squad in an interactive presentation of the new technological devices, their connectivity (WiFi or 3G), and how functional these products can be. After the presentation, participants will be able to try out the devices brought by the Geek Squad. Participants are encouraged to bring their own devices and to ask questions.

Social Media Summit

Thursday, February 23

A Social Media Summit, sponsored by Chicago Southland Convention & Visitors Bureau, will be held on Thursday, February 23, 2012, from 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at Double Tree by Hilton Chicago-Alsip. For further information, call 708-895-8200 or register online at <http://conta.cc/SocialMediaSummit2012>.

Palos Area Chamber of Commerce Expo and Health Fair

May 5, 2012

Palos Area Chamber of Commerce Expo and Health Fair will be held on May 5, 2012, from 9am to 2pm at Moraine Valley Church, 6300 West 127th Street, Palos Heights. Cost for a table: Member: \$150 and NonMember \$300. For more information, call 708-480-3025 or email info@palosareachamber.org.

Chamber Members!

Do you have clients or patrons who needed assistance getting around town? The Municipal Vehicle Program is available. This service is provided by The City of Palos Heights and Trinity Christian College. Rides from home to your office, the library,

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NEW MEMBERS

WELCOME

Welcome to our newest Chamber Members!

George M. Popelka

Certified Merger & Acquisition Advisor
Business Manager
YMCA Network
gpapelka@ymcachicago.org

McCord Gallery & Cultural Center

9602 W. Creek Road, Palos Park
708-671-0648
www.mccordgallery.org



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*"President's Message" Continued
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I have gained from all of them to my term as president. As time goes on I am constantly reminded of the benefits of participating in the local chamber of commerce. I have seen so many business relationships develop out of networking at various chamber events. It sounds cliché but "what you put into it is what you get out of it" is very true when it comes to chamber membership. I urge all of our members to try in 2012 to attend a luncheon, business after hours, or one of our other chamber events. If you begin to attend these events on a regular basis you should see an impact on your business's bottom line.

A great place to start would be to attend our February 9 luncheon at Moraine Valley Community College at 11:45. Mayor Bob Straz will be giving his annual State of the City address. Make sure you RSVP as this is always one of our most popular luncheons. Thank you; I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Sincerely,

Amy Richards

Job Opportunities

Palos Heights Parks & Recreation Department is looking for someone who is a leader and has a positive attitude to work with the camp staff of 2012. Please drop resumes off to Bridget at 6601 West 127th Street or email bdavis@palosheights.org.

Early Childhood: Palos Heights Parks & Recreation is looking for an Early Childhood Instructor to work several classes with a flexible schedule and a smiling face! All applicants should submit a resume to Bridget at the Parks and Recreation Department at 6601 West 127th Street, Palos Heights, IL 60463.

Meet Your Newest Chamber Board Member: Matthew Hunt



Matthew Hunt, CRIS is the Vice-President of Hunt Insurance Agency, Inc., an independent family owned insurance agency since 1957. The mission statement of the agency best summarizes their approach to every customer relationship: "Raymond J. Hunt founded Hunt Insurance Agency, Inc. in 1957 based upon the principals of professionalism and integrity. Three generations later, the mission of Hunt Insurance continues to reflect those same time honored values." The agency currently employs 15 professionals, with main office located in Palos Heights on Harlem Avenue for over 30 years, and specializes in providing customized insurance solutions through a consultative approach.

Matt is a graduate of Creighton University with a B.S.B.A. in Economics. Having grown up in the insurance industry, Matt, cut his teeth in the financial services industry prior to joining the Agency 11 years ago, Matt was with UBS/PaineWebber and also Nuveen Investments. Matt has earned the insurance designation of Construction Risk Insurance Specialist (CRIS) from the International Risk Management Institute, and is currently working towards obtaining the Certified Insurance Counselor, and Certified Risk Manager designations.

Matt resides in Palos Heights with his wife, Tiffany, and their two children. Matt has previously been nominated for the Young Agent of the Year award presented by the Professional Independent Insurance Agents of Illinois. In addition, Matt is also on the Board of Directors for the Palos Power Softball Organization, and is a Trustee on the Palos Heights Police Pension Fund.

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village apartments, recreation center and more are available Monday-Friday 9am-6pm and Saturday 10am-6pm. For more information, call 708-361-1807 or check out the city's website at palosheights.org.

Cable Channel 4 Offers Promotion Opportunity for Business Owners

The City of Palos Heights operates an up-to-date website and a community cable television station - Channel 4. In the last few years we have expanded our programs to include a variety of activities and local attractions.

One of the features that you may be interested in being a part of is called "Meet the Merchant." The goal of this presentation is to feature and promote a local business, service, or restaurant. There is no charge. At your invitation, we come to your business with a camera and interviewer so that our viewers can see what you have to offer and to find out some particulars about your store such as location, hours of operation, and any specials that you may want to promote. This tape is then shown on Palos Heights Community Channel 4 for our viewers to enjoy.

If you would like to be a part of this programming to advertise your business, please contact Channel 4 by calling the city at 708-361-1800 and simply leave a message. A member of our volunteer committee will contact you to arrange a taping session. We look forward to hearing from you.

Attention Members!

Are you looking to spread the word about your business? Host a Business After Hours with the Palos Area Chamber of Commerce. For more information contact the chamber at info@palosareachamber.org or call 708-480-3025.

Congratulations Membership Raffle Winners!

First Place Prize a \$250 Visa Gift Card is awarded to Anquelle's Boutique.

Second Place Prize - Two Annual Dinner tickets are awarded to Village of Palos Park.

Third Place Prize - An Expo Vendor Table was awarded to WellBeingMD.

Congratulations! Thank you to all of those who participated in the raffle. Welcome 2012 Members!

PALOS HEIGHTS PROGRESS

visit www.palosareachamber.org



Palos Area Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 138
Palos Heights, IL 60463

Address Correction Requested

Calendar of Events and Important Dates:

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| February 7 | Chamber Board Meeting at 8:15 a.m. at First Midwest Bank; 12600 S. Harlem Avenue |
| February 14 | Chamber Luncheon 11:45 a.m. Topic: Annual State of the City Address by Mayor Robert Straz; Moraine Valley Community College, Building M, Business & Conference Center ; \$20.00 pre-registration. RSVP to info@palosareachamber.org |
| February 14 | Valentine's Day |
| March 6 | Chamber Board Meeting at 8:15 a.m. at First Midwest Bank; 12600 S. Harlem Avenue |
| March 8 | Chamber's Membership Madness Drive, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. at Trio, 11845 Southwest Hwy, Palos Heights |
| March 13 | Chamber Luncheon 11:45 a.m. |
| April 3 | Chamber Board Meeting at 8:15 a.m. at First Midwest Bank; 12600 S. Harlem Avenue |
| April 10 | Chamber Luncheon 11:45 a.m. at Shepard High School |
| May 5 | Palos Area Chamber Health and Community Expo, Location: Moraine Valley Church |

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