



# The C·H·A·M·B·E·R C·O·N·N·E·C·T·I·O·N

Volume 12, No. 4

Winter 2006

## The First on the 1st...Holiday Comedy Social 2006



Do you think of it as a celebration at the end of the year or a kick-off of the first of many holiday parties? However you spin it, the Carol Stream Chamber Holiday Comedy Social will be **the** place to be on December 1<sup>st</sup>. We like to think of it as "the first" (of your celebrations) on the 1<sup>st</sup>!

Beginning at 5:30pm at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites, this year's event will feature butler-served appetizers, pizza, pasta, Italian beef, salad and rich desserts. It will be a "Night of 10,000 Lights" as the tent will be aglow with lights and sparkling chamber members, gathering to socialize, network and celebrate the season.

A portion of this year's proceeds will be donated to Outreach Community Center and Carol Stream Christmas Sharing. A silent auction will afford attendees the opportunity to shop for the upcoming holidays

and support these worthy causes at the same time. The auction will be open until 8:45pm, when all will learn the winners of the highest bids on everything from Bulls tickets and overnight hotel stays to gift baskets and gift certificates.

Comedian Mike Ostrowski will entertain at 7:30 and he does know how to entertain, as he has been doing so in the Midwest for the past 25 years. What does Bozo's Circus, The Tonight Show, Trump Plaza Casinos, and Playboy magazine all have in common? You guessed it, Mike Ostrowski! He has performed and written for audiences as a freelance contributor and advice columnist and has even performed at a past Carol Stream Chamber event.

The cost is \$10 for members and \$15 for Non-members. Not ready to stop the celebrating? We'll move over to Fitzgerald's in the Restaurant. There are also special room rates available by asking for the "Carol Stream Chamber Rate" when making reservations by calling (630) 665-3000.

We would like to thank our Sponsors --  
HOLIDAY INN HOTEL & SUITES,  
Don Oppermann - Drink Sponsor  
NAMEPLATE & PANEL  
TECHNOLOGY, Lisa Savegnago -  
Entertainment Sponsor

## "Shop the Chamber"

As we prepare for the Holidays in both our business and home life, take a moment and see if you can fulfill your gift-giving needs with fellow Chamber members first.

Do you prepare special meals for your employees? Are you having family over to your house? Will you be exchanging gifts with anyone?

Your fellow Carol Stream Chamber members offer many services and products that may 'fit the bill' when it comes to Holiday gift shopping.



To make it easier for you, we've created a SHOP THE CHAMBER web page with examples of what you can purchase through chamber members. You can't get the wrong size if it's a gift certificate! We have many members who you could patronize at this time of year, and throughout the year, e.g. grocery stores, car dealers, printers, spas, realtors, computer sellers, wholesale stores, hotels, banks for gift cards, carpet care for sprucing up your home or office, and more. Click on MEMBERS and choose a category, or visit the SHOP THE CHAMBER link.

Shop the Chamber.....first...for all your needs to help strengthen the Chamber. Happy shopping!

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## Your Chamber Board

### President

**Jim Hodgdon** 630.980.4499

The HBC Group

### Vice President

**Dick O'Gorman** 630.232.1369

Foxfire Tavern & Grill

### Treasurer

**Mike Holmgren** 630.871.1177

Accounting Network, Inc.

### Secretary

**Ann Kennedy** 630.653.0755

Carol Stream Public Library

### Executive Director

**Luanne Triolo** 630.665.3325

### Board of Directors

**Mike Ashby** 630.668.8161

DuPage County Farm Bureau

**Patrick Bartel** 630.462.1395

Bartel's Auto Clinic

**Kent Dixon**

Poplar Creek Church

**John Gul** 630.690.7822

Fresh & Silk Flowers

**Ken Hannah** 630.652.2500

West Suburban Bank

**Lea Jackman** 630.681.0962

Western DuPage Special Rec. Assn.

**Darrel Malcom** 630.510.0044

Brust Preplanning

**Christie Ruffino** 630.221.8100

Total Staffing Solutions, Inc.

**Matthew Stanio** 630.784.8121

National City Bank

**Renee Vennero** 630.830.4700

Harris of Carol Stream

**John W. Wheeler, Jr** 630.203.2520

Oakbrook Financial Solutions

### Village Liaison

**Bob Glees** 630.871.6231

Village of Carol Stream

### Newsletter

**Luanne Triolo** 630.665.3325

## From the Desk of the Executive Director

Dear Chamber Members,

What time of year is busier than the approaching Holiday Season? If you are a retailer, your holiday sales can represent 1/5th to 1/3 of your annual sales and this makes it an important time of the year. Other businesses find their clients or customers less active **because of** the Holidays.



We are active in your chamber office preparing a plethora of events for 2007 (yes, already) and more immediately, the Holiday Comedy Social. We hope you'll take advantage of your membership and join us for this celebration. While it's not a structured networking event, it is a good opportunity to meet other members, get to know them, and start building relationships. They say we do business with those we 'know, like and trust.' Get to know someone you've never met before on December 1st.

Can you say EXPO? If you said Five Star Expo, you were talking about one of the most popular business-to-business expositions in the Chicagoland area. Look in this newsletter for testimonials from past exhibitors who know their stuff!

If your New Year's resolution includes building your business, we hope you will set aside a few hours each month for our events. Where else can you dine or socialize with energized folks who are very receptive to hearing who you are and what you do? If you take time -- let's say an hour and a half at a luncheon and an hour at an After Hours; less than 3 hours per month -- we think it will help you build those relationships, thus building your business.

Take some time to consider our community needs as many among us might be less fortunate. Through the Village Christmas Sharing program and other programs at Outreach Community Center, Humanitarian Service Project and more, you and your employees can reach out and help make someone's Christmas or holiday even more special. Search through our MEMBERS on our website or call our office.

On behalf of Nan Gudenkauf, our Office Manager, and myself, I would like to thank you for making our jobs pleasant and exciting. YOU make the Chamber what it is! The Carol Stream Chamber is a fantastic group of business professionals with spirit and determination. May this upcoming holiday season be a joyous one and may 2007 be filled with many magnificent experiences for you.

Luanne Triolo, Executive Director

**When you change  
the way you look  
at things, things  
change the way  
they look.**

*Let us hear from you*

**Carol Stream Chamber of Commerce**

150 S. Gary Ave ~ Carol Stream IL 60188

info@carolstreamchamber.com

Ph: 630.665.3325 Fax: 630.665.6965

www.carolstreamchamber.com

## 11th Annual Five Star Business Expo in February 2007

The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Five Star Business Expo is coming! Though it will be held February 16, 2007, it IS just around the corner. This business-to-business exposition boasts 120 exhibitors and usually sells out early. With five chambers participating, it brings an assortment of companies together under one roof at Indian Lakes Resort.

Why not act early and assure your spot as an exhibitor or a sponsor? There are definite advantages of being an Expo Sponsor or a SuperStar Sponsor at this popular event.

Registration forms have been mailed to all members of the following participating chambers: Addison, Bartlett, Bloomingdale, Carol Stream, and Glendale Heights. If you need a form, one can be downloaded on our website and the Five Star site, too, at [www.FiveStarExpo.com](http://www.FiveStarExpo.com).

Have you attended the Five Star? Do you **remember** the food? No one goes home hungry. New this year is a 9-10am Exhibitor Networking Hour in place of a keynote speaker. Haven't had enough networking?

Stay for the "Crash With Us" gathering at 3:30, open to both exhibitors and members of the five chambers.

To gear up for this year's Expo, don't miss the **Kick-Off** event on Thursday, January 25<sup>th</sup> at the Bloomingdale Golf Club. Held from 5:30-7:30pm, this After Hours is possibly the best After Hours of the year! Check your calendar and RSVP today for these programs brought to you by your chamber.

## Five Star Business Expo Testimonials

Let us share some testimonials from your fellow chamber members who have been past exhibitors for the Five Star Business Expo. Judge for yourself if this is for you and complete your registration forms before we fill up. [www.fivestarexpo.com](http://www.fivestarexpo.com)

"The Five Star Expo has been a wonderful business opportunity for Glendale Lakes. It is very rare that there is an occasion to showcase Glendale Lakes to so many local businesses that might be looking for a place to host a golf or banquet event. I look forward to the Five Star Expo every year!"

**Keith Knautz/Glendale Lakes Golf Club**

"We had a blast at last year's Five-Star Expo! We had two staff people there all day, working in shifts. I promised my actors free food and they came running - imagine that! I work a lot of trade shows during the year and the Five-

Star Expo is by far the most fun, between the imaginative displays, raffles, give-aways, free samples, etc. The traffic flow to my booth was excellent - busy and steady all day. I wound up getting two new clients as a direct result of the expo, as well as lots of new contacts." **Mary Heitert/THE MYSTERY SHOP**

"I had a great time at the Five Star Expo last February! I made contacts that resulted in nearly \$10,000 in sales, so far! It didn't happen overnight, but eventually it came. It was definitely worth the cost and time involved. I will participate again in 2007."

**Ern Kovacs /FASTSIGNS of Wheaton**



"This year will be my 11<sup>th</sup> year participating in the Five Star Expo. From the beginning, I knew that this would be an important marketing tool for me. There are 120 booths



*Ken Hannah and Joe Mistrata at the 5 Star.*

which I turned into between 120 and 240 contacts with whom to network. I have always tried to start my networking prior to the event and then by the time I follow up with the contacts I made, I have already developed a relationship. The event is such an upbeat positive experience that the relationships I develop only get stronger with each successive year...Each year, more and more people from the outside walk through the expo but even if they didn't, the approximately 240 people that spend the day there are more than enough to keep me busy! My experience at the Five Star Expo is not only a great opportunity for my business but a great day for me!"

**Jacki Unger / Sign\*A\*Rama**

## Getting Organized Helps Ease Holiday Stress

The holidays can be a joyous time of year. Getting together with friends and family, beautiful decorations and delicious food can warm our hearts. But very often the holidays can be hectic, chaotic and stressful. Preparing food, cleaning and decorating, sending out holiday greetings and attending dinner parties can often feel overwhelming. We have a tendency to take on too much and strive for the “perfect” holiday gathering while losing sight of what the holidays are really all about.

So this year take a moment to quietly reflect on how you would like to experience this holiday season. Write down your goals, whether they be spending time with your favorite relatives or avoiding the ones you don't care for, getting all of your shopping done three weeks in advance or not shopping at all, making all of your favorite family recipes or having your dinners catered. Whatever your goal, make sure that it is simple and attainable — your holidays will be more relaxing and enjoyable as a result.

As you consider your holiday goals, keep the following in mind:

- Remember, there is no such thing as the “perfect holiday”
- If you feel overwhelmed, break chores down into small, manageable tasks
- Mark dates & times on a calendar of when you are going to take action
- Expect the unexpected — plan your time and then double it
- Delegate
- Have a family meeting to delegate duties and write them down
- Ask kids to help bake & decorate cookies
- Ask your spouse to do some grocery shopping
- Assign everyone clean-up chores

- Have a family cleaning/organizing/decorating party
- This one is for all the women out there... Just say “NO”
- Lower your standards — have realistic expectations
- Unless you actually are Martha Stewart, don't try to be her
- Get “fancy” only to the point of enjoyment, if it becomes stressful, stop
- Don't force outgrown or tired old traditions
- List all the things you love about the holidays and make sure to do them
- List all the things you don't like about the holidays and eliminate them
- Choose the things you want to do instead of the things you should do
- Take time for yourself and treat yourself to something that relaxes you
- If at all possible, avoid spending time with people you don't like
- Set a budget and stick to it
- Eat well, exercise and get plenty of rest
- Take a moment and feel grateful for how blessed you are
- BREATHE... and remember what the holidays are about.
- Enjoy!



*Written by chamber member and professional organizer, Linette George, Get Organized by George, Inc.*

*...from the Chamber Office*



Wishing you very Happy Holidays!  
 May the upcoming New Year  
 be prosperous and healthy

for all!

*Quinn & Jan*



## Carol Stream Chamber of Commerce — Upcoming Events

### December

12/1/2006

**Holiday Comedy Social** Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites/Carol Stream, 150 S. Gary, Carol Stream  
**5:30-9:00 PM** \$10 / Members \$15/Visitors

"Night of 10,000 Lights" - Celebrate the year with fellow chamber members, as comedian Mike Ostrowski entertains, and we enjoy delicious food and refreshments. Portion of Silent Auction proceeds to benefit Christmas Sharing and Outreach Community Center.



#### SHOP THE CHAMBER



**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!**



### January

1/10/2007

**Monthly Luncheon** Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites/Carol Stream, 150 S. Gary, Carol Stream

**11:30 AM-1:00 PM** \$20 / Members if RSVP in advance: \$25 at the door

"Becoming More Influential" Barbara Dwyer/Benedictine College

1/18/2007

**Business After Hours** Staples, 525 W. Army Trail Rd, Bloomingdale

**5:30-7:30 PM** FREE —bring business cards!

1/25/2007

**Five Star Expo Kick-Off** Bloomingdale Golf Club, 181 Glen Ellyn Road, Bloomingdale

**5:30-7:30 PM** FREE Members only—5 chamber event. Bring many business cards.

1/31/2007

**Women In Business Wine Tasting** Hampton Inn, 205 W. North Avenue, Carol Stream

### February

2/7/2007

**Multi-Chamber Luncheon** Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites/Carol Stream, 150 S. Gary, Carol Stream

**11:30 AM-1:00 PM** \$20 / Members if RSVP in advance: \$25 at the door

"Are You Ready For a Disaster? - Questions Any Business Should Ask" Maureen McHugh/DPC Health

2/16/2007

**Five Star Business Expo** Indian Lakes Resort, 250 W. Schick Road, Bloomingdale

**10:00 AM - 3:00 PM** Business-to-Business Expo - 120 Exhibitors . FREE admission. Food tasting.

2/22/2007

**Business After Hours** Cody's, 2330 N. Main St, Wheaton (on Schmale across from Home Depot)

**5:30-7:30 PM** FREE! Steve and Mary Ahart and Bill Cody Ahart welcome us -- bring business cards!



**Your attitude ...REFLECTS  
 your past, DESCRIBES your  
 present and PREDICTS your  
 future.**

**Lee J. Colan**

## Recognizing Our Renewing Members

We thank the following loyal members for renewing their memberships:

- ★ AAMCO Transmission
- ★ Accurate Personnel Services
- ★ Ace Hardware
- ★ Advantage National Bank
- ★ Affordable Office Interiors
- ★ Airgas North Central
- ★ Amari & Locallo, Law Offices of
- ★ American Chartered Bank
- ★ Amlings Interior Landscape
- ★ Belmont Village
- ★ Benefits Plus Inc.
- ★ Bloomingdale Township
- ★ Carol Stream Rotary Club
- ★ Chappel's Heating & Cooling
- ★ COD Business & Professional Institute
- ★ COM2 Computers and Tech., Inc.
- ★ Community Bank Wtn-G.E.
- ★ Community Consolidated School District 93
- ★ Computer Services & Networking, Inc.
- ★ Crown Trophy & Awards
- ★ Culver's Frozen Custard and Butter Burgers
- ★ Curves
- ★ Custom Carpet Prof. Cleaning & Dyeing, Inc.
- ★ Designer's Showcase Kitchens & Baths, Inc.
- ★ Dinner By Design
- ★ DuPage County Area Project
- ★ Edward Jones-Daniel Hitzeman
- ★ Fen Advertising
- ★ Flood Brothers Disposal /Recycling Services
- ★ Glenbard North High School
- ★ Greenway Instant Printing
- ★ Harris Bank of Bartlett
- ★ L.B. Herbst & Associates
- ★ Hurst Consulting
- ★ Ingram Micro
- ★ Invensys Appliance Controls
- ★ Investors Real Estate
- ★ Klein Creek Golf Club
- ★ Knight Security, Inc.
- ★ Molenhouse Enterprises, Inc
- ★ The Mystery Shop
- ★ Nameplate & Panel Technology
- ★ Outreach Community Center
- ★ PartyLite Worldwide
- ★ Porte Brown LLC
- ★ Preserve at C.S. Apartments
- ★ Rainbow Academy
- ★ RE/MAX - Jill Rudman
- ★ Sam's Club
- ★ Schnitzel Platz Restaurant
- ★ Service Stamping Illinois Inc.
- ★ Sir Speedy Printing
- ★ SportClips
- ★ St. Andrews Golf Club
- ★ Temperature Engineering
- ★ The Air Conditioning & Heating Company
- ★ Total Staffing Solutions, Inc.
- ★ Tri-County Woman's Paper
- ★ UPS Supply Chain Solutions
- ★ Village Tavern & Grill
- ★ Waste Management
- ★ West Suburban Bank
- ★ Windsor Park Manor

# THANK YOU!

### Carol Stream Chamber RSVP Policy

Over the years, the chamber has been very flexible with luncheons and RSVPs to events. Typically, we have many no-shows and many walk-ins at each monthly luncheon. One month twenty members who RSVP'd didn't show. This makes it very tough on the kitchen, who does it's best to provide for everyone, with some extras allowed. But planning for that on a regular basis can get expensive.

The Board has come to a decision and voted on a new policy and will enforce an existing policy. Beginning at the June luncheon, the cost to make a reservation up until 5:00pm the night before will be \$20. Walk-ins will cost \$25. On the other hand, someone who has made a reservation and does not show will be invoiced for \$15.

We are dedicated to providing events that are valuable to you as you build your businesses. We hope you understand our purpose and support it.

*(reprinted from the June 2006 newsletter)*



## Paparazzi "Picks" 2006



(starting top left) ● Golfers line-up, getting ready to tee-off at the 17th Annual Golf Classic at Klein Creek last July. ● "Dine with the Director" found community and chamber members Luanne Triolo, Chuck Ranweiler, John Marciniak, Ann Kennedy, Nan Gudenkauf, Renee Vennero gathering at local eateries such as Jimmy John's during Chamber week September 2006. ● Heli Wiener, Cindy Blaski and Jacki Unger kick off the Five Star Business Expo last January. ● Carol Stream Animal Hospital's Drs. Ciribassi and staff are joined by four-legged 'friends' at the Business-Community Expo in June. ● Chris Schmidt, Renee Vennero and Carol Mitchell enjoy themselves at the Women in Business Tea at the Historic Farmhouse in July. ● It's Ribbon Cutting time at Carol Stream Christian Academy with Principal James Ward. ● Brian Flood and Jim Spiech fight it to the bitter end as Chamber President Jim Hodgdon looks on at the St. Patty's Day Reverse Raffle. ● The roll of the dice determined the table number for these three networking chamber members - Joe Kozlowski, Patrick Clifford and Oliver Fischlewitz - at this luncheon. ● At the Annual Meeting in April, 10-year members are represented by: John Pankau, Ann Kennedy, Kent Dixon, Matte Allman, Bob O'Connor, John Callan, Jim Spiech, Patrick Clifford, Linda Geist and Dale Richardson.

**CAROL STREAM CHAMBER MEMBERS - WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION AND MEMBERSHIP IN 2006!**

## New Chamber Members

Please join us in welcoming the following new members since September 2006:

**Affordable Health & Life**  
235 Oakwood Lane  
Bloomington 60108  
**Lori Demos**  
(630) 893-2614  
Insurance

**American Family Insurance**  
380 S. Schmale Rd, Suite 180  
Carol Stream 60188  
**Jerry Brenner**  
(630) 690-0020  
Insurance

**Bartel's Classic Auto Clinic II**  
2015 Wiesbrook Dr.  
Oswego 60543  
**Pat Bartel**  
(630) 897-4217  
Auto Repair

**Baskin Robbins**  
740 Army Trail Rd.  
Carol Stream 60188  
**Robert Szwan**  
(630) 213-1990  
Retail - Ice Cream

**Charles Rutenberg Realty**  
1 N 158 Ellis Avenue  
Carol Stream 60188  
**Jo Ellen Gisler**  
(630) 913-8361  
Real Estate Agents

**Fire Guy Homes, LLC**  
PO Box 1033  
Montgomery 60538  
**Karl Tallas**  
(708) 257-3767  
Real Estate Agents

**Genoa Pizza**  
4538 Rt. 71  
Oswego 60543  
**Anthony Pizzo**  
(630) 649-3080  
Restaurants & Bars

**Humanitarian Service Project**  
465 Randy Road  
Carol Stream 60188  
**Hester Bury**  
(630) 221-8340  
Community Organizations

**LaserStar Productions**  
254 Tubeway Dr.  
Carol Stream 60188  
**Bob McGouey**  
(630) 682-4730  
Mail Services/Shipping

**OMI**  
245 Kuhn Road  
Carol Stream 60188  
**Michael Burnett**  
(630) 653-5499  
Water Treatment

**Pheasant Run Resort & Spa**  
4051 E. Main St.  
St. Charles 60174  
**Michelle Mazza**  
(630) 584-6300  
Resorts

**UPS**  
2055 Army Trail Rd.  
Addison 60101  
**Dan Vallaro**  
(630) 628-7595  
Mail Services/Shipping

**World Ventures**  
566 Redhill Trail #1B  
Carol Stream 60188  
**Kevin Hopkins**  
630-957-7498  
Travel Agencies



## BUSINESSES OF THE MONTH

### SEPTEMBER

Carol Stream Park District  
Harris of Carol Stream  
National City Bank  
Jubilee Furniture

### NOVEMBER

Different Drummer  
Tend 2 Corporation  
West Suburban Bank  
Get Away with Murder

At each monthly luncheon, four attending members will be 'picked' from a drum of business cards. It could happen to you!



## SNIPPETS... ..

... .. The 2007-2008 **Business-Community Directory** will go out in Spring. Soon you will receive a mailing. Be sure to keep us updated on all your contact information... ..

... At a convention this year **Tend 2 Corporation** was honored with two medals and two plaques. The parent company, Ecoquest international, has 860,000 registered business owners world wide and Tend 2 ranked 7th & 8th in retailing. They are proudly displaying all the products and awards in their Arlington Heights

showroom... .. If you enjoyed "**Accelerated Networking**" last summer -- the 30-second one-on-one networking -- you'll be happy to hear of its return at our March 7th luncheon... .. Congrats to **John Wheeler** who was chosen as one of the top 100 financial planners in the country!... .. INCOMING: **Reverse Raffle** on March 15th and **Golf Outing** on July 24th. ... .. Congratulations to **Milli Jones** who is celebrating 25 years with College of DuPage!! ... .. If you are shopping at **Stratford**, consider taking your receipts to the service desk, benefiting our local schools in their "Shop Stratford For Schools" program... ..**Happy Holidays!**