



Gladstone Park Chamber of Commerce

NEWSLETTER

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www.gladstonechamber.com

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January 2010

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Jan. 6 Board of Directors Meeting at **Associated Bank**, 8:15 a.m.
Planning Board Meeting
- Jan. 8 Membership Meeting at **Gladstone Chiropractic**, **5316 N Milwaukee, 8:00 a.m.**
- Jan. 20 Installation Banquet at **The Lido 5:30 p.m.**
- Jan. 27 Board of Directors Meeting
- Feb. 5 Regular Membership Meeting

JANUARY MEETING

Please join us at the Regular Membership Meeting of the **Gladstone Park Chamber of Commerce**, Friday, January 8th, 2009. This month's meeting will take place at **Gladstone Chiropractic Group**, 5316 N. Milwaukee Ave. at 8:00 am. Our guest speaker for January's meeting will be **Nisha Floyd, Small Business Development Director for Alliance for Illinois Manufacturing and Norbic**. She will discuss Small Business Grants, Loans, Tax Incentives and technical services. All of these resources are **FREE** to small and mid-size businesses in the Chicagoland area. The presentation will review ways small business can remain competitive in this economy.

2010 PLANNING BOARD MEETING

The **Gladstone Park Chamber of Commerce** Planning Board meeting will take place on **Wednesday January 6th, 2010** immediately following the Board meeting (8:45 am) at **Associated Bank**, 5200 N. Central Ave. second floor. Everyone and their fund raising ideas are welcome to attend. This year the chamber needs your ideas more than ever, if you cannot attend, send your ideas to Gail at execdir@gladstoneparkchamber.com.

2010 INSTALLATION BANQUET

The **Gladstone Park Chamber of Commerce** is pleased to announce its Annual Installation Banquet will be on **Wednesday January 20th, 2010**, at **The Lido**, 5504 N Milwaukee Ave. Cocktails will begin at 5:30 pm and dinner at 6:30 pm. Price is still \$35.00 per person with a cash bar. Tables of 8 are available. Invitations will be mailed. Place reservations with Gail at (773) 775-8871. **Raffles Prizes are needed for the Installation Banquet, please contact the chamber office.**



NETWORKING HOLIDAY PARTY AT SMOKEY'S BBQ

The **Gladstone Park Chamber of Commerce** would like to thank **Smokey's BBQ** (Steve, Kathy ,Cindy & Frank) for hosting the Chamber's Holiday Party on Dec. 17th. The guests enjoyed drinks and a wonderful spread from smoked salmon to homemade bread pudding while spreading holiday cheer. Steve took chamber members on a tour of the kitchen which included a very interesting view of his "meat smoker". Thanks to all who attended to make this a memorable holiday event. Visit our website to view pictures from this event: www.gladstoneparkchamber.com

NORTHWEST SIDE BUSINESS CARD DIRECTORY

The **Gladstone Park Chamber of Commerce**, in conjunction with the Edgebrook Chamber, is launching **the Northwest Side Business Card Directory**. This will be an effective and inexpensive way to promote your business.

Please see flyer in this newsletter for more details.

BUSINESS OF THE MONTH

A-American Self Storage: The Place to Store



I would like to introduce **A-American Self Storage** a family owned and operated company for all your storage needs from business to household. With more than 100 locations in California, Hawaii, Illinois, and Nevada, A-American has grown to be the 9th largest self storage company in the country. Our units range from a smaller 5X5 to a larger 15X20 for household and business needs. We also sell a variety of packing supplies from boxes to moving kits. We are located at 5366 N. Northwest Hwy in Chicago. We are open for business 7 days a week from 9am to 6pm. With your rental we can design a specific discount to fulfill all your storage needs. Our facility is very secure and clean. As a customer we will provide you with climate controlled units, state of the art 24 hr digital surveillance, electronic gate access from 6am-8:45pm 7 days a week, and for your convenience we will provide you with a 14ft move-in truck with driver to ensure your belongings get there safely. Please stop by and visit, we will be more than happy to show you around. For more information, Call 773-775-7222 or visit www.aamericanselfstorage.com

16th District Police Host a Business Forum on Scams

Common forms of mail fraud include work-at-home offers and phony foreign lotteries, according to a U.S. Postal Service inspector who spoke at a recent crime prevention seminar for businesses at the 16th District Police Station, 5151 N. Milwaukee Ave.

Inspector Mike Carroll said that classified ads which promise to pay money in exchange for mailing letters from one's home are often too good to be true. He said that victims are mailed a package with envelopes, letters and a check or money order which they are instructed to deposit in their bank account as long as they agree to wire a percentage of it to someone else. Carroll said that by the time the victims learn that the check or money order was counterfeit, it is too late to retrieve the cash which was wire transferred. The amount on the check or money order is then deducted from the victim's bank account. Another common scam involves the mailing of letters and phony checks which tell recipients that they have won a foreign lottery or sweepstakes, according to Carroll. Victims are told to deposit the check, which covers only a portion of the winnings, and that they need to wire transfer funds for the taxes before the remainder of the winnings will be sent. Fliers from the Illinois Department on Aging were distributed at the meeting encouraging banks to train their employees to recognize situations in which customers are withdrawing or transferring funds for unusual situations. The flier recommends that the teller ask the customer to talk to a bank security agent or a supervisor. Also at the meeting, Jerry Dolan, a senior special agent with the National Insurance Crime Bureau warned businesses about con artists who make false claims of injury in order to collect from a store's liability insurance. Dolan said that in order to weed out the phony claims of injury from real ones, store managers should file an accident report with police and ask the injured person to wait until officers arrive. Dolan said that if the injury is a fake, the con artist may leave before police arrive, possibly because he or she is using a false name.

Legislative Corner

By the time you read this we may or may not have experienced a government takeover of our healthcare. At the time of this writing, the Senate came off of a 1:00a.m. vote to end the debate on healthcare. Lowering cost and increasing quality of care should have been the goal, not a massive expansion of federal government and increasing taxes. Numerous polls show a majority of Americans agree.

Let's review 2009. We've had the Cap & Trade Bill that was rammed through Congress but stalled due to the cost & negative impact on jobs. . . turns out that man-made global warming is a hoax based on the leaked emails that disclosed the scam. The Card Check Bill that takes away the right to a secret ballot. Hundreds of billions in TARP funds that were paid out to subsidize the surge of foreclosures, but the foreclosures continue. The bailouts for the banks, Wall Street, GM that needed to be rushed in order to "cap unemployment at 9%", we're now well over 10% with no relief in sight. The federal budget passed giving most agencies a 10% increase rather than cuts. On the state level, we have the most dangerous terrorists in the world moving to Illinois, in the name of job creation & for federal tax dollars. Rather than try to balance the budget, the state added more programs & borrowed more money. Cook County got the votes they needed to rescind the 1% tax increase but they only voted to cut the increase in half. Turns out the city left too much money on the table in the parking meter deal. Chicago won't let Walmart build in the city even though it would provide jobs and development.

The question that begs to be asked is this, how did it ever get like this? Government is supposed to work for the people but that has completely been turned around. Too many people have been sitting on their hands and they feel helpless in trying to make changes. Folks, it's time to get up and do something. America is going bankrupt and it's time to say enough is enough. Contact your elected officials let them know that you prefer capitalism over socialism. Remind them that they work for you and that you're considering firing them. It's not too late but it's getting close.

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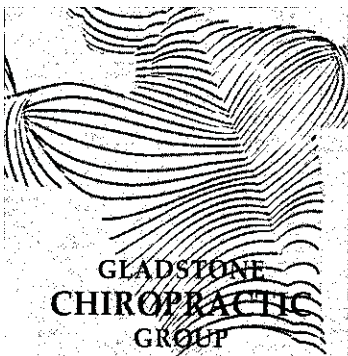
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Adam Biernat (773) 467-2850

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The Gladstone Park Chamber of Commerce wishes to thank the businesses below and on page 3 for supporting the publication of this newsletter. We encourage our readers to support them. For information on how your business can be listed in our newsletter, please call us (773/775-8871).

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