

Connections



4th Quarter 2024




COOKIE WALK
NOVEMBER 16

SNACK WITH SANTA & TREE LIGHTING
DECEMBER 7

ANNUAL DINNER DANCE
DECEMBER 13

Welcome to our Newest Members!

Help us welcome our newest members: *Work of Heart Studios- Cari Smolarczyk, *Witch-O-Rama LLC-Erica Sanchez Mascio, *Paychex- Pay Hedges, *Over the Rainbow-Anna Handzel, *Nothing Bundt Cakes-Oak Lawn- Jeffery Reynolds, *My Sweet Paperie- Lissete Zavala, *Moretti's Ristorante & Pizzeria- Tim Borden, *Midwest Express Clinic- Ashley Perk, *Huipil Boutique- Sonia Valdes, *Haunted Trails Family Entertainment Center- Brianna Ortiz, *Frank Arroyo Media LLC- Frank Arroyo, *CCCL LLC DBA 100 'N Out Wood Fired Pizza- Krystina Segura, *Broke Bestie Boutique= Jessica Ramirez, *Borinken Cakes LLC- Rachel Diaz, * 51st Ward Books- Nina Sanchez. We Welcome you and can not wait for an awesome year!

Winter Banners available Now!

Winter banners will be displayed on Archer Ave & 63rd street to bring light and joy to our community. This is a great opportunity to market your business! For banner registration, please visit www.MidwayChamber.org or scan the QR Code below.



Benefits of Joining the Chamber

1. Business Promotions & Publicity
2. Acquire Customer Referrals & Networking Opportunities!
3. Business Education, Support & Advocacy!
4. Add Influence in your Community

If you would like to join the chamber or see more benefits of joining, scan the QR Code or go to our website:

www.MidwayChamber.org



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Promoting your business starts with you

By Tim Hadac, Managing Editor, Southwest Chicago Post

As a longtime news reporter and publicist, I want to briefly offer a few observations and suggestions for all small-business owners in the greater Midway area.

They are essentially ideas relating to growing your business by promoting your business.

Mostly, they are not much more than common sense. Some of them are a reiteration of what I wrote in this newsletter a year ago. (And that column is posted at swchicagopost.com) But they are worth considering as we close the door on 2024 and enter a new and potentially prosperous 2025.

- Make friends and allies with other business owners—and do it on a one-to-one, face-to-face basis when possible.

Really, think about where we are: Chicago. Work your block, work the business strip like a friendly Chicago precinct captain. You may smile at that bit of advice, but the minute you start walking the block and making connections with a smile, you put yourself ahead of most of your competitors. In an increasingly impersonal world, too many businesses these days hide behind text messages and emails.

And of course, join and get active with the Midway Chamber of Commerce. Join an MCC committee. Attend MCC meetings, work the room (again, like a friendly precinct captain), introduce yourself to other business owners. Whatever you do, don't attend MCC meetings and be a spectator. Be a participant.

- Make friends and allies with non-profits in your service area. Reach out to local schools, PTAs/PTOs, Scout troops, churches, Little Leagues, veterans' posts, senior citizen clubs and other organizations. Businesses often hesitate to do this because non-profits (understandably) always are looking for donations. But don't let that stop you from introducing yourself.

- Advertise, advertise, advertise. Having a pretty sign, an open door and a smile doesn't mean much if folks don't know about you. I've lost count of how many Southwest Side business owners I've met over the years who were absolutely convinced that their business was lightning in a bottle and all they had to do was open up in the morning and the world would beat a path to their door. But they never advertised in their local newspaper, church bulletins, school and club newsletters, and so forth. So it was out of sight, out of mind, out of business.

I've also lost count of how many times I've heard business owners say, "I tried to advertise once, but it didn't work." What those guys need to know is, one big key to advertising is frequency. People learn through repetition. Think about it. There's a reason all of us can sing "♪ 588-2300, Empire ♪" Years of steady, consistent advertising ingrained that cheerful jingle in the minds of millions of people. And yes, it cost a lot of money. But it turned out to be an extremely wise investment, because that advertising was instrumental in Empire's growth from a small, family-owned business on North Avenue to a big, successful national corporation.

- Build partnerships with people who influence public opinion. It may be a local news columnist or editor—or it may be a person who posts frequently on social media and has a following. Some of those influencers may be your customers. Encourage them to speak up for you on Facebook, Instagram, X, NextDoor and other platforms. They can drive business your way.

- Finally, treat promoting your business as a "must"—something you must plan for, set goals and timelines for, and carve out time for. That's easier said than done when you're up to your eyeballs in the day-to-day operation of your business, I understand. But if you want your customers to learn to sing your company's name and phone number—to use the Empire example—you have to sing your own song first. Promoting your business starts with you.

Here's to a profitable 2025.

Tim Hadac is co-founder and managing editor of the Southwest Chicago Post. Launched from scratch in 2012, the SWCP today is one of the city's largest online neighborhood news services, with more than 22,000 Facebook followers and more than 3.5 million cumulative hits on its website.

Annual Dinner Dance

With this beautiful holiday season up on, the Midway Chamber of Commerce likes to take this as an opportunity to recognize the achievements of our local heroes. We present awards for different categories: Firefighter of the Year, Police officer of the Year & Teacher of the Year. These brave men and women have shown dedication, innovation and a strong commitment to improving our community. Nominations for teacher of the year are now live on our website. New this year, we will be adding an additional award honoring a local community member.

Aside from celebrating successes, this event is also a time for networking and building connections. It's an opportunity for members of our community to come together, meet new people, and strengthen existing relationships. We believe that collaboration and support within our community is vital to its growth and prosperity.

In addition to the awards and recognition, we also have live entertainment planned for the night. This year we will have live music inspired by the Motown era, adding to the lively and festive atmosphere. We also have a photo booth, games and prizes, making it a night to remember.

This annual dinner is not only a celebration of achievements, but also serves as a reminder of the importance of community involvement and support. It's a chance for us to come together and show our appreciation for one another.

So mark your calendars and join us for an unforgettable evening as we toast to our successes and look forward to an even brighter future for our community. Let's continue to work together towards building a stronger, more prosperous community. See you at the annual dinner! Join us in celebrating our amazing community at this year's annual dinner!

Congratulations again to last years winners



Make your voice heard!

We encourage all chamber members to take an active role in shaping the future of our organization by nominating and voting for individuals who will best represent your interests and contribute to the growth and success of our community.

We invite all members to attend this important meeting and participate in discussions on initiatives that will benefit our local businesses and community as a whole. Your input and feedback are crucial in guiding our actions and decisions.

Celebrate Our Businesses of the Month

October Business of the Month **Graphik Works**

We at Graphik Works, started in 1999 in Chicago's Northside and now in Garfield Ridge and since then we have strived to provide you with the highest quality print service, fast, and perfect every time. Whether it's a simple business card or a huge 10x10 banner, you can count on us to get you your design perfect and to your expectations with excellent print quality every time.

As a Thank you to the community we are offering 10 discount when you place your first order - valid on 1 item per customer.

Graphikworks- 6302 S Archer Ave



November Business of the Month **Lawlor's Bar**

Lawlor's Bar opened its doors on November 17th 2000. Our mission was to be a friendly neighborhood hang out, where you were likely to know someone in there at any given time. We are family owned and operated, as well as long time residents of Garfield Ridge.

This is a great place to catch a game or celebrate a special occasion!

Stop in for FREE food during Bears games or our various drink specials!



December Business of the Month **Wantuck Comfort Solutions**

Since 1971, Wantuck Comfort Solutions has been dedicated to providing top-notch comfort and climate control solutions tailored to meet your needs. With a focus on innovative technology and exceptional customer service, we specialize in creating comfortable and efficient environments for homes and businesses alike. Our team of skilled professionals ensures that every project is handled with precision and care, delivering reliable and sustainable solutions for your comfort needs. Trust Wantuck Comfort Solutions to enhance your space with quality and expertise.



Event Recap

We are always thrilled to see the community come together for our events, whether it's our annual Patriots Day parade or our Back to School event. It truly warms our hearts to see people of all ages coming out to support and celebrate together.

Our sponsors play a huge role in making these events possible. Their generous contributions allow us to provide fun activities, entertainment, and refreshments for everyone who attends. We cannot thank them enough for their continued support and commitment to our community.

And of course, none of this would be possible without the dedicated volunteers who help plan and coordinate these events. They give countless hours of their time and energy to ensure that everything runs smoothly and that everyone has a great time. We are grateful for their hard work and dedication.



Support the Businesses That Support our Community!

Membership Update



SCAN ME

Send them our way!

MCC

2024 has been our biggest year yet! We are at an all time high-with over 250 members. We love to have our community working together so closely! If you know a business that would benefit from joining us please reach our or send them to MidwayChamber.org/Join

Business of the Month

January Timeless Tattoos
February: Ciao Ragazzi
March A-Ok Auto Body Inc.
April Bookkeeping By Design
May City Block Candles
June Mutts of the Midway
July: Wintrust Sports Complex
August: College Hunks
September: Yo Soy Vella Candles



Upcoming Events



Sweetheart Comedy Jam- If you're a fan of comedy and live performances, then you definitely don't want to miss out on this event at the European Chalet on Oct. 4th. But with the increasing popularity of comedy shows and events, tickets always sell out quickly.

Halloween Events- Join us for our annual parade on Archer Ave, happening at 10 am this year Oct. 26! This event has become a beloved tradition in our community, and we can't wait to see everyone come out to celebrate together. But this year, we have an exciting new addition to the parade - a decorating contest! We are inviting all of our neighbors to join us in decorating their bikes, UTVs, or golf carts to add some extra fun and creativity to the parade. So get those decorations ready and let your imagination run wild!

Following the parade, we will continue the festivities with our 2nd Annual Day of the Dead celebration at Wentworth Park.

Pub Crawl- This year's event will take place on November 9th from 6pm to 10pm. The meeting point is at Guides where you will also be able to pick up your t-shirt for the pub crawl. Shout out to Timeless Tattoo for creating the design for our annual Pub Crawl. For just 60, you can enjoy beer during the pub crawl. If mixed drinks are more your style, it's only 70 for mixed drinks. And if you just want to join in on the fun and get a commemorative t-shirt, it's only 20. So grab your friends and come thirsty! Check out our website for all the details.

Cookie Walk - Our 4th annual Cookie Walk will take place in November. Walk down Archer Ave, stopping at several business locations, collect all your cookies and get a jump on your Christmas shopping with tons of local vendors! Join us for our 4th annual Cookie Walk, happening on November 16th! This event is a fun and delicious way to get into the holiday spirit while supporting local businesses and vendors.

Snack with Santa- The annual Snack with Santa is a long-standing tradition that takes place on the first Saturday of December. This event is beloved by children and families, bringing joy and excitement to the holiday season.

As part of our commitment to the community, this event is free for all children. We believe that every child should have access to festive experiences during the holidays.

To participate in the Christmas celebration, stop by one of our Chamber member locations to get your free tickets! These businesses are proud supporters of this event and will be happy to provide you with tickets for your family.

New this year is the vendor market. Reserve your spot today on our website. Space is limited, so hurry.





CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING - 1ST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH, EXCEPT JAN & JULY

[Click here for the full calendar](#)



October

Sweetheart Comedy Show,
Halloween Parade,
Day of the Dead Celebration



November

Pub Crawl,
Cookie Walk



December

Snack with Santa,
Annual Dinner Dance

Store Front Activation in full effect!

We would like to take the time to extend a huge thank you to the City of Chicago and Mayor Brady for supporting the Store Front Activation in our neighborhood. We are proud to be bringing new stores to buildings that have been empty for some time. We are launching our third Storefront Activation this upcoming quarter.

We are proud that our Biz Hub is almost ready for our members to use! Be sure to stay tuned on our website for upcoming opportunities and to follow our grand openings!



SMALL BUSINESS STOREFRONT ACTIVATION PROGRAM

15 community and economic development organizations have been awarded grants under the program!



Chicago.gov/BACPRRecoveryPlan



Check The Website For
Upcoming Events And
Current Up To Date Details
midwaychamber.org

Olympic Champion- Kennedy Blades Parade Grand Marshall



Kennedy Blades, a resident of our community and an Olympian champion, truly embodies the spirit of determination, hard work, and perseverance. As we celebrate Halloween this year with our annual parade, it is an honor to have Kennedy as our grand marshal. Celebrating a local resident who has achieved such an incredible accomplishment on the world stage is truly special. Not only has Kennedy made us proud by representing our country at the Olympics, but she also serves as a role model for aspiring athletes in our community. Kennedy fits that mold perfectly and we are so grateful that she will be joining us.

Neighborhood Development

As a small business, we understand the importance of community and supporting each other. That's why we take great pride in being able to participate in local Grand Openings and celebrate the success of our fellow businesses. It's a joy to see our community grow and thrive, and we are grateful for the opportunity to be a part of it. But our support for local businesses doesn't stop at Grand Openings. We are always here to support and promote our fellow small businesses in any way we can. From sharing their events on social media to collaborating on projects, we love finding ways to work together and uplift each other. Be sure to check out our social media to follow these exciting events.



Come out & join our community

To keep our community involved & successful we need you! Throughout the year we have many sponsorship and volunteer opportunities around our neighborhood.

Volunteers are what make our events so successful. Volunteer opportunities are available YEAR ROUND.

Save the date!!

** Halloween Events-10/26--Pub Crawl-11/9
Cookie Walk-11/16-Snack with
Santa-12/7- Dinner Dance-12/13



Contact Us

Director@MidwayChamber.org
773-767-0014



ROAD TO RECOVERY PLAN
CITY OF CHICAGO

If there is any information you'd like to see included in the newsletter or the website, Please reach out to director@midwaychamber.org