

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION:
February 22, 2007

LOCAL CHAMBERS GEARING UP FOR REPEAT OF BUSINESS TO BUSINESS SUCCESS

Last September, an overwhelming number of local businesses packed the Tinley Park Convention Center for an event called Business to Business. Business to Business is an opportunity for local businesses to exhibit their products and services, network throughout the day, and attend seminars that help them succeed.

“Last year, this concept was remarkably well-received by our Southland business community. We had 183 businesses exhibit and served over 400 people breakfast and lunch. This year, we’ve made room for 224 booths, changed the format of breakfast and will keep the floor open for lunch.” says Rebecca Palumbo of Rollins Palumbo Creative. Ms. Palumbo and Vivette Payne, Avery Payne Group are the driving forces behind Business To Business. Payne stated, “The breakout sessions were a vital part of last year’s success. This year we are offering opportunities to learn “How To Manage Your Cash Flow” and “Marketing Your Business.”

Now, the committee of over 20 local chambers is designing Business To Business 07, scheduled for Tuesday, September 18th from 9 am to 3 pm at the Tinley Park Convention Center. Last year’s exhibitors were very enthusiastic about Business to Business and had a great deal to say about how it benefited them.

Frank Kurzawa, Community Bank President, Citizens Bank said, “The Business to Business Expo was one of the best expos I have ever attended and I have been doing this type of marketing/networking for over 25 years. Everyone present knew why they were there. I look forward to this year's event.”

“I participated in the very first Business to Business Expo in 2006 with totally positive responses. I received tons of leads for Pampered Chef shows and developed customers that I am still serving to this day. The Business to Business Expo is a WONDERFUL way to "mass advertise" your business at a very nominal fee. Great exposure! Great FUN!”, said Judy Green, Independent Consultant with The Pampered Chef.

Andrea Ramirez-Justin, Assistant Vice President with First National Bank said, "First National Bank participated in the 2006 Business to Business Expo and received a high volume of new business from this event. The event allowed other business owners and prospective area business owners to see what the Chicago Southland can offer then in a variety of ways. The cost of the event was extremely affordable and allowed businesses who otherwise would not be able to participate in such a large event obtain the exposure they deserve. The marketing efforts were tremendous and the organization of the event was fabulous. If you are looking for an event to promote your business or a special service of your business, this is the event for you."

Mary Schmidt, Executive Director of the Alsip Chamber of Commerce stated, "All our exhibitors told us that this event was great. They liked the fact that they made lots of business contacts, not only from those who walked thru, but from the other exhibitors. Where else can you make so many "sales calls" in such a short time? They also thought that the price was reasonable, encouraged them to give it a try, and none of our people were disappointed."

Roseann Bautista, Executive Director of the Bridgeview Chamber of Commerce & Industry, agreed. "Our Member participants found it to be a great way to reach out and make new contacts, prospective and potential customers, in a business-focused and formatted atmosphere. The breakout sessions and networking luncheon were very informative and structured, while the after-hour reception let them network and mingle in a relaxed setting. A great way to end the day!"

Bernadette Shanahan-Haas, Executive Director of the Tinley Park Chamber of Commerce, added, "The Business to Business Expo allows us to continue building the Southland as a regional force for business."

Business to Business increases awareness of all the products and services available right here in the south and southwest suburbs. Palumbo said, "I am continually amazed at the depth, variety and quality of innovative companies right here in the Southland. We want businesses to do business with our local companies, which helps our region with employment, economic growth and ultimately, our quality of life."

This year, www.BtoBExpo.com, donated by Loadsys Consulting of Orland Park, will make registration much easier and offer opportunities to sponsor facets of

the event, such as the new Café B to B, an exhibitor-only area where coffee, tea and water will be available throughout the day.

Exhibiting businesses will pay only \$175 until July 15th for space, breakfast, lunch, and an exhibitor-only reception, registering through their local chambers. After July 15th, businesses will pay \$195.

“Mark your calendar to be part of this event. The networking opportunities are unparalleled,” says Payne. Attending the event for on-the-floor networking is free with a business card. An informal networking breakfast is \$15 and lunch, featuring Covered Bridges Business Theatre, is \$25.

The event is exclusively sponsored by the Daily Southtown and Star newspapers.

For more information about Business To Business on Tuesday, September 18 at the Tinley Park Convention Center, contact your local chamber, visit www.BtoBExpo.com or call Vivette Payne at 708-747-0844.