

April 29, 2013

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Frank Oetlinger, owner of Oetlinger Precision Manufacturing, the Heart of Grafton Family Restaurant and the Grafton Pub and Bowl has been selected to receive the Chamber Outstanding **Business Person Award** at the Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner on May 22.

Frank has been extremely active within our community for many years. In just this past year he has been instrumental in helping Grafton High School enhance the manufacturing and engineering education curriculum by becoming a member of a newly formed Manufacturers' Alliance which includes Teachers, School Board members, School administration, Chamber of Commerce representatives, and local manufacturing leaders. He has put his passion for manufacturing into action by donating both computer hardware and software to the High School manufacturing lab which has already had a direct impact on the educational experience for our students.

After purchasing the Heart of Grafton Family Restaurant and the Grafton Pub and Bowl a few years ago, Frank decided to completely renovate the bowling alley to make it more inviting for the Grafton community, young people in particular. Frank wants them to come and enjoy a modern and safe place to be with friends and family. Frank often says that he just did some updating, but in reality, as stated by Mike Cibulka who nominated Frank for this award, "the real reason that he bought the property was to have an opportunity to give back to the community." Frank has also renovated the upper level of the bowling alley and created a reception hall. He looks forward to hosting wedding receptions, parties and corporate events, in addition, Oetlinger has offered up the space to Grafton non-profit organizations for meetings and events.

According to Mike Cibulka, "From the time I met Frank, I have known him to be absolutely committed to help make Grafton the best place live, work, and raise a family.

Sweettrio is a shop in downtown Grafton specializing in the sweet trio of chocolate, caramel apples, and gelato will be presented with the Chamber's **Outstanding Business Award**. The business is owned and operated by Christine Steeno and Nedra Clague. Chris and Nedra have been friends for years, and with a combined 18 years of experience in the chocolate industry, they opened Sweettrio in 2008. Sweettrio has become a favorite Grafton destination for many, with 90% of what is sold made in house. It's a fun atmosphere that includes free samples for kids, catering to families, and a place where folks are known on a first name basis. The products and services provided by Sweettrio maintain the highest quality and value for the customers they serve. All natural ingredients are incorporated in their products as much as possible.

A good part of Sweettrio's business consists of customized corporate gift packages, for use as employee gifts, trade show giveaways, finger food for office meetings, and a host of other offerings. A full time sales and marketing associate has recently come on board to drum up even more corporate clients and to handle the company's social media. New office space is being built above the store in order to make room for assembling packages as a result of increased shipping orders. The goal in the near term is to become a regionally recognized brand name in the industry.

Sweettrio has donated thousands of dollars to breast cancer awareness since its inception. They are also a strong supporter of Portal, Inc. which provides services and employment opportunities to people with developmental disabilities. Sweettrio owners and associates have also given countless hours of their time to volunteer at many Chamber-sponsored events over the years in support of the greater Grafton community.

According to their letter of nomination, submitted by Roberta Campbell, "The high quality of the products they offer, the professionalism with which they run their business and the support given to our community make Sweettrio a well-deserved Business of the Year.

The Grafton Parks and Recreation Department will also be recognized by the Chamber with a "**Distinguished Service Award**". As a result of the tireless efforts of the members of the Parks and Rec "team", Grafton's parks and recreational facilities are beautifully maintained, and the wide variety of programs and services for community members of all ages continue to be enjoyed by many! In addition to the department's overall commitment to our community, the Chamber would like to acknowledge the continued support that it receives from the Parks and Recreation Department at many of our events. Their assistance with facilities reservations, event logistics, set-up and clean-up is invaluable. According to Chamber President John Wirth, "A dedicated group of individuals work behind the scenes ensuring that our events are the envy of neighboring communities. Their assistance with Chamber events like Ladies Night Out, the Community Tree Lighting, Tuesday Tunes and the Farmer's Market make us look really good!"

The Awards Dinner takes place on May 22nd at The BOG. The event begins at 5:30 p.m. (cash bar), and a sit-down dinner at 7 p.m. followed by the program. The cost of the evening is \$35 the public is invited to attend. RSVP to the Chamber office by calling 262-377-1650 by May 15.