

## Frankie's Pizza receives Outstanding Business Award

In August, the New Hope City Council recognized Frankie's Pizza with the Summer 2011 Outstanding Business Award. The restaurant, which is located in the Winnetka Commons mall at 3556 Winnetka Avenue, has been doing business in New Hope since 1991.

Frankie's Pizza is a family business owned by Herbert Garbers and managed by his son

Kent Garbers. They currently have 15 employees. The restaurant specializes in Chicago style pizza, pasta and ribs. Their menu also features a broad selection of sandwiches and burgers, salads, Chicago dogs, and cheesecake.

The food is good at Frankie's and, consequently, business is good. The Garbers are planning to expand their restaurant in the near future. The current 1,800 square foot restaurant has limited space for seating. As part of the expansion, Frankie's seating will be expanded, the ambiance will be improved, and liquor will be added to the restaurant's offerings. The Garbers obtained an on-sale liquor license from the City Council this summer.

"We're very excited to expand the restaurant and continue to thrive in New Hope, and to hire on a broader staff with well-trained bartenders," noted Kent Garbers at the liquor license hearing in June. "We plan to nearly double our space and go to a full-service establishment."

When considering nominations for the Summer Outstanding Business Award in August, each council member in turn noted Frankie's Pizza's involvement in and commitment to the community. "Frankie's Pizza has been involved in the community for a long, long time. They've been very generous



Kent Garbers (front row, left) accepted the Summer 2010 Outstanding Business Award from the New Hope City Council.

to Duk Duk Daze, (and) very involved in helping to get the business networking group started," said Mayor Kathi Hemken. "They've been an institution in New Hope. And, they're expanding, which is exactly what we like to see for our businesses," added council member Eric Lammle. The restaurant was also lauded for its participation in the New Hope Lions Club. "Frankie's community involvement is really great," quipped council member John Elder, "but their food is even better!"

Kent Garbers accepted the Outstanding Business Award at the August 22 City Council meeting. "I'm very honored. It (the award) means a lot to me and to the restaurant," Garbers said. "I appreciate the support I've gotten from the city working on the expansion. It's been a joy to have a business in the city of New Hope."

The City Council considers nominations for the New Hope Outstanding Business Award four times a year. The award recognizes businesses that have become a valued part of the community, and is intended to encourage other New Hope businesses to strive for excellence. Any local resident, business patron, or business person may make a nomination. Award winning businesses receive a plaque, have their name added to a plaque displayed at City Hall and are recognized at a City Council meeting.

## Special snow removal considerations for businesses

The city strongly encourages commercial property owners to be proactive and take responsibility for clearing snow from the sidewalks adjacent to their property.

While the city does plow sidewalks, streets are given top priority. Customers rely on clear sidewalks to access businesses, and the city is not always able to clear them in a timely manner. Businesses can address the needs of their customers and help the city by clearing the sidewalks next to their

property at the same time that their parking lots are plowed.

Public works staff also reminds commercial property owners that all of the snow removed from a business' parking lot must be stored on their own property or hauled away. It is against city ordinance for a plowing contractor to push snow from a business' parking lot across the street and onto nearby property. This causes ridges that can damage city plowing equipment.

## Developer completes cleanup and renovation of industrial site

Hillcrest Development, LLLP recently held an open house to celebrate completion of a project to renovate the warehouse at 5121 Winnetka Ave. N. in New Hope.

A year ago, 5121 Winnetka was a blighted property. The building, which had been used for years by a ceramics manufacturing business, had significant lead contamination. Insufficient maintenance had left the building in disrepair and poor internal layout had created unattractive and dysfunctional spaces. In September 2010 Hillcrest, a commercial developer, purchased the property at 5121 Winnetka. They believed that, in spite of its problems, the building's location, size and physical characteristics hinted at a greater potential.

Last November, with the support of the New Hope City Council, Hillcrest applied for a Livable Communities Tax Based Revitalization Account (TBRA) grant from the Metropolitan Council to abate the pollution at the 5121 Winnetka building. Although competition for the brownfield cleanup funds was intense, in late January the Met Council formally approved a grant for \$443,150 to help clean up the site. With the Liv-



Before the renovation by Hillcrest Development, 5121 Winnetka was in disrepair and had significant lead contamination.

able Communities funding, as well as the environmental expertise of Braun Intertec, Hillcrest was able to clean up the pollution, make extensive renovations, and redesign the internal layout of the site in just five months.

Today, a visitor to 5121 Winnetka will see a bright, clean, attractive building that has been completely redesigned and that now provides functional and healthy work space for several new tenants. Range Systems, Crea8Play,

Sealed Mindset, and Insulation Supplies have leased space and are currently doing business at the newly renovated property.

For more information about the Hillcrest property at 5121 Winnetka, visit the Available Properties section of the company's website at [www.hillcrestdevelopment.com](http://www.hillcrestdevelopment.com).



After the renovation by Hillcrest Development, 5121 Winnetka was bright and appealing and the pollution issues were resolved.

## New Hope Business Highlights

### Dedicated Logistics roof repair

Repairs were completed in September at Dedicated Logistics' 340,000 square foot warehouse at 8201 54th Avenue North. Approximately \$950,000 in roof and structural repairs were needed after about 30,000 square feet of the north central portion of the building's roof collapsed in February, due to heavy accumulations of snow and ice.

### Process Displays remodeling

Process Displays, a 70-year-old leader in in-store visual merchandising recently completed an innovative remodeling project at its corporate offices, 7108 31st Avenue North, in New Hope. The project transformed 6,000 square feet of the 24,000 square foot building into an interior streetscape showroom, complete with storefronts and display

windows. The company, which recently changed its name to PD, works with many national retailers including Garmin, Disney, Radio Shack, Reebok, Lego, Best Buy and Under Armour on both permanent and temporary in-store displays.

### Rapid Refill recognition

The Rapid Refill franchise at 4212 Winnetka Avenue North in New Hope was recently named "Franchisee of the Year" at the company's national convention. The store owned by Nick and Cathy Roers and Kathy Rudman, which opened about three years ago, was also recognized as one of the top 20 fastest growing franchises in the country. Rapid Refill specializes in remanufactured inkjet and laser toner cartridges.