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Bringing 'main street' to the people

Trade show to unite customers, area businesses in Centereach

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Hey, this is strictly business.

Local business owners from across the Town of Brookhaven are invited to participate in the first-ever Strictly Business Trade Show, coming next month to the Middle Country Library. A joint initiative of the Greater Middle Country Chamber of Commerce, the Brookhaven Chambers of Commerce Coalition and the library's Miller Business Re-

source Center, the networking event is slated to run inside the Miller Center, at the library's world-class Centereach branch, from 9 am to noon May 6.

Sandy Feinberg, library director and a member of the planning committee organizing the Strictly Business Trade Show, said the goal is to create a sort of "main street" event for residents dispersed throughout Middle Country and the whole of Brookhaven.

"We don't have any business main streets in Middle Country," Feinberg said. "Throughout Brookhaven, there aren't many downtown areas."

To that end, vendors are being encouraged to sign up
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Trade show

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online at strictlybusinesstradeshows.org for the chance to exhibit their products or services at the trade show. Consumers will come to the show to learn about local businesses and services — without having to drive from place to place.

Feinberg, who doubles as president of the Greater Middle Country Chamber

of Commerce, said the goal is to have 70 participating vendors this year. There are currently about 30 vendors signed up for the event, including Costco Wholesale, Commerce Bank, Suffolk Federal Credit Union and Holiday Inn Express, she said.

Vendors will set up display tables throughout the entire library, Feinberg added, and promotional giveaways such as pens, pencils and note pads will be supplied by the vendors. A "little cafe" with light refreshments will be set up, she said.

With no similar networking trade shows taking place in Brookhaven, Feinberg noted, sponsors hope to make this an annual event. The 2008 trade show, therefore, is "the first step," she said.

"We're all getting excited about it now," Feinberg said.

Barbara Ransome, member of the planning committee and president of the Brookhaven Chambers of Commerce Coalition, said the planning committee has spent a lot of time organizing and

promoting the event, which she termed a true "collaboration."

"It's a new adventure for us," Ransome said. "We're hoping that it'll be successful. It's a great location, because it's centrally located in the Town of Brookhaven. The library provides a nice venue, and it's in the Middle Country Chamber of Commerce's backyard."

Doors will open to the public (with a formal ribbon-cutting ceremony) at 9 am after a vendors' breakfast, she added.