

Avoid holiday shopping hassles!



Time to celebrate, before sogging on



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The Top 100 luncheon is my favorite business event of the year because it's a pure celebration of hard work and results.

Again this year, the Riverside Convention Center will be packed Thursday with tables full of the people who work at the 100 honorees, and they'll be having a great time. They should. They've earned it.

Employees of companies cracking the Top 100 for the first time especially will whoop it up. Those 16 businesses are listed at right.

Sandy Parker, CEO of the Rochester Business Alliance, told my colleague Matt Daneman that Top 100 organizers had worried the economy might hurt corporate sponsorship of the luncheon this year. Instead, the program wound up with more sponsors but they contributed smaller amounts, Parker said.

If that reflects the belt tightening so prevalent in the business world these days, don't expect things to change overnight just because the economy is

finally starting to grow again.

Tim White, managing partner of the Rochester office of KPMG, the accounting firm that's the other main Top 100 sponsor along with the RBA, noted that the 100 companies' combined revenues are down. For many, their financial results included only one period — the fourth quarter of 2008 — that was particularly weak.

Because much of 2009 has been every bit as weak, White foresees that the Top 100 list coming out next year might well show another drop in revenues.

When White and I chatted Thursday, the government had just reported a 3.5 percent annualized increase in gross domestic product, the broadest measure of the U.S. economy. Although the growth was widely expected, it was good news nevertheless because we had just been through four consecutive quarters of shrinking GDP, something that hadn't happened in most of our lifetimes.

"Things have stabilized," White said. "We're seeing a small pickup in trends." But he's skeptical about how much growth is really coming, wondering, for example, how long the Federal Reserve can keep interest rates at

First-timers

- Of this year's Top 100 companies, 16 are making their first appearance.
- No. 1:** Auction Direct USA.
- No. 8:** Rochester Precision Optics.
- No. 15:** The Omni Group.
- No. 18:** Mech Tech HVAC.
- No. 19:** Employee Relations Associates.
- No. 20:** Eagle Productivity Solutions.
- No. 25:** Xellic.
- No. 27:** WebTitle Agency.
- No. 51:** Classic Automation.
- No. 54:** Sydor Instruments.
- No. 64:** Empire Precast.
- No. 66:** New York Commercial Flooring.
- No. 76:** Turner Engineering.
- No. 86:** Emerald Print Management.
- No. 97:** Jackson Welding Supply.
- No. 100:** Davidson Ink.

record lows before inflation looms.

In other words, the Top 100 companies need to keep pushing because tough times aren't going away. But first they should have a good time basking in the glow of being one of our region's elite performers.

"Rochester has done a good job of working through these difficulties," White said. "We should be proud of these companies." □

Watch them tear into THE PAPER this holiday.

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TOP 100 • WHERE THE COMPANIES ARE

- Brighton**
Admiral Supply Co. Inc., 3950 Brighton-Henrietta Townline Road
Benefit Resource Inc., 2320 Brighton-Henrietta Townline Road
Butler/Till Media Services Inc., 2349 Monroe Ave., Suite 200
E-CHK Inc., 200 Canal View Blvd., Suite 200
Emerald Print Management Inc., 989 S. Winton Road
Empire Valuation Consultants LLC, 77 Canal View Blvd., Suite 200
Fibertech Networks LLC, 300 Meridian Centre
- Chili**
Blue Heron Consulting Corp., 90 Air Park Drive, Suite 200
Stefan Sydor Optics Inc., 31 Jet View Drive
Sydor Instruments LLC, 31 Jet View Drive
- East Rochester**
Turner Engineering PC, 349 W. Commercial St., Suite 2290
- Fairport**
Cutting Edge Laser Technologies, 350 Turk Hill Park
- Gates**
CMI Communications, 400 Mile Crossing Blvd.
Function 5 Technology Group, 500 Mile Crossing Blvd.
R.L. Kistler Inc., 300 Mile Crossing Blvd.
Wegmans Food Markets Inc., 1500 Brooks Ave.
- Greece**
Catalyst Direct Inc., 30 Marina Drive
- Henrietta**
American Rentals LLC (dba Volvo Rents), 299 Jefferson Road
Calvary Design Team Inc. (dba Calvary Automation Systems), 45 Hendra Road
DOS Companies, 340 Commerce Drive
Eagle Productivity Solutions, 265 Brighton-Henrietta Townline Road
SLinx Enterprises Inc., 275 Kanawath Drive, Suite 200
Gardner Plus Architects PLLC, 40 Willowbur Road
Interpret, 77 Highway Road
LeCesse Construction Corporation, 75 Thruway Park Drive
Lewis Tree Service Inc., 300 Luskas Gordon Drive
Mindex Technologies Inc., 3495 Weston Place, Building E, Suite 4
MWI Inc., 1269 Brighton-Henrietta Townline Road
Palmer Road Services Inc., 900 Jefferson Road
Rochester Precision Optics LLC, 850 John St.
SCI Associates Inc., 60 Commerce Drive
- Irondequoit**
Rochester Clinical Research Inc., 500 Helderale Road, Suite L20
- Perinton**
AdviStar Inc., 183 Pittsford-Victor Road, Suite 150
Continental Service Group Inc. (dba ConServe), 200 Crossways Office Park
Empire Precast LLC, 101 Sully's Trail, Building 20
First American Equipment Finance, 255 Woodcliff Drive
Foundry Associates Inc., 6800 Pittsford-Palmira Road, Suite 350
LogicalSolutions.net Inc., 800 Pittsford-Victor Road
Manning & Napier Advisors Inc., 200 Woodcliff Drive
Pharos Systems International Inc., 100 Willowbrook Office Park
Real Lease Inc., 1200 Pittsford-Victor Road
Relph Benefit Advisors, 250-G Pittsford-Victor Road
Sutherland Global Services Inc., 260 Pittsford-Victor Road
The Bonadio Group, 171 Sully's Trail, Suite 201
Xellic Inc., 1250 Pittsford-Victor Road
Xerographic Solutions Inc., 1387 Fairport Road, Suite 1000
- Pittsford**
Consilium LLC, 350 Linden Oaks
D'Agostino General Contractors Inc., 803 Linden Ave.
Employee Relations Associates Inc., 300 Linden Oaks, Suite 120
Power Management Co. LLC, 900 Linden Oaks
RTEK, 800 Office Park Way
UnLink, 1800 Monroe Ave.
- Rochester**
B&L Wholesale Supply Inc., 70 Hartford St.
Bergmann Associates, 28 E. Main St., 200 First Federal Bank
Bond Financial Network Inc., 75A Monroe St.
CGI Communications Inc., 130 E. Main St., Suite 800
Classic Automation LLC, 795 Monroe Ave.
Crosby-Brownlie Inc., 100 Nassau St.
Davidson Ink LLP, 28 E. Main St., Suite 275
Dunn and Rice Design Inc., 31 N. Goodman St.
Elmer W. Davis Inc., 1217 Clifford
- Avon**
Insero & Co. CPAs PC, 100 Chestnut St., Suite 1500
Jackson Welding Supply Co. Inc., 539 S. Fairport Road
Klein Steel Service Inc., 105 Vanguard Parkway
Lafella Associates PC, 300 State St.
M/E Engineering PC, 150 N. Chestnut St.
New York Commercial Flooring Inc., 452 Lee Road
Omni Financial Group Inc., 1099 Jay St.
Pascera Associates PC, 100 Liberty Pole Way
Printing Methods Inc., 1525 Emerson St.
Ransom Steel Erectors Inc., 448 Portland Ave.
Spec-Precision Machine, 85 Excel Drive
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Ajay Glass & Mirror Co. Inc., 7 West A., Manchester
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Christa Construction Inc., 19 Victor Heights Parkway, Victor
Crosman Corp., 7629 Routes 5 & 20, East Bloomfield
Ghoukar's Inc., 7123 Route 25L
Gorbel Inc., 600 Fishers Run, Fishers
IK Systems Inc., 7625 Main St., Fishers, Victor
Info Directions, 833 Phillips Road, Victor
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