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Ralph Bright retires his 'green thumb' at the Carrousel

The sharp eye and green thumb behind perhaps the most stunning floral display in downtown Mansfield will no longer be a part of that brilliant bed.

The eye and thumb both belong to Ralph Bright, who has designed, planted and cared for the eye-catching bed that faces the intersection of Fourth and Main Streets. At the Richland Carrousel Park. Ralph and his wife, Vicki, have cared for this unique bed for most of 16 years.

Unfortunately, Ralph has spent his last season in the bed that has become part of his life’s routine. Health issues are limiting his physical movement. He has notified officials at the Richland Carrousel Park that he will no longer be caring for the challenging display.

“This past year was my last year. The body just won’t let me do it anymore,” the 72-year-old Bright said.

Bright began caring for the bed as a member of the Mansfield Men’s Garden Club.

Willie Hunn, the manager of the carrousel park, said Bright had set the quality bar so high that he will be difficult to replace. She said the next caretaker for the bed is likely to be a garden club or other group where more hands can share the work. She said spring bulbs and summer perennials might also simplify the future of the bed.

“We love Ralph, and we are so sad to see him go. His designs are so beautiful,” Hunn said.

The bed is an enormous challenge by anyone’s standards. It is an inverted triangle that measures about 30 yards across at the top of the triangle. Each of the two sides that come together at the bottom measure about 15 yards. The sidewalk that splits the triangle from the point at the bottom to the middle of the top is about 7 yards long. Then, there are the two iconic carrousel horse statues on opposite sides of the sidewalk.

Depending on the design he came up with or the plants he selected, the big bed was adorned with 1,500 to 2,000 plants. The artful designs focused on locating the correct plant colors and heights into close proximity.

Hunn said Bright used a special trowel from Kingwood Center that had inch increments on it so that Bright could get perfect spacing between plants. She also said Bright has all of his original designs and is going to give them to carrousel officials for future reference. She pointed out that during the carrousel’s 25th-year celebration, Bright created a design that boldly featured the number 25.

Each year, it would take Bright and his wife 3 to 7 days to get everything planted. Responsibility for the bed also included weekly visits for weeding, dead-heading and touching up the mulch. A sprinkler system at the carrousel took care of the watering.

Bright’s favorite flower – the fibrous begonia. His favorite color – red. Bright says red is the showiest color of them all, but he admits he has planted just about everything.

“If you can name the plant, I have probably used it,” the Vietnam War veteran said.

Bright admits that he will undoubtedly miss creating a flower bed that contributed so much to community pride. He still laments the end of another source of community pride that was his workplace and a considerable part of his life for more than 30 years – the Ontario GM plant.

“It didn’t need to happen, and it shouldn’t have happened,” Bright said of the plant closing that most residents thought would never happen.

Bright lives on a five and one-quarter acre plot at 3368 Mt. Zion Rd. Not surprisingly, he and Vicki care for countless gardens and plantings there. His plots are home to more than 450 varieties of hostas and 200 daylilies. He also has a one-quarter acre vegetable garden that he has been gradually moving to raised beds.

“We have plants all over the place. I grew up with my fingers in the soil. I guess it all goes back to my childhood,” Bright said, explaining that his vegetable harvest usually is enough for his family and some food pantries. He also points out that during the winter, he feeds birds, squirrels, rabbits, deer and probably a few other critters.

When asked about his philosophy on gardening, Bright provided an answer that seemed to go a bit deeper than many of his plants.

“If you are going to do something, you should do the best you can.”

Written by Tom Brennan, member of the Mansfield In Bloom steering committee and retired editor of the News Journal.

Participate in Mansfield in Bloom!

Mansfield In Bloom is seeking volunteers for flower bed creation/maintenance, litter clean-up or numerous other projects. Interested individuals or groups should contact Roberta Perry at roberta@chooserichland.com.

RCDG’s Beautification Committee will once again be participating in the Mansfield In Bloom. The Beautification/MIB committee is meeting on the 3rd Thursday of every month in the exhibit hall at Kingwood Center Garden at 8:30 am. Please join us!
Ribbon Cuttings & Events

Long John Silver’s (Mansfield)

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Green Room Gallery & Productions (Mansfield)

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Economic Forecast Breakfast

Chamber & RCDG Staff

Contact us @ 419-522-3211 or e-mail us:
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Nikki Lewis, Chamber Foundation
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Barrett Thomas, Economic Development
**Welcome!**

Please join us in welcoming the newest members to your Chamber!

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<td>Attorneys</td>
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<td>Churches</td>
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<td>Love One Another Church</td>
<td>Churches</td>
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SPONSORSHIP FORM

Mid-Ohio Conference Center

Business Professionals Day Luncheon

Wednesday, April 25
11:30am - 1:00pm

Attendance to expect: 2017 Attendance was SOLD OUT at 400 guests. Audience: Everyone from CEO’s to support staff.
We provide a tasty lunch, special gifts, “swag” and a flower to all attendees, along with entertainment and door prizes.

Gold ($600)
- Eight (8) Tickets to the event ($240 value)
- Color logo on promotional flyer
- Color logo in Chamber Newsletter
- Color logo on promotional emails
- Name, logo & link on Chamber event website
- Name & color logo shared on social media
- Color logo on event program
- Verbal recognition from the podium at event

Silver ($300)
- Four (4) Tickets to the event ($120 value)
- Name on promotional flyer
- Name in Chamber Newsletter
- Name on promotional emails
- Name & link on Chamber event website
- Name on event program

Bronze ($150)
- Two (2) Tickets to the event ($60 value)
- Name in Chamber Newsletter list of Sponsors
- Name on Chamber event website
- Name on event program

Do you have an item to donate?
Please use the “Door Prize Contribution” form or contact the Chamber at 419-522-3211 or lduckworth@richlandareachamber.com

Count Us In! We’re Excited to be a Sponsor for the 2018 Business Professionals Day Luncheon!

Organization: ____________________________
Contact Name: ___________________________ Email: ___________________________
Phone: ___________________________ Fax: ___________________________

SPONSORSHIP LEVEL (Circle One): Gold—$600 Silver—$300 Bronze—$150
PAYMENT: □ check enclosed    □ please invoice    □ VISA/MC/DISC (enter # on line below)
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Phone: 419-522-3211   Fax: 419-526-6853   Email: lduckworth@richlandareachamber.com
Mail: Richland Area Chamber • 55 N. Mulberry St., Mansfield 44902
EVENT REGISTRATION FORM

Business Professionals Day Luncheon

Wednesday, April 25
11:30am - 1:00pm

Mid-Ohio Conference Center

In 2017, this was a SOLD OUT event (400 guests)

Register your staff to show your appreciation of their hard work!

We provide a luau inspired lunch catered by Ontario Event Center, special gifts, “swag” and a flower to all attendees, along with entertainment and door prizes.

Central Location!
Delicious Lunch
Entertainment
Prizes!
Photo Booth!

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Tickets: $30 for Chamber members registered by Friday, April 13/$35 for members registering after April 13
NON-MEMBER PRICE: $40

Person ordering tickets ___________________________________________ Number of tickets _______________
Organization ________________________________________________________ Phone __________________
Address ______________________________________________________ City ____________ Zip___________

PAYMENT: □ check enclosed □ please invoice □ VISA/MC/DISC (enter # on line below)

CC#_____________________________________________________________ exp. _____/______ Security Code_______

Billing address of cardholder: _______________________________________

Once registered, simply check in at the door (no tickets will be mailed) ~ Reserved seating
Mail: Richland Area Chamber of Commerce 55 N. Mulberry Street, Mansfield, 44902
Phone: 419-522-3211 Fax: 419-526-6853 Online registration available at RichlandAreaChamber.com

Register by April 13th for best pricing!
This is the slogan of Smokin’ Bros BBQ with reference to the way their delicious food is prepared and served. They offer a simple but tasty menu of beef brisket, pulled pork shoulder, and baby back ribs with a few hand crafted sides to round out the selection. The sides reflect their BBQ parentage to include potato salad, creamy mac and cheese, smokin’ baked beans, and cole slaw. The grand finale is homemade banana pudding. A newer addition to the menu is a hand held creation called the ‘BBQ cup’. It consists of beans on the bottom, next meat, then sauce, topped off with cole slaw (son-in-law Andy’s favorite).

The business was the brainstorm of Drew Coy and his brother, which later changed into a partnership with his parents, Dan and Denise, collectively known as the ‘D’Coy’s’ for short. The idea was to share the great food enjoyed at family gatherings. The real secret is in the dry rub and the low and slow cooking with cherry wood smoke. The results speak for themselves. They are the holder of the 2014 Mid-Ohio’s Best Award in the barbecue category.

The location is on the side of the Empress Express building on Park Avenue, but the real advantage lies in their mobile food trailer which can be found on occasion at places such as Martini’s, Malabar Farm Heritage Day’s, or other various locations. They are also available to cater your event. Dine in, to go, or at your catered event, Smokin’ Bros has your ticket.

The address is 1041 Park Avenue West. They are open Wednesday through Sunday 11:00 to 7:00. Their website is: smokinbrosbbq.com or they can be reached at 330-800-8820. They also can be found on Twitter and Facebook.

Meet professional photographer Isaac Coffy of Coffy Creations in Ashland. He represents the perfect marriage of art meets science. As a skilled photographer he focused on portraits of graduating seniors and wedding events. The two types were completely different, one being calm and creative, and the other a fast paced adrenaline rush, but he liked both. In the past five years he changed his approach and pricing at least three times to find the most successful business model. The results yielded a threefold increase in his average sale and doubled his bookings. Recent additions include a rentable photo booth, and coming soon a sports photography division.

He was asked by ‘Wedding and Portrait Photographers International’ to write a feature article about his methods for their magazine ‘Rangefinder’. In the article he describes how he has changed his approach with clients seeking senior portraits. He made response to inquiries immediate and encourages a phone conversation to build personal rapport and sell the experience. Two weeks before the shoot, a planning session is held where details of product, location options, outfit choices, and poses are discussed. The goal is to access personality traits and interests unique to the individual helping to create portraits that are natural and void of the forced, awkward look. The approach stresses not a kid getting his or her yearbook photo but instead recognizes the creation of a milestone marker denoting the transition from youth into adulthood. A special moment in the journey of life.

His love of photography is told by the ownership of a film camera once used by the personal assistant to the world famous landscape photographer Ansel Adams, which Isaac occasionally still uses.

He shares a large space with his brother on the second floor of a downtown Ashland commercial building located at 12 W. Main Street. He can be contacted at isaac@coffycreations.com or by phone at 330-317-6412.
BRANDING YOUR BUSINESS

When: Thursday, April 13th 7:30–9am
Where: Richland Area Chamber, 55 N. Mulberry St., Mansfield
The cost is $15 for members/$25 for non-members - please RSVP to reserve your spot (see registration information at bottom of page).

Presenter: Jessica Hiser from Spherion Staffing Mid Ohio. Watch for more details in your April Chamber newsletter. Updates will also be posted at www.RichlandAreaChamber.com.

Lunch WISE WEDNESDAY

Network & Be Inspired by Local Women!

When: March, 21st 11:45–1pm
Where: Ed Pickens Café on Main Events & Catering 28 N. Main St., Mansfield
Mark your calendar for the 3rd Wednesday of each month to join a group of dynamic, innovative local women for a time of powerful networking and motivation, as well as a chance to learn more about your community. The luncheon cost is $12.00 - please RSVP to reserve your spot (see registration information at bottom of page).

Our speaker this month is Sandy Lykins. Sandy is a second-degree black belt and certified self-defense instructor. She has taught practical tips and tricks to defend against larger attackers to businesses and schools in Ohio, including Lucas School District, Hillsdale School District, St. Christine Parish (Youngstown), the Miss Ohio Contestants, as well as through multiple community seminars. Be prepared to get out of your seats to learn some basic self-defense tactics!

This collaborative series is being co-hosted by the Richland Area Chamber, Mind Body Align and the Small Business Development Center at NCSC.

3 WAYS TO REGISTER for these events (or any other Chamber event):

- Register online using the event calendar at richlandareachamber.com
- Call 419-522-3211
- Email lduckworth@richlandareachamber.com
Earth Stewardship Celebration 2018
Celebrating 22 Years of
Planting Pride in Mansfield/Richland County

The Earth Stewardship Steering Committee is pleased to announce April 1st through June 24th have been declared Earth Stewardship Months in Mansfield & Richland County. For 22 years, Earth Stewardship has encouraged businesses, individuals, groups and organizations to Plant Pride, Not Litter in our community.

How to become involved...
By registering, you become a partner in Earth Stewardship. As a registered participant, you will receive litter cleanup supplies*, recognition as a partner, and will also be eligible for prizes and drawings.

Registration is easy!
You can register your project in ONE of the following ways:
1. Mail the enclosed registration form OR
2. Register by email to: khildreth@ci.mansfield.oh.us OR
3. Call the Earth Stewardship Steering Committee: 419.755.9702.

Deadline for Registration is May 31, 2018 and Projects must be completed by June 24, 2018
*A limited supply of collection bags and gloves are available for cleanup projects.

Once you’ve registered...
- Recruit volunteers to assist you in the project you choose and on the day you’ve designated.
- Send in a group photo to be displayed on Earth Stewardship Partner websites and social media recognizing you and your volunteers.
- Send in your photos and the names of your volunteers so they can be added to the drawing.
- If conducting a litter cleanup, afterward, please provide how many bags were collected.
- All volunteers will be entered into a drawing to win great prizes.
- Individual certificates for each participant are available upon request.

Interested in entering the 7th annual Taking Pride contest*?
Great! Please submit before and after photos of your project. Photos are due by June 24.

Contest categories: Business/Government, Neighborhood, School, Church/Non-Profit Organization
Awards: Awards will be given for the top 3 places in each category. Plus, voters will choose their favorite cleanup projects based on photos submitted on the Earth Stewardship Facebook page. The winning entry will receive the People’s Choice Award.

*We hope you join the contest, but it is not a requirement to participate in the 2018 Earth Stewardship Celebration.

For more information or to register, contact Kim Hildreth, Earth Stewardship Steering Committee at the Mansfield Engineering Department. Phone: 419.755.9702 or email: khildreth@ci.mansfield.oh.us.

Join us for 22 years of Planting Pride in Mansfield/Richland County!

Did You Know?
Mansfield is participating in the America In Bloom contest again for 2018. The projects you complete for the Earth Stewardship Celebration may also qualify for the Mansfield in Bloom program. For more information or to register your project with Mansfield in Bloom, please contact Roberta Perry, Community Development Director at RCDG by phone at 419.755.7234 or email at roberta@chooserichland.com.
Potential Projects – Hints and tips for creating a sustainable environment.

- Litter cleanup in your neighborhood, your favorite park, place of business, church or a place you have noticed that needs cleaned up.
- Beautification Project – plant flowers, beautify an area, including place of business, church, etc.
- Graffiti project – help remove graffiti in your neighborhood or in our community.
- Recycling Drive – Hold a recycling drive and have proceeds go to your group or favorite organization.
- Community gardens

Photo Examples for Contest

Before
After
Before
After

Earth Stewardship Registration Form
Deadline for Registration is May 31, 2018

Name of Group/Organization: ________________________________________________________________
(how you wish it to appear on your certificate)

Contact Person: _________________________________________________________________________

Full Mailing Address: _____________________________________________________________________

Email Address: __________________________________________________________________________

Daytime Phone: __________________________________________________________________________

Type of Project: __________________________________________________________________________
(litter clean up, beautification, recycling, etc.)

Location of Project: __________________ Date: ___________ Estimated No. Volunteers: _____________

Collection Bags Needed? _____Yes _____ No No. of Bags Needed ______________

Take Pride! Contest (please check the appropriate box)

_____Yes, we are participating in this category: __Government/Business __Neighborhood __School __Nonprofit/Church

_____No, we only wish to participate in the Earth Stewardship Celebration, maybe next year.
DETAILS:

- There are no costs to reserve a space for the tabletop fair
- Only businesses who are actively hiring are eligible to participate
- This event will be open to the public
- Attendees will be asked to bring resumes and be prepared for an interview
- 6’x3’ table and 2 chairs provided (bring your own table cover).
- Set-up starts at 8:30am on May 22nd
- To guarantee a spot, please respond promptly—only 70 spots are available.
- Special training sessions to be provided before the Job Fair starts.

For more information, call Lisa Duckworth at 419-522-3211

COMPLETE FORM AND RETURN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO RESERVE A SPOT— YOU MAY ALSO SIGN UP ONLINE AT WWW.RICHLANDAREACHAMBER.COM — (SPACE OFFERED ON FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE BASIS)

Organization: ____________________________________________________________

Address: _________________________________________________________________

Contact person: __________________________________________________________

Email: ________________________________________________________________

Phone: ___________________________ Fax: ___________________________

Do you need electric? Yes ___ No____ How many positions are you currently looking to fill? __________

Job Titles looking to fill (list all)__________________________________________

______________________________________________________________

Return registration form to the Richland Area Chamber of Commerce
Phone: 419-522-3211 • Fax: 419-526-6853 • email: lduckworth@richlandareachamber.com
55 N. Mulberry St., Mansfield 44902

Sponsored by: ____________________ Supported by: ____________________
These warm and possibly wet March days are a good time to prepare for severe spring weather. Planning ahead makes sense; prepare for storms, floods, and tornadoes as if you know they are coming, because, in the spring, they very likely will.

March 18 - 24 is Ohio Severe Weather Awareness Week.

Richland Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

See the weather tips at richlandhealth.org
Richland Area Community Guide

The 18th annual Richland Area Community Guide & Member Directory will be available to Chamber members, area residents, hotels, realtors, local attractions, new residents & businesses in Summer 2018!

Now is the time to guarantee that your business has a prominent place in this full color magazine and member directory used as a first-stop for top-level area networking and resource to the community! Capitalize on additional exposure as your ad will be seen on the highest online readership in Richland County at MansfieldNewsJournal.com!

### 2018 Richland Area Community Guide Advertising Opportunities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ad Size Description</th>
<th>Impressions</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Centerspread</td>
<td>+43,000</td>
<td>$3,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Back Cover</td>
<td>+37,000</td>
<td>$3,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inside Front/Back Cover</td>
<td>+32,500</td>
<td>$2,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full Page</td>
<td>+30,000</td>
<td>$1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expanded Listing (25 words)*</td>
<td></td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2 Page</td>
<td>+27,000</td>
<td>$850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/4 Page or Strip Ad</td>
<td>+24,000</td>
<td>$675</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/8 Page</td>
<td>+18,000</td>
<td>$400</td>
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<tr>
<td>Business Box</td>
<td>+12,000</td>
<td>$225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional Category*</td>
<td></td>
<td>$21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All ads include 25 word expanded business listing. Impressions served on www.mansfieldnewsjournal.com - 300x250. *No online included in these sections.


All Richland Area Chamber Members will receive two free listings in different categories of the Guide. One listing is by Alpha (included by Business Name), and second by Category of Business (Includes Name, Address, Phone, and Website.)

Contact Aaron Bass:
(614) 316-4124 • abass@gannett.com

Advertiser _______________ Ad Size ____________ Total Ad Cost $ __________

Signature ____________________________ Date __________________

Richland Area Community Guide

Chamber of Commerce

Strong Business. Strong Community.

WE BELIEVE
#RichlandRocks
SHARE THE LOVE

ArtStreet
WATERCOLORS
Richland Area Chamber of Commerce presents…

Rome & the Amalfi Coast

October 25 – November 3, 2018

BOOK NOW AND SAVE $350 PER PERSON
Double $4,049 · Single $4,799; Triple $3,999
(includes early bird discount)

YOU’RE INVITED TO A SPECIAL TRAVEL PRESENTATION
MARCH 29TH, 6PM AT THE CHAMBER (55 N. Mulberry Street)

Click here for detailed itinerary: gateway.memberchoicevacations.com/link/876891

For more information contact:
Jamie Amsbaugh
AAA Ohio Auto Club
(419) 529-8500
jamsbaugh@aaaohio.com
"EXPO EVE"
BUSINESS AFTER HOURS
March 21st 5pm-7pm

Join us for a sneak peek of the Expo!

This exclusive Business-to-Business networking opportunity is not open to the public.

This will allow you to enjoy hors d’oeuvres and a drink from the cash bar as you walk the aisles of the Expo—the night before the general public!

Special prizes for Wednesday only!

Please fax or mail this registration to the Richland Area Chamber of Commerce by Monday, March 19, 2018 or register online at RichlandAreaChamber.com. Cost: FREE for members (if registering on or before 3/19)

Company ____________________________
Name _______________________________ Email ____________________________
Name _______________________________ Email ____________________________
Name _______________________________ Email ____________________________
Name _______________________________ Email ____________________________
Name _______________________________ Email ____________________________

Richland Area Chamber of Commerce
55 N. Mulberry Street
Mansfield, OH 44902
P: 419.522.3211 F: 419.526.6853
See 100 local businesses showcase their products & services!
Mansfield Richland Area Educational Foundation

Economic Club Luncheon

Revitalizing Our Community
Wednesday, April 11, 2018
Life Celebration Reception Center, 11:45am

Alison Goebel
Executive Director of the Greater Ohio Policy Center

Alison Goebel is Executive Director of the Greater Ohio Policy Center (GOPC) and has been with GOPC since July 2010. Alison is responsible for charting GOPC’s strategic direction, directing the research, advocacy, and outreach teams, securing resources for this work. She is the author of a number of research reports and policy briefs related to the revitalization of weak-market, legacy cities, transportation funding, and local governance structures in Ohio.

Alison is a graduate of Leadership Ohio and was elected by her class of 2014 “Leader Among Leaders” award. She holds a Ph.D. and M.A. in anthropology from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign and received her B.A. from Miami University (Oxford, Ohio).

Please make reservations no later than April 3rd to:
Economic Club, 55 North Mulberry Street, Mansfield, Ohio 44902
Fax: 419.526.6853  e-mail: nlewis@richlandareachamber.com

Not a member of Economic Club? You are still welcome to attend! The Luncheon cost for non-members is $35. Let us know if you would like information on joining Economic Club.
RICHLAND NEWHOPE INDUSTRIES INC.
Trained Employees Outsourcing
- Document Management - Pallets
- Ground Maintenance - Assembly
- Wood Products - Custodial Services
- Packaging - Document Destruction

"Where Quality Matters"
419-774-4400
www.rniinc.com

Richland
newhope
Industries, Inc.

A member of the CyclePoint Network
eRecycling
Turning Your Old Technology Into New Possibilities
419-774-4496

Selecting the right health insurance plan shouldn’t be a guessing game.

CLEARLY THE RIGHT CHOICE

Learn more about a Medical Mutual health plan through the Richland Area Chamber of Commerce, and why it can be your company’s clear choice, by visiting RichlandAreaChamber.com.

The Board and Staff of the Richland Area Chamber of Commerce wish to recognize and thank the following members for their sustaining contributions and support of the Chamber: