

RICHLAND AREA CHAMBER & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

# CHAMBER LINK

NOVEMBER 2024



The Chamber staff took a break from Barbies Dream House to explore downtown Mansfield for Halloween!

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## YouScience Employer Profiles

### Clint Knight

*Director of Workforce Development*



Dear Chamber Members,

In today's competitive economy, matching the skills and interests of young talent with real job opportunities is more crucial than ever. Thanks to Pioneer's partnership with YouScience, high school students across the MidOhio region now have access to a powerful tool that assesses both their aptitudes and interests, helping them to make informed decisions about potential career paths. For students and parents, YouScience's unique aptitude-based approach provides a more complete picture of where a student's natural abilities and interests align, offering insight that could be instrumental as they plan their futures.

Beyond its value to students and parents, the data generated through YouScience offers invaluable insight for our regional workforce programs. It allows us to identify in-demand skills, industry needs, and emerging areas of student interest, helping us tailor workforce training programs to meet the needs of local employers. With a clearer understanding of student aptitudes, workforce leaders can adjust training efforts to develop a pipeline of job-ready talent who are eager to engage in high-need fields. The result? A more dynamic workforce that aligns with the goals of both job seekers and employers in the MidOhio region.

For business owners and leaders, there's a unique opportunity to engage with this talent pipeline directly. By creating a profile on the YouScience platform, companies can showcase their work and list internships, job shadowing, and employment opportunities available to students. This engagement makes it easier for students to learn about potential career paths and provides businesses with early access to emerging talent. Together, we can build a workforce that not only meets our regional economic needs but also thrives on the strengths and aspirations of our next generation.

Best,

Clint Knight

**LEARN MORE** 

**GET STARTED** 



# OCTOBER RIBBON CUTTINGS



**MUSIC ACADEMY OF KARATE & EMPOWERMENT**  
Grand Reopening



**MANSFIELD FIRE MUSEUM**  
30 Year Anniversary



**EXHALE DAY SPA**  
1 Year Anniversary



**SOUTH PARK STORYWALK**  
Grand Opening



**Shelby Louis "Louie" Beach Skatepark**  
Grand Reopening



# Thank you to our renewing members!

Interested in enhancing your member benefits?

Contact Jennifer at (419) 522-3211, or [jwagner@richlandareachamber.com](mailto:jwagner@richlandareachamber.com)

## SHAPE & THRIVE

Power Connect

## BOOST & EXCEL

Directions Credit Union  
Rable Machine, Inc.

## BUILD & GROW

Avita Summit Therapy and Performance Center, Inc.  
BioTek America, LLC. dba Freedom Plasma  
Dunkle Law Office, LLC.

GYMGUYZ Canton & Mansfield  
HW&Co. CPAs & Advisors  
Koorsen Fire & Security  
TASCO Thompson & Sons Company, Inc.

The Blueberry Patch & 1285 Winery  
The Provident Companies

## ENGAGE & CONNECT

A+ Home Inspections of North Central Ohio  
Action Drain & Septic  
Alliance Innovations, LLC.  
Associated Pathology Laboratories, Inc.  
Awardsmith Trophies & Plaques  
Beckley Logistics, LLC.  
Doug Neighbors Allstate Agency  
F Squared Incorporated  
First Class Roofing, LLC.  
Golden Poppy, LLC.  
Henry's Key & Lock Shop  
Interstate Optical Company, Inc.  
JS Realtor Team  
JShores Construction, LLC.  
Kingwood Center Gardens

Lamar Advertising  
Mansfield Metropolitan Housing Authority  
Miller's Jewelry & Repair  
Modern Woodmen of America  
Nourish Wellness Bar  
Offenburger Capital Management, LLC.  
Penwell Funeral Home  
Phileo Properties, L.L.C.  
Richard D. Witchey III  
Richland County Children Services  
Richland Soil and Water Conservation District  
Rubies Womens Group  
Scott A. Young Real Estate Agent - Keller  
Williams Legacy Group  
Shri Om, LLC.  
Skelton's Inc Foodservice Equipment & Supplies

Tappan Community Credit Union, Inc.  
Ted & Ali's Cafe  
The Wishmaker House Bed & Breakfast, Restaurant and Winery  
Time Staffing, Inc.  
Tina Bagnoli, Realtor  
Villas of Ontario Condo Association



Renewals reflect paid dues received from 10/01/2024 through 10/30/2024

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# OCTOBER MEMORABLE MOMENTS



**AVIATION CAREER DAY**



**OCTOBER CYBERSECURITY EVENT**



**SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR NOMINATION BREAKFAST**



**CHAMBER COFFEE AT THE ONTARIO CENTER**



**PROJECT MANAGEMENT WITH AGILE AND SCRUM**



**BOSS' DAY**



**8TH ANNUAL SAVOR & SIP AUCTION AND FOOD TASTING**

# ANNUAL MEETING & ECONOMIC EXCELLENCE AWARDS

SAVE THE DATE:  
FEB 12  
5:30 - 9 PM

## SPONSORSHIPS NOW AVAILABLE

### THE GREAT GATSBY

**\$2,000 (Limit of four)**

- 2 Full tables (16 tickets) at the event with VIP seating
- Table sign with corporate logo
- Two page ad spread in the program book (each page is 7.5" wide by 10" tall)
- 4 bottles of wine at the dinner table (2 on each table)
- Ability to speak for one minute at the podium
- Multiple verbal recognitions from the podium / sponsorship thank you
- Logo recognition (dedicated slide) during slide show
- Logo in a primary location on the welcome banner
- Logo and link on Chamber website event page
- Logo recognition in Chamber newsletter and emails
- Inclusion in press release
- Social media "thank you"
- Right of first refusal for next year

### THE BIG CHEESE

**\$1,200**

- 1 Full table (8 tickets) at the event with VIP seating
- Table sign with corporate logo
- Full page color ad in the program book (7.5" wide by 10" tall)
- 2 bottles of wine at the dinner table
- Multiple verbal recognitions from the podium / sponsorship thank you
- Logo recognition during the slide show
- Logo on the welcome banner
- Logo, and link on Chamber website event page
- Logo recognition in Chamber newsletter and emails

### THE SPEAKEASY

**\$900**

- 6 Tickets to the event
- Table sign with corporate logo
- Three-quarter page color ad in program book (7.5" wide by 7" tall)
- Verbal recognition from the podium
- Logo recognition during slide show
- Business name on the welcome banner
- Business name & link on Chamber website event page
- Business name in Chamber newsletter & emails

### THE FLAPPER

**\$600**

- 4 tickets to the event
- Half-page color ad in the program book (7.5" wide by 5" tall)
- Verbal recognition from the podium
- Business name recognition during the slide show
- Business name on the welcome banner
- Business name & link on Chamber website event page
- Business name recognition in Chamber newsletter

### THE BEES KNEES

**\$400**

- 2 tickets to the event
- Quarter page color ad in the program book (3.25" wide by 5" tall)
- Verbal recognition from the podium
- Business name recognition during the slide show
- Business name on the welcome banner
- Business name on Chamber website event page
- Business name recognition in Chamber newsletter

To sponsor this event, please contact Lisa at:  
lduckworth@richlandareachamber.com  
Phone: (419) 522-3211

Ads are due to the Chamber by Friday, February 2nd  
Send ads by email in PDF or JPG format to  
Sandy at smessner@richlandareachamber.com.







## Big health benefits for small businesses



You put everything you have into your business. And we put everything into creating high-quality health insurance plans for you and your employees. We've partnered with the Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development and Council of Smaller Enterprises (COSE) to offer a unique benefit option for small businesses like yours. The COSE Benefit Plan is a multiple employer welfare arrangement (MEWA) that allows businesses of 1–50 to experience rate stability, savings and the same great health benefits that large corporations have. Bundle your health plan with our dental, vision or life plans for a fully integrated benefits package.

Contact your broker | [COSEBenefitPlan.com](https://COSEBenefitPlan.com)



**MEDICAL MUTUAL**  
Ohio's Hometown Health Insurer



## Edge Plastics Inc.

Edge Plastics Inc. produces high quality storage containers in our factory in Mansfield, Ohio. Our products are used in a wide variety of colors and sizes. Because of our attention to quality, competitive pricing and reliable service we are the manufacturer of choice many big box retailers in the United States and Canada. We continue to grow our investment in improving factory facilities, capacities and adding robotic palletization equipment. We are proud of our employees and products. Check out all of our products at [www.edgeplasticsinc.com](http://www.edgeplasticsinc.com)



Questions about your business's future? We can help.

# Let's talk.

Conversations That Change Everything.<sup>SM</sup>

[www.hwco.cpa](http://www.hwco.cpa)  
419.524.2875



# We're on a new-logo-every-138-years streak.

It's true. We have a new look. But we're still the same independently owned bank.

**New look. Same us.**



## SAVE THE DATE FOR LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS AFTER HOURS



**2/6/25**  
**5:00 - 7:00 P.M.**  
Kingwood Garden Center

Hosted By  
Richland Area Chamber  
Business Advocacy  
Committee





PLEASE JOIN US!

# BUSINESS AFTER HOURS RICHLAND GIVES WATCH PARTY



**TUESDAY, December 3, 2024 | 5:00pm - 7:00pm**  
Mid-Ohio Conference Center, 890 W. 4th St. Mansfield



**COST:** FREE for Chamber members if RSVP is received by the end of business on November 28 (\$5.00 if registration is received after this date).

Non-members are welcome to attend at \$5.00/person.



### THREE WAYS TO REGISTER:

1. Scan QR code or use event calendar at [richlandareachamber.com](http://richlandareachamber.com)
2. Call us at (419) 522-3211
3. Email Lisa Duckworth at: [lduckworth@richlandareachamber.com](mailto:lduckworth@richlandareachamber.com)



**RICHLAND AREA  
CHAMBER  
& ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**  
Strong Business - Strong Community

Is this your first Business After Hours?  
Join us for a New Member Mixer a half hour before the  
event starts, hosted by the Chamber Ambassadors



# Let's Get More Shoppers In Your Store!

## Richland County 'Small Business Saturday' Program

Sign up now for the big day - Saturday, November 30, 2024



The Clear Fork Valley  
Chamber of Commerce

**PLEASE REGISTER BY NOVEMBER 13**

Small Business Saturday is a national program that takes place the Saturday after Thanksgiving.

Supported by:

We expand on this great program by providing prizes to further incentivize shopping local.



### Small Business Saturday Program Details

- Register for the program online or by contacting the Chamber
- Shoppers simply visit your store to enter a prize drawing.
- The Chamber will provide you with entry forms that can be printed or copied (or you can make your own).
- Collect the entry forms on Small Business Saturday at your business.
- At the close of business on SBS, select your winner and notify them.
- When the winner collects their prize, we suggest you post a picture on your social media sites and tag the Richland Area Chamber. This will give your business additional exposure on social media!
- As always, shoppers will not be required to make a purchase.
- There is no cost for your business to participate, but please provide a prize worth \$25 or more which can be an item(s) or a gift card.

There will also be five(5) \$100 value grand prizes donated by the Chamber and other sponsors.

- These prizes can be won when customers scan a QR code at your store and register to win.
- The Chamber will provide you a flyer to hang that provides the QR code and gives easy instructions to your customers.
- The Chamber will notify the winners of the grand prizes and distribute them.

**The Chamber will promote the program heavily using local media, social media & Chamber communications - don't miss out!**

*You do not need to accept American Express and Chamber membership is not required to participate.*

### 2024 SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY PROGRAM REGISTRATION

**PLEASE REGISTER BY NOVEMBER 13**

*Businesses must be a locally owned franchise or independently owned retail business to participate.*

*Want to support the program but you aren't a retail-type store? Contact the Chamber for sponsorship information!*

Please register your business by scanning the QR code on the right, online through the event calendar at [www.richlandareachamber.com](http://www.richlandareachamber.com) or return this form to the Richland Area Chamber.



Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Does your business have a Facebook page? yes/no

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Website: \_\_\_\_\_

*THIS INFORMATION WILL APPEAR ON ADVERTISING - please use business phone and address (do not include personal information)*

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I agree to be a participant in this program, which means I will offer a single prize (worth \$25 or more).

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Return to: Richland Area Chamber, 55 N. Mulberry St, Mansfield, OH 44902 email: [jwagner@richlandareachamber.com](mailto:jwagner@richlandareachamber.com)**

**Questions? Call the Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development at 419-522-3211**





## SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

Thank you for shopping with us on SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY. Your efforts truly HELP MAKE AN IMPACT IN RICHLAND COUNTY!

# ENTER TWO PRIZE CONTESTS ON SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY TAKING PLACE ON NOVEMBER 25!



### Contest 1: Enter the prize drawing taking place at 70+ participating stores.

Prize tickets will be available at each store to complete and enter.



### Contest 2: While you're there, scan their QR code to enter a countywide grand prize drawing valued at \$100.

Five winners will be selected (one entry per store, maximum of 6 total entries per shopper from participant list).

See full list of 70+ participate the event calendar at [richlandareachamber.com](http://richlandareachamber.com).

Brought to you by:





LUNCH & LEARN

MEET OUR SPEAKER



Sergeant Jered Kingsborough

# ACTIVE SHOOTER TRAINING

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2024

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

*Lunch included with registration*

DAN LEW EXCHANGE  
28 N. MAIN STREET  
MANSFIELD, OH 44902

JOIN US

[www.RichlandAreaChamber.com](http://www.RichlandAreaChamber.com)



RICHLAND AREA  
**CHAMBER**  
& ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
*Strong Business - Strong Community*

## A CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

### Richland Area Chamber ATHENA Leadership Award

Nominate an exceptional woman for the Richland Area Chamber ATHENA Leadership Award! This prestigious recognition celebrates individuals who excel professionally, contribute to their community, and empower other women. Nominees should have ties to north central Ohio. Be a part of this distinguished tradition and submit your nomination by January 10, 2025. Recognize remarkable women in the categories of professional support, business accomplishments, community service, and more.

Join us at our Annual Meeting on February 12, 2025, sponsored by Park National Bank, as we honor these outstanding leaders. Don't miss the chance to acknowledge their remarkable contributions.



2024 ATHENA AWARD RECIPIENT  
**KRISTINE LINDEMAN**

NOMINATE



## NOW ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS RCDG Economic Excellence Awards



Nominations are open for the 2025 Economic Excellence Awards, recognizing the game-changers in Richland County's economic landscape. We invite you to highlight businesses, individuals, and organizations that have significantly influenced economic, workforce, and community development. The Economic Impact Awards specifically acknowledge outstanding efforts in these areas.

Awards will be presented at the Annual Meeting on February 12, 2025, at the Mid-Ohio Conference Center. Nominate deserving candidates by January 17, 2025 by following the link below.

[NOMINATE](#)

## THE POWER OF PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS FOR SMALL BUSINESS SECURITY



**HELEN PATTON**

Experienced CISO and business leader



REGISTER

DEC. | 4 | 2024



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MANSFIELD

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY  
Institute for  
CYBERSECURITY & DIGITAL TRUST





# MemberPlus App

Stay connected and get more from your membership with the MemberPlus App!



This convenient tool lets you:

- Register for events
- Update your profile
- Access member benefits and resources
- View other members' contact info
- Post and browse Hot Deals
- Submit job openings
- Receive Chamber updates

[Download the iOS app](#)

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## Newman Technology

Newman Technology has been manufacturing products in Richland County for the automotive industry for over 35 years. We are committed to our associates and our customers, and invested in our community partners through our corporate citizenship activities.

We are proud that our associates provide world-class products, services and solutions that help improve mobility across North America. We are committed to continuing this legacy even as we move forward into the next generation of mobility, interstate commerce, and consumer products that will enable us to maintain our support of our community's economic, social, and environmental well-being.

## EMPOWERING THE NEXT CHAPTER

Leadership Insights for Women Facing Menopause

[REGISTER](#)

Dr. Melissa McRae, DO, is a board-certified family medicine physician and the founder of Vitality Natural Wellness and Medspa, where she specializes in functional medicine. Dr. McRae is passionate about providing her patients—leaders, innovators, and executives—with highly personalized, advanced care through nutritional interventions, metabolic and genetic testing, and behavioral strategies. Her fascination with the human body and dedication to improving patient outcomes led her to create Vitality Natural Wellness and Medspa after 12 years in traditional medicine, where she felt constrained by the conventional healthcare environment.

- Board-certified family medicine physician and founder of Vitality Natural Wellness and Medspa
- Specializes in functional medicine, offering advanced, personalized care plans
- Passionate about optimizing patient wellness through innovative and holistic healthcare

Dr. McRae's session, "Empowering the Next Chapter: Leadership Insights for Women Facing Menopause," is an engaging exploration of the unique challenges and opportunities that arise during menopause. Her presentation delves into how menopausal symptoms can affect daily life, work performance, and confidence, offering practical strategies for women to manage this transformative phase with resilience. From leadership roles to everyday experiences, attendees will learn to embrace menopause as a powerful chapter of personal growth, leveraging their wisdom to thrive and empower themselves through this journey.



**MELISSA MCRAE, DO**

*Founder*  
Vitality Natural Wellness



**NOV. 20, 2024**  
11:45 am - 1:00 pm

**DLX | Kobacker Room**  
28 N. Main St.  
Mansfield, OH





# INVITATION

## 2024 Small Business of the Year Awards Luncheon

The Board of Directors and Small Business of the Year Committee of the Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development request your attendance as we celebrate and honor all small businesses and name our **2024 Small Business of the Year Recipients.**

**December 10, 2024**

**11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.**

- Receiving line and networking - 11:30 a.m.
- Buffet Lunch - 11:45 a.m.
- Program - 12:15 - 1:30 p.m.

**Location:**  
**Kehoe Center**  
**175 Mansfield Ave.**  
**Shelby, OH**

**Kindly RSVP by:**  
**November 29, 2024**

Reservations must be canceled TWO business days in advance to avoid being charged for the event

**REGISTER NOW** >

**(419) 522-3211**



Thank you to:





2024-2025 Presenting Sponsor



What an incredible day the LU class members had exploring the hidden gems of Richland County on the community scavenger hunt. They stopped at attractions, museums, businesses, parks, retail establishments, and restaurants. Along the way, teams stopped to chat with elected officials, librarians, clergy, and first responders. Participants commented on how much there is to do in Richland County, and how the placemaking and development efforts of each community are evident. A highlight of our day was a tour of the Renaissance Theatre, where the team graciously showed us around and hosted a happy hour in The Ghostlight Lounge.



Program Day Sponsor

**richlandsource**



Learn more about program days at [facebook.com/LeadershipUnlimited](https://facebook.com/LeadershipUnlimited). 





Our new Engage Richland community leadership program for young professionals kicked off in October. The 16 participants started by taking a leadership assessment and using the results to create action plans for enhancing key leadership behaviors.

Throughout the program, they'll dive into topics like tourism, local government, health and wellness, workforce development, and economic development in Richland County. Plus, they'll be paired with mentors to help them achieve their goals.

Program Day Sponsor





2024-2025 Presenting Sponsor

**richlandsource**



This year's class of 41 high school sophomores learned how different industries collectively contribute to a vibrant Richland County during the November program day.



Students visited the Ohio Bird Sanctuary for an owl educational program and toured the grounds.



Mansfield Mayor Jodie Perry and Ontario Safety Service Director Adam Gongwer shared their respective priorities and ways high school students can get involved.



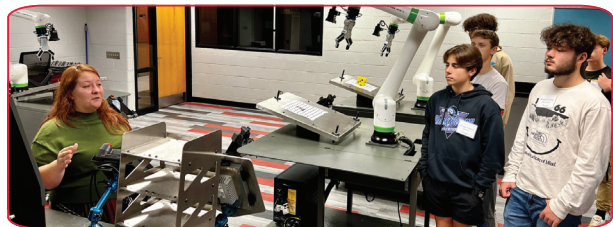
Students learned about Avita Health System's pharmacy, supply chain, nursing, and radiology departments.



The 179th Cyberspace Wing representatives shared about their mission and career opportunities.



The Ohio State University at Mansfield faculty and staff gave STEM lab tours while discussing majors and pathways with students.



Program Day Sponsor



**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

MANSFIELD



**CALL 419-774-4700  
TO SCHEDULE TODAY!**





# UPCOMING CHAMBER EVENTS

Register for these events [HERE](#) or visit our event calendar at [www.richlandareachamber.com](http://www.richlandareachamber.com)

- 11/20/24 Women's Leadership Connection, Melissa McRae, DO, DLX, 11:45am-1pm
- 11/21/24 Lunch & Learn - Active Shooter Training, TBD, 11:30am-1pm
- 11/30/24 Small Business Saturday
- 12/03/24 Richland Gives BAH, Mid-Ohio Conference Center, 5-7pm
- 12/04/24 Cybersecurity..., The Ohio State University at Mansfield Riedl Hall 151, 5:30-7pm
- 12/10/24 Small Business of the Year Awards Celebration 2024, Kehoe Center, 11:30am-1:30pm
- 02/06/25 Legislative Business After Hours, Kingwood Garden Center, 5-7pm
- 02/12/25 Annual Meeting, Mid-Ohio Conference Center, 5:30-9pm
- 03/19/25 Business Expo
- 04/23/25 Business Professionals Day



**Locations:**

150 East Fourth St. Mansfield, Ohio 44902  
1650 E. Southern Ave. Bucyrus, Ohio 44820

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**Our Mission:**

**"Empower people with developmental disabilities to live their best life by fostering innovative opportunities through community engagement."**

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