

# **CHAMBER LINK**

**MARCH 2025** 



Richland Area Chamber & Economic Developmet Annual Meeting & Evening of Excellence 2025





### STAFE

Ellen Heinz, M.Ed., OhioCED

### **Angie Cirone**

Director of Education Foundation & Profesional Development

#### **Donnie Clark**

### **Lisa Duckworth**

Phone extension 105

### **Angie Fanello**

Member Engagement & Special

### **Jessica Gribben**

### **Kathy Fox**

Front Office & Community Sectors

### **Clint Knight**

Director of Workforce Development/ Area 10 Workorce Dev. Board Phone extension 112

### **Sandy Messner**

### **Evan Stuart**

Phone extension 115

### **Barrett Thomas**

### **Tom Vanderhorst**

### **Jennifer Wagner**

55 N. Mulberry St. Mansfield, OH 44902 Phone: (419) 522-3211 Fax: (419) 526-6853

info@richlandareachamber.com







President & CEO

Happy March, AMAZING CHAMBER MEMBERS!

We are so thankful for your support and engagement in our organization and region! 2025 is off to a terrific start!

Thank you to all that attended our Annual Meeting – what an outstanding event and turnout! A special thanks to Lisa & the entire team for making it such a special evening!

As you know, the Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development is housed at 55 N. Mulberry Street, and is comprised of the Richland Area Chamber, Richland Community Development Group, and the Mansfield-Richland Area Educational Foundation.

We continue to build on past success and ways to elevate our work! We have incredible boards that provide guidance to a terrific team that implements the work and organizational priorities.

Due to additional growth, we are happy to share we have added two new team members\* (RCDG) and updated titles and roles. Please see the information below:

### Richland Area Chamber

- Lisa Duckworth, Director of Programs, Events and Facilities
- Jennifer Wagner, Director of Member Services, Engagement and Retention
- Sandy Messner, Director of Marketing, Communication and External Contracts (Chamber & RCDG)
- Kathy Fox, Front Office and Community Sectors Coordinator (Chamber & RCDG)
- Evan Stuart, Marketing and Legislative Affairs Coordinator
- Angie Fanello, Member Services and Special Projects Coordinator

### MRA Educational Foundation

Angie Cirone, Director & Professional Development

### Richland Community Development Group

- Barrett Thomas, Senior Economic Development Director
- Jessica Gribben, Economic and Community Development Director
- Clint Knight, Workforce Development Director & WIOA Executive Director
- \*Donnie Clark, Economic Development Project Manager
- \*Tom Vanderhorst, Finance Specialist

This year, we will have a heightened focus on Advocacy and Connections, Talent Attraction, Economic Development/Redevelopment, and Wellness (Health & Financial). We will also be updating our 2022-2025 Strategic Plan and look forward to sharing more information with you on this program later this year. Thank you so much for your support of all we do!

WE LOVE OUR MEMBERS AND OUR COMMUNITY!

Warmest Regards,

Ellen



# **FEBRUARY MEMORABLE MOMENTS**





### **ECONOMIC FORECAST BREAKFAST**





WLC - KARATE BEYOND THE DOJO, RENATA MUSIC



**ED NOW** 



**JA INSPIRE** 



**LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS AFTER HOURS** 

# Annual Meeting & Economic Excellence Awards

























ArcelorMittal Tubular Products
ECONOMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD

Ideal Electric Company
ECONOMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD

Tim Bowersock
ECONOMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD

Amy Wood
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AWARD



# MANSFIELD RISING 2.0 A BOLD VISION FOR GROWTH

The Mansfield Rising 2.0 plan has been released, bringing fresh ideas to continue transforming our community. A new cohort of local leaders attended SXSW 2024, returning with innovative projects focused on transportation, housing, placemaking, mental health, and community engagement. Projects include:

- School Transportation Initiative Increase accessibility to school Transportation.
- Emerging Developers Accelerator Increase the number of qualified, trained housing developers
- The Homage Project Creative placemaking for the benefit of all
- Housing First for Mansfield –
   Providing immediate housing solutions to address homelessness.
- Digital Trauma Support Resource Providing digital and in-person resources for trauma survivors.
- Mansfield Makes Creating a makerspace for artists and entrepreneurs.
- Pocket Park Adding a playful, family-friendly green space downtown.
- The Yard Active Under-Utilized Spaces for Healthy and Family-Friendly Recreation

These initiatives will enhance livability, attract investment, and foster long-term growth.

Look for project stories in Richland Source in March and join us for a public mixer this spring to learn more!

#MansfieldRising



### FEBRUARY RIBBON CUTTINGS







## **Production will soon be underway for** the 2025-2026 Community Guide & **Member Directory**

What this means to you:

### 1. Check your listing for accuracy at www.richlandareachamber. com

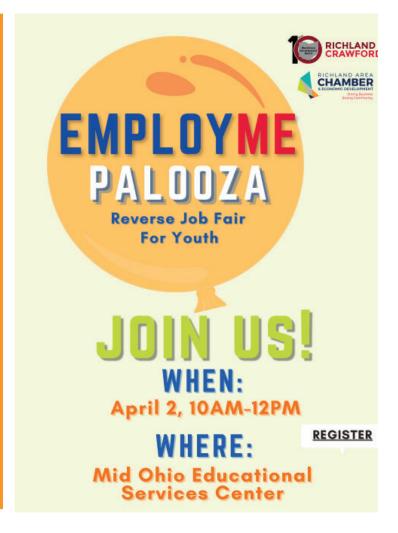
(your business info displayed on the Chamber website will also be used in the printed guide). If corrections are needed, you can either use the members-only portal of the Chamber website or contact Jennifer at 419-522-3211 / jwagner@richlandareachamber.com

### 2. Consider including an ad in the guide

8,000 copies are printed of this valuable reference guide used all year long by area residents, visitors, hotel guests, realtors, and local businesses! Contact Angle at 419-522-3211 / afanello@richlandareachamber.com.

Please be sure your marketing department has this information!











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







# Thank you to our renewing members!

### CATALYTIC LEADERS / PLATINUM



CATALYTIC LEADER / GOLD

CATALYTIC LEADER / SILVER

Contact Jennifer at (419) 522 3211, or jwagner@ richlandareachamber.com

Interested in

enhancing your member benefits?

Midwest Automotive Trucking, LTD.

### CNG CHARTER NEXT GENERATION

### SHAPE & THRIVE

BlueScope Recycling & Materials, LLC.

Phillips Tube Group

### BOOST & EXCEL

Huntington National Bank Painted Cowgirl Western Store Richland County Land Reutilization Corporation Sam's Club The Wishmaker House Bed & Breakfast, Restaurant and Winery

### **BUILD & GROW**

Ambrose Asphalt, Inc. General Technologies, Inc Jamison Well Drilling, Inc. Joe Behr Plumbing & Heating, Inc. Michael Byrne Manufacturing
OmniSource
Redwood Apartments
Rex's Landscaping & Construction,

Richland County Transit Wedgewood Estates

### ENGAGE & CONNECT

Ace Auto Performance All American Gutter Protection Alzheimer's Association, NW Ohio Chapter Ashland Cleaning, LLC. Blake's Sanitation, LTD. Bo Lacey Construction, LLC. **Budokai Martial Arts Buehler's Fresh Foods** Cain Graphics & Screen Printing Central Ohio Glass, LLC. C-Harris Development Consultants Community Action for Capable Youth Crundwell Digital Marketing, LLC. Darmak Trucking, Inc. Discovery School Dynamic Dental Specialists, LLC. East of Chicago Pizza Co- Galion and Shelby Friends of The 179th Family Readiness & Support Group Golden Hawk Transportation **GROhio Community Credit Union** Hoffman Analytic Services Inc. DBA

Alloway

Jackie's Cheesecakes

JAG Healthcare Shelby

Johnny's Mattress & Furniture SuperStore JS, LLC. Septic & Excavation Kimberly Carnahan Loudonville Farmers Equity Co. Mad-Fit Madison Adult Career Center Mansfield Association of REALTORS Mansfield City Schools District Mansfield Gay Pride Association Mansfield Reformatory Preservation Society MD Creative Blends Metal Exteriors Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center and Conference Center National Association of Insurance and **Financial Advisors** North End Community Improvement Collaborative, Inc. Oak Park Tavern & Restaurant Ontario Local Schools Partin Property Development Pat Kracker Breast Cancer Fund Porky's Drive-In Retired Judge James D. Henson Richland Academy of the Arts

Johnny Johnson Sports

Agency Richland County Farm Bureau Richland County Park District - Gorman Nature Center Richland County Solid Waste Richland Newhope Industries, Inc. (RNI, Inc.) Rieman Farms Rotunda Scientific Technologies S&S Second Chances Art & Craft Studio SCMA, Inc. dba Team Chitwood Shelby Horizons, Ltd. Shirt Shack Step by Step Child Care, Inc. Stoodt's Fresh Market Strassell's Machine, Inc. **THA Brands** Thomas And Son Electric, LLC. Two Cousins Pizza Vetter Property Management, LLC. Village of Jeromesville Village of Lexington Woven Opportunities Consulting, LLC. YMCA of North Central Ohio

Richland County Emergency Management





# **BOOTH REGISTRATION**

### PRESENTING SPONSOR:





### **DETAILS:**

- Thursday, March 20, 10-4pm, at the Richland County Fairgrounds
- Set up will take place from 3-5pm on Wed., March 19 to allow for the "Expo Eve" Business After Hours taking place 5-7pm that evening - 300+ attended the BAH in previous years, with over 900 attending the Expo!
- Theme: Unleash the Pawsibilities! Join This Year's Pet-Themed Business Expo
- Booth prizes will be awarded for: Most Creative, Best Use of Theme, & People's Choice
- Admission will be free, and once again, many forms of media will be used to promote the Expo to the public.

**COST: \$265** 

Booth size is 8'x10'. 8ft. table, 2 chairs, and electricity/wifi included.

THIS EVENT WILL SELL OUT! TO GUARANTEE A SPOT, PLEASE RESPOND PROMPTLY!

# COMPLETE FORM AND RETURN WITH PAYMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO RESERVE YOUR BOOTH Booths are first come, first served. Online registration is available by visiting the event calendar at www.RichlandAreaChamber.com). Organization: Address: Contact person: Phone: Fax: Exp: \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Address of Card Holder:

**REGISTER** 

Phone: 419-522-3211 • Fax: 419-526-6853 Email: Iduckworth@richlandareachamber.com Mail: Richland Area Chamber & Economic

Development • 55 N. Mulberry St., Mansfield 44902



### PRESENTING SPONSOR:

# Thamilton Insurance Aroup Inc.

### **FOOD TRUCKS!**

Bring Your

~Friends ~Family

~Neighbors ~Co-workers

### **Public Welcome- visit with local businesses**



Pet Item Drive - Bring a item for the Humane Society or Richland County Dog Shelter! See event page on our website for a list of items needed.

### Thank you to our sponsors!

(as of 3-6-25)

### **TOP DOG**









### **PICK OF THE LITTER**

Chicago Title Agency of North Central Ohio, Inc Koorsen Fire & Security Phillips Tube Group

### **LEADER OF THE PACK**









**SPECIAL** 











## MEDICAL MUTUAL®

### **WAGGING TAILS**

Area Agency on Aging B-Dry System of NCO, Inc. Bob and Bob Door Co Cleveland Clinic Cancer Center Health Insurance Options Hudson & Essex

Mr Appliance of Ashland and Mansfield Richland County Emergency Management Agency SCORE Southern Title of Ohio, Ltd. Spitzer Motors of Mansfield

Questions? 419-522-3211 www.RichlandAreaChamber.com

PRIZES 🕸 GIVEAWAYS 🍪 DON'T MISS IT!







**Program Day Sponsor** 



The LU Class of 2025 had an impactful program day on Responses to Crime in February.



Founder/CEO/Author Carlos Christian, of The Starts Within Organization, gave a compelling presentation on his programs for the rehabilitation of incarcerated people at DLX.





The class toured the Mansfield City Police Department Crime Lab with Director Anthony Tambasco and DNA Analyst Dawn Fryback to learn about the processes for DNA and drug testing.





Mansfield Police Chief Jason Bammann gave participants a demonstration of the de-escalation simulator. Mansfield Safety Service Director Keith Porch gave a presentation on METRICH. The class gained an appreciation for the progressive strategies and technology used by the Mansfield Police Department.



### **Program Day Sponsor**



The Engage Richland cohort examined Richland County's workforce during its February program day at the Mechanics Bank Creativity Room.



A panel of employers shared strategies for empowering their teams and gave advice to participants on building their careers.



The 179th Cyberspace Wing discussed recruitment and training efforts related to the new mission.



Director of Workforce Development and Area 10 Workforce Board Director Clint Knight discussed workforce data and trends.



### **Program Day Sponsor**

# WARREN RUPP

Young Leaders Institute embarked on a Shelby community tour in February.



Shelby Mayor Steve Schag sharing his top priorities, county-wide collaboration efforts, and advice for high school students interested in civic involvement and running for office.







From left to right: At the YMCA of North Central Ohio - Shelby Branch, students enjoyed a tour and tried out gymnastics equipment. OhioHealth Shelby Hospital staff highlighted the crucial role of healthcare in the community and the diverse career opportunities within the health system. Jake Penwell of Penwell Funeral Home shared his journey to becoming a funeral home director and owner, offering a tour and industry insights.





### **Register your staff today!**

### How to order tickets for your staff:

- Click here or visit event calendar at www.richlandareachamber.com
- · Call Lisa at 419-522-3211
- Email Lisa at:

Iduckworth@richlandareachamber.com

Mail payment to the Chamber at:
 55 N. Mulberry St, Mansfield OH 44902

### The Fun Includes:

- ~ Delicious Buffet Lunch
- ~ Swag for every guest
- ~ Door Prizes
- ~ Entertainment

### **PRICE**

\$30/person for Chamber members registered by April 5<sup>th</sup>. \$35 for members registering after April 5<sup>th</sup>.

NON-MEMBERS: \$40





# **Item Donation**

# BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS DAY LUNCHEON

**@MID-OHIO CONFERENCE CENTER** 



### DONATE A DOOR PRIZE OR GIFT BAG ITEMS

This is a great opportunity to highlight your business! Contributors will be thanked in the program and announced during the drawing.

Option one: Provide a prize for the live drawing (or we can shop for you).

Option two: Donate 400 small items branded with your name or unique to your business. These will be

placed in the goodie bag that each participant receives.

To donate an item(s), return the completed form below or contact Lisa Duckworth.

Phone: (419) 522-3211 Email: lduckworth@richlandareachamber.com

Business / Organ	nization:		
Contact Person:		Phone #:	
Email:			
Item:(s):			
Pick one:	Item enclosed (for mailed gift certificates)	Item will be dropped off / sent to Chambe	r office
Please respond I		ea Chamber & Economic Development Mulberry St, Mansfield, OH 44902	

### **SPONSORSHIPS ALSO AVAILABLE!**

It's not too late to sponsor this event! Contact Lisa at (419) 522-3211 or Iduckworth@richlandareachamber.com



# SPONSORSHIP

# BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS DAY LUNCHEON

Wednesday, April 23 11:30<sub>am to</sub> 1<sub>pm</sub>

### **@Mid-Ohio Conference Center**

### Gold (\$600)

- Eight (8) Tickets to the event (\$240 value!)
- Verbal recognition from the podium at event
- Table sign with corporate logo
- Logo recognition during slide show
- Logo in Chamber newsletter
- Logo on promotional emails
- Logo & link on Chamber event website
- Logo shared on social media
- Logo on event program

## **Silver (\$300)**

- Four (4) Tickets to the event (\$120 value!)
- Verbal recognition from the podium at event
- Logo recognition during slide show
- Name in Chamber newsletter
- Name on promotional emails
- Name & link on Chamber event website



## **Bronze (\$150)**

- Two (2) Tickets to the event (\$60 value!)
- Verbal recognition from the podium at event
- Name recognition during slide show
- Name in Chamber newsletter
- Name on Chamber event website
- Name on event program

Your level of Chamber membership MAY include credit for sponsorship.

Everyone from CEO's to support staff enjoy this event!

Contact Name:	Emai	il:		
Phone:	Fax:_			
SPONSORSHIP LEVEL (Circle One): (	GOLD - \$600 SILVER - \$3	300 BRONZE - \$150		CHLAND AREA
Payment: Check Enclosed	Please Invoice	VISA/MC/DISC (enter # on lin		ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT Strong Business Strong Community
CC#:		Exp:/	Security Code:	CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY

# BUSINESS AFTER HOURS "EXPO EVE" 2025 BUSINESS EXP UNLEASH THE PAWSIBILITIES

MARCH 19 | 5-7 PM RICHLAND COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

Fun networking. Enjoy tasty appetizers.

Door prizes. Get a sneak peak at the Business Expo.

Admission is FREE if you reserve your spot by Monday, March 17.

REGISTER NOW

Sponsored by:



richland SOUI'CE

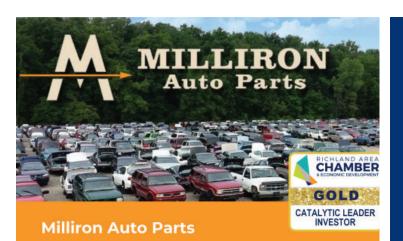


Rinehart (1956)
WALTERS-DANNER
Insurance Agency



Food by:





Milliron Auto Parts strives to be North Central Ohio's leading source for used automotive parts and buyers of scrap automobiles. Our company takes pride in our experienced sales staff, competitive pricing and high quality product. with our relentless effort in providing accurate part descriptions and part availability we are confident that our customers receive a quality product in a timely manner.

At Milliron Auto Parts we box and protect all of our product from the time it is removed from the vehicle to maintain the integrity of the parts we sell. We hope you will see the difference and choose Milliron's as your used parts supplier!



As your local, independent bank, we're uniquely equipped to make choices that benefit this community and all the wonderful people in it. So whether you need banking advice or just a friendly chat, remember that we're one ring away.

mymechanics.com

Sincerely yours,





### The Art of Connection

**Transforming Customer Service Through** 

**Genuine Interaction** 

REGISTER

Join us for the Women's Leadership Connection series, hosted by the Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development! This monthly event offers powerful networking, motivational "TED-type" talks, and a chance to learn more about our community. While designed especially with women in mind, everyone is welcome to attend.

In an era of automation, genuine human connection is a true competitive advantage. Discover how transforming customer service from a routine task to a meaningful experience can revolutionize your business.

- Learn how empathy, strategy, and leadership can drive customer loyalty and business
- growth.

   Understand the importance of authentic interactions in building lasting connections.

   Gain practical insights to create memorable experiences that make a lasting impact.

Meet Our Speaker:

Jenny Blue is a visionary leadership catalyst with over 30 years of cross-industry experience. Through her Life Design Blueprint™, she helps leaders align their vision, cultivate high-performance cultures, and unlock breakthrough potential. Jenny approaches leadership coaching with the same adventurous spirit as her love for hiking—focused on exploration, curiosity, and intentional progress. Don't Miss This Opportunity!

Connect, learn, and leave inspired to transform your approach to customer service and leadership. We look forward to seeing you there!

**APRIL 16, 2025** 11:45 am - 1:00 pm

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



JENNY BLUE Founder, Executive Coach Blue Thistle Transformational Leadership, LLC

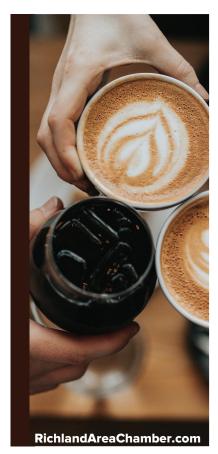
REGISTER NOW







**REGISTER NOW** 











## UPCOMING CHAMBER EVENTS

Register for these events HERE or visit our event calendar at <a href="https://www.richlandareachamber.">www.richlandareachamber.</a>

03/13/25 2025 Nonprofit Fair, The Ontario Center (shopping mall) 2-5pm

03/19/25 Business After Hours - Expo Eve, Richland County Fairgrounds Fairhaven Hall 5-7pm

03/20/25 Business Expo, Richland County Fairgrounds Fairhaven Hall 10am-4pm

04/02/25 EmployMEpalooza, Mid Ohio Educational Services Center, 10am-12pm

 $04/02/25 \quad \text{Introduction to Cybersecurity for Small Business Owners, The Ohio State University at} \\$ 

04/11/25 Chamber Coffee, Richland Source, 8-9am

Mansfield (Conard Hall 203), 8-9am

04/16/25 Women's Leadership Connection - The Art of Connecton, DLX, 11:45am-1pm

04/23/25 Business Professionals Day, Mid-Ohio Conference Center, 11:30am-1pm

05/15/25 Business After Hours, Snow Trails, 5-7pm

06/06/25 2025 Reigonal Economic Forum, The Blueberry Patch & 1285 Winery, 12-3pm

06/20/25 Chamber Golf Classic, Deer Ridge Golf Club

























ADENA CORPORATION • CLEVELAND FINANCIAL GROUP
• MIDWEST AUTOMOTIVE TRUCKING • MILLIRON AUTO PARTS