

RICHLAND AREA CHAMBER & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

# CHAMBERLINK

SEPTEMBER 2026



*Second Chances, Stronger Communities* event with Damon West.

# STAFF

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President & CEO

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10 Workforce Dev. Board Administrative  
Director

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Director

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f X @ yd in

## Strong Business. Strong Community.

### Jessica Gribben

*President & CEO*



First, a thank you. This spring we partnered with the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland on the Business Outlook and Trends Survey, better known as BOTS, and Richland County businesses showed up. Your responses surpassed our 50-response goal, which earned our community a custom Richland County report from the Fed in addition to the district-wide findings. That data helps us understand how local businesses are doing and where the Chamber should focus next.

The Fed has now published the full survey results, and they are worth your time: [View the BOTS survey results](#). Here is our [Richland County specific information](#).

Second, a deadline. The Richland United Comprehensive Plan will shape how our county grows for decades to come, and the community survey behind it is wrapping up. This is your last chance to add your voice. It takes about five minutes, and every response makes the plan a truer reflection of the people who live and work here.

If you have not taken it yet, now is the time: [Take the community survey](#).

Both projects tell the same story. When we ask this community to speak up for its future, you answer. That is what strong business and strong community look like in practice.

With gratitude,

### Jessica Gribben

*President & CEO, Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development*

## KNOW A BUSINESS THAT SHOULD BE A CHAMBER MEMBER? EARN \$50!

### Refer a new member and receive a \$50 gift card to the Chamber member business of your choice!

You already know the value of Chamber membership – now help another local business or organization discover the benefits!

Simply complete [the referral form](#) and [return it to Jennifer Wagner](#). We'll contact the business or organization you recommend, and if they join within 60 days, you'll receive a **\$50 gift card for every successful referral**.

Not sure whether they're already a member? Search our member directory at [richlandareachamber.com](http://richlandareachamber.com) or call us at 419-522-3211.

**Spread the word. Support local business. Earn a reward!**







## Women's Leadership Connection



**Peggy Anderson**  
Third Street Clinic

Designed with women professionals in mind, this inspiring series brings together meaningful networking, a motivational TED-style presentation, and opportunities to discover more about our community. Join us every other month to connect, learn, and be inspired.

Wed, October 21  
11:45 am - 1:00 pm

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

SPONSORED  
BY:



REGISTER NOW →



### Midwest Automotive Trucking

Midwest Automotive Trucking is a trusted provider of specialized transportation and logistics solutions serving the automotive recycling industry and has been serving the industry for over 20 years. Beyond delivering freight, their team takes pride in giving back to the place they call home. Through employee donations, volunteer efforts, and company support, Midwest actively contributes to the United Way of Richland County. These efforts help fund local programs that strengthen families, support education, and improve lives across our community."



### 2026 SUMMER COURTYARD SERIES SEPTEMBER SCHEDULE

MECHANICS BANK | 2 S. MAIN STREET | MANSFIELD  
LIVE PERFORMANCES WILL BE HELD 11:30 A.M.-1:30 P.M.

#### SEPT 11

SHaK  
The Back Porch Food Co.\*

#### SEPT 18

Tom's Kitchen Table  
Cub Country\*

*In the event of inclement weather,  
visit [MyMechanics.com/LiveatLunch](https://www.mymechanics.com/LiveatLunch) for updates.  
\*Food truck items available for purchase*



A woman with long dark hair, wearing a brown cardigan and denim overalls, stands in a bakery with her arms crossed. Behind her are shelves filled with various donuts.

## 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)

**COSE**  
BENEFIT PLAN



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



# Thank you to our renewing members!

## BOOST & EXCEL

CCR Fleet Services LLC

Major Metals Company

## BUILD & GROW

The Center for Cosmetic Dentistry Inc

Amerite Tower Corp.

Banks and Associates CPAs LLC

The Ohio State University at Mansfield

Brost Foundry

Metronome Music, Inc.

SSIP Insurance Partners

R. G. Smith Company

## ENGAGE & CONNECT

Global Medical Foam, Inc

Gionino's Pizzeria

Keith's Drain & Septic Service

Matt Quinn & Company

McCready Interiors/Norwalk the Furniture Idea

Mike Donahue State Farm

Whitaker's Natural Market

Cabin Catering & Events/The Cabin Venue

Abdo Industrial Machine Services

Confident Driving Academy

Meade Roofing Services

Bake My Day

Community Action Commission of Erie,  
Huron & Richland Counties, Inc.

DTE

Leaning Tower of Pizza

Oak Hill Cottage (Richland County  
Historical Society)

Pacific Impressions Inc.

GHSP

Bender Communications Inc

Blessed Journey, LLC

Braintree Business Development Center

Charles Mill Marina

Hammett Asphalt Paving Inc

Jack P. Stewart, Inc.

Knapp Electric

Life Steps Counseling Services

Local Project Pro LLC

M1 Church and Kids Academy

Maelowe Corp Inc DBA Weber's

Mansfield Art Center

Mansfield Noon Optimist Club

Mind Body Align, LLC

North Central State College

Pleasant Hill Marina

Three Rose Enterprise, LLC

Brechbuhler Scales, Inc.

G & M Body and Paint Shop

Ooh La La Catering

Ora K Beauty Products

The Pampered Chef

Pivot Creative



# AUGUST MEMORABLE MOMENTS



Leadership Unlimited Orientation



Women's Leadership Connection



Second Chances, Stronger Communities  
event with Damon West



Chamber Coffee at Mechanics Bank



# AUGUST RIBBON CUTTINGS

**Goin' Postal**  
Grand opening



**The Hollow at Middle Park**  
Disc Golf Course  
Grand opening



**OH Report**  
Grand opening



**Refined Roofing & Siding**  
Grand opening







### Westbrook Country Club

Westbrook Country Club has stood for generations as one of Richland County's most distinguished gathering places — where timeless tradition, refined hospitality, and meaningful connection come together effortlessly. A proud member of the Troon Privé collection, Westbrook delivers an elevated private club experience defined by championship golf, exceptional dining, and impeccable service. From elegant weddings to executive retreats and milestone celebrations, every event is curated with thoughtful precision — with many experiences open to members and guests alike. Eight beautifully appointed on-site suites and a vibrant social calendar make every visit worthy of lasting memories."



# HDC SIGNS

SIGNAGE | WRAPS | GRAPHICS

[www.HDC-SIGNS.com](http://www.HDC-SIGNS.com) | 419-774-0199

## IS YOUR STAFF MISSING OUT ON CHAMBER EMAILS?

The Chamber wants to be sure you are receiving emails containing important information for your business.

If someone on your staff is not getting our emails, be sure to request to be added.

Email us here with the subject line "include in email list".



### Commercial Steel & Aluminum Entry Doors

J&B repairs & replaces steel & Aluminum door systems

#### Repairs

Steel & Aluminum entrance door repair services include: hinge replacement, continuous gear hinges, exit devices, locksets, door closers, thresholds and weather-stripping.

#### Replacement

We can remove your old Steel or Aluminum Door systems and replace it with a new one.

**\* CALL TODAY FOR A QUOTE \***

2750 Lexington Avenue • PO BOX 3015 • Mansfield, OH 44904  
Phone (419) 884-1155 • (419) 884-1188 • Fax (419) 884-1188  
[www.jb-ohio.com](http://www.jb-ohio.com)



## Leave mortgage anxiety OFF your packing list.

Our friendly experts make the process of getting a home loan as simply satisfying as popping your extra bubble wrap. They handle the details—you handle your family mementos with care.

[mymechanics.com/mortgages](http://mymechanics.com/mortgages)



Member FDIC

Subject to credit approval. Additional terms and conditions apply.

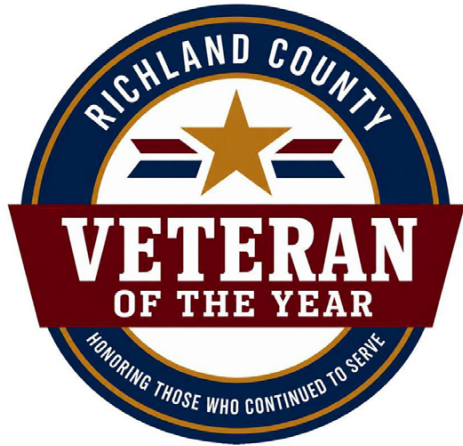
## PROMOTING YOUR BUSINESS IS EASY WITH THE CHAMBER!



Website | Newsletter | Email | Printed Directory  
Event Sponsorships | And More!

For more information, contact Angie Fanello at 419.522.3211, or [afanello@richlandareachamber.com](mailto:afanello@richlandareachamber.com)





AWARDED AT THE  
**RICHLAND AREA CHAMBER &  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
ANNUAL MEETING**

NOMINATIONS DUE  
**NOVEMBER 1, 2026**

#### FIRST ANNUAL AWARD

## CONTINUED SERVICE. LASTING IMPACT.

Recognizing an outstanding veteran whose leadership, volunteerism, integrity, and continued service have made a meaningful and lasting impact on Richland County, Ohio.

### ABOUT THE AWARD

The Richland County Veteran of the Year Award recognizes an outstanding military veteran who has continued a lifetime of service after their military career. This award honors a veteran whose leadership, volunteerism, integrity, and commitment have made a lasting impact on the citizens of Richland County.

While military service is the foundation of this recognition, the primary purpose is continued service through community involvement, mentorship, charitable work, civic leadership, and support of fellow veterans.

**NOMINATE HERE**



**RICHLAND  
LEADS**

Lead • Engage • Aspire  
Develop • Serve

*The new name for the  
Mansfield-Richland Area  
Educational Foundation.*

**LEAD BOLDLY.**

**STRENGTHEN  
COMMUNITY.**

**SHAPE THE FUTURE OF  
RICHLAND COUNTY.**

[LEARN MORE](#)





# EVENTS MADE EASY



Whether it's business meetings, training sessions, holiday parties, or family gatherings, we make hosting simple.

- Flexible Menu
- On-site Banquet Space
- Catering for groups of any size
- Professional Service

Book your fall and holiday events now!



419-886-7070



[DerDutchmanBellville.com](http://DerDutchmanBellville.com)





# UPCOMING EVENTS



## ROSETO CHAMBER Coffee



When: Thursday Nov 19, 2026  
8 - 9 AM

Where: Roseto Event Venue  
23 N. Main St.  
Mansfield, OH

Why: Coffee, connections...  
and did we mention coffee???

 [REGISTER NOW](#)



**NEW DATE**



**ALUMNI ROOFING**  
COMMERCIAL / INDUSTRIAL ROOFING



## BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

**ALUMNI ROOFING**  
**September 24, 2026**  
**4:00–6:00pm**

[REGISTER NOW](#)





Sign up for **One session or all Three!**



# Back to Business School

A 3-Part Lunch & Learn Series

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM  
\$25/session (includes lunch)  
Registration required



SEPT 9 – Your AI Org Chart:  
Build a Team That Works  
While You Sleep





SEPT 16  
Digital Marketing Trends



SEPT 23 – Getting Your Business  
Noticed: When to Pitch the  
Newsroom, When to Advertise,  
and How to Make Both Work



Presented by:



Visit the Chamber event  
calendar for more details!  
[www.richlandareachamber.com](http://www.richlandareachamber.com)

## Back to Business School – Your AI Org Chart: Build a Team That Works While You Sleep

Most small businesses know AI matters. Almost no one knows how to use it past ChatGPT and a few prompts. That's like owning a rocket ship and driving it to the grocery store.

In this hour, Vinyl Marketing shows you what AI does when you stop treating it as a tool and start treating it as an employee. We'll walk the difference between prompting and building real systems: a brain that knows your business, teammates that draft, research, and follow up, and workflows that run while you sleep. You stay the reviewer who approves the work instead of the one buried in it.

You'll leave able to name the first role you'd hand to an AI employee, and see how a small team gets more done without adding the next hire.

### MEET OUR PRESENTER:



Colleen Cook, President,  
Vinyl Marketing

### What You'll Walk Away With

- The real difference between prompting and building a system (a brain, teammates, and workflows), and why "AI = ChatGPT" is holding you back
- The first job in your business worth handing to an AI employee
- How owners buy time back and multiply a small team without adding headcount



# Back to Business School – Digital Marketing Trends

Marketing is constantly evolving, but the fundamentals of connecting with customers haven't changed. Whether you're attracting new business, improving your website, creating content, strengthening your on-site messaging, or building trust online, the most effective marketing starts with understanding what your audience truly needs.

In this session, DRM Productions will share practical strategies that help businesses create a better customer experience at every touchpoint. Through real-world examples and proven marketing principles, you'll learn how small changes can make a big impact on attracting customers, building credibility, and turning interest into action.

Whether you're managing your own marketing or working with a team, you'll leave with actionable ideas you can start implementing right away.

## MEET OUR PRESENTERS:



Jon Pierce, President, DRM



Jay Miller, CEO, DRM



Christina Beauford,  
Content Specialist, DRM

### What You'll Walk Away With

- A better understanding of what today's customers expect before they choose to do business with you.
- Practical ways to improve your website, messaging, and overall customer experience.
- Ideas for creating content that builds trust and keeps your business top of mind.
- Simple strategies to make your marketing work together across multiple channels.
- Actionable takeaways you can apply immediately, regardless of your budget or business size.

# Back to Business School – Getting Your Business Noticed: When to Pitch the Newsroom, When to Advertise, and How to Make Both Work

**Sometimes the hardest part isn't telling your story. It's recognizing when you have one.**

Most business owners don't have a communications team. They have ideas, announcements and milestones—and a nagging feeling they should probably tell people about them.

## MEET OUR PRESENTERS:



Jay Allred, CEO of Source  
Media Properties



Audrey Longstreth, Director  
of Business Development at  
Source Media Properties

### But how?

Join the Richland Source team for a hands-on workshop where we'll help you identify opportunities, decide whether they belong in the newsroom, in advertising or somewhere else entirely, and workshop real examples together.

Bring something happening in your business. You'll leave with a clearer plan for how to share it—and the confidence to know why.





# Working Together



## TO MAKE OUR COMMUNITY BETTER

## CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BENEFIT



**We are local.** Ritter's has been working with businesses in the community for 150 years.

We are here to help you and your business overcome the challenges created from the current health crisis. Our business and our employees are local; thus, we understand the unique circumstances facing your businesses.

We care deeply about the people and businesses that make up this local community and we want to help.



**More than office supplies.**

As a trusted benefit partner with your chamber, we want to work with you to ensure your business workspace is clean, productive, and safe! In addition to office supplies we provide PPE, disinfectants and other Jan/San cleaning supplies, social distancing signage, and office furniture options that are essential to keeping your employees and customers healthy.

**Working Together**

We must all work together to keep our businesses and community safe during these unprecedented times.

Let's discuss how we can help **support one another** and get our local economy back on its feet and thriving once again.



**National contract pricing**

Office supplies, Janitorial Products, Cleaning & Breakroom, Technology Supplies, Office Furniture and more!

Save an average 18% on those business supplies you are already purchasing with zero shipping or minimum order fee.

The chamber program includes a list of 1,700 "Best Buy" items with member-only national contract pricing.

### SAVINGS EXAMPLE

| Monthly Spend | Monthly Savings | Annual Savings |
|---------------|-----------------|----------------|
| \$500         | \$90            | \$1,090        |
| \$1,500       | \$270           | \$3,240        |
| \$2,500       | \$450           | \$5,400        |
| \$5,000       | \$900           | \$10,800       |

For more information, visit  
[www.charlesritter.net](http://www.charlesritter.net) or contact:

Name: Nick Childs  
Phone: 800-545-8000, Ext. 1125  
Email: [nchilds@charlesritter.com](mailto:nchilds@charlesritter.com)





# SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARDS

## Sponsorship Opportunities

### PRESENTING SPONSOR

\$6,000

(Exclusive)

- Two (2) tables of 8 at the luncheon
- Naming rights (Small Business Awards presented by...)
- 4 Minutes at the podium to make remarks at event
- Opportunity for a company representative to be an awards presenter
- Opportunity to have a promotional table at the event
- Logo included in Chamber event emails for this event
- Company name listed on all press releases
- Logo in Chamber newsletter
- Logo on cover of program
- Full page color ad in the event program (4.5"w x 7.5" tall)
- Table signs with corporate logo
- Logo recognition (dedicated slide) on slide presentation
- Multiple verbal recognitions at event
- Logo & link on event webpage
- Be recognized at the nominee breakfast
- Logo shared on social media
- Right of first refusal for next year

### FINALIST VIDEO SPONSOR

\$5,000

(Exclusive)

- One (1) table of 8 at the luncheon
- Logo on the "credits" page of each finalist video profile (shown at luncheon & social media)
- Opportunity for a company representative to be an awards presenter
- Logo included in Chamber event emails for this event
- Company name listed on all press releases
- Logo in Chamber newsletter
- Logo (small) on cover of program
- Full page color ad in the event program (4.5"w x 7.5" tall)
- Table sign with corporate logo
- Logo recognition on slide presentation
- Logo & link on event webpage
- Recognition at nominee breakfast
- Multiple verbal recognitions at event
- Logo shared on social media
- Right of first refusal for next year

### PREMIER SPONSOR

\$900

(6 Available)

- One table of 8 at the luncheon
- Opportunity to be on stage to present awards
- Logo (small) on cover of program
- Logo included in Chamber event emails for this event
- Logo in Chamber newsletter
- Half-page color ad in event program (4.75"w x 3.75" tall)
- Table sign with corporate logo
- Logo recognition on slide presentation
- Multiple verbal recognitions at event
- Logo & link on event webpage

### REGIONAL LEADER SPONSOR

\$450

- One table of 8 at the luncheon
- Logo (small) in the event program
- Table sign with corporate logo
- Name recognition on slide presentation
- Verbal recognition at event
- Company name & link on event webpage

### INNOVATOR SPONSOR

\$300

- 4 seats at the luncheon
- Company name in the event program
- Name recognition on slide presentation
- Verbal recognition at event
- Company name and link on event webpage

### ENTREPRENEUR SPONSOR

\$200

- 2 seats at the luncheon
- Company name in the event program
- Verbal recognition at event
- Company name on event webpage

DATE  
DECEMBER  
8, 2026

## PROMOTION FOR YOUR BUSINESS

**Audience:** Area business leaders, small business owners & managers, professionals, media, elected officials

**Advertising/Promotion via:** Email Blasts, Social Media Posts, Newsletter Ads, Chamber Website, and Event Program





SILENT AUCTION · FOOD TASTING · LIVE MUSIC

October 22, 2026

THURSDAY · 5:00 – 7:30 PM

Mid-Ohio Conference Center

890 West Fourth Street · Mansfield, Ohio

CELEBRATING  
Our 10th Anniversary  
ALONGSIDE AMERICA'S 250TH BIRTHDAY



#### TICKETS & DETAILS

*\$30 early bird if registered by Oct 1*  
*\$40 / person after Oct. 1*

Click or scan the QR code to register, or visit the event calendar at [richlandareachamber.com](http://richlandareachamber.com).



RICHLAND AREA  
**CHAMBER**  
& ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strong Business.  
Strong Community.

# SPONSORSHIPS



## Why be a Savor & Sip Sponsor?

Sponsoring this event is an opportunity to showcase your business while supporting one of the Chamber's signature community events. Your sponsorship puts your brand in front of local business leaders and community members through event promotion, social media, Chamber communications, and on-site recognition. It's a meaningful way to increase visibility, strengthen your community presence, and demonstrate your commitment to the growth and success of our local business community.

\*\*\* Over 20 food vendors and 500 guests are expected! \*\*\*

### PRESENTING SPONSOR \$4,000 (exclusive)

- 30 tickets included
- Naming rights (Savor & Sip presented by...)
- Guaranteed seating at a VIP table
- Logo (small) on souvenir glasses (1 color)
- Logo (1 color) on tote bags for attendees
- Logo (large) on event signage / posters
- Opportunity to set up a promotional table at the event to hand out information
- Company name/logo recognized on advertising
- Company name listed on all press releases
- Logo included in Chamber newsletter
- Logo included in Chamber emails about the event
- Logo on cover of "Tasting Menu"
- Full page ad in the "Tasting Menu" (3.75" w x 10.5" tall)
- Business recognized on stage & in announcements
- Logo & link on event webpage
- Logo shared on social media
- Right of first refusal for next year

### PLATINUM SPONSOR \$1,000

- 8 tickets included
- Guaranteed seating at a VIP table
- Logo (1 color) on tote bags for attendees
- Logo (color) on event signage / posters
- Company name listed on all press releases
- Logo included in Chamber emails about the event
- Logo included in the "Tasting Menu"
- Business recognized in announcements
- Logo listed on event webpage with link

### GOLD SPONSOR \$600

- 8 tickets included
- Logo (1 color/small) on tote bags for attendees
- Name on event signage / posters
- Name included in Chamber emails about the event
- Company Name listed in the "Tasting Menu"
- Business recognized in announcements
- Company Name listed on event webpage with link

### SOUVENIR GLASS SPONSOR \$2500 (exclusive)

- 20 tickets included
- Logo (1 color) printed on souvenir pub glass given to first 300 attendees, sponsors, & vendors
- Guaranteed seating at a VIP table
- Logo (1 color) on tote bags for attendees
- Logo on event signage / posters
- Company name listed on all press releases
- Logo included in Chamber newsletter
- Logo included in Chamber emails about the event
- Logo included in the "Tasting Menu"
- 1/2 page ad in the "Tasting Menu" (3.75" w x 5" tall)
- Business recognized on stage & in announcements
- Logo & link on event webpage
- Logo shared on social media
- Right of first refusal for next year

### TRAY SPONSOR \$900 (exclusive)

- 8 tickets included
- Company logo on all trays passed out at event to every participant
- Guaranteed seating at a VIP table
- Logo (1 color/small) on tote bags for attendees
- Name on event signage / posters
- Company name listed on all press releases
- Name included in Chamber emails about the event
- Name included in the "Tasting Menu"
- Business recognized in announcements
- Name listed on event webpage with link

### SILVER SPONSOR \$350

- 4 tickets included
- Company name on tote bags for attendees
- Name on event signage / posters
- Company Name listed in the "Tasting Menu"
- Business recognized in announcements
- Company Name listed on event webpage with link

Contact Lisa Duckworth at 419-522-3211 or [lduckworth@richlandareachamber.com](mailto:lduckworth@richlandareachamber.com)





# AUCTION AND FOOD TASTING EVENT

**Thursday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026 5-7:30pm**  
*at the Mid-Ohio Conference Center*

We'd love to feature your business with a donated item, gift certificate, or experience.  
This is a great opportunity to introduce your business to hundreds of community members  
while supporting one of the Chamber's biggest events!

☐

*Yes, I would like to donate an item to the auction!*

Business/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

Item(s): \* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Item will be dropped off OR it will need picked up between (dates) \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_  
(circle one)

Value of item: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please respond by Friday, October 9th:**

*Silent Auction*

**Call: 419-522-3211**

**Email: [lduckworth@richlandareachamber.com](mailto:lduckworth@richlandareachamber.com)**

*Thank you for your participation!*

10th Annual



# Calling all Food Vendors!

**FREE BOOTH FOR CHAMBER MEMBERS**

Restaurants, caterers, food trucks... ANYONE in the food industry, join us for the 10th Annual Savor & Sip Auction & Food Tasting on **Thursday, October 22** at the Mid-Ohio Conference Center.

To register, email Lisa Duckworth at [lduckworth@richlandareachamber.com](mailto:lduckworth@richlandareachamber.com)



## THE NEW 2026/2027 COMMUNITY GUIDES / CHAMBER MEMBER DIRECTORIES ARE HERE

This guide is full of great facts about our area. It is also the perfect way to show off your business and support your fellow Chamber members. Please share them with your staff, residents, and visitors. You can also leave them in your waiting area for customers to take!

### NEED MORE COPIES?

Four copies were sent to you in the mail, but if you need more, we can deliver them to you in the Richland County area at no charge. Let us know if you need a dozen or a case of 65! Contact Angie Fanello at the Chamber at 419-522-3211, ext. 106 or [afanello@richlandareachamber.com](mailto:afanello@richlandareachamber.com).



# A CALL FOR NOMINATIONS!

## Richland Area Chamber ATHENA Leadership Award



2026 Awardee: Ann Downs

**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 **October 2, 2026**. Recognize remarkable women in the categories of professional support, business accomplishments, community service, and more.

Join us at our **Annual Meeting on February 10, 2027**, as we honor these outstanding leaders. Don't miss the chance to acknowledge their remarkable contributions.

### SPONSORED BY:



**NOMINATE**



## WELCOME YVONNE SMITH

As Member Services and Front Desk Coordinator, Yvonne will often be the first face you encounter as you enter the Chamber. She joins our team with over 20 years of Marketing experience, and she is the consummate people person. She loves her community and enjoys getting to know everyone and forging lasting relationships with area businesses.

After retiring several years ago from being an Orthodontic Marketing Director, she spent her time volunteering at the Richland County Humane Society and serving on their Board of Directors. But she began to miss engaging with the public, so when the opportunity to be part of the chamber arose, she did not hesitate.

She was born in Ogden, Utah at Hill Air Force base and raised in Mansfield, Ohio. She graduated from Madison Comprehensive High School and Bradford College. She lives in Mansfield with her husband Bryan and their rescue beagle Bianca. She lives for the summer weather, cooking, reading, all things to do with animals and loves spending time in New Smyrna Beach, Florida with her family.

Please join us in giving Yvonne a warm welcome!





FROM THE CHAMBER VAULT

## What Was Making Chamber News 50 Years Ago?

A look back at what was making news in The Chamber Link, from business and education to public policy and community life. *Taken from Vol. V No. 8, September 1976.*



Governor Rhodes (center) addresses the Chamber breakfast, September 14, 1976.

### THE BIG STORY

## GOVERNOR'S BREAKFAST

**Governor James A. Rhodes** addressed more than 150 local business and political leaders at a Chamber-sponsored breakfast at the Mansfield campus of Ohio State University.

He also announced a \$1 easement across 1,500 feet of Ohio State Reformatory pasture land, which the newsletter said saved Mansfield \$4,679. Cabinet members stayed afterward to discuss local issues with area business people.

**150+**

business & political  
leaders

**135**

new teachers  
welcomed

**1,500 ft.**

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### WHAT ELSE WAS IN THE NEWS?

#### BUSINESS

##### LOCAL COMPANIES CHANGE HANDS

Borg-Warner Plumbing Products and Ideal Electric both completed sales of their Mansfield facilities. BW was expected to continue locally with no major personnel or policy changes; Carrier Corporation took over Ideal and indicated interest in expansion.

#### COMMUNITY

##### NEW TEACHERS WELCOMED

The Chamber welcomed 135 of the area's newest educators at a Sept. 1 luncheon, giving them a chance to meet business leaders, learn about the community and ask questions about the Mansfield-Richland area.

#### PUBLIC HEALTH

##### "PIG IN A POKE?" – SWINE FLU

A full-page article examined the planned "swine flu" vaccination program. It outlined who was considered high risk, the uncertainty surrounding a possible epidemic and expected local vaccine availability through the county health department.

#### CHAMBER BUSINESS

##### DUES & INFLATION

Executive Vice President Larry S. Reed wrote that a combination of rising operating costs and no dues increase since 1970 made a membership dues review necessary. A committee was to study the Chamber's structure and compare it with other chambers.

#### CIVIC ISSUES

##### CIVIC CENTER SIDELINED

The Board recommended indefinite deferral of a proposed civic auditorium center, citing financing challenges, current economic conditions and other community and downtown priorities.

#### EDUCATION

##### BOARD BACKS SCHOOL LEVY

The Chamber Board endorsed the 15.13-mill renewal levy for Mansfield City Schools. The newsletter said \$3.7 million in local funds – and about \$7 million in total funding – were at stake for 1977.

#### ALSO INSIDE THE SEPTEMBER 1976 ISSUE

*The Wisdom of Big Brother*, a satirical column by U.S. Chamber President Richard L. Leshner, poked fun at federal regulations and agency mistakes. Solicitations approved: fundraising efforts by the League of Women Voters of Mansfield and Colony Club, Inc.



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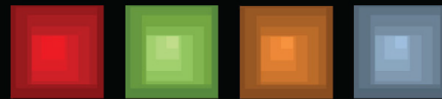
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# UPCOMING CHAMBER EVENTS

**09/09/26**

**Back to Business School – Your AI Org Chart: Build a Team That Works While You Sleep,**  
DLX Upstairs Restaurant, 11:30am–1:00pm

**09/16/26**

**Back to Business School – Digital Marketing Trends,** DLX Upstairs Restaurant, 11:30am–1:00pm

**09/23/26**

**Back to Business School – Getting Your Business Noticed: When to Pitch the Newsroom, When to Advertise, and How to Make Both Work,**  
DLX Upstairs Restaurant, 11:30am–1:00pm

**09/24/26**

**Business After Hours – Alumni Roofing,**  
4:00–6:00pm

**10/21/26**

**Women's Leadership Connection,** DLX Kobacker Room, 11:45am–1:00pm

**10/22/26**

**Savor and Sip Auction and Food Tasting 2026,**  
Mid Ohio Conference Center, 5:00–7:30pm

**10/28/26**

**HR Working Group,** Mansfield Richland County Public Library Community Room, 1st floor,  
12:00–1:00pm

**11/5/26**

**Business After Hours – Adena Corporation,**  
Adena Corporation, 4:00–6:00pm

**11/19/26**

**Chamber Coffee at Roseto Event Venue,**  
8:00–9:00am

**12/08/26**

**Small Business of the Year Awards Celebration 2026,** Kehoe Center, 11:30am–1:30pm

**1/27/27**

**Mayoral Vision 2026 Panel,** Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center, 11:00am–1:00pm

**2/10/27**

**Annual Meeting and Economic Excellence Awards Dinner 2027,** Kehoe Center, 5:00–8:00pm

**6/4/27**

**Chamber Golf Classic at Deer Ridge Golf Course 2027**

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

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