RICHLAND AREA CHAMBER & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

CHAMBERLINK

OCTOBER 2026



Chamber Member Appreciation Day.

RICHLAND AREA CHAMBER & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Strong Business. Strong Community.

RICHLAND COUNTY
A FAMILY OF COMMUNITIES
Ohio

STAFF

Jessica Gribben, OhioCED
President & CEO

Angie Cirone
Director of Education Foundation

Donnie Clark
Economic Development Project Manager - Richland County

Lisa Duckworth
Director of Programs & Events

Angie Fanello
Special Projects

Kathy Fox
Front Office Coordinator

Clint Knight
Director of Workforce Development/Area 10 Workforce Dev. Board Administrative Director

Jill Gantt
Workforce Development Coordinator

Evan Stuart
Marketing & Legislative Affairs Coordinator

Barrett Thomas
Senior Economic Development Director

Tom Vanderhorst
Finance Specialist

Jennifer Wagner
Director of Member Services

Yvonne Smith
Member Services & Front Office Coordinator

Jeff Parton
Economic & Community Development Director

55 N. Mulberry St.
Mansfield, OH 44902
Phone: (419) 522-3211
info@richlandareachamber.com



Celebrate and Support Our Local Business Community

Lisa Duckworth

Director of Programs & Events

Dear Chamber Members,

Fall is always an exciting and busy time at the Chamber, and we have some great opportunities coming up for you to connect, celebrate and support our local business community!

One of our biggest events of the year is the **10th Annual Savor & Sip Food Tasting & Auction Event**, and we'd love to have you be part of it! This popular event brings hundreds of guests together to enjoy delicious tastes from local restaurants, caterers, food trucks and other food-industry businesses, along with an exciting silent auction.

Do you know a food vendor that should be at Savor & Sip? We are looking for a few more food vendors to showcase their offerings. It's a great opportunity to introduce a business to hundreds of potential customers and fellow Chamber members.

Have an item or experience to donate to the silent auction? We'd love your support! Gift certificates, products, experiences, packages and other unique items are all welcome. Your donation helps make the event a success while giving your business valuable exposure to our attendees.

And, of course, **don't miss your chance to attend**! Savor & Sip is one of our most popular events of the year and a great evening for networking, sampling local food and enjoying a fun night with fellow Chamber members. **Register by October 9th to take advantage of the best pricing!**

We love seeing you at our events. Your participation, support and enthusiasm are what make our Chamber strong and our business community vibrant. We hope you'll join us at an event soon!

See more information about Savor & Sip and all of our upcoming events in this issue of the *Chamber Link*.

Warm regards,

Lisa Duckworth
Director of Programs & Events

Women's LEADERSHIP Connection

Women's Leadership Connection



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.

Peggy Anderson
Third Street Clinic

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

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

SPONSORED BY: Rubics

REGISTER NOW →



RICHLAND AREA CHAMBER & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
PLATINUM
CATALYTIC LEADER INVESTOR

Mechanics Bank

Mechanics Bank is Richland County's only independent bank and a special place for the approximately 160 employees who work here. Mechanics Bank is all about people – the customers we serve, the staff we employ and the neighbors that have turned into friends.

Our mission is to pursue excellence in every possible way to enrich the lives of people and the communities we serve. Mechanics encourages employees to be active in giving back to others on a personal level, be it locally, nationally or throughout the world, as we strive to make a difference. At Mechanics, one of the unique ways we serve our community and the world around us is through Humanitarian Leave. In addition to any community involvement as part of the Mechanics team, employees may take a full week of paid Humanitarian Leave to support the organization of their choice, as long as that organization helps provide food, clothing, and/or shelter to those in need. This benefit is in addition to an employee's paid time off.

For example, employees have used Humanitarian Leave to translate for medical teams in Nicaragua, to build Habitat Houses right here in Richland County, to help provide medical screenings in Peru and in numerous other places. The impact of Humanitarian Leave is far reaching and reminds us again how our work is "All About People."

Mortgage **without the migraine.**

A home loan with Mechanics comes with our friendly experts as your helpful guides to hassle-free homeownership. And for even less stress, ask us about options that could lower your down payment.

Mechanics Bank

mymechanics.com/mortgages

Subject to credit approval.
Additional terms and conditions apply.

Member FDIC

EQUAL HOUSING LENDER



©2024 Medical Mutual of Ohio



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

COSE BENEFIT PLAN | RICHLAND AREA CHAMBER & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT Strong Business. Strong Community.

MEDICAL MUTUAL®
Ohio's Hometown Health Insurer

Thank you to our renewing members!

CATALYTIC LEADER / SILVER

Cypress High School

NEWMAN TECHNOLOGY, INC.

BUILD & GROW

Brass Hanger Cleaners
Brown Derby Roadhouse/Ontario Event Center
Buckeye Chrysler Jeep Dodge Ram of Shelby
Clover Hill Early Learning Center
Eagle Mark 4 Equipment Co.
Kingston of Ashland
Leppert Machine Co., Inc.
MHS Industrial Supply
Nationwide Children's Hospital
Richland County Board of Developmental Disabilities (Richland Newhope)
Staker Dental
Steve's Dakota Grill
TASCO Thompson & Sons Company, Inc

ENGAGE & CONNECT

Advantage Family Outreach & Foster Care
Altrusa of Mansfield, Inc.
Brittany Condo Association
Chad Kingery - State Farm
Chinatown Restaurant
Cornerstone Counseling of Ashland LLC
Crawford Drainage Company LTD
Custom Control Technologies LLC
Dairy Land
Dr. Alexandra Emmons Licensed Clinical Psychologist
e-Merge Real Estate Champions
Edward Jones - Kevin Williamson Financial Advisor
Hess Industries LTD
Hockenberry Trucking and Excavating LLC
Hudson and Roth Outdoor Living, LLC
Humane Society of Richland County
IBEW - International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 688
JDE Industries, LLC
Lock It Up West
Mansfield Corral LLC/ Golden Corral
Midwest Aircraft Products Company
Ohio Bird Sanctuary
Paul's Drive-In
TownePlace Suites by Marriott
Uncle John's Place LTD
Wade Gardens Landscaping & Gift Shop

Interested in enhancing your member benefits?

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

RICHLAND AREA CHAMBER & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Strong Business. Strong Community.

SEPTEMBER **MEMORABLE MOMENTS**



Back to Business School - Your AI Org Chart Event



Member Appreciation Event



Back to Business School - Digital Marketing Trends Event



Small Business of the Year Nomination Breakfast



Back to Business School - Getting Your Business Noticed Event



Business After Hours at Alumni Roofing



Chamber staff at the United Way Day of Caring at the Dewald Center

SEPTEMBER **RIBBON CUTTINGS**



Hyacinth Court Condominiums
Grand opening



Sterkel Community Park for All - Dog Park
New dog park



Buckeye Chrysler Jeep Dodge Ram of Shelby
Building expansion



Schmidt Security Pro
50th Anniversary & building expansion



SouthernCare Hospice
New location



Mechanics Bank
100th Anniversary of downtown building location



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.

HDC SIGNS
SIGNAGE | WRAPS | GRAPHICS
www.HDC-SIGNS.com | 419-774-0199





"Engineering Infrastructure Solutions Since 1978"
www.kemccartney.com

RICHLAND COUNTY

VETERAN OF THE YEAR

HONORING THOSE WHO CONTINUED TO SERVE

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 AREA CHAMBER & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Strong Business. Strong Community.



BUSINESS After HOURS
NETWORKING MIXER
A RICHLAND AREA CHAMBER & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EVENT

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

ADENA CORPORATION

November 5, 2026
4:00–6:00pm

REGISTER NOW

Merris Welge Inducted into Ohio Senior Citizens Hall of Fame at Ohio Statehouse Ceremony in Columbus

If you have attended a Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development event, chances are you have seen Merris Welge volunteering, greeting guests, helping behind the scenes or lending a hand wherever needed. He also serves on the Expo, Small Business of the Year and Ambassador committees. He regularly attends ribbon cuttings and volunteers at Business After Hours and other Chamber events. His ready smile, positive outlook, great ideas and willingness to help have made him a familiar and much-appreciated presence at the Chamber.



If you are a local business owner, there is also a good chance you or someone you know has benefited from Merris's knowledge and mentorship through North Central Ohio SCORE. Merris has volunteered with SCORE for three decades, providing free mentoring, resources and advice to people who are starting or growing a business. He has used the knowledge and experience gained throughout his banking career, which spanned more than four decades, to help countless entrepreneurs, businesses and community organizations.

Merris's commitment to service reaches well beyond the Chamber and SCORE. He has served 15 years on the board of Richland Newhope Industries, 12 years with the Third Street Clinic and five years with Richland County Habitat for Humanity. He has also been involved with Sertoma for 35 years, including more than 25 years as treasurer, helping support programs for individuals affected by hearing loss.

His spirit of service was recognized September 23 when Merris was inducted into the Ohio Senior Citizens Hall of Fame Class of 2026 during a ceremony at the Ohio Statehouse in Columbus. The honor recognizes older Ohioans who represent a positive image of aging, serve their communities with distinction, and have significant accomplishments in their professions and vocations. More than 500 Ohioans have been inducted since the Hall of Fame was established in 1977. The Ohio Senior Citizens Hall of Fame honors older Ohioans who represent a positive image of aging, serve their communities with distinction, and have significant accomplishments in their professions and vocations. More than 500 older Ohioans have been inducted since 1977, each of whom has enriched our state through lifelong service and leadership. Eight individuals were inducted in total this year, including former Governor Bob Taft and former First Lady Hope Taft.

"These inductees embody the spirit of extraordinary leadership and service," said AGE Director Ursel J. McElroy. "Their dedication to their vocations, communities, and our state continues to shape Ohio into the best place to age in the nation. Each honoree is profoundly deserving of this recognition, and we look forward to celebrating them."

The entire ceremony can be watched here: [Ohio Senior Citizens Hall of Fame | The Ohio Channel]





Other recognitions of his lifetime of service include the 2025 Outstanding Senior Citizen of the Year award from the Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, 2023 Leadership Unlimited Outstanding Alum award from the MRA Educational Foundation (Merris was a graduate of class 1994), 2022 Economic Excellence Award from the Richland Community Development Group, 2021 Ambassador of the



Year Award from the Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development, 2018 Community Educator Hero Award from the Red Cross, and 2015 Distinguished Service Award in recognition of his "outstanding service, unwavering commitment and exceptional contributions to North Central Ohio SCORE chapter 384". The North Central Ohio Chapter also received the Chapter of the Year award in 1999 while Merris was serving as Chapter Chair. Merris has also received a recognition award from Sertoma to honor his years of service, serving since 1986.

The Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development is proud to congratulate Merris on this well-deserved statewide recognition. He has helped others learn, grow and succeed, and our community is fortunate that he continues to share his time, experience and enthusiasm with all of us.

Congratulations, Merris!

LEADERSHIP UNLIMITED

2026-2027 Presenting Sponsor

Hamilton Insurance Group Inc.

The Leadership Unlimited class kicked off its 2026-2027 year with a two-day opening retreat at Mohican State Park Lodge. Day one centered on an Adaptive Leadership Workshop, followed by hands-on community challenge work, dinner, a DJ, and a campfire.

Day two opened with program day planning and the Paper Airplane Challenge, a hands-on exercise that turned competitive fast and taught the class how to iterate and run an experiment in real time.

As a class, they chose the values that will guide their year together: honesty and integrity, communication, open-mindedness, family, and discipline. Thank you to facilitator Nicole Derr, Business Advisor & Community Changemaker, for leading the workshop. This class will spend the next year leading boldly, strengthening community, and shaping the future of Richland County.









Program Day Sponsor

WARREN RUPP

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



DISCOVER RICHLAND TOUR

ROOTED & RISING

A day inside Richland County's food economy.

Friday, Nov. 6

8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Departs from Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development, 55 N. Mulberry St.

One day. One county. Countless connections.

Go behind the scenes with the growers, makers and entrepreneurs building Richland County's food and beverage economy, and see how it all connects.

01 **Go behind the scenes**
Tour local businesses and see where Richland County's food is grown, made and shared.

02 **Meet the people**
Connect with the owners, growers and entrepreneurs driving local growth.

03 **See the connections**
Discover how local businesses, land and community projects fit together.

RESERVE YOUR SEAT

Space is limited. Register at portal.richlandareachamber.com/events/details/discover-richland-tour-rooted-rising-6452

NOV 21, 2026



Hey Buckeye Fans!!!
We Heard You!!!

Last year we held our local Small Business Saturday event the weekend before the big game and the overwhelming majority of the feedback said it was much appreciated! Join us Saturday, **11/21/26** to shop local and win prizes. **Shop early. Support local.**

SHOP SMALL
RICHLAND COUNTY

SHOP SMALL SM

What is Shop Small Richland County?

- A community-wide celebration of locally owned businesses.
- Open to all small businesses. Chamber membership not required.
- Backed by the national Small Business Saturday - Shop Small campaign and promoted countywide by the Chamber.

How it Works

- Register by **11/6/26** (scan QR code).
- **Host a $25+ prize drawing on 11/21/26.**
- Invite shoppers to enter. No purchase needed.
- Pick and notify your winner that day
- Share your winner photo and tag **@RichlandAreaChamber**
- 💡 Bonus: Shoppers can scan your QR code to enter **five $100 countywide drawings!**

Why Participate?

- The Chamber invests thousands in marketing and promotion for this event.
- Your only cost is a $25 prize donation.
- Gain visibility, attract new customers, and show pride in supporting Richland County's business community.

Register as a vendor by November 6, 2026

Scan QR Code or contact the Chamber at 419-522-3211 | jwagner@richlandareachamber.com

RICHLAND AREA CHAMBER & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Strong Business. Strong Community.

DOWNTOWN MANSFIELD

Supported By:

MEDICAL MUTUAL®

INVITATION

2026 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 **2026 Small Business of the Year Recipients**.

DATE

December 8, 2026
11:30am - 1:30pm

- Receiving line and networking: 11:30am
- Buffet lunch: 11:45am
- Program: 12:15 - 1:30pm

LOCATION

Kehoe Center
175 Mansfield Ave.
Shelby, OH

REGISTER NOW

Click or scan the QR code to register, call us at 419.522.3211, or register online at richlandareachamber.com.

Kindly RSVP by December 2, 2026

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

Thank you to:

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



Presented by

MEDICAL MUTUAL®

Souvenir Glass Sponsor

Park NATIONAL BANK

Platinum Sponsors

BEC BLEVINS FABRICATION CORP. Custom Welding - Robotic Welding - CNC Cutting

CNG CHARTER NEXT GENERATION

EDGE PLASTICS, INC.

JS SEPTIC & EXCAVATION

MILLIRON Auto Parts

PINNACLE ADVISORS

NEWMAN TECHNOLOGY, INC.

PLATINUM FAMILY WEALTH

richland source

Gold Sponsors

Citrin Cooperman
Civista Bank
Global Medical Foam, Inc
GROhio Community Credit Union
Kingston of Ashland
Mid-State Multimedia Group
Midwest Automotive Trucking, LTD
Nyte Flyte Entertainment
Redwood Apartment Neighborhoods
Twin Luxe Events Co.

Silver Sponsors

Avita Health System
BlueScope Recycling & Materials, LLC
Cleveland Clinic Cancer Center - Mansfield
Directions Credit Union
Glo Fiber Business
Ohio Eye Associates
Pinnacle Building Services
Sentec Systems LLC
Southern Title of Ohio, Ltd.
Sutton Bank

TICKETS

$30 early bird if registered by Oct 9

$40 after Oct. 9

Click or scan the QR code to register, or visit the event calendar at 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

SOLD SOLD

Contact Lisa Duckworth at 419-522-3211 or lduckworth@richlandareachamber.com



ITEM DONATION

Put your business in front of hundreds of local professionals and community members by donating to our silent auction!

- **NEW THIS YEAR: Mobile bidding app will bring even more exposure to our donors!**
- **Gift certificates, merchandise, experiences, services and themed packages are welcome.**
- **Introduce your business to potential new customers while supporting a successful Chamber event!**

1. SUPPORT DONOR

Donation valued up to $99

- Business name included with your item in the auction app
- Recognition in the event program (400-500 copies),
- Recognition in Chamber email
- Recognition in newsletter
- Your business logo in framed displayed with your item at the event

2. FEATURED DONOR

Donation valued at $100-$299

- All "Auction Supporter" benefits featured above
- Business logo included with your item in the auction app
- Included in a group Facebook donor spotlight with your business tagged
- One entry in the promotional prize drawing

3. PREMIER DONOR

Donation valued at $300+

- All "Featured Auction Donor" & "Auction Supporter" benefits listed above
- Dedicated Facebook donor spotlight with your business tagged
- Highlighted recognition in the event program
- Two entries in the promotional prize drawing

In addition, every $100 in value donated earns a ticket to the event!

PLUS, every donation valued at $100 or more will be entered in the promotinal prize drawing - the winner receives a complimentary Chamber email blast OR a full page Chamber newsletter ad - winner's choice!

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

DONATE AN ITEM TODAY!

We can pick up your item if needed!

Contact Lisa at 419-522-3211 or lduckworth@richlandareachamber.com

Please respond by Friday, October 9th

RICHLAND AREA CHAMBER & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strong Business. Strong Community.

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

10th Annual

Savor & Sip Auction

A CELEBRATION OF ALL THINGS CULINARY IN OUR AREA!

Get your business featured by donating to the Silent Auction!

Thank you to our Silent Auction Donors as of Sept. 28:

419 Barbershop
Allure Studios
Alpine Electric
Avita
Baker's Collision Repair Specialists
Banks & Associates
Buckeye Express Car Wash
Buckeye Imagination Museum
Chriss Harris for Mansfield Playhouse
Commercial Cutting
Der Dutchman
Directions Credit Union
Eaglemark4
Elzy Milling & Trade
Fazoli's
Global Medical Foam
Hi-Point Firearms
Kingston of Ashland
Kingwood Center Gardens
Mansfield Playhouse with Hudson & Essex and The Phoenix
McDonald's
McFarland Family
Mechanics Bank
Merris Welge
Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course
Mix 106
Newman Technology
Ohio Eye
Ohio State University Mansfield
Prest Public Strategies
Rable Machine
Reindeer Grille
RG Smith
Richland Carrousel Park
Shelby Community & Senior Center
Shelby Crossing
Skelton's Foodservice Equipment & Supplies
Skyline Chili
Snow Trails
Southern Title of Ohio
The Hidden Acres
Twin Lakes
Twisted Fig
Vitality Natural Wellness
Wilkinson Accounting Solutions

JOIN US FOR A GROUP TRAVEL ADVENTURE TO THE FRENCH RIVIERA!



BWC SAVINGS ANALYSIS AVAILABLE TO CHAMBER MEMBERS

BWC Rate Cuts Continue, but Many Employers Still Overpay for Workers' Comp

Workers' compensation costs continue to put pressure on Ohio employers, and many employers are unknowingly missing out on significant BWC discounts. With complex rules and changing eligibility requirements, it's easy to overpay without realizing it.

Through Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development with Sedgwick, a leader in workers' compensation solutions, your organization can receive a **free, no-obligation savings analysis**. Your current program will be evaluated to determine whether you qualify for the most advantageous BWC rating options, helping you maximize available discounts.

- ☑ No cost, no obligation review
- ☑ Expert analysis by Sedgwick
- ☑ Identify potential hidden savings

Getting started is simple. A quick temporary authorization (AC-3) form allows a review of your current position and highlights opportunities to reduce costs.

Don't leave savings on the table.

Request your free analysis today by contacting David Deyo at david.deyo@sedgwick.com or applying online here.

sedgwick

THE MANSFIELD-RICHLAND AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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 local schools and ballot issues to business and community life. *Taken from Vol. V No. 9, October 1976.*

THE BIG STORY

CHAMBER URGES "NO" VOTE ON STATE ISSUES

With Election Day approaching, the Chamber Board took positions on several proposed constitutional amendments, recommending **NO votes on State Issues 4, 5, 6 and 7**.

The Chamber raised concerns ranging from utility pricing and consumer action groups to nuclear power regulations and changes to Ohio's initiative and referendum process. Members were encouraged to review the proposals closely before heading to the polls.

4
state amendments opposed

0.5%
proposed city income tax increase

4.3 mills
Lexington school levy

5 mills
Ontario school levy

WHAT ELSE WAS IN THE NEWS?

EDUCATION

ENROLLMENT DECLINE IN MANSFIELD SCHOOLS

Superintendent Lloyd McCrory addressed declining enrollment and the possibility of consolidating Mansfield's two high schools, prompting discussions about curriculum, facilities, and the district's future.

CHAMBER BUSINESS

TEN WAYS TO RUIN A GOOD TOWN

A tongue-in-cheek list offered ten sure ways to hurt your community, from skipping local meetings and criticizing volunteers to shopping elsewhere. Its closing message: **"If it's good, it can't happen here."**

EDUCATION

SCHOOL LEVIES ON THE BALLOT

The Chamber endorsed Mansfield City Schools' renewal levy and urged a YES vote on Ontario's 5-mill levy. The Board took no position on Lexington's proposed 4.3-mill levy.

COMMUNITY

MENTAL HEALTH ISSUE GETS SUPPORT

The Chamber endorsed Issue #8, which would provide funding for local mental health organizations, including Richland Newhope School, Richland Newhope Industries, The Center for Individual and Family Service and ADAPT.

CIVIC ISSUES

CITY INCOME TAX INCREASE PROPOSED

Mansfield voters were asked to consider a five-year, **0.5% income tax increase** primarily supporting city employees, including the Police and Fire Departments. The Chamber Board took no position on the issue.

NEW MEMBERS

LOCAL BUSINESSES JOIN THE CHAMBER

The Chamber welcomed several new members, including **Christman Tire Company**, **PREPARE**, **Richland Printing**, and **Perfection Manufacturing**, representing diverse industries.

ALSO INSIDE THE OCTOBER 1976 ISSUE

Citizen's Choice launched as a new U.S. Chamber-affiliated organization focused on economic and personal freedoms. The issue also previewed the **Ohio Public Expenditure Council annual meeting**, the **Ohio Council of Retail Merchants convention**, and announced the Chamber's **1977 Board of Directors nominees**.


Don’t touch wild animals!
Even cute animals can carry diseases like rabies
Richland Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.



RNI INC.
RICHLAND NEWHOPE INDUSTRIES, INC.
"WHERE QUALITY MATTERS"
WWW.RNIINC.COM
419-774-4400

eRecycling
Drop off times
9am - 2pm
Local pick-up available charges will apply
971 West Longview Mansfield, Ohio 44906 Questions Call: 419.774.4499
Scan for accepted materials and pricing list

TRAINED EMPLOYEE OUTSOURCING
- Car Wash
- Lawn and Ground Maintenance
- Wood Products
- Packaging
- Pallets
- Assembly
- Custodial Services
- Document Destruction

Element of Art
STUDIO / GALLERY
419-522-2965
96 North Main St.
Mansfield, Ohio 44902
Mon - Sat 10am - 3pm
www.eoastudiogallery.com

City Garden Café
(419) 522-0035
30 North Diamond St. (3rd floor City Building) Mansfield, Ohio 44902
Mon-Fri: 7:30 am - 3:00 pm
Free WiFi Inside
www.citygardencafe.org

UPCOMING
CHAMBER EVENTS

10/21/26
Women's Leadership Connection – Leading with Resilience in Uncertain Times, 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

11/6/26
Discover Richland Tour: Rooted & Rising, Richland Area Chamber & Econonic Development, 8:30am–4:30pm

11/19/26
Chamber Coffee at Roseto Event Venue, 8:00–9:00am

11/21/26
Shop Small - Richland County 2026

12/08/26
Small Business of the Year Awards Celebration 2026, Kehoe Center, 11:30am-1:30pm

12/16/26
Women's Leadership Connection, DLX Kobacker Room, 11:45am-1:00pm

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

• **ADENA CONSTRUCTION** • **ALUMNI ROOFING CO**
• **MIDWEST AUTOMOTIVE TRUCKING** • **MILLIRON AUTO PARTS** • **SENTEC SYSTEMS**
• AVITA HEALTH SYSTEM • CHARTER NEXT GENERATION • CYPRESS HIGH SCHOOL • EDGE PLASTICS
• HAMILTON INSURANCE GROUP, INC • JAY INDUSTRIES • NEWMAN TECHNOLOGY • SUTTON BANK • WESTBROOK COUNTRY CLUB