

CHAMBER MONTHLY



4300 W. Streetsboro Rd.
Richfield, Ohio 44286
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Executive Secretary

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JANUARY 2017

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Tim Ochwat

I am honored to serve as President of the Chamber for 2017. My fellow elected officers include: Sheryl Wilson, Baypoint Technology as Vice-President, Amy French, OE Connection as Secretary, and Village Councilman Roger Swan as Treasurer.

Past Presidents, Sophie Veillette of Schulte and Company, CPAs and Jim Koewler of The Koewler Law Firm, will remain on the board, as advisory capacities, among other duties. Thank you for your years of service to the Chamber.

It is most fortunate for the Chamber that Sue Serdinak of ScripType and Karen Smik of Richfield Historical Society will continue to chair the Sweet Corn Challenge and "Links for Education," respectively. Both are hard at work planning this year's events. If you would like to volunteer for these or another of the Chamber's committees, such as Beautification, Scholarship, Membership, or Website, please call Carri Wells, at 330-659-3300, and she will direct you to the appropriate person.

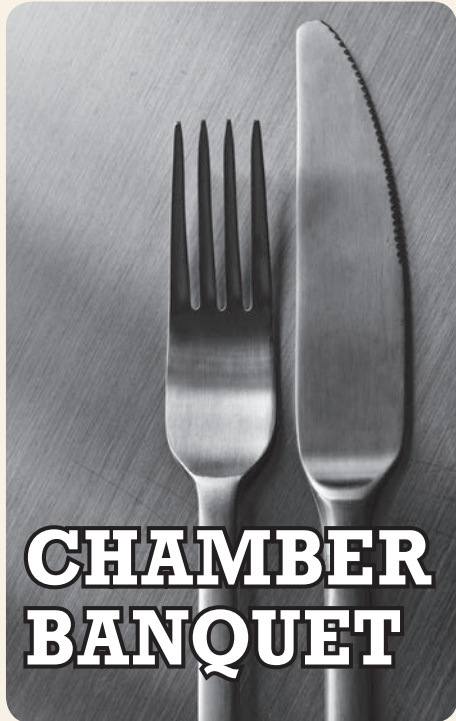
Please join us for the Chamber's Annual Dinner on Thursday, January 12th, at the Taverne of Richfield. The event will begin at 6:00 p.m. with hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar, and continue with our dinner at 7 p.m., and program at 8:00 p.m. Tony Mercurio, President and Chief Executive Officer of National Interstate Insurance, will be the keynote speaker. Just before he begins, we will present a Beautification Award to a business that has made significant improvements to its outdoor facility and recognize a member as Richfield's Business of the Year. Once again, OE Connection has graciously agreed to sponsor the latter award. Tickets are \$40 per person and include a choice of the following en-

trees: cranberry chicken w/goat cheese brulee, beef wellington, baked white fish or stuffed portabella. To make your reservation and dinner selection, mail a reservation form and payment to 4300 W. Streetsboro Rd or contact the Chamber office at 330-659-3300 or via mail@richfieldchamber.com by January 5th.

For 2017, our general membership luncheons will continue to be on the first Wednesday of each month. However, there will be no general membership luncheon in January because of the Annual Banquet. Beginning with our first luncheon of the year, February 1st at the Days Inn, the location will alternate between the Days Inn and the Taverne at Richfield. These meetings start at 11:45 a.m. with informal networking, continue with the formal meeting at noon, and end at 1 p.m. In addition to the informative speakers Sheryl Wilson will be arranging, we plan to make available a few minutes at each luncheon for the Spotlitged Business of the Month to share a little bit more about their enterprise.

If you have information you would like us to include in the newsletter, please submit your story via mail@richfieldchamber.com. We will give members up to 100 words per newsletter to discuss their business, a promotion or an event.

Timothy Ochwat,
President,
Richfield Chamber of Commerce



**THURSDAY,
January 12, 2017**

Banquet Speaker

**Tony Mercurio,
President,
National Interstate
Corporation**

6 p.m. Hors d'oeuvres & Cash Bar

7 p.m. Dinner

8 p.m. Program

**at the
Taverne
of Richfield**

**Reservations
must be received by
Thursday, January 5th.**

**Please see page 3
for reservation form.**

Our Banquet Speaker

Tony Mercurio

President, National Interstate

Anthony (Tony) Mercurio, the president and Chief Executive Officer of National Interstate Corporation, will be the feature speaker at the Chamber's Annual Banquet in January.



Mr. Mercurio has been with National Interstate about 20 years and has been involved in its exponential growth and success.

National Interstate was founded in Richfield in 1989 with about 80 employees.

Today, the company employs 550 people and plans to add about 200 people next year to occupy the third building to be constructed in their corporate campus on Kinross Parkway.

Mr. Mercurio is a Lorain, Ohio native and attained his BA from the University of Mount Union and his MBA from Cleveland State University.

He and his family lived in Atlanta and Fenton, Missouri as he took on different leadership roles within the company. Now, he and his wife and two children live in Richfield.

National Interstate also has operations in Kapolei, Hawaii, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania and Fenton, Missouri.

BUSINESS BOOKS

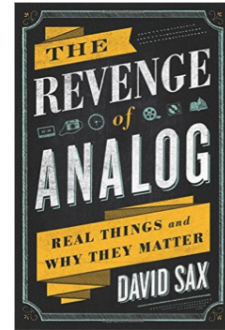
For those of you who have time for only one business related book a month, the Richfield Branch Library has gone into the shelves to narrow down trending title suggestions.

The Revenge of Analog: Real Things and Why They Matter

By David Sax, writer for Bloomberg Businessweek and author of *Save the Deli*, winner of the James Beard Award for Writing

PublicAffairs, 2016

ISBN-13: 978-1610395717



neers in independent bookshops (physical books continue to out-sell their electronic counterparts), coffee shops where the draw is old fashioned board games, and musicians who are experimenting with old-school technologies such as reel to reel tape machines because the sound is richer.

The future is digital. Paperless offices, music from the cloud, e-books, and photography by iPhones is the new normal – right? Then why have sales of vinyl records increased fourfold over the last five years? Why are Polaroid-like cameras so popular among the hipster set? Why have white-boards and spiral notebooks become ubiquitous in Silicon Valley offices? And why are fountain pens and even typewriters enjoying a renaissance in the marketplace?

According to David Sax in his new book *The Revenge of Analog: Real Things and Why They Matter*, “sometimes analog simply outperforms digital as the best solution.”

In the book, Sax interviews entrepre-

The book is a fascinating read and I enjoyed Sax's explanation of why the touch and feel of physical objects is contributing to the resurgence of analog items as well as the disconnect people feel being overwhelmed by a bombardment of digital information. He is not naïve enough to claim that digital will go away but instead states that “analog experiences can provide us with the kind of real-world pleasures and rewards digital ones cannot.” Maybe in 2017 we will find the comfortable balance of consulting a paper calendar and checking time on our Apple watch.

Book reviewed by Mike Daly, Adult Librarian Richfield Branch Library

CVCC Job Seekers Workshop

On Saturday, January 21, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m., Cuyahoga Valley Career Center is hosting a Free Job Seekers Workshop. Gerrie Cotter, Project Manager for Ohio Jobs and Family Services will share resources available through the State of Ohio's, Ohio Means Jobs program.

Register online at: <http://www.cvccworks.edu/CVCCJobSeekers.aspx> or call 440-746-8126.

Richfield Chamber of Commerce Board Members



President – Tim Ochwat, Meridian Construction Services

Vice President – Sheryl Wilson, Baypointe Technology

Treasurer – Roger Swan, Village Councilman

Secretary – Amy French, OEConnection

Past-President – Sophie Veillette, Schulte & Company CPAs, Inc.

Sweet Corn Challenge chair – Sue Serdinak, ScripType Publishing

Links for Education chair – Karen Smik

Scholarship committee chair – Jim Koewler, The Koewler Law Firm

As a Chamber Member,

If you have an event or special promotion or recognition that you would like to appear in the monthly newsletter, please submit it to mail@richfieldchamber.com by the 20th of each month.

Please limit your release to 100 words. Attachments will not be accepted.



Richfield Chamber of Commerce

Annual Banquet

Thursday January 12, 2017

Guest Speaker

Tony Mercurio

President & CEO of National Interstate Insurance

Taverne of Richfield \$40 per person 6 p.m. - Hors d'oeuvres and Cash Bar
7 p.m. - Dinner
8 p.m. - Program

Name: _____ Business _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Please reserve _____ dinners @ \$40 each. My check # _____ for \$ _____ is enclosed.

_____ I was a Silver Corporate member in 2016. Please reserve my two free dinners.

_____ I was a Gold Corporate member in 2016. Please reserve my two free dinners.

_____ Please call me with more information on the Silver and Gold Packages.

Please check your choice of entree:

___ Cranberry Chicken w/ Goat Cheese Brulee ___ Baked White Fish w/ Mango Salsa

___ Beef Wellington ___ Stuffed Portabella w/ Goat Cheese and Cranberry Stuffing

Please indicate name/s for name tags below or on back of this reservation form:

1.) _____ 2.) _____

Only 100 reservations will be taken.

Please return this form with your payment by **January 5** to:

Richfield Chamber of Commerce - 4300 Streetsboro Road - Richfield, OH 44286.