

# CHAMBER MONTHLY



4300 W. Streetsboro Rd.  
Richfield, Ohio 44286  
www.richfieldchamber.com

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## FEBRUARY 2016



**WEDNESDAY,  
February 3, 2016**

**Speaker**

**Jeffrey Kerr,**

**Environmental Design Group**

**11:45 Informal Networking**

**12:00 Light lunch served**

**12:30 Speaker**

**1:00 Adjourn**

**Please R.S.V.P. to  
330-659-3300 by January 29.**

**at the  
Days Inn**

**Members admitted free with a reservation.**

Non-members bring \$11 check payable  
to Richfield Chamber of Commerce  
No-shows will be invoiced \$11 for their reserved lunch.

**Invite an associate!  
Bring your business cards  
to share.**

Greetings!

I think all of the attendees will agree that the Annual Dinner was delightful and our speaker, Brittany Williams, of the Cleveland 2016 Host Committee, was outstanding and her answers to the diners' questions were enlightening.

I thank not only Brittany for her great presentation, but also Jim Koewler for arranging to have Brittany speak at the banquet. Karen Smik did a wonderful job organizing the dinner for us to enjoy. Thank you Karen for all of your hard work.

During the meeting we presented a few awards. We would like to congratulate the Hampton Inn and Minesh Shah, General Manager, for winning the Richfield Chamber of Commerce Beautification Award. You have done a great job. Thank you for your efforts.

We then awarded the Richfield Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year Award, sponsored by OE Connection. Geo Money, of OE Connection, presented the award to CCG Companies, including CCG Automation and CCG Energy Solutions. CCG has added to the business climate of Richfield in numerous ways. They maintain a beautiful facility in the commercial/industrial center of Richfield. They brought fiber optics down Congress Parkway, which allowed other businesses to take advantage of it. They have been a member of the

Chamber of Commerce and have supported the Sweet Corn Chal-

lenge and the Links for Education golf outing for several years, and are always supportive of the Revere School District. In recent years, they have supported St. Victor and the St. Vincent DePaul Society in helping the less fortunate in the area. Thank you Brian Wagner, founder and president, and your employees for all contributions to the Richfield area.

Thank you Sonya and Serena Raybould for making available the Taverne of Richfield and providing the excellent dinner. Brittany Williams commented a number of times on the impressiveness of the Taverne building.

Membership renewal packets have been distributed. If you have not yet renewed, please provide us with your updated information, membership renewal form and your dues now. To those that have renewed, thank you.

Please take time to introduce someone to the chamber and its many benefits. You may obtain additional membership packets from Lynn. If you would like a chamber board member to speak to someone directly, please contact Roger Swan, Tim Ochwat, Steve McAlear, or myself via the chamber office.

**PRESIDENT'S  
CORNER**

**Salena Parker**

### 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.

## Our February Speaker

**Jeffrey Kerr**

**Environmental Design Group**

Jeffrey Kerr is a licensed landscape architect and certified planner with Environmental Design Group, a planning, landscape architecture and engineering firm located in Akron.



He has experience in revitalizing urban communities, restoring ecological systems, and protecting rural and natural areas.

He currently sits on the Board of Zoning Appeals for Bath Township and on the Board of Directors for Crown Point Ecology Center.

He is also the co-chair of the Cuyahoga River Water Trail Partners.

## CVCC Student Job Fair

Cuyahoga Valley Career Center will hold a student job fair for students 16 and older applying for summer, part-time or seasonal positions.

The event will take place Thursday, March 10 from 3:30-5:30 pm. Registration is required by February 26.

Employers can review resumes, applications and conduct interviews on the spot. Register for an event table at <http://www.cvccworks.edu/STUDENTJOBFAIR.aspx>.

## Annual Networking Night at Home & Garden Show

The region's annual chamber networking night is Wednesday, February 10 from 4:00-6:00 pm at the Great Big Home + Garden Show taking place at the I-X Center.

Tickets are \$15 per person using promo code: CHAMBER.

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit [GreatBigHomeAndGarden.com](http://GreatBigHomeAndGarden.com).

## Richfield Chamber of Commerce 19th Annual "Links For Education" Golf Outing

This year's outing will be held Wednesday, June 15 at St. Bernard Golf Club in Richfield. Registration and lunch will begin at 11:30 a.m. Shotgun start is at 1:00 p.m. Dinner of steak or chicken is immediately following golf. Dinner will begin between 5-5:30 p.m. Because we've been able to keep our overhead down, registration fees will be the same great rate as last year. Your favorite contests will be back. A special prize will be awarded to the new contest: "Shortest Drive". As always, there will be lots of great raffle prizes, all donated by local businesses and individuals!

For the sixth year, GMS will be the tournament sponsor for our "Links for

Education" Golf Outing. We give our continued gratitude to them for again taking on this important role! In addition, Schulte & Company, CPAs will return as sponsor for our Keg Stop. The Pike Agency will provide our golfer goodie bags as they have the last several years. Claims to several other special sponsorships are pending. Additional special sponsorship opportunities, as well as unlimited individual hole sponsorships, at various monetary levels, are still available. In addition, volunteers will be needed to help with contests and driving the beverage cart during the outing.

Please contact Karen Smik at 330-659-4750 or [kls1650@roadrunner.com](mailto:kls1650@roadrunner.com) for

more information about sponsorship and volunteer opportunities. Registration and sponsorship forms are now available through her as well. If you'd like to be involved on the ground level and serve on the event planning committee, let Karen know. The committee would welcome your input! Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 24 at 5:00 p.m. at Memories Restaurant.

A portion of the proceeds from this event will fund the Chamber's scholarships for graduating Revere High School seniors. Last year, five \$1,000 scholarships were given, and approximately \$87,000 has been awarded since the golf outing's inception!

## C.A.R.E. presents "Dangerous Apps" program

The Revere Community C.A.R.E. is presenting "Dangerous Apps" on Wednesday, March 2 from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Revere Middle School library.

The program will highlight 10 dangerous apps that kids are currently using and that parents need to know about. Many of these apps can make kids easy targets for sexual predators and bullies. Knowledge of how these apps work and how they can be misused is so important.

Admission is free and no advance registration is required. This is an adults-only program.

# Chamber does its part for state tourism and historic preservation

The Richfield Chamber of Commerce can be proud of the tourism that it brings to the area and to the state. Each year people from all over the country drive or fly to this area to participate in the Sweet Corn Challenge. Many stay in the area for extended days.

According to recent reports, tourism is a \$38 billion industry in Ohio and for every dollar spent, tourism returns about \$14.

In Richfield the Challenge has provided Richfield a direct economic impact of \$1.7 million by leveraging the profit of the 22 years of the event to provide grants to the "downtown" commercial historic district. The investments of the property owners more than quadrupled the grant amounts that they received. Before the Sweet Corn Challenge most of the buildings were in disrepair and some were vacant. Now they are all occupied with active businesses.

In light of this success, The Richfield Town Trust, the 501-C-3 arm of the Chamber, recently approved extending the historic grant process to coincide with the entire commercial historic district of Richfield. Thank you to everyone for your past support.

Consider being a \$500 sponsor of this event to get your company's name in front of thousands of people and continue the revitalization of historic Richfield. Call the Chamber office at 330-659-3300. Only Chamber members are offered a sponsorship for this amount.



## Richfield Chamber of Commerce Board Members

President – Salena Parker,  
Center for the Healing Arts

Vice-President – Tim Ochwat,  
Meridian Construction Services

Treasurer – Roger Swan,  
Village Councilman

Secretary – Steve McAlear,  
Pike Agency - Allstate

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

## BUSINESS BOOKS

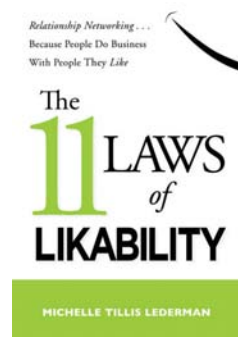
*For those of you who have time for only one business related book a month, the Richfield Branch Library has gone into the shelves to narrow down trending title suggestions.*

### The 11 Laws of Likeability: Relationship Networking... Because People Do Business With People They Like

by Michelle Tillis Lederman.  
AMACOM Publishing. c. 2011  
ISBN: 978-0814416372 (book)

With Valentine's Day just a few weeks away, I took a cue from this month's infatuation with relationships to review a book that will help strengthen professional business contacts and networking.

Even if networking and mingling at social events comes naturally, perhaps there has been a time when you did not feel as "with-it" and "on" as you would have liked? Maybe you are experiencing a conversational and mingling funk, and need to snap out of it quickly? Or maybe it is something dire, maybe you still find it hard, sweaty-palms and all, to meet and interact with new business contacts? Whichever the case, either re-



fresh and sharpen those networking skills or learn how can you settle yourself back into your natural, easy going manner and reframe the event as simply an opportunity to learn about another person with The 11 Laws of Likeability.

Tillis spoke of one of the ways, or "laws", as she refers them, to bolster your likability is to create or give something of value to another person. It is my hope that my likeability has risen exponentially with you because I have recommended a book that will help you not just increase your business relations, but strengthen them.

*E-audio book reviewed by Jennifer Stencel, Branch Manager, Richfield Branch Library. Find this audio book for free using OneClick Digital @ the Library.*