

CHAMBER MONTHLY



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

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NOVEMBER 2014



LET'S DO LUNCH!

**WEDNESDAY,
November 5, 2014**

Kat Pestian

Akron-Canton
Regional Foodbank

11:45 Informal Networking

12:00 Light lunch served

12:30 Speaker

1:00 Adjourn

at the

Taverne of Richfield

Members admitted free with a reservation.

Please R.S.V.P. to

330-659-3300 by Nov. 3

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.**



Chamber Sponsors Successful Election Forum

On October 29, the Chamber sponsored an election forum regarding the November 4 ballot issue to purchase and maintain the former Girl Scout camps, Crowell and Hilaka. Well over 100 people attended the open forum, including residents, members of the Western Reserve Land Conservancy and members of the Friends of Camp Crowell Hilaka.

The League of Women Voters monitored the forum, at which Abby Gretter (left in photo), a resident, spoke for five minutes in favor of the issue. This was followed by a question period during which former Mayor and current Village Councilman Mike Lyons responded to written questions.

Lyons and Councilman Roger Swan first proposed that a joint village and township park district be formed. That board then chose to put the purchase and maintenance of the property before the village and township electorate as a bond and levy issue.

Also on the panel was Sandy Apidone, owner of Countryside Florist, who co-chairs the campaign for the issues along with Bobby Beshara.

Ken Babby, RubberDucks Owner, Is Featured Speaker for Annual Dinner

The Chamber Board of Directors is pleased to announce that our guest speaker for the annual dinner will be Ken Babby, Owner and CEO of the Akron RubberDucks.

Babby has been praised for his business acumen and for bringing energy and success to Canal Park and downtown Akron.

Akron Mayor Don Plusquellic called him phenomenal in a recent Crain's Cleveland Business article.

Ken Babby, a native of Potomac, Maryland, was formally introduced as the new Owner and Chief Executive



Ken Babby

Officer of the then-named Akron Aeros during a news conference at Canal Park on Tuesday, October 23, 2012. The founder of Fast Forward Sports

Group, Babby is only the second owner in the history of the Akron franchise.

During his first season the franchise saw tremendous growth. With an emphasis on improving the fan experience and Canal Park, attendance rose almost 12 percent to more than 295,000 in 2013, the largest single-season increase in Akron history, and the most fans since 2009. Babby's major Canal Park improvement was a privately-funded \$1.65 million HD video board, the largest in Double-A baseball and one of the five largest in Minor League Baseball.

Following the 2013 season, Babby announced the Aeros would become the RubberDucks as part of a company-wide, new-identity change. He also announced plans for a new, high-end restaurant scheduled to open in 2014 at Canal Park, and other stadium improvements. These changes are part of his personal \$5 million commitment to making the Akron RubberDucks a premier

franchise and Akron one of the top cities in Minor League Baseball.

Babby, 33, spent 13 years in various marketing positions with the Washington Post, and its online and social media counterpart, Washington Post Digital. After starting as a summer intern with the newspaper in 1999, Babby rose through the ranks, eventually attaining the position of Vice President of Advertising, and most recently, Chief Revenue Officer of Washington Post Media and General Manager of Washington Post Digital.

Babby completed his acquisition of the team from previous owners Mike and Greg Agganis on October 12th, 2012, following several months of negotiations and a lengthy approval process from three different levels of professional baseball.

Although ownership of the RubberDucks is Babby's first foray into professional sports, he is no stranger to the sports world. His father, Lon Babby, is a former sports agent, who represented NBA players Tim Duncan, Ray Allen, Hedo Turkoglu, and Grant Hill. The elder Babby is now the President of Basketball Operations for the Phoenix Suns.

In describing his ownership vision for the RubberDucks, Babby elaborates on a two-fold mission. As the leader of the organization, he hopes to create a memorable, unique, affordable and enjoyable fan experience, and also maximize the opportunity to create change in the community through charitable, wellness and education initiatives.

Babby is now a full-time Akron resident and is a visible presence at RubberDucks games and in the community. He sits on boards for the Boys and Girls Club of the Western Reserve and the Shaw JCC of Akron, as well as the Board of Trustees for Wheaton College. Ken has a five year old son named Joshua. Babby holds a degree in Computer Science and Economics from Wheaton College in Norton, Massachusetts and an MBA from the Carey School of Business at John Hopkins University.

**The Banquet
will be held on
January 14
at the
Taverne of
Richfield**

The event will begin at 6:00 pm with hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. The dinner will begin at 7:00 and will be followed by awards. Mr. Babby will begin speaking at about 8:15 p.m.

**We would like to extend
a second invitation for a
guest of your naming.**

Simply forward email
information for the guest to
mail@richfieldchamber.com.



Richfield Chamber of Commerce *Annual Banquet*

Guest Speaker

Ken Babby

Owner/CEO, Rubber Ducks

Wednesday, January 14, 2015

Taverne of Richfield

3960 Broadview Road, Richfield

\$40 per person

6:00 p.m. Cocktails - Cash Bar - Hors d'oeuvres

7:00 p.m. Dinner

8:15 p.m. Program

Deadline for all reservations is January 9th

.....
Name _____ Business _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

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

Choice of entree: Herb Roasted Chicken Hanger Steak Baked White Fish Stuffed Portabella

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

1.) _____ 2.) _____

I am a 2014 Silver Corporate Member. Please reserve my two free dinners.

I am a 2014 Gold Corporate Member. Please reserve my two free dinners.

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

Richfield Chamber of Commerce • 4300 Streetsboro Road • Richfield, OH 44286
You may call 330-659-3300 for availability.



Nominate the Richfield Business of the Year

The Chamber of Commerce, in conjunction with OEConnection, will honor the Richfield Business of the Year at the Chamber's annual banquet on January 14, 2015. The Chamber Board of Directors is accepting nominations for this award. Large or small Richfield businesses can be nominated and businesses can nominate themselves.

To nominate a business, please send us:

- Your name and contact information
- The name of the business you are nominating
- The owner or CEO of that business.
- His or her contact information.

Then describe in 300 words or less how the business meets ANY or ALL of the criteria that follow:

1. This business demonstrates success and exceptional performance in business practices.
2. This business has been recognized in its industry or by an employee or business organization.
3. This business has made an economic impact on Richfield, the region or the state within the last one to three years.
4. This business has demonstrated corporate citizenship and/or community leadership.
5. This business overcame a diverse or extraordinary circumstance.
6. This business fills a unique void in the community.

**Please submit your nomination
no later than December 5, 2014.**

It can be emailed to: mail@richfieldchamber.com or mailed to:
Richfield Chamber of Commerce,
4300 W. Streetsboro Rd., Richfield 44286

OEConnection, the 2012 Richfield Business of the Year, is sponsoring this year's award.

CVCC Presents Wellness Session

All community members are invited to attend a wellness presentation Tuesday, November 11 from 1:00-2:00 pm at Cuyahoga Valley Career Center, 8001 Brecksville Rd, Brecksville.

In collaboration with the Cleveland Clinic Independence Family Health Center and Marymount Hospital, CVCC will host "Food Labeling: understanding U.S. food labeling and what it really means". The presenter will be Beth Czerwony, a registered dietitian. Light refreshments, prepared by the Culinary Arts students, will be served. This is a free event, but reservations are required. Register online by November 4 by visiting <http://tinyurl.com/CVCC-11-11-14>. Please contact Marie Elias at melias@cvccworks.edu for additional information.

Veterans Job Fair

The Ohio Means Jobs - Veterans Business Services Unit, Ohio Means Jobs-County of Summit, University of Akron, Akron Beacon Journal and the Greater Akron Chamber are sponsoring the upcoming Veterans Job Fair on November 12 at the Quaker Station in downtown Akron. This job fair would be an ideal event for businesses that will be hiring.

The link for businesses to sign up is greaterakronchamber.org

Please feel free to forward to anyone who may benefit from this opportunity to hire those who have served our country.

Kat Pestian from Foodbank To Speak at November Lunch

Kat Pestian is the public relations and communications specialist at the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank, where she manages external and internal communications including media relations. She earned a B.A. in organizational communications and a minor in public relations from Ohio University. She began her non-profit career at Akron's One of A Kind Pet Rescue where she served as the advancement coordinator and volunteer manager before accepting her current position at the Foodbank.

Kat is involved with various activities including Feeding America's national committee for Hunger Action Month, chair of the Unit-

ed Way's Volunteer Celebration Committee, communication co-chair of ArtCetera, communication chair of the Association of Fundraising Professionals's National Philanthropy Day, Ohio University Alumni Association, a member of the 2014 Torchbearer's class, vice-chair of Torchbearer's event committee, and she volunteers with various pet rescues. She lives in West Akron with her husband, Tim, and their rescue fur babies, Louis and Layla.



Revere Board Begins Search for New Superintendent

The Revere Board of Education has hired the leadership search firm Finding Leaders, based in Northeast Ohio, to assist in its search for a new superintendent. Randy Boroff, who was hired in 2009 will retire effective January 1, 2015 after 42 years in education.

The Board plans to hire an interim superintendent to finish the remainder of the school year. The permanent replacement should be selected by the end of February, though his or her contract most likely would not begin until the summer of 2015.

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.



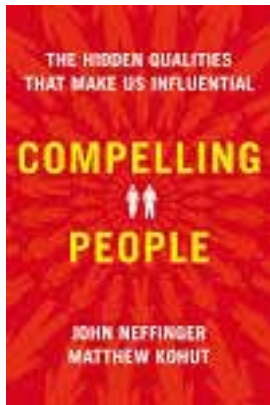
BUSINESS BOOKS

For those of you that 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.

Compelling People: The Hidden Qualities That Make Us Influential

by John Neffinger. C. 2014. Hudson Street Press. ISBN 978-1-59463-101-6 \$25.95

When people meet you for the first time, when they give you the once-over, what do they see exactly? What are you radiating or projecting? How are you coming across to others? While you might think this is a typical book about leading, or how to sell yourself, or to say the right thing in order to be persuasive and influential, *Compelling People* goes much deeper. *Compelling People* brings to light your unconscious “ticks” and cues that could be your most powerful tool or self-wounding, and shows how to address them. Is your smile forced



but you think or hope the person in front of you does not know? Do you think you are warm, but come off as cold and unfeeling with a bone crushing handshake and eyes that pass over people? Do you radiate warmth and happiness? If that is the case, people will follow you anywhere!

The best of the book dealt with *The Circle* (pg 142-168). This is where *Compelling People* really comes in to play. How do you present yourself so you are not the messenger who gets shot? How do you turn “me against



you” into an “us”? It has to do with getting yourself inside the circle of people so they hear your message and you can move forward together.

Think of *Compelling People* as your best friend telling you you have spinach in your teeth. Hard to take, but you’re thankful for it.

Reviewed by Jennifer Stencel, Branch Manager, Adult Librarian and Teen Librarian at the Richfield Branch Library of the Akron-Summit County Public Library System.

Business Spotlight



Goodwill’s mission is to help individuals prepare for, find and retain employment. Operating in the five-county region of Summit, Portage, Medina, Ashland and Richland, the not-for-profit agency was established in 1927. The agency helps to directly strengthen the region’s workforce through its employment programs and indirectly through the net proceeds from its Retail and Contract Services (light assembly and industrial sewing) operations.

570 E Waterloo Road, Akron, OH 44379

330.724.6995 • 800.989.8428

www.goodwillakron.org



Richfield Chamber of Commerce Board Members

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Baylor Associates

Vice-President – Steve McAlear,
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Treasurer – Roger Swan,
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