

CHAMBER MONTHLY



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

Ph: (330) 659-3300

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DECEMBER 2016

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Tim Ochwat

I am thankful to have been able to serve as president for the Richfield Chamber of Commerce.

I am especially thankful for all the activities for which I have gained a much better understanding and in which I have enjoyed participating: the Links for Education, the Sweet Corn Challenge, and our monthly meetings.

I am thankful for the contributions of the other officers, committee chairs, and Chamber members who continue to make the Chamber successful.

The guidance and assistance of the past officers help ensure the continuation of the Chamber's program.

All members who volunteered time and resources to the Chamber's and community's events are much too many to list here individually, but thank you all for your efforts at making Richfield a better place to live and work. Yours and your fellow members' interest is the greatest benefit that we can have in the Chamber.

The chance to meet and talk with other local business owners and representatives, as well as public officials, leads to business opportunities and civic engagement.

Tim Ochwat,
President, Richfield Chamber of Commerce

Nominate a Richfield business for BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

See page 3 in this newsletter for the guidelines.

Also

Nominate a Richfield business for the BEAUTIFICATION AWARD

Call the Chamber office with your beautification nomination.
The committee will view all nominated properties.



**WEDNESDAY,
December 7, 2016**

Speaker

Bryan A. McGown,
Owner, GunnyRet
Consulting, LLC.

11:45 Informal Networking

12:00 Light lunch served

12:30 Speaker

1:00 Adjourn

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.*

Please R.S.V.P. to
330-659-3300 by December 2.

December Luncheon

• Election of 2017 Officers

At the Dec. 7 Luncheon an election of officers for the Chamber's Board of Directors will be held. The Chamber's nominating committee has compiled a slate of people who have agreed to serve on the board. Other nominations will be accepted prior to and at this luncheon. All nominees must agree to serve on the board.

Following is the slate of officers presented by the nominating committee:

- President - Tim Ochwat, Meridian Construction
- Vice President - Sheryl Wilson, Baypointe Technology
- Secretary - Amy French, OEConnection
- Treasurer - Roger Swan, Village Council member

• Police to Give Shop With a Cop Report

As a follow up to the trial and guilty verdict of Michael Simmon for theft from the Shop With a Cop program, members of the Richfield Police Department will speak about the past and future of the program. They will also answer questions that the attendees might have.

Our December Speaker

Bryan A. McGown "Gunny"

Owner, GunnyRet Consulting, LLC

Bryan "Gunny" is a retired Marine with 20 years of active duty service as a human resource manager and recruiter.



He owns GunnyRet Consulting, LLC. and is personally committed to attracting veterans to Northeast Ohio by helping veterans achieve their goals through mentorship, referrals to appropriate

supportive services, employment assistance, and contract or direct placement.

Bryan has been a successful job search coach to veterans and military spouses in northeast Ohio for more than 4 years, and brings his passion of helping veterans and companies join forces to succeed in business. He has more than 12 years of combined experience in state and county government, and non-profit work in various leadership roles.

Bryan is a founding board member, the Chairman of the Board of

Directors for NEOVETS, Inc., and conceived the concept of certifying employers wanting to hire veterans under their "Certified Military Talent Employer" (CMTE)TM program.

Bryan also volunteers his time on several additional boards throughout northeast Ohio, including the Summit County Stand Down for Homeless Veterans, Life Member and First Vice Commander of Richfield AMVETS, and the Cleveland American Veterans Association. He is also a member of the National Marine Corps Business Network - CLE.

Make a Reservation for the January 12, 2017 Banquet and Feature Speaker, Tony Mercurio of National Interstate Insurance

The Chamber Board of Directors is pleased to announce that 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 employees 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.

A reservation form for the banquet is attached on page 5 of this newsletter.

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 12. 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, 2016.

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 the 2016 award.

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.

Simply Brilliant: How Great Organizers Do Ordinary Things in Extraordinary Ways

By William C. Taylor,
Founder of Fast Company
Portfolio, 2016
ISBN-10: 1591847753

In his new book, *Simply Brilliant: How Great Organizations do Ordinary Things in Extraordinary Ways*, William C. Taylor explores the ways enterprises in traditional and even unglamorous fields are using innovative business practices to achieve success.

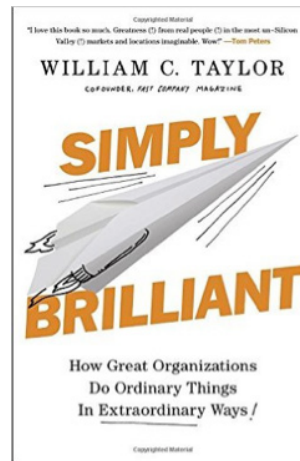
When people think of companies that are world famous innovators, they usually think of Silicon Valley or groundbreaking startups like Uber or Airbnb, but surely not a company from Ohio.

Traveling the country, Taylor examines how creative thinking is transforming organizations such as retail banks, office cleaning companies, department stores, and auto dealerships.

Taylor offers eight core insights to help businesses transform. These include building a unique definition of success that stands apart from the competition, embracing the idea of “provocative competence”, and a willingness to share the profits of success.

He states that “in a time of wrenching disruptions and exhilarating advances, ... the future is open to everybody.”

I found the book to be most interest-



ing in the specific case studies of the various companies. These include Lincoln Electric in Euclid, Ohio, with its share-the-wealth model that gives employees a vested interest in high quality and productivity; 1111 Lincoln Road in Miami Beach, which reimaged the parking garage as a public space that hosts weddings, yoga classes, and community gather-

ings; and Pal’s Sudden Service, a fast-food chain that serves up burgers and fries with such speed and accuracy that companies from other industries pay to learn from its practices.

Book reviewed by Mike Daly, Adult Librarian Richfield Branch Library



Richfield Chamber of Commerce Board Members

*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*

CVCC Technology Workshops for Students in Grades 4-6

Cuyahoga Valley Career Center (CVCC) is hosting an Iron Man versus Hulk digital animation class on Saturday, Dec. 3rd. The world’s smartest super hero, Iron Man, and the world’s strongest super hero, Hulk, face off. Let’s draw and animate their powers on land, in the air and anywhere our imaginations take us!

Also on Saturday, Dec. 3rd, CVCC is also hosting Video Game Design: Holiday Games. Students will use GameMaker Pro software version 8.1 to create holiday-themed games to take home as gifts.

Both of the above classes are from 9 a.m. to noon and are \$20 per workshop (this includes a snack). Register at www.cvccworks.edu/StudentWorkshops.aspx. For questions, contact Nanci Coleman, ncoleman@cvccworks.edu.

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.