

CHAMBER MONTHLY

4300 W. Streetsboro Rd.
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OCTOBER 2024

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Mark C. Yantek

In many ways, the month of October is a decisive month. In professional baseball, October is the month when the pennant winners are decided, and the World Series teams are set. It's the month when kids decide on their Halloween costume. And October is the month when lots of voters finally decide which candidate gets their vote.

For Richfield business owners and managers, October can be the month that determines whether it's been a good year for business – whether they'll end up in the black, or in the red. This is especially true of seasonal businesses, whose year will effectively end when the grass stops growing, when the leaves have all fallen and yard clean-up is completed, and when the local produce is finally done for the season.

But October can also be a decisive month for construction firms and other outdoor-oriented

businesses: mild weather can extend their ability to conduct business and help to ensure that they end the year on a strong note. Conversely, an early frost and a turn of the weather might adversely affect their profitability.

For these, and so many others, October can be a make-or-break month for local businesses. So, pay attention to the market indicators in your business – the warning signs and the opportunities. Here's hoping that we all enjoy a strong and successful end to the business year!



LET'S DO LUNCH!

**WEDNESDAY,
Oct. 2, 2024**

Speaker

John Piepsny, Park Director,
Richfield Heritage Preserve

11:45 Informal Networking

12:00 Lunch served

12:30 Speaker

1:00 Adjourn

at

**Venue South at
Quality Inn & Suites,
Richfield**

Members admitted free with a reservation.

Non-members bring \$20 check payable
to Richfield Chamber of Commerce
No-shows will be invoiced \$20 for their reserved lunch.

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

**Please R.S.V.P. to
330-659-3300 by 10 AM Sept. 30.**

Accepting Board Nominations for 2025

The Richfield Chamber of Commerce is accepting nominations for the 2025 Chamber Board. Only Chamber members may nominate someone, including themselves. If nominating someone else, please verify that the person is

available to serve. The nominating committee will interview the candidates and describe the duties of the positions.

Please submit nominations to the Chamber email: mail@richfieldchamber.com.

ACCEPTING BUSINESS NOMINATIONS

Nominate a Richfield business by Nov. 29 for the

2024 BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

See page 3 in this newsletter for the guidelines.

The Koewler Law Firm is sponsoring this award.

The Richfield Chamber of Commerce would also like to recognize a business that has enhanced their property in 2024.

Nominate a Richfield business for the

2024 BEAUTIFICATION AWARD

Email the chamber at mail@richfieldchamber.com with your nomination.

The committee will view all nominated properties.

As a Chamber Member, if you have an event, special promotion or recognition that you would like included in the monthly newsletter, please submit a press release to mail@richfieldchamber.com by the 20th of the month. Your release should be in paragraph format of 100 words or less. Attachments will not be accepted.

Our October Speaker

John Piepsny, Park Director, Richfield Heritage Preserve

John Piepsny was named the park director of the Richfield Heritage Preserve in 2022, coming with 30 years of parks and recreation experience.



He earned his Master of Education degree, with a concentration in sports management, and a Bachelor of Arts in sports administration and personnel management from Cleveland State University. Piepsny has worked in the recreation field in Brunswick and Cheltenham Township, Pennsylvania.

John was also named the recreation director of Richfield Village at the same time. He said he is accustomed to taking on a wide variety of roles in the field. He presents reports to both the Richfield Joint Recreation District and Richfield Village Council each month.

A couple of challenges John has dealt with are reestablishing recreation programs following a pandemic and looking for new sources of funding for two diverse park systems.

Since being hired, John said he has been amazed at the magic and passion that so many people have for Richfield Heritage Preserve. He has worked to update programs, facilities and trails in the recreation district and in the village.

To reach the Park Director, you may email John at park-director@rjrd.org.

Inflation Reduction Act caps insurance costs

One of the provisions of the federal Inflation Reduction Act requires Medicare-connected insurance plans to cap the out-of-pocket costs for the insured employee at \$2,000 per year. The requirement probably will impact employers who have 20 or more employees. These companies try to have health insurance plans that avoid Medicare's late-enrollment penalties for employees who stay on the employer-provided health plans past Medicare's usual enrollment age of 65. These employers' plans may need to cap out-of-pocket prescription costs at \$2,000.

From Jim Koewler
jkoewler@protectingseniors.com

County offers expungement clinic

On October 29, the Summit County Clerk of Courts office is hosting an expungement clinic with the Summit County Prosecutor's Office. Clerk Galonski's clinic aims to assist residents in starting the process of clearing up their criminal records. The clinic will be held at the Summit County Courthouse from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. The address is 209 S. High Street #2, in Akron. For more information contact Karli Simpson at 330-643-2215.

Business Spotlight: Different Branches Same Roots

Different Branches Same Roots is a dragon and jewelry gift shop in the center of Richfield, on Route 303, across from the Village Green.

Sarah Mitschke started the business selling handcrafted jewelry online during the pandemic, just after graduating high school. She continued



selling at flea markets and opened her storefront in September 2022.

The store offers fantasy figurines, like dragons, gnomes, and fairies; gemstones that are tumbled and raw stones; handmade wire bonsai trees; unique wire wrap jewelry made of copper, sterling silver or 14k gold filled; and cabochons.

Rebranding of HTZ Construction

HTZ Construction is now HTZ Design+Build!

Co-Owner Lori Bryant indicated that their services have grown and changed since founding the company in 2018. Lori added, "We've decided to update our company name, logo and website to better reflect the elevated experience that we strive to deliver. While we started out as a general contractor, we've grown in response to client needs to provide complete



design services along with the construction to execute that design. From start to finish, it's our goal to make the process as easy as possible as we help clients make their home dreams a reality."

HTZ Design+Build is located at 3967 Broadview Road in Richfield. They are an active member of the Richfield Chamber - participating in Community Days and the April Eclipse event.

Hidden History Hike

The Friends of Richfield Heritage Preserve are holding a Hidden History of RHP hike at Richfield Heritage Preserve on Sunday, October 6, from 2-4 p.m. Attendees should use the 3771 Oviatt Rd. park entrance, off Rt. 303, and meet by the Kirby's Mill kiosk.

Discover how the land itself retains evidence of its changing past - from the Oviatt and Kirby farms, to Girl Scout Camp Julia Crowell, to Richfield Heritage Preserve. Friends' historian Lynn Richardson will guide attendees on a slow-paced, one-mile loop hike that includes some hilly terrain.

For additional information and event updates, visit friendsofrhp.org.

SAVE THE DATE!

Richfield Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet

Thursday, Jan. 30, 2025
National Interstate Insurance

Speaker: Brecksville Mayor
Daryl Kingston

More information to come
in next month's newsletter.

Titanic, Where History and Heritage Collide

The Richfield Historical Society will host its final TakeMeBack Series presentation of the year on Sunday, Oct. 27, at 2 p.m., at Masonic Hall. Tom Goldsmith will present "Titanic, Where History and Heritage Collide."

Goldsmith's grandfather and great grandmother were survivors of the Titanic. His talk will cover a little bit of everything, including

the White Star Line history, family history, opinions on some of the myths and conjectures surrounding the tragedy, and his family's connections to it, including his grandfather's recollections as told to him.

No reservations are required for this free program. Visit richfieldohiohistoricalsociety.org for any event updates.

Recognizing and thanking our 2024 Richfield Chamber of Commerce Silver & Gold Members

2024 Gold Members
include:



2024 Silver Members include:



Nominate the Richfield Business of the Year

The Chamber of Commerce, in conjunction with Koewler Law Firm, will honor the Richfield Business of the Year at the Chamber's annual banquet. 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 November 29, 2024.

It can be emailed to: mail@richfieldchamber.com

or mailed to: Richfield Chamber of Commerce,
4300 W. Streetsboro Rd., Richfield 44286

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