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APRIL 2026

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dr. Mariah Southard

As we welcome April, it's exciting to see the continued energy and engagement within our Chamber as we move into the spring season.

We had a great turnout at our March luncheon, which created valuable opportunities for networking, meaningful conversations, and new connections among our members. It was encouraging to see both familiar faces and new attendees coming together, reinforcing what makes our Chamber so strong - our people and the relationships we build.

These luncheons are more than just monthly events - they are an opportunity to stay connected, share ideas, and support one another in both personal and professional growth. If you haven't attended recently, I encourage you to join us at an upcoming luncheon. It's one of

the best ways to meet other members, expand your network, and stay engaged with what's happening within our local business community.

We're also looking ahead to some exciting initiatives, including the upcoming Links for Education Golf Outing and early planning efforts for a fall community event. These are great opportunities to get involved, support local initiatives, and continue strengthening connections within our community.

Thank you for your continued involvement and support of the Chamber. I look forward to seeing many of you at our future luncheons and events.

Golf outing registration is open

Registration is open for our Links for Education Golf Outing, sponsored by GMS. It will be held on Wednesday, June 10, at St. Bernard Golf Club in Richfield. Registration and lunch begin at 11:30 a.m., the shotgun start is at 1 p.m. and dinner will be served about 5:30 p.m. There is an 80-golfer limit and registrations will be taken on a first-come basis. A \$5 per person late fee will be assessed after the June 1 registration deadline. Registration and sponsorship forms are attached to this newsletter

Our beverage cart, keg stop, and golfer gift sponsorships have all been reserved. However, various hole sponsorship opportunities (in \$100 increments) are still available, as well as the Exclusive sponsorship which provides the donor exclusive rights to a particular hole along with an opportunity to set up a table on that hole with a representative promoting their business, sharing a company swag and information.

The popular Drive Like a Pro, utilizing the skills of Revere High School boys' and girls' varsity golf team members) will be back along with other favorite

skill challenges and fun contests. Our raffle will again feature many fantastic items donated by generous community businesses and individuals. To be a prize donor, let us know.

We still need a few individuals to assist with our various contests as well as to help drive the beverage cart on June 10. Consider signing up for one of the shifts from 1-3 p.m. and 3-5 p.m. Consider signing up. You'll have a good time while volunteering for a great cause!

A portion of the event's proceeds will fund the Chamber's scholarships for graduating seniors living within the Revere School District. Over \$100,000 has been awarded since its inception. This year, based on the financial results from last year's outing, two-\$1,200 scholarships will be given out.

Contact Karen Smik at kls1650@roadrunner.com or 330-659-4750 for more information about sponsorship and volunteer opportunities, foursome registration, to donate an item for our raffle, how to charge your registration and/or sponsorship through Square, and/or for specific event details.



LET'S DO LUNCH!

**WEDNESDAY,
April 1, 2026**

Speaker:

**Ilene Shapiro,
County Executive**

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
or mail@richfieldchamber.com
by 10 AM March 30.**

Our April Speaker

Ilene Shapiro, County Executive

County Executive Ilene Shapiro became the fifth Summit County executive in August 2016 and was re-elected for a third term in 2024.

As executive, she manages a budget of over a half billion dollars and ten departments including: administrative services, administration and public information, community and economic development, finance and budget, human resources, job and family services, law and risk management, public safety, sanitary sewer services and the medical examiner. She is the first woman in Ohio to serve as county executive.



Since becoming executive, Shapiro has overseen a number of innovative projects and initiatives that have positioned Summit County and its 31 municipalities to succeed. Under her leadership, the county has negotiated financial settlements with opioid manufacturers and distributors, attracted new and existing business investment, improved security conditions at the county jail, implemented cost saving measures for a new, state-of-the-art consolidated 9-1-1 dispatch system and increased workforce diversity. She has been a champion of strong financial management practices and has maintained Summit County's strong credit rating.

Shapiro led Summit County through the COVID-19 pandemic. Using the county's direct allocation of federal CARES Act funds, Shapiro and her team created and supported a range of programs to aid the residents, businesses and non-profit organizations of the county.

Executive Shapiro previously served on Summit County Council for ten years, three of those as council president. She served on various committees during her tenure on council, including serv-

ing as the chair of the planning and economic development committee for seven years. Prior to her career in public service, Shapiro worked in the corporate business world and was a small business owner.

Shapiro currently serves as a board member for the County Commissioners Association of Ohio, the Akron Community Foundation, the University of Akron Research Foundation, the Summit County Land Reutilization Corporation, United Way of Summit and Medina, Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study, and the Greater Akron Chamber of Commerce. She also serves on the Summit and Medina Workforce Area Council of Governments and is a member of the Greater Akron Area ATHENA PowerLink governing body. She is an alumna of both Leadership America and Leadership Akron. She is a past president of the Women's Network and is a founder of the Women's Endowment Fund of the Akron Community Foundation.

Shapiro was awarded the U.S. Small

Business Administration Women's Business Advocate for the State of Ohio and the Judith A. Resnick Woman of the Year Award for Inspiration. In 2007, she was recognized with a Women of Professional Excellence Award from Women's Network Inc. In September 2008, Shapiro was honored as the 2008 Northeast Ohio Athena Award Recipient sponsored by ATHENA International and Inside Business Magazine. In 2011, the Akron Urban League named a Pioneer at their annual Pioneer and Protégé's recognition event. In 2015, she received the Harold Stubbs Award for Government. In 2019, Executive Shapiro was named a Crain's Cleveland Business Woman of Note. Most recently, she received the 2020 Regional Economic Development Champion for her leadership on the Elevate Greater Akron strategy and the 2020 Direction Home Akron Canton Area Agency on Aging and Disabilities Harvey L. Sterns Lifetime Achievement Award for her work to support older adults in Summit County.

Executive Shapiro lives in Akron.

Oviatt House gets award of distinction

Oviatt House at Richfield Heritage Preserve was honored to receive the Award of Distinction for Restoration and Rehabilitation from the Cleveland Restoration Society and American Institute of Architects Cleveland. This award recognizes projects that have given new meaning to their communities through

preservation of architectural and cultural heritage. The group was recognized at the 2026 Celebration of Preservation awards ceremony on March 20. They expressed gratitude for everyone within the Oviatt House community for the generous support and contributions that led to this achievement.

Underground Railroad is talk topic

The Richfield Historical Society's first *TakeMeBack* series talk of the year will take place on Tuesday, April 14, from 7-8 p.m., at Richfield Fellowship Hall.

Kathy Dean-Dielman, Commissioner for America 250-Ohio since 2022, will

present *Sharing Stories from The Underground Railroad through America 250-OH*. No reservations are required for this free program.

Visit richfieldohiohistoricalsociety.org for updates.

Open House

Constantine Gardens will have an open house April 16-18, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. In addition to tours of the 55-plus community, food and drinks will be served and prizes given out. A model home is also open for tours, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. daily, except Wednesdays.

Deb Yandala to speak at Friends meeting

Join the Friends of Richfield Heritage Preserve on Wednesday, April 8, 7-9 p.m., for their annual meeting, which will be held in The Lodge at Richfield Heritage Preserve. Deb Yandala, former president and CEO of the Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park, will speak about public parklands, including

the restoration of historical buildings.

The Friends are sponsoring a guided wildflower hike on Sunday, April 26, 1-3 p.m. at RHP. Use the 3771 Oviatt Rd. park entrance. In the event of severe weather, the hike will be cancelled.

Visit friendsofrhp.org for further details/event updates.



RICHFIELD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
 "LINKS FOR EDUCATION" ANNUAL GOLF OUTING
 (With Over \$100,000 in Scholarships to Revere Students)



SPONSORED BY GMS

DATE: Wednesday, June 10, 2026

LOCATION: St. Bernard Golf Club
 5364 Streetsboro Road -- Richfield

GOLF: 4 Person Scramble (**soft spikes only**)

Check-in/Lunch Begin at 11:30 a.m.
 Putting Contest from 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m. and from 4:00-5:00 p.m.
 Shotgun Start at 1:00 p.m.
 Contests/Raffle throughout event
 Dinner after golf (steak or chicken)

FEES: **Super Ticket \$440 per foursome by 6/1; \$460 per foursome after 6/1 (this package available to foursomes only)**
 (includes hot dog for lunch, greens fee for 18 holes of golf, cart, refreshments (beer, water, pop), dinner, skins, 2 raffle tickets per golfer and special gift for each member of the foursome)

Regular Golf \$400 per foursome by 6/1; \$420 per foursome after 6/1
 (includes hot dog for lunch, greens fee for 18 holes of golf, cart, refreshments (beer, water, pop), dinner and special gift for each golfer)

Dinner Only \$35 per person

Mulligans (\$5/person) and skins (\$20/foursome for those not on the Super Ticket) will be sold the day of the event

PLEASE COMPLETE AND MAIL THIS FORM ALONG WITH YOUR CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO:
 "Richfield Chamber of Commerce" 4300 W. Streetsboro Road Richfield, Ohio 44286

Golf Foursome

(All foursomes must be on the same fee "package")

	Dinner (indicate steak or chicken)	Super Ticket	Regular Golf
<u>Price By 6/1</u>		\$440/4some	\$400/4some
<u>Price After 6/1</u>		\$460/4some	\$420/4some
Name: _____	_____	_____	_____
(Team Captain)			
Name: _____	_____	_____	_____
Name: _____	_____	_____	_____
Name: _____	_____	_____	_____

Dinner Only

(indicate steak or chicken)

\$35/person

Name: _____	_____	_____
Name: _____	_____	_____
Name: _____	_____	_____
Name: _____	_____	_____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED (CHECK PAYABLE TO "RICHFIELD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE") \$ _____
 (TO PAY BY SQUARE, CONTACT KAREN AS LISTED BELOW. YOU WILL NEED TO COVER THE PROCESSING FEE)

Company Name (if applicable): _____

Address: _____
 (street---or p.o. box # if applicable) (city) (zip code)

Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

PAYMENT IN FULL MUST ACCOMPANY REGISTRATION FORM. IF PAYING BY SQUARE, INDICATE THAT ON THIS FORM.
 80 GOLFER LIMIT - REGISTRATION ON FIRST COME BASIS
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: JUNE 1 (\$5 LATE FEE PER GOLFER ASSESSED AFTER JUNE 1)

