

CHAMBER MONTHLY

4300 W. Streetsboro Rd.
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MAY 2026

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dr. Mariah Southard

As we head into May, it finally feels like everything is coming back to life – longer days, busier schedules, and more opportunities to get out and connect. It's one of my favorite times of year, especially because of the energy it brings to our Chamber and the community as a whole.

I've really enjoyed seeing so many of you at recent events and having the chance to catch up, meet new members, and reconnect. Those conversations – whether quick check-ins or longer discussions – are what makes being part of the Richfield Chamber of Commerce so valuable. It's not just about showing up, but about building real relationships that support one another both personally and professionally.

I'm especially looking forward to our upcoming luncheon on May 6. It is always a great opportunity to step away from the day-to-day, reconnect,

and continue strengthening those connections that make such a difference in our local business community.

We're also getting closer to our annual Links for Education golf outing on June 10. Planning is well underway, and it's shaping up to be another great event. If you've been thinking about registering or sponsoring, now is the perfect time – we would love to have you involved!

Thank you, as always, for being part of this community. I'm grateful for the support, engagement, and positivity you all bring, and I look forward to seeing you soon.

Friends host migratory bird hikes

The Friends of Richfield Heritage Preserve will offer two free migratory bird hikes on Saturday, May 9 from 7-9 a.m. and 9:30-11:30 a.m., at Richfield Heritage Preserve. Attendees will meet by the Summer Barn park entrance, 4225 Oviatt Road park entrance.

Professional birder Fred Dinkelbach will review some basic birding skills and then lead attendees on a 1.5 mile

hike. The hikes will be held rain or shine.

Suitable hiking footwear, insect repellent, binoculars, and a reusable water bottle are recommended.

Attendees are asked to RSVP via Eventbrite at <https://2026MigratoryBirdHike.eventbrite.com>. Walk-ins, however, are always welcome. Visit friendsofhrp.org for event updates.



LET'S DO LUNCH!

WEDNESDAY, May 6, 2026

Speaker:

Michelle Alleman,
Executive Director,
Akron Summit County
Public Library

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 May 4.

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 May Speaker

Michelle Alleman, Executive Director, Akron Summit County Public Library

With 27 years of progressively responsible public library experience, Michelle Alleman has held leadership roles at libraries across Ohio, including serving as library director of McKinley Memorial Library in Niles from 2016 to 2022. She previously spent three years as branch manager and early childhood librarian at the Firestone Park Branch of Akron Summit County Public Library. She has also worked in supervisory positions at the Cuyahoga County Public Library, the Willoughby-Eastlake Public Library's Willowick Branch, and the Westerville Public Library.



Since 2022, Michelle has served as deputy director of Akron Summit County Public Library, providing strategic leadership for system wide initiatives, major technology implementations, and service innovations. Michelle oversaw and supported many high-impact projects including the Accessibility Library, Braille Embossing Station, new bookmobile acquisition, Library On the Go services, and the reimagining of summer and winter reading programs. Her work has consistently emphasized equitable access, customer-focused service, and staff engagement.

Michelle holds a Master of Library and Information Science from Kent State University and a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from The Ohio State University. She is a certified public librarian through the Ohio Library Council and a member of the Leadership Akron Signature Class 42. Her professional involvement includes national conference presentations, regional library leadership, and community service organizations.

Michelle assumed the role of executive director on February 3, 2026.

Register now for golf outing

There's still time to register for the Chamber's Links for Education Golf Outing, sponsored by GMS, to be held on Wednesday, June 10, at St. Bernard Golf Club in Richfield. Registration and lunch begin at 11:30 a.m.. Our shotgun start is at 1 p.m. and dinner will be served around 5:30 p.m. Remember, there's an 80-golfer limit, so 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.

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 company swag.

The extremely 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 tried-and-true favorite skill challenges and fun contests. Our raffle will again feature lots of fantastic items donated by generous community businesses and individuals. If you would like to be one of those generous raffle item donors, let us know.

A portion of the event's proceeds will help fund the Chamber's scholarships for graduating seniors living in the Revere School District. Over \$100,000 has been awarded since its inception. This year, three \$1,200 scholarships will be given out.

Contact Karen Smik at kls1650@roadrunner.com or 330-659-4750 for more information about sponsorship 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.

Next TakeMeBack topic is Benedict Arnold

The Richfield Historical Society's next TakeMeBack series talk will take place on Tuesday, May 19, from 7-8p.m. at Richfield Fellowship Hall. Carl Quatraro of Speaking on Q will present "Traitor - The Tragic Tale of Benedict Arnold."

How could Colonial America's most renowned battlefield general become

the most despised man in America? Learn about the sad tale of an expatriot who sought honor and glory but received the opposite.

No reservations are required for this free program. Call 330-659-4750 for additional information and visit richfieldohiohistoricalsociety.org for any event updates.

Richfield Chamber of Commerce Board Members

- President – Dr. Mariah Southard (BodyWork Chiropractic and Wellness)*
- Vice President – Brian Burch (Akron Summit Library, Richfield Branch)*
- Secretary – Dana Walters (Consumers National Bank)*
- Treasurer – Justin Hamlin (HFS Wealth Advisors)*
- Past President – Mark C. Yantek (Regina Health Center)*
- Resource Chair – Sue Serdinak (ScripType Publishing)*
- Membership Chair – Don Laubacher (Township Trustee)*
- Links for Education Chair – Karen Smik (Richfield Historical Society)*
- Scholarship Committee Chair – Jim Koewler (Koewler Law Firm)*



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)**

