

Catch up on Chamber news from this winter/spring and mark your calendars for upcoming events!



THE CHAMBER FOCUS

SUMMER E-Newsletter

Serving the Cuyahoga Valley Region, Rockside Road Corridor & the Communities of Brooklyn Heights, Cuyahoga Heights, Independence, Seven Hills, Valley View & Walton Hills

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to our new digital newsletter! This newsletter is full of past, present and future events and information.

We are pleased to extend a warm welcome to our new board members:

Executive Board Secretary: Nanette Cox - Plant Masters
Executive Board Member: Mike Gorman - Westfield Bank
Board Member: Tabitha Koch - Dollar Bank



Lynette Slama, President

Best wishes to Joann Keller, Tulip Tree Quilts and Nancy Prucha and Melissa LaPorta, DigiCom Printing, who have stepped down from the board. Thank you for your support of the Chamber throughout the years. I would like to thank all of our existing board members for your time and dedication.

We have completed our Chamber Strategic Plan with the help of Liberty Schindel, Economic Development Specialist for the City of Independence. This plan will lead us into a bright future for the organization. If you are interested in reviewing the plan, please visit our [website](#).

Our By-Laws Committee has been working on redefining our By-Laws which should be completed and ready for adoption by the end of the summer. Committees are a vital part of how a successful chamber grows and prospers. We are in the process of forming new committees and are looking for new leaders

with fresh ideas. Please contact a member of the [Board](#) or [April Acuna](#) if you are interested.

Lastly, your opinion matters to us. Please take a few minutes to fill out the [survey](#) and let us know how the Cuyahoga Valley Chamber can better serve you and your business.

Have a great summer and we will see you at our picnic on August 27!

Sincerely,

Lynette Slama, President
Cuyahoga Valley Chamber of Commerce

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

It has been five wonderful and exciting months since that cold, snowy February when I began my position here at the Chamber. I could not have made the transition were it not for all the help I received from Lynette and the Board.



April Acuña, Executive Director

Our Spring Fever After Hours Event at Shula's 2 was a success in April. We had more than 20 members and guests enjoy the event. Another successful event was the educational event with Benefits 1 Group on June 11th. The topic was the Bureau of Worker's Compensation New Prospective Premium Payment System, which began on July 1st, bringing many changes for business owners.

This summer we are excited to announce the introduction of a new chamber membership software. It will improve member-to-member communications, and will allow companies to update their information electronically.

I am looking forward to continuing getting to know all of you and I wish you an enjoyable and productive summer.

April Acuña, Executive Director
Cuyahoga Valley Chamber of Commerce

CHAMBER NEWS

Chamber Survey

The Chamber is conducting a survey to gauge current programs and services, identify relevant topics and speakers, and gain critical feedback to help improve overall membership benefits. The [survey](#) is available for current and prospective Chamber Members and will take approximately 5-10 minutes to

complete. Once submitted, your business will be entered into a raffle for a free year of Chamber membership.

Join the Chamber Energy Aggregation Program

The Cuyahoga Valley Chamber of Commerce and Community Energy Advisors (CEA) are proud to announce a partnership to provide Chamber Members with a unique energy savings program.

This is an exclusive opportunity to save money on electricity and natural gas bills. This savings benefit is a group buying program which allows members to aggregate, creating "market power" and savings for themselves. As a result, the Chamber Energy Aggregation Program creates additional buying power, which encourages energy suppliers to compete for your business, and thus drives down prices.

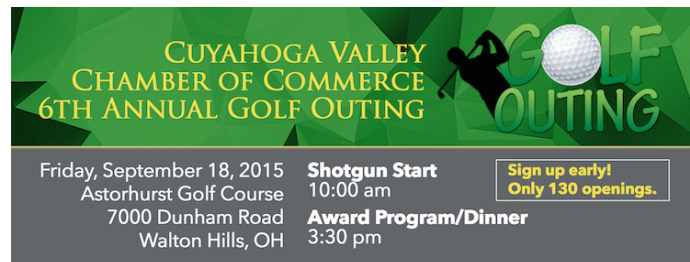
Enrollment is offered on a monthly basis so even if you are currently in the midst of an energy contract, this program will be an on-going offer. For more information on CEA and or to learn more about this program, please visit the [website](#).

SAVE THE DATE

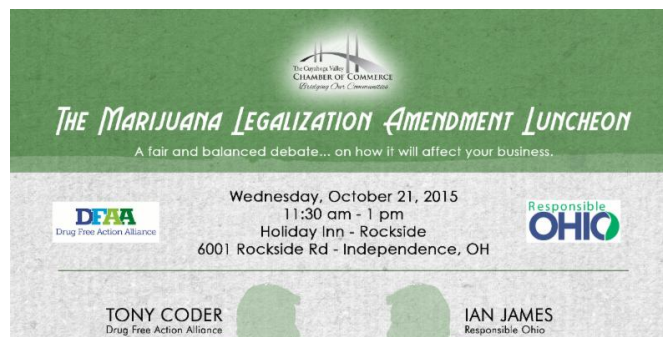
Be sure to register for these upcoming Chamber events!

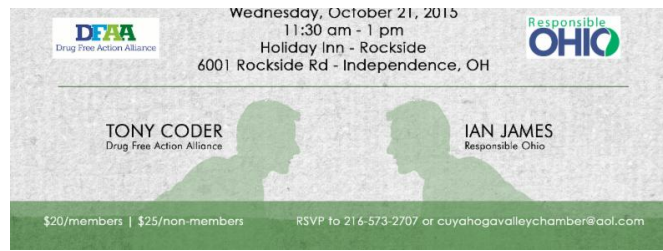


[Register now](#)



[More Information](#)
[Register now](#)





[More Information](#)

A RECAP OF WINTER/SPRING LUNCHEONS

'Go Red' Luncheon Inspires Members to "Live Their Playlist"



Chamber Members who wore red to the Luncheon

At the Cuyahoga Valley Chamber of Commerce's February 18 luncheon, more than 50 members had the opportunity to hear Andrea Vecchio speak about her new book, "Live Your Playlist." Vecchio, an Emmy-nominated journalist, shared a few of her life experiences that taught her about the importance of finding the right mentor.

Cuyahoga Valley Chamber members enjoyed asking questions and getting their books signed afterwards. At the luncheon, the Chamber also celebrated the American Heart Association's Heart Health Month by encouraging attendees to "Go Red" for women. The first inaugural picture of members wearing red was taken and a donation was made to the American Heart Association.

6th Annual Impact Awards Recognizes Businesses Making a Difference in our Communities



On March 4, the Cuyahoga Valley Chamber of Commerce held its 6th Annual Impact Awards Luncheon at the Holiday Inn on Rockside Road in Independence. It was an especially exciting event this year and was sponsored by Westfield Bank.

The keynote speaker for the event was Cuyahoga County Executive Armond Budish who spoke of his innovative agenda to improve the lives of county residents. He concluded with a few words about the 2016 Republican National Convention in Cleveland, and how it will give residents and businesses the opportunity to showcase why they are proud to live in Northeast Ohio.

The winners of the two prestigious Impact Awards are:

Smith & Condani, LLP (now Condani Law) won the Business of the Year Achievement Award. This award goes to a business that has exemplified high moral and ethical standards, and has made an outstanding contribution to the community that our Chamber serves.

The Independence **Wendy's won the Excellence in Customer Service Award.** This award is for excellence and achievement in the field of customer service, business performance and customer care.



Cuyahoga County Executive Armond Budish speaking to attendees



Mike Gorman of Westfield Bank, Jason Truxall of Wendy's, Darlynn Velotta from the City of Independence and Lynette Slama, President of the Chamber



Tom Lahiff of the City of Brooklyn Heights, Judith Mondry of Walthall CPAs, Lindsey Smith of Smith & Codeni, Mayor Procuk of Brooklyn Heights and Lynette Slama, President of the Chamber

A Focus on Wellness at the Chamber's April Luncheon

On April 22, the Cuyahoga Valley Chamber of Commerce partnered with the Holiday Inn and the Cleveland Clinic to present the annual wellness fair and luncheon.

Over 30 vendors participated, with a portion of the registration fees donated to the Chamber Scholarship Fund. There were health screenings and wonderful door prizes from the vendors.



Cleveland Clinic staff at their tables

The speaker was Beth Czerwory, MS, RD, LD, a registered dietician from the Cleveland Clinic, with a presentation on food labeling. The Chamber is grateful for such great partners and the ability to bring more than 250 participants together for a fun and informative event.

An Update from our Area School Superintendents

On May 13, more than 100 people attended the Cuyahoga Valley Chamber of Commerce's Annual State of the Schools Luncheon. At this year's celebration, the Chamber was able to award five \$1000 scholarship winners, to graduating seniors from Independence and Cuyahoga Heights High Schools. This is due to the success of last September's golf outing.



Tom Thacker, Dr. Holly Thacker, Grayson Thacker (Cuyahoga Heights), and Mayor Piasecki

Tom Thacker, Chair of the Scholarship Committee, awarded the \$1000 scholarships to Matthew Drockton, Cuyahoga Heights; Grayson Thacker, Cuyahoga Heights; John Roddy, Independence; Kiley Duhn, Independence; and Jennifer Wisniewski, Independence.

Ed 'Flash' Ferenc was the moderator of the panel that consisted of the following Superintendents: Steve Marlow of Independence Local Schools, Dr. Celena Roebuck of Cuyahoga Valley Career Center, Dr. Bob Mengerink, ESC of Cuyahoga County and Joe Bergant of Cuyahoga Heights Schools. The panel discussed updates in their respective district, resulting in an extremely informative afternoon.

In addition to the awarding of the scholarships, the Chamber presented ESC of Cuyahoga County with a special plaque in appreciation for their continued support of the Chamber and the annual golf outing.



Kiley Duhn, Independence

The Cuyahoga Valley Chamber of Commerce would like to congratulate all the scholarship recipients and wish them success and happiness as they embark on their college careers.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Please help the Chamber keep up-to-date records by [sending your new information!](#)

Old Carolina BBQ - Hospitality Partners

Todd Schafer
5100 Mayfield Rd

Town Planner

Katy Wright
3046 Brecksville Rd

Lyndhurst, OH 44124
oldcarolina.com

Richfield, OH 44286
townplanner.com

University Hospitals Parma Medical Center
Mary Beth Talerico
7007 Powers Blvd
Parma, OH 44129
uhhospitals.org/parma

The Framers Gallery Inc.
David Ping
7730 Chippewa Rd
Brecksville, OH 44141
theframersgallery.com

State Farm Insurance & Financial Services
Jinisha Patel
7413 Memphis Ave
Brooklyn, OH 44144
patelinsurance.net

Caritas Financial
Kathy Futey, CPWA
5700 Lombardo Center, Ste 280
Cleveland, OH 44131
caritasfinancial.com

Functional Endocrinology of Ohio
Caroline Boardman
6200 Rockside Woods Blvd N.
Independence, OH 44131
balancingyourchemistry.com

| Cuyahoga Valley Chamber of Commerce | 216-573-2707 | cuyahogavalleychamber@aol.com |
cuyahogavalleychamber.com |

STAY CONNECTED:



[Forward this email](#)



This email was sent to cuyahogavalleychamber@aol.com by cuyahogavalleychamber@aol.com |
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Rapid removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [About our service provider.](#)



The Cuyahoga Valley Chamber of Commerce | P.O. Box 31326 | Independence | OH | 44131