

RNI Chatter



Happy Easter to everyone from the RNI Chatter

Volume 5 Issue 6

APRIL 2022

Spring Fling Dance to be held on April 22nd

The Spring Fling Dance will be held April 22nd from 6:30 pm-9:00 pm at the New Life Church of Christ in Bellville. Pre-sale tickets are \$3, tickets at the door are \$4. Only 400 tickets will be sold so get yours today!!

Dance benefits People First of Richland County & Richland County Special Olympics

it's time to celebrate! • casual dress • light snacks
selfie station • door prizes

FRIDAY, APRIL 22, 2022
DOORS OPEN AT 6:30PM & IS OVER AT 9:00PM

\$3.00 PRE-SALE PRICE • \$4.00 AT THE DOOR
ONLY 400 TICKETS AVAILABLE

New Life Church of Christ, Bellville, 195 W. Durbin Circle

Tickets are available by contacting Sherry Minnig at sminnig@rmewhope.org.
Sean Laird at slaird@rnilinc.com or the Richland Newhope Administration Building

RNI, Inc. Custodial Team keeping busy

The Custodial Team is keeping busy these days with their 9 local contracts in and around Down-town Mansfield. They also clean (4) RNI buildings on a nightly basis. The crew is made up of 9 members and a job coach that oversees their work and transports them between the jobsites. Thank you for always keeping our facilities clean!



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RNI, Inc. hosted for March Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day

RNI, Inc. had the pleasure of hosting the LU class for March Awareness Month. We had two groups of 6 people on a tour of the RNI facility. During the tour they witnessed the individuals engaging in activities in the adult day group. Rose also gave them a nice overview of what they do each day in the Activities area. While touring the workgroups they observed individuals doing different types of jobs and talked to a few individuals about how their day was going. We ended the tour in the conference room where they were able to see samples of the jobs the individuals do and Kim C. telling them how to do the jobs. We talked about Community Employment and the supports we provide from the start to finish of getting a job. There were samples of some of the art that our Contracted Artists make and sell at the Element of Art. The City Garden Café, operated by RNI, also had displays of sandwiches that are prepared to order. After the tour the participants went to the Longview Center for lunch. They were asked to discuss the tour and to comment on anything they learned or what stood out to them from the experience.



St. Patrick's Day fun and photos from RNI locations

Everyone at RNI was encouraged to wear **GREEN** on Thursday, March 17th for Saint Patrick's Day. Here are a few photos of the staff and people we serve from our 971 & 985 Longview Ave location. They had an extra **LUCKY** day as a double rainbow appeared during one of the photos. The Chatter would like to thank Support Specialist Heather Gibson for submitting these photos to us.



HAPPY EASTER

April Employee Anniversaries

Doug Huff	04/24/1998	24 Years
Penny Sunderland	04/01/2004	18 Years
Sean Laird	04/26/2005	17 Years
Lori Barker	04/12/2010	12 Years
Robert Patton	04/06/2016	6 Years
Tom Clark	04/07/2016	6 Years
Tara Grove	04/01/2019	3 Years
Bill Stephenson	04/02/2019	3 Years
Mike Middleton	04/17/2019	3 Years
JoAnn Winters	04/24/2019	3 Years

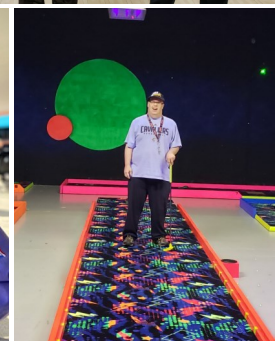
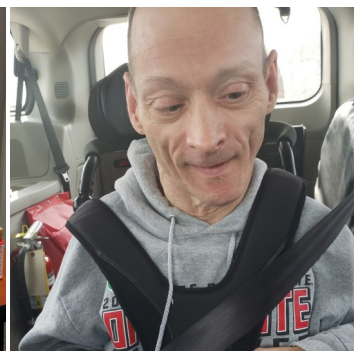
Congratulations

Doug for 24 years
Penny for 18 years
Sean for 17 years

THANK YOU all for
your years of service!

Great time on outings in the month of March

The Social Integration department was busy during the month of March. They enjoyed the beautiful weather outdoors, did crafts and visited many area businesses. The individuals and staff visited Dairy Queen, Lex Lanes, Cleveland Metroparks and Glo-in-one Indoor mini gold just to name a few. Please take a look at the awesome pictures taken during some of these outings!



RNI Board Member Welge receives Economic Impact Award



I would like to congratulate RNI Board Member, Merris Welge for receiving the Economic Impact Award at “An Evening in Wonderland”. Below is a copy of his nomination letter:

I would like to nominate Merris Welge. Incredibly, Merris has been volunteering his time educating the community through the North Central Ohio SCORE organization for 26 years! SCORE is a mentoring organization, providing free counseling, resources and advice to people who are in business or want to start a business. Merris currently serves in an office manager capacity for SCORE, provides counseling, and helps plan workshops. Rarely a day goes by that Merris isn't spending time in the SCORE office—he commits anywhere from 10-12 hours volunteering each week! Merris has also served as the Chapter Chair for SCORE for three separate years and served as Vice Chair twice. In August 2015, Merris received the Distinguished Service Award in recognition of his “outstanding service, unwavering commitment and exceptional contributions to North Central Ohio SCORE chapter 384”. This award also earned him commendations from many

government officials such as Governor John Kasich and Lieutenant Governor Mary Taylor, House Representative Mark Romanchuk, and the Ohio Senate. The North Central Ohio Chapter also received the Chapter of the Year award in 1999 while Merris was serving as Chapter Chair. It would be fascinating to know how many businesses Merris has helped grow and succeed – hundreds for certain.

In addition to SCORE, Merris also volunteers several hours each week for other organizations. Merris has served on the Board of Richland Newhope Industries, Inc. for over ten years and served on the board of the Third Street Clinic for 12 years. Merris also volunteers his time to benefit the Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development. He serves on Chamber committees such as the Expo Committee, Ambassador Committee, and Small Business of the Year Committee. Merris also regularly brightens the day of the staff inside the Chamber building with his ready smile, caring nature, helping hand, great ideas, positive outlook, and by remembering and giving out everyone's favorite flavor of chocolate (his favorite guilty pleasure).

Merris was also involved with Sertoma for 35 years (25+ years as the treasurer), earning him the distinction of Life Member. Sertoma's mission and passion is to improve the quality of life for those at risk or impacted by hearing loss through education and support. Through Sertoma, Merris helps arrange and facilitate two field trips a year with local hearing-impaired children, such as trips to COSI, the Columbus Zoo, The Wilds, and the 179th Airlift Wing. Merris recently received a recognition award from Sertoma to honor his years of service, serving since 1986.

Background information:

Merris started working as a bookkeeper at the Second National Bank of Bucyrus after graduation from Tiffin University and worked his way up in the company. He then became Branch Manager of First National Bank of Mansfield and was soon promoted to Manager of Installment Loans. In his years of employment there, Merris worked in every department except Trust and IT. He saw the company go through eight name changes, and it was officially KeyBank when he retired as Assistant Vice President. During his banking career, Merris served as President of the North Central Ohio National Association of Credit Managers (NACM) and President of Bank Administration Institute (BAI). Merris and his wife Jean have worked together to support local law enforcement. They established two designated funds, one for the Ontario Police Department and one for the Mansfield Police Department. The first project to receive support from the Ontario Police Department fund was a memorial to law enforcement in front of Ontario City Hall. The second fund was established to fund projects at the Mansfield Police Department. Merris and Jean have also set up Charitable Gift Annuities (CGAs) at the Richland County Foundation, the Salvation Army, and the Sertoma Club and encourage others to consider doing so. Merris and Jean like the investment because it can help a nonprofit organization and provide an income stream to the individual, in addition to a tax deduction and a higher interest rate than a traditional savings account or certificate of deposit.

Merris and Jean have been married over 50 years and reside in Ontario. They have four adult children residing in Ohio and have many special memories of traveling the country. As you can see, Merris has contributed to economic excellence in Richland County for generations. Richland County is so blessed to have him!

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Like Us On
facebook

RNI, Inc. Team: Let's increase our presence on social media and increase our LIKES on Facebook. LIKE and SHARE us on Facebook to invite your friends to LIKE us too. UPDATED 03/31/22; we are at:

City Garden Café is at 422 LIKES, can we get to 500 LIKES, 78 LIKES to go ??

Element of Art Studio/Gallery is at 1,763 LIKES, can we get to 2000 LIKES, 237 LIKES to go ??

Richland Newhope Industries is at 1,918 LIKES, can we get to 2000 LIKES, 82 LIKES to go ??

Trillium Event Center is at 758 FOLLOWS, can we get to 1000 FOLLOWS, 242 FOLLOWS to go ??

Help us increase our social media exposure by liking and sharing our four (4) Facebook pages. City Garden Café, Element of Art Studio/Gallery, Trillium Event Center and Richland Newhope Industries, Inc!



SAFETY starts with S, but begins with YOU...



RNI Safety TOPIC for April: Distracted Driving

April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month. The National Safety Council (NSC) has an urgent request for all drivers: MAKE April the month you ditch the cell phone- and distracted driving- while behind the wheel. Will you commit to being safer?

DISTRACTED DRIVING AWARENESS MONTH

DISTRACTED DRIVING CLAIMS EIGHT LIVES EVERY DAY — ROUGHLY 3,500 PER YEAR.

1 IN 4 crashes involve distracted driving.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Turn off notifications
Set your phone to "Do Not Disturb" while driving

Speak up
Over half of drivers say they would stop distracted driving if asked by a passenger.

Slow down!
In addition to distracted driving, speeding is still one of the main causes of accidents. Increases in speed limits over two decades have cost 33,000 lives in the U.S

ICT and its member companies want all drivers to be safe on the over 300,000 miles of roads in Texas. For more safe driving resources, visit insurancecouncil.org/distracteddriving

50%
Drivers on hands-free or handheld devices can fail to see 50% of their surroundings

77%
77% of drivers make or take phone calls while driving.

80%
80% of drivers mistakenly think hands-free devices are safer than handheld