



# perspective

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## MIKE LOCHARD HONORED AS 2021 ZENITH AWARD RECIPIENT!



Left: Tom Martin presenting Mike Lochard with the 2021 Zenith Award. Right: The Lochard family



The Sidney-Shelby County Chamber held its Annual Dinner on Tuesday March 8th at the Palazzo in Botkins. The evening began with an invocation from 2nd Vice Chair Phil Borger followed by a great dinner served by Taylor Doseck and her staff. Jeff Raible took the stage after dinner and introduced staff from the Chamber, Sidney-Shelby Economic Partnership and Workforce Partnership of Shelby County.

After introductions were complete, Jeff talked about Chamber programming and what we've been up to since gathering together in the first week of March, 2020. In 2021, the Chamber put considerable energy and focus toward creating and promoting a sense of place for Sidney and Shelby County. Our community recognized two years ago that traditional economic development tools are becoming increasingly ineffective when compared to investments communities are making toward improving their quality of place—that lifestyle amenities such as recreation and cultural activities, attractive public spaces, and the availability of often sought after services like good schools and healthcare are in many ways more substantial contributors to a healthy local economy than the more traditional “business-friendly” measures. It has been the Chamber’s pursuit both locally and outside the area to help others understand and appreciate that Shelby County is not only a great place to work but an awesome place to live as well.

There are many stakeholders, both public and private, who are working collaboratively in pursuit of a better Sidney and Shelby County. They are: The Chamber, SSEP, Sidney Alive, the City of Sidney, Shelby County Commissioners, and individually Mick Given, Mike Lochard, Phil Gilardi, DJ Baird and Denny Sollmann.

Jeff also discussed the creation of a new website, [www.ExperienceSidney.com](http://www.ExperienceSidney.com) which is a lifestyle

website developed to serve as an information hub for anyone considering relocation to Sidney or Shelby County.

Mick Given then came to the podium to share an overview of what he and his team are working on to further improve the aesthetics and allure of downtown Sidney. Mick discussed lit archways and alleyways offering a more friendly and inviting downtown for people to spend their time. He also talked about the importance of public and private partnerships to continue the momentum going forward. At the end of his presentation, he showed an incredible video created by Freytag & Associates on what the archways and alleyways would look like and encouraged those in attendance to get involved and become hands on in continuing this revitalization effort.

2022 Board Chair, Josh Ross, talked about the Chamber’s plans for 2022 and introduced those currently serving on the Board of Directors. He also recognized and thanked outgoing Board Chair for 2020, Mary Lee Smock, and 2021, Margo O’Leary. Margo then thanked those that had completed their tenure on the Board—DJ Baird, Nancy Luce, Phil Gilardi, Dave Richard, Ryan Nichols and Mary Lee Smock.

Dawn Eilert then highlighted the 2020 and 2021 Beautification Award Recipients: Amelio’s Pizzeria, Ask Amy Home Furnishings, The Bridge Restaurant, Culver’s, Express Employment Professionals, Furniture Express, Greenhaus Coffee, Hammer & Stain, The Hive Executive Center, JC’s Barber Shop, Journey 4 Self, Kroger, Meal Prep Life/Smoothie Life, Murphy’s Craftbar & Kitchen, Our Creative Marketplace, Peter’s Pense, Shear Luxe, Tavolo, Wilson Health, Winans and WiseBridge Wealth Management.

Tom Martin then awarded a very deserving Mike Lochard with the Zenith Award for a lifetime of community service.

### APRIL Meeting & Event Dates

- 2 CASA/GAL Dancing With Our Stars**  
5:30 p.m.—Doors Open; 6:30 p.m.—Dinner;  
8:00 p.m.—Dancing Begins  
The Palazzo, 309 South Main Street, Botkins  
[www.co.shelby.oh.us/casagal](http://www.co.shelby.oh.us/casagal)
- 7 Business After Hours—Ohio Living Dorothy Love**  
5:00—7:00 p.m.—3003 West Cisco Road  
RSVP: [deilert@sidneyshelbychamber.com](mailto:deilert@sidneyshelbychamber.com) or 492-9122
- 8 Rocky Horror Picture Show**  
12:00 midnight—Historic Sidney Theatre, 120 West Poplar Street—[www.sidneytheatre.org/all-events](http://www.sidneytheatre.org/all-events)
- 9 Historic Sidney Theatre Presents: Plaiditude Concert**  
7:30—9:30 p.m.—Historic Sidney Theatre, 120 West Poplar Street—[www.sidneytheatre.org/all-events](http://www.sidneytheatre.org/all-events)
- 13 Shelby County Safety Council—BWC Mega Mtg.**  
Topic: How to Lead by Bringing Your Human to Work  
Speaker: Erica Keswin, Author  
11:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. Online  
Contact [deilert@sidneyshelbychamber.com](mailto:deilert@sidneyshelbychamber.com) for link
- 15 Good Friday—Chamber Offices Closed**
- 16 Easter Egg Hunt on the Square**  
11:00 a.m.—Shelby County Court House Lawn
- 16 Spherion Staffing Job Fair**  
5:00—8:00 p.m.—234 North Ohio Avenue  
For more info. and to apply—<https://applyohio.com>
- 16 Cruise Sidney**  
5:00—8:00 p.m.  
[www.facebook.com/ShelbyCountyHistoricalSociety](https://www.facebook.com/ShelbyCountyHistoricalSociety)
- 17 Easter**
- 19 Sidney Alive Flowerpot Workshop**  
5:30—6:30 p.m.—Crossway Farms Greenhouse, 117 Front Street—[www.sidneyalive.wpcomstaging.com/eventscalendar/month/2022-04/](http://www.sidneyalive.wpcomstaging.com/eventscalendar/month/2022-04/)
- 21 Chamber Leadership**  
Topic: Health Services  
8:30 a.m.—Wilson Health, 915 West Michigan Street
- 21 Sidney Alive Flowerpot Workshop**  
5:30—6:30 p.m.—Crossway Farms Greenhouse, 117 Front Street—[www.sidneyalive.wpcomstaging.com/eventscalendar/month/2022-04/](http://www.sidneyalive.wpcomstaging.com/eventscalendar/month/2022-04/)

**ADDITIONAL MEETINGS & EVENTS ON PAGE 2**



## FROM JEFF'S DESK

In late March the Chamber's young professionals' group, YPconnect, hosted a networking and learning luncheon where Sidney's new city manager Andrew Bowsher was invited to present. Andrew did a fantastic job updating the 50 or so attending on the current activities and future plans for the City in its continuing quest to enhance the quality of life for area residents. Overall, the City's plans are very inspiring as indicated by the enthusiasm of those participating.

From a Chamber of Commerce perspective, we are extremely excited with the progress and possibilities for YPconnect. This year under the leadership of Grant Covault, the YPconnect steering committee has programed a nice mix of professional development seminars, Sidney-Shelby County familiarization presentations, networking, and social events.

Honestly, I can think of no better way to engage our present and future leaders than by involving them in YPconnect. Here they'll meet other area young professionals, broaden their social and professional networks, and strengthen their bond with our local community. Their participation is a win-win for all involved.

Please encourage the young professionals in your organization to join YPconnect. There's no charge and at present the YPconnect community has over 600 active followers. In addition, perhaps you can carve out a little extra time once a month for your YPs to participate in the scheduled lunch & learns, morning coffee mobs, mid-day lunch mobs, or late afternoon social gatherings. Their time will be well-spent I assure you and will add to their level of satisfaction in achieving a fulfilling work-life balance.

Before closing I'd like to thank the following organizations who this year are sponsors of YPconnect. They are Ruese Insurance, Sidney Body CARSTAR, Homes By Hill, Ashley Himes State Farm, Emerson Wagner Realty, and Hydro. Thanks also to all members of the YPconnect steering committee for their energy and dedication to the success of this special interest group. They are Grant Covault, Susan Shaffer, Kristen Arnett, Ashley Himes, Paula Hill, Emily Reinhart, Sylvia Roop, Aaron Watkins, Cameron Eisenhardt, Tyler Davis, and Josh Ross.



### ADDITIONAL APRIL MEETINGS & EVENTS

- 22 **Gateway Arts Council Presents: Princess Ball**  
7:00—9:00 p.m.—Lehman High School, 2400 St. Marys Avenue  
[www.gatewayartscouncil.org/youth-series](http://www.gatewayartscouncil.org/youth-series)
- 23 **Historic Sidney Theatre Presents: Evolution Concert**  
7:00 p.m.—Doors & Concessions Open; 7:30 p.m.—Concert Begins  
[www.sidneytheatre.org/all-events](http://www.sidneytheatre.org/all-events)
- 23 **Amos Memorial Library Presents: Grandmothers & Granddaughters Paris Tea Party**  
12:30 p.m.—Amos Memorial Library, Community Room, 230 East North Street  
[www.shelbycountylibraries.org/events](http://www.shelbycountylibraries.org/events)
- 24 **Gateway Arts Council Presents: Neil Diamond Tribute—"Sweet Caroline Tour"**  
7:00 p.m.—Sidney High School, 1215 Campbell Road  
[www.gatewayartscouncil.org/performing-arts](http://www.gatewayartscouncil.org/performing-arts)
- 27 **Shelby County Historical Society Presents: Robert Kroeger, Author & Painter**  
6:00 p.m.—Wallace Family Learning & Innovation Center, 115 East North Street
- 28 **Human Resources Council**  
Topic: DEI (Diversity, Equity & Inclusion)  
Speaker: Colleen Gong, FGKS Law  
12:00—1:00 p.m.—TBD
- 29 **CASA Day in Ohio—FREE LUNCH**  
11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.—Shelby County Court Square
- 29 **New Choices— Give a Little, Laugh a Lot Fundraiser**  
6:00 p.m.—The Palazzo, 300 South Main Street, Botkins  
[www.newchoicesinc.org](http://www.newchoicesinc.org)  
(more information on this page)
- 30 - **Amos Memorial Library Book Sale**
- 5/7 Time: Regular Library hours  
230 East North Street

## NEW CHOICES TO HOST FUNDRAISER— GIVE A LITTLE, LAUGH A LOT



New Choices, Inc. invites you to attend their annual comedy night fundraiser, "Give a Little, Laugh a Lot", on **Friday, April 29, 2022** beginning at 6:00 p.m. at The Palazzo in Botkins. Your \$40.00 ticket purchase will include dinner and entertainment. New Choices, Inc. is excited to host comedian, Andy Forrester. Throughout the evening, guests will have the opportunity to participate in a live and silent auction for some amazing prizes!

The mission at New Choices, Inc. is to provide emergency shelter; crisis intervention, education and advocacy for adults and children who are victims of Domestic Violence; to assist victims through the criminal justice process; to raise awareness in the community through education; and to provide assistance through personal education and training to help victims break the cycle of Domestic Violence and regain control of their lives. New Choices, Inc. is the **ONLY** agency in Shelby County that provides services to victims of Domestic Violence. Our crisis hotline and emergency shelter are available to those who need assistance 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

100% of the comedy night proceeds will go toward supporting the New Choices mission and help provide services and support to the many families who live with abuse in the Shelby County community.

Call (937) 498-7261 or visit [www.newchoicesinc.org](http://www.newchoicesinc.org) to purchase tickets.

## SIDNEY ALIVE TO HOST KENTUCKY DERBY AFFAIR ON THE SQUARE

**SATURDAY, MAY 7<sup>th</sup>**  
**2:00—5:00 p.m.**  
**Shelby County Court Square**



**TICKETS ON SALE NOW!**

A derby-themed fundraiser for Sidney Alive! Join us for a garden soiree on the Square, including a derby foot race! Tickets are on sale now and the 2022 Jockeys have been set! Check out the event on Facebook or call the Sidney Alive office at (937) 658-6945 to see how you can donate to one or more of our jockeys! All funds raised go towards the revitalization of downtown Sidney.

To see more details on this event and others occurring in 2022, visit the Sidney Alive website at [www.sidneyalive.org](http://www.sidneyalive.org).

**HAVE YOU PUT THIS EVENT ON YOUR CALENDAR YET?**

**2022 CHAMBER GOLF CLASSIC**

**Tuesday, May 24th**  
**10:30 a.m.—Shotgun Start**  
**Shelby Oaks Golf Course**

**Registration forms being sent to all Chamber members next week!**

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

### BARNYARD PRODUCTS

**BUSINESS CATEGORY:** Warehousing/Distribution

Mark Berning  
1425 North Vandemark Road  
Sidney, Ohio 45365  
Phone: (937) 497-9273  
Web Site: [www.barnyardproducts.com](http://www.barnyardproducts.com)

### BRUCKENS NEIGHBORHOOD PUB

**BUSINESS CATEGORY:** Restaurants

Karl Ahrns  
10 Elm Street  
Fort Loramie, Ohio 45845  
Phone: (937) 420-2222  
Web Site: [www.bruckenspub.com](http://www.bruckenspub.com)

## YPCONNECT TO PARTNER WITH SAFY IN DUFFLE BAG DRIVE

Many times youth enter care with nothing to call their own. SAFY is asking for your support in collecting duffel bags and items to provide to local youth experiencing foster care. Donations will be accepted through Wednesday, April 27th.

#### New Items Needed:

Baby Wipes	Blankets	Body Wash
Deodorant	Diapers (5/6)	Duffel Bags
Fidgets	Hair Brushes	Headphones
Puzzles	Shampoo	Conditioner
Wash Cloths	Water Bottles	
Feminine Hygiene Products		

#### Local Drop-off Locations:

Sidney Alive, 109 South Ohio Avenue  
WiseBridge Wealth Mgt., 411 West Russell Road  
Ruese Insurance Agency, 100 S. Main Street, Suite 200  
Sidney Body CARSTAR, 175 South Stolle Avenue  
Emerson Wagner Realty, 122 West Court Street  
Ashley Himes State Farm, 670 North Vandemark Road

For more information, contact Sylvia Roop at (937) 407-0584 or [roops@safy.org](mailto:roops@safy.org).

#### **SAFY's Mission: Preserving Families & Securing Futures**

Since our founding in Lima, Ohio in 1984, our work has rested on a single, radical idea – children belong in families. Every child and family deserves the opportunity to reach their full potential. We are an extraordinary team of 500 employees in seven states including Alabama, Colorado, Indiana, Kentucky, Nevada, Ohio and South Carolina who provide safety and healing so families and children can build resilience and thrive.

Strong families are the foundation of strong communities, but all families encounter storms. SAFY is there to help weather these disruptions of life. We provide the tools needed to support the well-being of families ensuring everyone can reach their potential and fully participate in our communities.

## WE ♥ RIBBON CUTTINGS!

Huge Congratulations to JT & Niki Woodruff on their grand opening celebration at Greenhaus Coffee in downtown Sidney! What an incredible space! If you haven't had a chance to visit yet, their address is 126 East Poplar Street. Also check them out @ [www.facebook.com/greenhauscoffee/](https://www.facebook.com/greenhauscoffee/)



## SBI 66 RECENTLY SIGNED BY GOV. DEWINE

State Bill 166 provides several initiatives that will promote business and industry that are working with Career Center students.

1. Establishes tax and insurance incentives for Ohio employers to offer work-based learning opportunities to high school career-tech students;
2. Authorizes an income tax withholding credit of 15% from wages paid to participating students;
3. Prohibits the BWC from charging any amount against an employer's experience rating for workers' compensation claims made as part of a high school WBL program;
4. Clarifies Ohio law to ensure that a Joint Vocational School District receives proportional compensation under any supplemental Payment in Lieu of Taxes ("PILOT") agreement executed by local governments as part of a "CRA" or Enterprise Zone Agreement.

Go to the website below for more information or reach out to Tony Trapp, Naomi Baker, Michelle Brunson or Jason Haak at (937) 778-1980 with any questions you may have.

**Website:** [https://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/Topics/Career-Tech/SB-166-Tax-Credit-Certificate-Guidance-Document\\_v2\\_2022-2-22.pdf.aspx?lang=en-US](https://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/Topics/Career-Tech/SB-166-Tax-Credit-Certificate-Guidance-Document_v2_2022-2-22.pdf.aspx?lang=en-US)

## STILL TIME TO REGISTER FOR THE BWC MEDICAL & HEALTH SYMPOSIUM

The Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation Medical and Health Symposium is April 7 - 9, 2022, and will be virtual again this year.

Themed "Comprehensive Care for an Injured Worker," the virtual symposium features educational sessions for healthcare practitioners, their staff, and legal professionals. And you can attend from the comfort of your home or office. Earn free continuing education credits while listening to leading state and national experts on topics sure to both educate and inspire you.

Not only will this year's symposium be a rare educational experience showcasing a live orthopedic surgery during one of our sessions, but it will also highlight stories of recovery, opioid use disorder, COVID-19 and the long-term effects, the aging eye, orthopedic injuries, alternative pain treatments, a personal story of triumph, and more.

"This year's annual symposium offers three days of learning opportunities for healthcare and legal attendees worldwide on some of the most pressing health and medical issues of our time," said Stephanie McCloud, BWC's Administrator/CEO.

The symposium offers:

- Free registration.
- Continuing education credit requested for 19 professional disciplines.
- Three days of presentations from industry experts.
- Virtual live streamed interaction with speakers and exhibitors.

Participants will have an opportunity to ask questions during each session and virtually connect with each speaker following their respective session. The BWC plans to expand their symposium's continuing education opportunities for healthcare and legal professionals with the same, high quality presentations you've grown to expect.

To see a brochure of topics and register to attend, visit [www.info.bwc.ohio.gov/for-providers/workers-compensation-provider/medical-and-health-symposium/medicalsymposium](http://www.info.bwc.ohio.gov/for-providers/workers-compensation-provider/medical-and-health-symposium/medicalsymposium).

# SENIOR Center OF SIDNEY-SHELBY COUNTY Celebrating 25 YEARS

**APR 8:** Board Meeting, 9A  
**APR 12:** Carry-In, 11:30A  
**APR 26:** Lunch & Learn, 11:30A  
**APR 27:** Card Party, 12:30P  
**APR 29:** Billiard Tournament, 8:30A  
**APR 29:** Friday Fun Night Trivia, 7P; fun, door prizes, refreshments\*

\*Open to public



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