



# ERIE COUNTY CHAMBER of COMMERCE CELEBRATING 120 YEARS

604 W. WASHINGTON STREET, SANDUSKY, OH 44870  
(419) 625-6421 [ERIECOUNTYCHAMBER.COM](http://ERIECOUNTYCHAMBER.COM)



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Good Morning Chamber Members,*

The Erie County Chamber Of Commerce is a membership organization and the importance of family especially in tough times like these cannot be overstated! Many of our over 550 members get it... And understand that we must take care of our own and patronize each other within the chamber, we really kind of have our own little micro economy, and if we would only look to within our membership when making a purchase of goods or services we can weather the storm. It has not been easy and will continue to be challenging in the foreseeable future. The restaurant industry has been hit particularly hard and with outdoor dining soon to be ending it will be more important than ever to patronize fellow member establishments in anyway we can through socially distanced indoor dining, or at the very least a take out order or curbside pick up.

The Erie County Chamber of Commerce has been around for 120 years helping and promoting local businesses through educational seminars, networking, business social events, group savings on healthcare and utility savings, advertising and countless other opportunities available to our membership. We thank you for your past and future support and we look forward to serving you for the next 120 years.

My door is always open call me anytime with your concerns or questions about how joining the chamber can benefit to you. Sincerely, Pamela

Sincerely,

Pamela Smith-Droll, President CEO

**Erie County Chamber of Commerce**

604 W. Washington Street

Sandusky, Ohio 44870

Office: 419-625-6421

Email: [pamelas@eriecountychamber.com](mailto:pamelas@eriecountychamber.com)

## UPCOMING CHAMBER EVENTS:

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*Looking for Member Events?*  
**[Click here.](#)**



## FREE IRS2GO APP PUTS INFORMATION AT TAXPAYERS' FINGERTIPS

IRS Tax Tip 2020-120

Taxpayers can get quick access to popular IRS tools by using [IRS2Go](#) on their mobile device. The mobile app is available and free to download on any iOS or Android device. The app is available in both English and Spanish. People can use it to check their refund, make a payment, find free tax filing help and get helpful tax tips:

- **Refunds.** Taxpayers can check the status of their federal tax [refund](#) within 24 hours after the IRS receives an e-filed return. It takes about four weeks to check on a refund if the taxpayer mails a paper tax return.
- **Payments.** The app offers quick access to mobile-friendly payment options.
  - [IRS Direct Pay](#) gives taxpayers a secure way to pay from their bank account.
  - [A debit or credit card payment](#) allows taxpayers to make a payment through an approved payment processor.
- **Tax filing help.** Eligible taxpayers can find [free tax software](#) using the Free File tool within IRS2Go. They can use this software to quickly prepare and file their taxes and get their refund.
- **Tips.** Taxpayers can use IRS2Go to access IRS accounts on social media, including links to helpful YouTube videos and the IRS Twitter accounts. Taxpayers can also sign up to receive [IRS Tax Tips by email](#).

[IRS2Go](#) is available to download from Google Play, the Apple App Store or the Amazon Appstore.



## NEW GRANT ANNOUNCEMENT: RISE SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION GRANT

The ongoing 2019–20 pandemic of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) began to impact Ohio in March 2020 and the implications were felt for businesses almost immediately. The RISE Small Business Innovation Grant program funded by Erie County Commissioners and the Coronavirus Relief Fund is designed in response to this pandemic.

Grants will be made in the amount of \$1,000-\$5,000 with a total funding pool of \$50,000. While grant availability is limited, all applicants are invited to utilize RISE business services free of charge.

### Eligible Businesses

1. Existing business within Erie County (must have been registered with State of Ohio and in operation as of March 1, 2020)
2. Businesses with 50 employees or fewer (full-time equivalents)
3. Businesses must demonstrate current financial position
4. The following business types will not be eligible: home occupation operations, tobacco or vape supplies, guns or firearms, pawn shops, thrift stores or “eBay” stores, adult or pornographic stores.

**The application period will be open September 16 – September 30, 2020.**

Applications will then be reviewed by a panel of the RISE steering committee. Applicants will receive notification of grant award by October 14, 2020.

Applications can be found at <http://bit.ly/eriecountygrant>. [Click here to apply.](#)

**"YOU CAN'T BE  
SUCCESSFUL IN BUSINESS  
WITHOUT TAKING RISKS.  
IT'S REALLY THAT SIMPLE."  
– ADENA FRIEDMAN**



## MEMBER HIGHLIGHT:



A big welcome to one of our newest chamber members...

Firelands Federal Credit Union.

Thank you for your investment in Sandusky and your new Downtown branch office is absolutely beautiful!



Visit them:

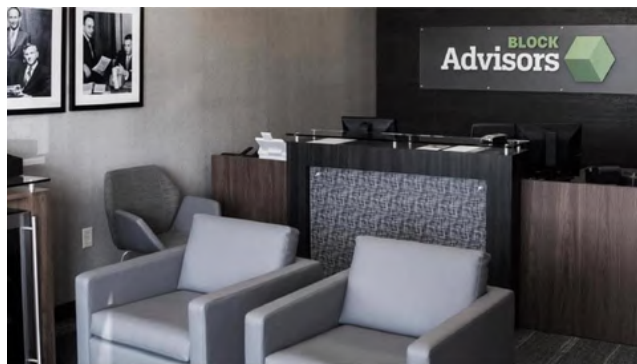
- Online: [www.firelandsfcu.org](http://www.firelandsfcu.org)
- In-Person: 236 Columbus Avenue, Sandusky / (800) 276-5775



## MEMBER HIGHLIGHT:



Stop out and see Kathy today for all your tax and bookkeeping needs!



Visit them:

- Online: [hrblock.com/block-advisors/local-tax-offices/ohio/sandusky/4920-milan-rd-unit-e/33507](http://hrblock.com/block-advisors/local-tax-offices/ohio/sandusky/4920-milan-rd-unit-e/33507)
- In-Person: 4920 Milan Road, Unit E, Sandusky / (419) 627-1581
- [Facebook.com/BlockAdvisorsSanduskyOH](https://www.facebook.com/BlockAdvisorsSanduskyOH)



**"GOALS ARE LIKE  
MAGNETS. THEY'LL  
ATTRACT THE THINGS  
THAT MAKE THEM COME  
TRUE."**

**– TONY ROBBINS**



# ERIE COUNTY

## CHAMBER of COMMERCE

### CELEBRATING 120 YEARS

## Membership Benefits

1

Website  
Directory  
Listing

2

Member to  
Member  
Networking

3

Share Events  
on Chamber  
Website

4

Access to  
Informational  
Seminars

5

Ribbon  
Cutting  
Opportunities

6

Post Jobs on  
Chamber  
Website

7

Invitations to  
Chamber  
Events

8

Post Press  
Releases on  
Chamber  
Website

9

Medical  
Mutual Tax  
Savings

10

Bureau of  
Workers'  
Comp.  
Savings

11

Chamber  
Energy  
Program  
Savings

12

Anthem  
Chamber  
Saver  
Program

Learn more by contacting Pamela Smith-Droll, Chamber President  
(419) 625-6421 • [PAMELAS@ERIECOUNTYCHAMBER.COM](mailto:PAMELAS@ERIECOUNTYCHAMBER.COM)



## *Shop Small & Support Local*

**Please follow the  
COVID-19 Guidelines  
and Stay Safe!**



### **ERIE COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MEMBER BENEFITS**



There are dozens of membership benefits for Erie County Chamber of Commerce. Check out the perks by clicking the link below and discover how we can help you and your business grow.

**[Click Here To View The Flyer](#)**

**Want to promote your business all  
year long with a banner ad?**

Contact Pamela at [PamelaS@eriecountychamber.com](mailto:PamelaS@eriecountychamber.com).



**Small Business  
Innovation Grant**

**GRANT**

**funded by Erie County Commissioners**



grants up to \$5,000, with an open application  
September 16 - 30, 2020



to cover unplanned expenses incurred due to  
COVID-19 such as health/safety equipment to  
operate under new guidelines or rent/mortgage



for small businesses in Erie County with 50 or  
fewer employees in operation as of March 1, 2020



full eligibility, grant details, and applications  
available at <http://bit.ly/eriecountygrant>

**[Click here to learn more:](http://bit.ly/eriecountygrant)**  
**<http://bit.ly/eriecountygrant>**



# FIRELANDS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

CARL TOPILOW, MUSIC DIRECTOR & CONDUCTOR

## presents FSO AROUND TOWN-FALL 2020 TOUR

DATE	TIME	VENUE	ENSEMBLE
Sunday, 9/20	4 p.m.	Steele Memorial Bandstand at Lakeside Chautauqua	Firelands String Quartet
Thursday, 9/24	6:30 p.m.	Sandy Ridge Vineyards	High Frequency Flute Quartet
Friday, 9/25	7 p.m.	Vermilion Valley Vineyards	In2ative Flute/Cello Duo
Sunday, 9/27	4 p.m.	Steele Memorial Bandstand at Lakeside Chautauqua	Diamond Brass Quintet
<b>Sunday, 10/4</b>	<b>4 p.m.</b>	<b>Memorial Lake Park at Norwalk Reservoir</b>	<b>FSO Pops Concert w/ Full Orchestra</b>
Thursday, 10/8	7 p.m.	Paper Moon Vineyards	Carl Topilow Jazz Combo
Sunday, 10/11	4 p.m.	Steele Memorial Bandstand at Lakeside Chautauqua	Cleveland Wind Trio
Saturday, 10/24	6:30 p.m.	Sandy Ridge Vineyards	North Coast Winds Quintet

More info at: [www.FirelandsSymphony.com](http://www.FirelandsSymphony.com) | [Facebook.com/FirelandsSymphony](https://www.facebook.com/FirelandsSymphony) | 419.621.4800

Made Possible with Grants from:

Albert G. & Olive H.  
Schlink Foundation

ERIE COUNTY  
COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION



Randolph J. & Estelle M.  
Dorn Foundation

[www.firelandssymphony.com](http://www.firelandssymphony.com)

[Facebook.com/FirelandsSymphony](https://www.facebook.com/FirelandsSymphony)

# INFECTION PREVENTION



**EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KEEP YOUR EMPLOYEES  
AND CLIENTS SAFE & SANITIZED.**



**Palms Clean™  
Free Standing  
Hands-Free  
Standing  
Hand Sanitizer  
Dispenser Unit  
& Stand**

**\$129.99**

**#OSU038992**



**BETCO®  
Hand Sanitizer  
FDA Approved  
70% Alcohol Gel  
1 gallon**

**\$59.31**

**#OSU79604**



**Energizer®  
Industrial Batteries  
"C" Size  
12 pack**

**\$14.60**

**#OSUEN93**

**HYGIENE BUNDLE WITH STAND**

**\$169.99**

**SAVE \$33.91!**

**REGULAR PRICE  
\$203.90**

**Hands-Free Hand Sanitizer Unit with Stand with Weight Bottom  
1 Gallon of 70% Alcohol Gel Hand Sanitizer • 12 pack Energizer® "C" Batteries**

**Use Bundle Item Number - #OSUFRSTSP**



## BWC delivers billions of dollars, millions of masks for Ohio employers and workforce to mitigate COVID-19 impact

### *Latest: Governor Mike DeWine proposes \$1.5 billion dividend for Ohio employers*

- Ohio Governor Mike DeWine is asking the board for the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) to send **up to \$1.5 billion to Ohio employers this fall** to ease the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) on Ohio's economy and business community.
- BWC's board of directors will vote on this proposal Sept. 25.
- If approved, this is our second dividend of \$1 billion or more since April and our third since 2019, all at the governor's urging.
  - All told, this equals **\$4.3 billion since 2019**.
- Checks could start going out in **late October**.
- This proposed dividend equals approximately **100% of the premiums employers paid in policy year 2019**.
- BWC will **apply the dividend to an employer's outstanding balances first, including recent installment deferrals**. Any amounts exceeding outstanding balances will be sent to the employer. For those employers, it means one less bill to worry about.
- **Employers must complete their true up for the 2019** policy year by Oct. 2, 2020, in order to be eligible for the dividend.
- As in previous years, **the dividend is possible due to strong investment returns on employer premiums, a declining number of claims each year, and prudent fiscal management**. It's also due to employers who work hard to improve workplace safety and reduce injury claims.

See below for details on BWC's masks initiative, [Protecting Ohio's Workforce — We've Got You Covered](#).

## Masks

- BWC's Board of Directors voted Friday (Aug. 21) to approve Gov. DeWine's request that we **distribute a second round of face coverings** (masks) to Ohio employers and their workforce as part of our **Protecting Ohio's Workforce — We've Got You Covered** initiative.
- Since May, we **have shipped 20.6 million masks to 197,000 employers** under this initiative.
  - o In a second round, we will ship **approximately 23 million masks** to employers to replace masks that have exhausted their effective use.
- This is to **minimize the spread of COVID-19**. As you know, state and federal public health experts say wearing a mask decreases the risk of a carrier spreading the coronavirus to others.
- We are not billing employers for these masks. This comes at no extra charge to their premiums.
- We are working hard to purchase as many of these masks as possible from manufacturers here in Ohio.

For more on COVID-19 as it relates to BWC, [visit our FAQ page](#) at [bwc.ohio.gov](http://bwc.ohio.gov). For the latest on COVID-19 in Ohio, visit [coronavirus.ohio.gov](http://coronavirus.ohio.gov).



# WEBiNAR



## INSTRUCTOR Josh Grappy

Josh Grappy oversees the Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) program for the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC). The UAS program uses drones to document catastrophic workplace accidents. Josh is certified by the FAA as a remote pilot and he has over 13 years of experience with remote control technology. Josh also works as a digital forensic analyst within the Special Investigations Department and is a 19-year BWC employee.

## Drones: Safety Tools in the Sky



**10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.**  
10.7.2020

This webinar provides valuable information for employers interested in starting a drone program. Discover how employers are using drones, the costs of starting a program, and the Federal Aviation Administration regulations and testing. Presenters also discuss ways BWC can help you with implementing a drone program.

- To receive one hour of online training credit for BWC Programs, provide a BWC policy number during registration.
- When your registration is complete, you will receive a confirmation email with instructions for joining the webinar. You can click the link at any time and go to the log-in page.

**REGISTER NOW**

BWC is accredited by IACET to offer 0.1 CEUs for this program.

**NEED HELP? CONTACT KAYLEE BLEVINGS:** [Kaylee.B.1@bwc.state.oh.us](mailto:Kaylee.B.1@bwc.state.oh.us)





**VITA**  
**presents**

# **Oktoberfest**

**September 25 /26 and  
October 2/3**

**GERMAN FOOD / BEER / MUSIC**

**Friday: 11 am - 3pm, 5pm - 8pm**

**Saturday: 11am - 8pm**

**Saturdays - Beer Tasting 2-5pm**

**Fridays: Live Music feat. Anthony Gulkar Duet**

**VITA,  
256 Columbus Ave, Sandusky**

**Carry Out available 419-621-4038**