

## WALKIN' IN A

# Window Wonderland

Together with the Marietta / Washington County Convention & Visitor's Bureau (CVB) and Marietta Main Street, the Chamber once again held the Window Wonderland decorating competition. Contestants were judged based on photo submissions and judged by board members from each organization!

Seventeen businesses entered this year to win a 2022 MACC Membership, a 2022 Marietta Mainstreet Partnership and an ad in the 2023 Marietta Washington County CVB Visitor's Guide.

All the businesses looked great this year and our panel of judges voted for the Cook's Shop as our winner! Congratulations to Ken & Dagmar Kupsche and everyone at The Cook's Shop!

Be sure to stop by their store to see this beauty in person!



# Mark Your Calendars!

**BOOST**

·YOUR·

**BUSINESS**

**Boost Your Business**

**ON HOLD  
FOR THE HOLIDAYS**

**BUSINESS**



**HOURS**

**Business After Hours:**

**Thursday, December 13th  
5:00pm - 7:00pm**

**This event will be at:**

**Pioneer Boutique  
106 Front Street, Marietta, OH 45750**

**PROFESSIONAL**



**ROUNDTABLE**

**Professional Women's Roundtable - Paint & Sip  
Tuesday, December 7th  
5:00pm - 7:00pm**

**The meeting will be at Jeremiah's Coffee House,  
located at:  
175 Front Street, Marietta, OH 45750**

**COFFEE  
CHAT**

**Coffee Chat  
Friday, December 17th  
8:30am - 9:30am**

**The meeting will be at the  
Marietta Area Chamber of Commerce:  
100 Front Street Suite 200 Marietta Ohio 45750**

**Sponsored by Jeremiah's Coffee House**

**2020-2021  
MACC Board of Directors**

**Gary O'Brien  
Chairman of the Board  
O'Brien's Safety Services**

**Executive Committee**

**Kristopher Justice  
Past Chairman  
TheisenBrock**

**Tina Adams  
Board Treasurer  
Settlers Bank**

**Pam Holschuh  
Member Services  
CopperLeaf Interiors**

**Josh Wagner  
Information/Technology  
Wal-Mart Supercenter #2078**

**Directors**

**Jodie Bonnette  
Moran Construction/ RamJack**

**Daneka Hedges  
Peoples Bank**

**Nancy Horner  
Solvay Specialty Polymers USA**

**Jennifer Offenberger  
Memorial Health System**

**Deborah Rhoades  
Peoples Bank**

**David Schramm  
Workingman's Store**

**Bill Stacy  
Stacy Family Farm**

**Dr. William Ruud  
Marietta College**

**Bill Wilkinson  
Mid-Ohio Valley Employment**

**Dr. Vicky Wood  
Washington State Community  
College**

**MACC Staff**

**Kelsy Eaton  
President/CEO**

**Jada Riley  
Member Services Manager**

**Victoria Freeman Powell  
Office Manager**

# Small Business Saturday

The Marietta Area Chamber of Commerce paired up with the Marietta / Washington County Convention & Visitor's Bureau (CVB) on Saturday, November 27th, to pass out gift bags with Marietta Bucks, Small Business Saturday shopping guides and hot coca from Jeremiah's Coffee House

The Chamber distributed all 100 bags within the first two hours due to the great turn out of local shoppers coming to downtown to shop small this Small Business Saturday.



# Business After Hours

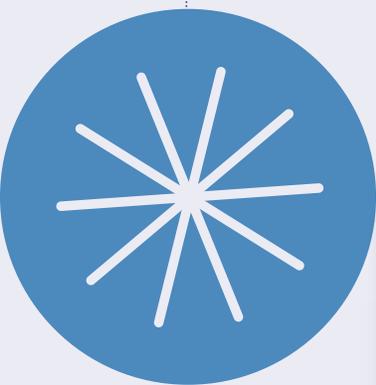
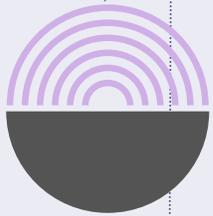
## MARIETTA AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



The Marietta Area Chamber of Commerce held its Annual Holiday Open House on First Friday this Month to welcome chamber members and visitors into the Riverview Building. The Chamber was happy to host this celebration and it was a great way to end the 2021 Business After Hours series.

With all the food, drinks and games, the crowd had a great time networking and spreading cheer.

Check out some photos from the event!



NOVEMBER

# Ribbon Cuttings

Peace Love Beautiful



Peace, Love, Beautiful's Tina Hickman opened her new location at 252 1/2 Front Street on 11/5/2021 on November 5th. They offer a variety of services from cryo-sculpting to facial injections and even plasma treatments.

## Boys & Girls Clubs of Washington County Par Mar Gymnasium



On November 18th we celebrated the opening of the new Par Mar Gymnasium, Planet Fitness Exercise Room & Concession Stand at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Washington County.



## Green Acres of Marietta



Green Acres of Marietta is one of the most unique antique and gift shops downtown. Their collection of jewelry, glassware, and home decor is always one-of-a-kind. Owner Jennifer Sturgill and her staff are a treat to visit. Be sure to stop by to find your Christmas treasures.

Pictured: Keith Thieman (Dietz, Futrell, & Walters Insurance, Inc.); Amy Medley (Schwendeman Agency); Kristin Meeks (WV Social Media); Sandy DeLong (Peoples Bank); Jennifer Sturgill (Green Acres); Laura Miller (Settlers Bank); Kristen Preston (Copper Leaf Interior)

# Ambassador Visits

Marietta Paint & Janitorial Supply has a rich history in Marietta. Check them out for your remodel jobs!

The Ambassadors also visited First Settlement Physical Therapy on Second Street.

## Marietta Paint & Janitorial Supply



Pictured: Jada Riley (MACC); Brett Huck (Signality Signs); Ben Brunton (Owner); Kristin Meeks (WV Social Media); Abbie Cremeans (Clayman & Associates)

# IN THE RIGHT *light*

## DECORATE YOUR HOME SAFELY DURING THE HOLIDAYS

According to the National Fire Protection Association, 860 Home Fires caused by holiday decorations occur each year. An additional 210 Home Fires are caused by Christmas Trees per year.

Follow these steps to ensure you decorate your home safely during the winter holidays.

Keep all decorations at least 3 feet away from heating equipment or an open flame.

Water your Christmas Tree daily.

Avoid overloading electrical outlets with too many decorations or electrical devices. They can overheat & cause a fire.

Never connect more than three strings of incandescent lights together.

Turn off all indoor and outdoor electrical decorations before leaving home or going to sleep.

Purchase electrical decorations from reputable retailers that are approved by a national recognized testing lab such as Underwriters Laboratory (UL), Intertek (ETL) or Canadian Standards Association (CSA).

Exercise caution when decorating near power lines. Keep yourself and your equipment at least 10 feet from power lines.

Inspect all lights, decorations & extension cords for damage before using.

Make sure all extension cords and electrical decorations are marked for proper use.

Outdoor electric lights and decorations should be plugged into circuits protected by ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs)

MOVSC Monthly Meeting - November 17th from 11:00 to 12:00 PM via Zoom Webinar  
with Speaker: Frank Keisler, Encova Insurance

Do you know a business interested in joining Safety Council? Let the Chamber know, we are currently accepting members.

# ◆ HALL FINANCIAL ◆

FINANCIAL ADVISORS, LLC

## PRESENTS: MEMBER MENTIONS



### This December, The Original Pizza Place is celebrating 45 years of business!

In 1973, before coming to the Mid-Ohio Valley, owner and operator Michael Ruscitto started in the business when an uncle reached out to him to help at his shop in Merrick, Long Island, New York. After a couple of years and under his uncle's mentorship, Michael decided that he would try his hand at his own business making quality pizza. His uncle joined Michael in his idea to move to a new area where the business could grow and flourish. The first location they considered was inside of a mall in Pittsburgh, Penn that was owned by the Oxford Development Company, who at the time also owned Grand Central Mall in Parkersburg. Feeling there was a greater need in Parkersburg, the development company offered them the opportunity to open their location at Grand Central Mall, which had only been open for around 2 years. "The Pizza Place" opened its doors on December 1st, 1976 and resides there to date.

"At that time, no one was serving single slice pizza in the area. So, we really brought 3 new things to the table. We brought New York style pizza, Sicilian style pizza, and pizza by the slice," says Michael.

While his uncle ran their original shop in Long Island, Michael ran the shop in West Virginia for about 2 years until the business started picking up so quickly that Michael could not run the shop on his own. After his uncle moved to West Virginia to help with the shop in Grand Central Mall, another close relative moved from Italy to help run the shop in Long Island. In 1979 they began looking into other opportunities to grow their business. Their next venture was on Dudley Avenue across from Parkersburg High School, one of the biggest high schools in West Virginia at the time. The volume of students during lunch breaks flooded the location and lead them to open their third location in 1981 on Blizzard Drive across from Parkersburg South. Between 1981 and 1990, Michael and his business partners opened a fourth location in Bridgeport, WV and a fifth location in Myrtle Beach.

In the late 90's, Michael's partnerships with his relatives and trusted associates disbanded after 23 years of quality service in the MOV. "Everybody who was involved, their immediate families evolved and grew over the years and the dynamic changed," Michael said. "It was a completely amicable separation."

Michael maintained ownership of the Grand Central Mall and Myrtle Beach locations. While the Myrtle Beach location was soon after closed, the Grand Central Mall was where "The Original Pizza Place" started.

# PRESENTS: MEMBER MENTIONS

After years of people asking when The Original Pizza Place was coming to Marietta, Michael drew on the help of his daughter, Kasandra. They worked together to open the location that is now on Second Street in downtown Marietta. Kasandra took on the many roles of marketing, PR, payroll, and human resources, carrying on the tradition of the Ruscitto Family business.

"It was kind of a long time coming. We wanted to have the right people and a team that we could grow with. The first day we opened we had customers wrapped around the building," said Kasandra.

"We tried to have a soft opening, but it didn't work about because so many people found out and it ended up being a hard opening and we weren't prepared," said Michael.

Kasandra explained that even though it is a family business in blood, the business itself is a family. A large number of their employees have been with the business for over 8 years, some have even been there for close to thirty years. Leading by example and giving people the opportunity to have careers in the business if that's what they want are some of the most important things to Michael.

Both Kasandra and Michael noted the strong sense of community they feel in downtown Marietta, how businesses and even other restaurants build each other up instead of trying to compete with one another. When new businesses come into town, it benefits all of the existing businesses.

When asked how the food culture has changed over the years, Michael said that takeout has become a staple in the modern world. "People are very supportive of the restaurant industry. That evolution is all over now that you have both partners working in the family. They rely a little bit more on restaurants and takeout. The pizza industry has been doing that for a long time, but the rest of the world has caught up now because of the pandemic."

"Third party delivery has really changed the way people think about dining out and restaurants and it's become more of a norm rather than something that's for special occasions," said Kasandra.

Outdoor dining has also become a popular trend in downtown restaurants. It's something that The Original Pizza Place is working toward as well, and its location is the prime place for it.

Once home to the Ohio Theater from 1936 to the mid 1950's, The Original Pizza Place building still has many of the same features of an old theater, including a projection room upstairs. The building has been remodeled to fit the aesthetic of an old theater, from its color schemes to the "Say Cheese" photo op outdoors.

In August of 2022, The Original Pizza Place will have been open 10 years in their Marietta location and the Ruscittos plan to make it a celebration. Stay tuned for more details!

By Jada Riley, Marietta Area Chamber of Commerce Member Services Manager  
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