



Connections Newsletter

"keeping us all connected"

October 2011

Richland Community Development Group

Special guest speaker Bridget McDaniel spoke to OGA members at the October 6th meeting. Bridget is the Executive Director of Community Development for the Richland Community Development Group. She shared highlights of a presentation that was recently developed and presented to Team NEO, a Cleveland based economic development agency that was recently awarded \$4.1 million from the Ohio Third Frontier Project. Team NEO is to use these funds for job creation in an 18 county area that includes Richland County. County requests for funding are due in November and Team Neo will announce distribution after the first of the year.

The presentation included a history of how the Richland Community Development Group came to be and how it has evolved since its inception. Each sector sets "visions" or goals of how they would like to see things in 6 months, a year, five years, et cetera. Action plans are then put into place to reach those goals.

Bridget also highlighted several of the sectors and shared success stories and progress updates. Those sectors included Agriculture, Beautification, Arts & Culture, Financial and Retail/ Personal Services - which has been re-named the Be Focal, Buy Local Sector.

The RCDG has started a

"Choose Richland" advertising campaign that has local residents in different fields sharing why they chose Richland County to live, to work and to play. It includes radio & print advertising, as well as billboards throughout the county.

She stressed that anyone is welcome to become involved and attend meetings for any of the sectors they may have an interest in. To find out more about the RCDG or each individual sector, you can visit www.chooserichland.com. The entire presentation to Team Neo is also available for viewing on the site.

Judge Ardis will be the Special Guest speaker at the November Meeting. Join us at 8 a.m. on Thursday, November 3rd.

Candidate's Night Gives Local Voters A Unique Opportunity



The annual OGA's Annual Meet the Candidate's Night was held on Tuesday, October 11th and provided voter's an opportunity to meet

the candidate's for City Council and the Board of Education prior to the November 8th election.

A crowd assembled in the middle school auditorium at 6:30 p.m. to watch the debate that had been prepared by the Ontario High School government classes.

The debate addressed key issues and sparked interesting conversation, particularly between City Council President Dan Zeiter and his opponent councilman Paul Williams.

In addition, there was pizza and refreshments for the candidates and attendees of the event. A very special thank you to Pizza Hut for donating the pizza!

Candidate's Night is one of several community events that the OGA is proud to host throughout the year. Thank you to everyone that participated and attended.



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Mark The Date:

- Saturday, October 29th **Ontario High School Baseball Spaghetti Dinner & Silent Auction** Sponsored by Modern Woodmen of America, this event will be held at the Ontario High School Commons. \$8.00 for ages 7 & up or 2 for \$15. Ages 3 - 6 are \$5.00 and under age 3 are free. Silent Auction and 50/50 drawing will be held. **Modern Woodmen will be matching all proceeds up to \$2500!** Food provided by Pizza Hut, Olive Garden and Panera Bread.
- Tuesday, November 1st **OGA Board Meeting - NOON**
- Thursday, November 3rd **OGA Meeting - 8 a.m. Special Guest Speaker - Judge Ardis**
- Sunday, November 6th **Daylight Savings Time Begins - Don't forget to change your clocks back one hour!**
- Tuesday, November 8th **Election Day - Get out and Vote!**
- Thursday, November 24th **HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**
- Friday, November 25th **Black Friday - A busy day for the City of Ontario!**
- Tuesday, November 29th **OGA Sponsored Christmas Tree Lighting at City Hall**

1st Annual OGA Community Fall Festival Held

The Ontario Growth Association held the 1st Annual Community Fall Festival on Saturday, October 22nd. The day was sponsored by **Spherion Staffing** and **Key Bank** and included a corn-hole tournament, inflatables, face-painting, crafts, trick or treating and a Magic Show by Shizzle Dizzle Magic. Miss Ohio Ellen Bryan, Miss Mansfield

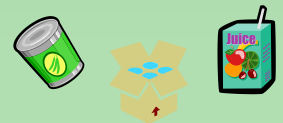
Ashley Warholic and Miss Mansfield Outstanding Teen Morgan Kindred were in attendance signing autographs and handing out candy during trick or treat. Warholic even participated in the Pizza eating contest sponsored by Chuck E. Cheese's!

In addition to all the activities, dozens of raffle prizes were

given out, including four tickets to a Browns game and Dinner with Miss Ohio and Miss Mansfield.

A fun time was had by all over \$500 was raised for the organization. We would like to thank everyone that participated, donated, attended and volunteered for the event. We hope you will join us next year!

*Congratulations to OGA member **Doc Stumbo of Graham Automall** and the rest of the **Make a Difference crew**. Over **16,000 food items** were collected over two days and distributed to local food banks. **Great Job!***



"Anyone who does not know how to make the most of his own luck has no right to complain if it passes him by."

-- Miguel de Cervantes, Spanish novelist, poet and playwright