

# The Old National Road News

A Newsletter Prepared by the Old National Road Business Association  
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Panel Display at Columbus Public Health

## ONRBA Highlights History

The **Old National Road Business Association** has partnered with the Ohio National Road Association and Columbus Public Health to coordinate the installation of a series of panels depicting the history of the National Road. The picture-filled, ten panel display covers the history of the National Road from the 1806 Act of Congress authorizing the road, to present day efforts to preserve its history. The display is on loan from the Ohio National Road Association, and is featured in the main lobby of the Columbus Public Health building, located at 240 Parsons Avenue, from May 15<sup>th</sup> through June 11<sup>th</sup>.



Partnering with Columbus Historical Society

On May 31, 2007, Glenn Harper of the Ohio Historic Preservation Office, told *Stories of the National Road* – a presentation co-sponsored by the Columbus Historical Society and the ONRBA. The presentation was held in the Large Auditorium of the Columbus Public Health building, and attracted 65 history buffs. Franklin County Engineer Dean Ringle displayed and previewed the new county map, which highlights and marks the Historic Old National Road. This is the first time the National Road has been marked on the county map, and the ONRBA was instrumental in working with Mr. Ringle to make a special designation that highlights our historic section of the road (E. Main Street).



Street Banners Installed on Old National Road

The Old National Road Business Association also recently partnered with the Columbus Compact Corporation and completed installation of Phase 1 of a street banner program, on East Main Street between Parsons Avenue and Nelson Road. The 122 banners are attached to the pedestrian light poles along the E. Main street corridor, and feature Red, White, and Blue designs highlighting key dates in the history of the National Road. Forty three East Main Street businesses purchased 91 banners along the route, with the remainder sponsored by the Old National Road Business Association. The banner program helps with the branding of this section of Main Street.

The initial set of banners will hang through Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Labor Day, before being replaced by banners that represent the children, families and architecture of the neighborhood.



T. Michael Branner headlined with jazz flute



A heavy bass in the T. Michael Branner Conceptet



Keyboards and drums rounded out the Conceptet



Bass virtuoso Derek DiCenzo played Sunday

## Old National Road Days Community Festival Held

East Main Street is the Old National Road, and this week, for the first time, E. Main Street joined the national celebration of this historic road. The Old National Road Business Association (ONRBA), a group consisting of 43 Main Street businesses on the Near East Side of Columbus, put a public face on its efforts by hosting two events this week.

Philip Haynes, Chairman of the Old National Road Business Association, attended the event and says "we want to make people aware that Main Street is the Old National Road. And we, as businessmen and businesswomen, are determined to lead the road's resurrection. It will once again be the center of commerce in Columbus."

The weekend event had incredible music, leading off on Saturday was the T. Michael Branner Conceptet; followed by the Eric Augis Trio; and the Tim Cummiskey Trio. Rain dampened the crowd but not the mood on Saturday, and after a brief rain delay the Eric Augis Trio finished a two hour set. Children's activities included CAPACity's Transit Arts, Central Community House Double Dutch and drummers, Columbus Fire Department engines and smoke house, and a children's play area. A Yard Sale and a promotional Raffle with prizes donated by Old National Road Business Association members were additional highlights.

On Sunday, the Derek DiCenzo Trio, featuring jazz great Mary McClendon, led off. Then the crowd heard the poetry of Tanisha Tolber – the winner of the OSU Heritage Festival's Poetry Slam, and the poetry of Atlanta resident/Columbus native Gwen Russell Green. Sunday's event featured perfect festival weather, ending with the crowd standing on its feet swaying and clapping to the Milton Ruffin Chorale's finale.



Central Community House Double Dutch Team in action



Jazz great Mary McClellon's soulful ballad

## **Old National Road Days Festival (continued)**

The Old National Road Days Community Festival was designed to coincide with the six-state National Road Yard Sale (June 2 & 3), and the Olde Towne East Community Yard Sale (June 9). The festival will continue on Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 – 7:00PM, featuring:

The East End Orchestra (Swing to Contemporary), 10:00

The Band of Brothas (Big Band), 12:30 – 3:30

Infusion, featuring Shawn "Thunder" Wallace (R&B Covers, Jazz Fusion & Groove), 4:00 – 7:00.

## **Membership Services**

The ONRBA held its second General Meeting on May 23, 2007. Sixty five business people and property owners attended, and heard updates on association activities from the four committee chairs, and two presentations. The first presentation was by Laurie Ludlum, of the Franklin County Auditor's Office. Association members addressed concerns about sharply increased valuations and tax bills, and Ms. Ludlum described the valuation and appeals process. The second presentation was by Betsy Meleski, of the City of Columbus Neighborhood Commercial Revitalization program. Ms. Meleski highlighted the financial and technical assistance programs available through the City of Columbus and its partners: Economic Community Development Institute, the Neighborhood Design Center, and Community Capital Development Corporation. In general discussion, Victorious Redeemer's Church announced its new initiative to control high grass and weeds on Main Street.



Main Street was where people mixed and mingled



The Tim Cummiskey Trio lays it down

The next General Meetings are August 22<sup>nd</sup> and November 21<sup>st</sup>. The Board of Directors meets almost every month. To propose items for future General Meeting agendas, please contact any Board member.



Residents came to Main Street to enjoy great music



Milton Ruffin's gospel closed the show

## About the National Road

The National Road was conceived under President George Washington as an all-weather road that would bridge the Allegheny Mountains. A bill authorizing the road was signed into law by President Thomas Jefferson in 1806, and the National Road became America's first federally-funded interstate highway. Beginning in Maryland, the road stretches over 700 miles to the Mississippi River.

The National Road entered Ohio from the east in 1825, and was built through Columbus in 1833. The National Road entered Columbus from the east on Friend Street (now East Main Street). It traveled along Main Street until it took a north on High Street, then turned west on Broad Street, crossed the Broad Street bridge and departed Columbus through Franklinton to the west.

"The Road immediately attracted travelers and commerce. The road opened the state and much of the Old Northwest Territory to settlement, provided access for Ohio products to the burgeoning eastern markets, and enabled Ohio citizens to play an important role in the affairs of the new nation." <sup>[1]</sup>

In 2002, the National Road was designated an All American Road: National Scenic Byway – an exclusive designation meaning "the road is a destination unto itself."

<sup>[1]</sup> "A Traveler's Guide to the Historic National Road in Ohio: The Road That Helped Build America." Ohio Historical Society, Copyright 2005.

**ONRBA Members:** Accurate Auto Center, Inc • Harold Thomas Financial Group • National Youth Advocate Program, Inc. • Columbus Neighborhood Health Center, Inc. • Community for New Direction • Beverage Warehouse • Brooks Creative Concept, Inc. • Bryden House • Care Pet Clinic • E & J Personnel Services • East Main Street Pharmacy • Falcon Holdings, LLC • Family Kutz • J.P.'s BBQ Ribs • Janet Sews, LLC • Lasting Impressions Event Rentals • Columbus Compact Corporation • Main & Wilson Carryout • Nails 2 NV • PROTEAM Staffing • RS Garek Associates, LTD • Sam Food • Season of Change • The Hair Factory • Olde Main LLC • Victorious Redeemer Full Gospel Church • Children's Hospital • The Salvation Army • Revol Wireless • Compro-Tax Olde Towne East • St. Vincent Family Centers • Ohio Arts Council • Penndaaw Store • Central Ohio Transit Authority • Caribbean Corner • Champion Market • Diversified Community Services • F&H Cleaning Service • Rock of Faith CDC • Set it Off Barber Styling • Urban Restorations, LLC • Johnson's Tax Services

## ONBRA Board of Directors

**Chair:** Philip Haynes, ComproTax

**Vice Chair:** Evelyn Fluellen, Seasons of Change

**Secretary:** Bob Schilling, Urban Restorations

**Treasurer:** Clarence Thompson, Diversified Community Svces CDC

**Directors:** Jonathan Beard (Columbus Compact Corporation), Rev. Bob Duckens (Rock of Faith Baptist Church), Major Paul Cain (Salvation Army), Carla Fountaine (Children's Hospital), Avery Holman (Olde Main LLC), Keith Stevens (ProTeam Resources), Valerie Johnson (Johnson's Tax Services)

## Old National Road Business Association

The purposes for which the corporation is formed are:

(A) To promote the establishment, improvement, and prosperity of the businesses and the business community located along the Main Street Corridor on the east side of the City of Columbus, Franklin County, Ohio, between Parsons Avenue on the west and the Norfolk Southern railroad tracks west of Nelson Road on the east.

(B) To educate the public with respect to the businesses in this business community; to hold meetings for the purposes of exchanging information and dealing with problems common to the area business people; to promote planning changes that will foster design improvements, rehabilitation and new construction in the area and its surrounding neighborhoods; and to disseminate information of interest to area business people and the general public.

(C) To engage in public relations and marketing activities designed to promote the Main Street Corridor businesses, business community, and surrounding neighborhoods.

(D) To work collaboratively as a business community with adjacent business and resident associations to support the continued economic growth, development, and prosperity of the people and neighborhoods bordering the Main Street Corridor.

(E) To do any and all other things necessary, appropriate, desirable, or incidental to the carrying out of the forgoing purposes insofar as permitted by law and Chapter 1725 of the Ohio Revised Code governing nonprofit trade associations and chambers of commerce, and to do any and all other things that will promote the forgoing purposes.

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