

Breakfast on the Bridge kicks off fall

By: Terry Brlas

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Page 12 - The Post

STRONGSVILLE NEWS

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Strongsville City Club event serves 1,700 on Ehrnfelt Covered Bridge in Metroparks

By TERRY BRLAS
Strongsville Post editor

Do you remember what you ate for breakfast this past Sunday? Do you remember where you dined? For 1,700 people the pleasant memories of Breakfast on the Bridge on the Ehrnfelt Covered Bridge at Whitney and Eastland Road in the Cleveland Metroparks continue to linger.

Breakfast on the Bridge is one of Strongsville City Club's signature events. The 27th annual event on Sunday, Sept. 19, brought together family and friends from Strongsville and communities beyond to share good food, lively conversation and beautiful surroundings, all in the name of supporting a great cause.



Strongsville Mayor Thomas Perciak shows off his skill at scrambling eggs. He was volunteering along with many others at the 27th annual Breakfast on the Bridge on Sunday, Sept. 19.

Breakfast on the Bridge is the major fundraising event for the Strongsville City Club. Proceeds are used to help fund projects to "cultivate and promote mutual and civic interests."

Those in attendance were served a breakfast of ham, bacon, sausage, scrambled eggs, hash brown potatoes and Danish pastry, along with milk, orange juice, water and coffee.

The weather was beautiful, with mostly clear skies and temperatures in the 60s for the event. Lines were long, but nobody was complaining.

"Every year the crowds get bigger," David Knowles, City Club president, said. "We are always blessed with great weather and it's a great time. The city and Metroparks help us tremendously."

Breakfast on the Bridge does not occur if not for the multitude of volunteers from the community. Strongsville Mayor Thomas Perciak pitched in, serving up scrambled eggs during the event. His wife, Debbie, was a few spots down the food line serving up sausage to the hungry multitudes.

"The volunteers make the difference in this community. We are grateful for them," Mayor Perciak said. "I came to this community in 1979 and the same people that were volunteering then are volunteering now. They have their children and their grandchildren volunteering. Without the City Club putting on events like this Strongsville wouldn't be the community that it is."

"We have a lot of fun and meet a lot of friends," Debbie said.

Ann Ehrnfelt volunteered by serving bacon. The widow of the late Wally Ehrnfelt, mayor of Strongsville for 25 years, sees the food before almost anyone.

"They make the sausage at our house. My son does most of it, but Wally started the tradition" she said. "I enjoy seeing everyone. I haven't seen some of these people for years. It keeps me in touch."

The Westside Hogs, a motorcycle club from the west side of Cleveland that includes a handful of Strongsville residents among its 200 members, has been com-

see *Breakfast* on page 13



Photos by TERRY BRLAS

Over 1,700 people ate breakfast on Sunday, Sept. 19, on the Ehrnfelt Covered Bridge in the Metropark. Breakfast on the Bridge is the signature event of the Strongsville City Club



Breakfast on the Bridge is a time for neighbors and friends to reconnect. Jacky Zytla (left) and Jean Riegel share conversation while dining on bacon, sausage, scrambled egg and Danish.

Breakfast

continued from page 12

ing to Breakfast on the Bridge for most of its 27 years. This year was no different.

"This is a social event for us. It gives us a reason to ride," Jan Snyder said.

"We've been doing this for 25 years," Ken Stahurski said. "Our motto is live to ride, ride to eat. This is a great event. They welcome us with open arms and give us a great spot to park."

Many people like John and Joanne Higginbotham of Strongsville view the day as a visit to a simpler time when friends and family gathered for food and conversation.

"We come every year. It's a nice fam-

ily gathering. It's a good old-fashioned day," John said.

"It kicks off the fall season," Joanne added.

It is fall, so politicians were there in force to press the flesh. Strongsville Council President Michael Gallagher, a candidate for County Council District 5, was there to hear residents' concerns and remind them of the upcoming election.

"You want to be out here meeting the people and tell them who you are," he said.



The Westside Hogs Motorcycle Club makes Breakfast on the Bridge an annual tradition. The group, which numbers 200 strong, has been coming to the event for most of its 27 years.

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