



# The Arena Project

## SENIOR FAIR BOARD

**Jim Schaub** *President*  
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**James Bly**  
**Trudi Tilton**  
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## CAMPAIGN CO-CHAIRS

**Atty. David Dick**  
*Senior Fair Board*  
**Susan Gentile**  
*CHarris Consulting*

## MISSION OF THE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

The mission is to provide an informational, educational, youth development, and entertainment venue for children and adults involved in farming, animal care and husbandry, cultural projects that benefit the agricultural community and related businesses.

## HISTORY

The Richland County Fair has a fascinating history. The first fair was held 173 years ago on October 26, 1849. The first location was on Springmill Street where the fair was held until 1957, when it was established at the current site on Home Road in rural Mansfield. Only twice was the annual county fair not held; in 1942, after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, and in 2020, the first year of the Covid pandemic. Richland County even hosted the Ohio State Fair in 1872 and 1873.

Once the Home Road location was established, so was the Senior Fair Board. As buildings and events were added, the group's Auxiliary was established and has been instrumental in raising funds for the youth hall cafeteria, snack bar for the grandstand, and numerous repairs and maintenance as needed.

The Junior Fair plays a major part in the success of the Richland County Fair. More than 700 students, ages 5-19, are involved with more than 40 4-H clubs and five school-affiliated Future Farmers of America (FFA) chapters. The OSU Extension Office directs and guides the youth and club leadership in planning and executing the Junior Fair Livestock programs and all related projects and events. More than 400 4-H and FFA leaders go through annual certifications and assessments through the OSU Extension Office to maintain quality leadership.

The timeless 4-H vision remains "the development of youth as individuals and as responsible productive members of the community in which they live".

## FINANCIAL FUTURE

With your help, we will successfully conduct our first community capital campaign, the Arena Campaign. In keeping with our mission to responsibly provide youth development, education, and cultural activities in the Richland County agricultural community, the new 9,200-square-foot "accessible to all" arena will be a reality that started as a vision.