**President's Address**

By: Verne Vance; OCCD President

First, I'd like to say I am honored to serve as President for the 2011-2012 term. I thank all who have supported me as I made my way up the chairs of office on the board. For most of my life, fall has represented the beginning. From the school year beginning for me then for my children, to programs year beginning in October, the fall has always represented the New Year.

This fall also represents a beginning; it begins my year of “living dangerously” better known as my year as President of OCCD.

One thing I've noticed during my time on the board is that we have a unique organization. I've talked to representatives of HUD funded programs in other states and they don't have anything like OCCD. The continuing mission of OCCD for nearly 50 years now, is to represent our communities, well rounded healthy places to live, work and play. In our roles, as community and economic development professionals, we use our federal funds to accomplish that. However, things have changed dramatically over the past six years.

We've seen a major housing crisis and economic downturn. We are struggling with a tsunami of homes for sale in a market where homes are unsellable. We endure the bight of boarded up homes in our neighborhoods. Local governments are struggling to provide essential services in the wake of major cuts in revenue.

Along with these challenges, we are seeing a loss of some of the most critical skills and the program knowledge that they've acquired over the years. Those of us from Cuyahoga County we had the “summer of retirements”. The situation is probably not any different in your communities.

All of these things could make a “hard man humble” if we didn't have the gum of OCCD. Our vision and commitment has produced a strong foundation that enables us to keep educated on the ever-changing environment of government programs. OCCD supports its members by creating networking opportunities across the State of Ohio, as well as providing a collaborative atmosphere with our funding agencies.

With our talented staff and the commitment from our committees and board, I'm confident that we will continue to adapt to any future challenges.

We welcome your support and involvement. Hope to see you all in October, with another New Year.

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**OCCD Fall Quarterly Meeting • October 26 – 27, 2011**

By Donna D. Colglazier, OCCD Vice President

Wow, how things happen in a flash. There I was, in my office drumming along as most of us do, taking care of the day to day things that make the clock whiz by, while also trying to accomplish the larger tasks that scream the loudest. I thinks to myself, “I’m ahead of the game. I still have two weeks to finish the agenda and write my articles”. Then out of the blue, a little germ infects my family, and next thing I know, 12 days since I have stepped into my office, and I have one day left to fill two slots in the agenda, while the newspaper article and cover letter for the fall conference. Isn’t that the life we lead? Feast or famine. Sickness and health. Hurry up and wait. Just a few short years ago, we had more money than we knew what to do with, a means to finally address some of our community’s issues that we couldn’t touch before. Now my friends, that tap has been turned off. 2011 was the worst hit my county has ever had since becoming an Entitlement. NSP1 is about done and we’re looking at additional HUD cuts. Either way, we put things in perspective to the best we can with the resources we’re given.

This will be my first meeting as Vice-President, and I can only hope to do as well as the previous year’s agenda. Angela did a great job, with interesting topics and some real down in there, such as the World Cafe. It’s always beneficial when we can break down into smaller, more intimate groups, and share experiences and ideas. I always walk away with fresh ideas and little more positive perspective about what we do as community leaders. We do make a difference, even if we sometimes don’t see it because of the aforementioned drudgery of day to day tasks. What’s that saying? “You can’t see the forest, for the trees”?

The Ohio Conference of Community Development will hold our fall quarterly meeting Wednesday, October 26th through Thursday, October 27th, 2011, at the Holiday Inn Columbus Worthington. Following through on the previous days training, the emphasis of the meeting is two-fold: Economic Development and OCCD President Award nominee presentations. In addition, there will be some best practices sprinkled in there for flavor. It’s always a bonus when we know what HUD and ODOD want from us.

Speaking of OOD, what is going on there?!?! We have been asking ourselves this for quite some time, and now we have the answer… for now… until it changes again. Will it change again? The first session will involve answers to those questions and more with a representative of the new proposed (pending legislation) Development Service Agency. In addition, I will also be speaking as to their economic development initiatives and how they will interact with the new legislation (pending legislation) Development Service Agency.

Economic development, doesn’t always have to be global or national. Providing local economic support is key for success of our neighborhoods and residents. The Economic Community Development Institute (ECDI) was awarded funds from Franklin County to support entrepreneurship of its local food-based industries and an industry that has seen recent demand in Central Ohio, as consumers want to know where their food comes from, and to keep their food expenditures in the local community. We will learn about the “Growing Entrepreneurs Initiative” during this session.

The Village of Morrow will present their downtown revitalization overhaul. The Village was a recipient of a Special Purpose Grant, and through that grant, and other various funding, has made a great impact for their village. We will be able to see how community and economic development affects our large urban areas as well as our small rural communities.

After lunch break, we will have a short business meeting, then onto nominees of the OCCD President’s Award for Innovative Programs. This year’s winner was the High Bridge Glens Park project from the City of Cuyahoga Falls. See how this park has been transformed from a once member of our current destination of the late 1800’s to receiving an Ohio Historical Marker in 2007, mentioning its significance to Cuyahoga Falls and the region.

The Challenger League Ball Field and Handicap Accessible Restroom facility is a multi-funded project, initiated by the Rotary Club of Cambridge. This worthwhile project will leave you feeling proud of all that community development can do… bring a tissue.

The City of Elyria received Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (ECCBG) funds from the United States Department of Energy in October of 2009. The grant was used to develop a strategy to reduce energy consumption of the City of Elyria and its residents. Find out how they’ve used best practices used in this successful American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) project.

Our legislative session will be presented by Pamela Hanover, Esq., Squire, Sanders and Dempsey, LLP, who will bring us up to date information on the ever changing legislative actions.

After adjourning for the day, please join us at the networking reception starting at 5:30 p.m. If you are new to OCCD, this is a great way to meet and get to know your fellow OCCD members. Enjoy some dinner on your own or with a group of colleagues, then return to the hospitality suite for more networking or simply catching up with friends. Hospitality starts at 8:00 p.m.

After a good nights rest, or if you’re like me, probably not, please return Thursday morning for a couple “Best Practices” sessions. Section 3. Section 3. With so much emphasis on Section 3 lately, Catherine Crosby, Assistant Director of the Dayton Human Relations Council has agreed to return with a panel on the latest craze that is Section 3.

Good ‘ol Harry Conard. What would we do without the Harry Conard’s of this organization? He, along with others, has always been a boost to me when I needed assistance, and to that, I thank you. Through a recent HUD monitoring visit, the income qualification process of Cuyahoga County received an excellent review, and was suggested to be shared with their fellow colleagues. The income qualification process can be cumbersome and confusing, as there are so many variations and situations which impact the final numbers. Cuyahoga County has streamlined the process, making the process efficient and exact. Dorinda Miller, Business Administrator of the Housing Division of Cuyahoga County, will present the best practice of Income Qualification.

Our fall meeting will conclude with breakout sessions from HUD’s entitlement representatives and the State of Ohio’s small cities representatives. We are one of the few states that have an opportunity to meet face to face with our funding agencies. Take advantage of this time to ask questions specific to your community and to interact with your community representative.

The benefits to these sessions are immeasurable.

Before leaving the fall conference, please take some time to peruse the OCCD display table for a current calendar of events and training. Your input is always positive and negative, so please complete the surveys at the end of each meeting. This is your organization and we need to hear from you. The executive committee reviews the surveys, and suggestions are used for future meetings. Or feel free to contact me and share your thoughts and ideas for upcoming agendas. I look forward to seeing each of you there.
Fall Meeting
October 26 - 27, 2011

Wednesday
8:00 Registration Opens
9:25 – 9:30 Welcome
Donna D. Colglazier, Vice President, OCCD
9:30 – 10:45 What’s Happening at the State?
• The new Development Service Agency
  William Murdock, Chief
• Karen Fabiano, Assistant Chief
• JobsOhio
Kristi Tanner, Executive Director
10:45 – 11:00 Break
11:00 – 12:00 Growing Entrepreneurs Initiative
• Franklin County Economic Development 
  and Planning Department
  James Schimmer, Director
• Economic and Community 
  Development Institute (ECDI)
  Inna Kinney, Founder and CEO
12:00 – 1:15 Lunch and Committee Meetings
• Federal and State Training
• Legislative
• Membership
• State Programs
1:15 – 1:30 OCCD Business Meeting
1:30 – 3:00 OCCD President’s Award for Innovative Programs
• High Bridge Glens Parks
  City of Cuyahoga Falls
• Challenger League
• City of Cambridge
• Energy Smart Homes Program
  City of Elyria
3:00 – 3:15 Break
3:15 – 4:00 Economic & Downtown Vitality in Rural Ohio
• Village of Morrow
  Mayor Mike Erwin
4:00 – 4:30 Legislation in the Works
• Pamela I. Hanover, Esq., 
  Squire, Sanders, & Dempsey, L.L.P.
4:30 – 5:15 Policy Committee
5:15 – 6:30 Reception
8:00 – 12:00 OCCD Hospitality
Thursday
8:00 Registration Opens
9:00 – 9:05 Welcome
Donna D. Colglazier, Vice President, OCCD
9:05 – 10:15 Best Practices: Section 3 revisited
• Dayton Human Relations Council
  Catherine Crosby, Assistant Director
10:15 – 10:30 Break
10:30 – 11:30 Best Practices: Income Qualification
• Cuyahoga County
  Dorinda Miller, Business Administrator
11:30 – 12:00 Meetings as Entitlements and Small Cities

REGISTRATION: The registration fee for the 2011 Fall Meeting is $95 for members for the first registration and $70 for each additional person registering at the same time. The non-member rate is $125. Registrations should be mailed to Patricia Richards, OCCD Office, P.O. Box 776, Urbana, OH 43078, or faxed to (937) 652-3523 or emailed to office@occd.org. Registration materials are available on our website at www.occd.org. The registration deadline is October 20, 2011.

ACCOMMODATIONS: Advance reservations are important and should be made directly to Holiday Inn Worthington (614) 436-0700. Specify the OCCD conference and ask for the special rate of $89; make your reservations before October 12, 2011.

Presentation of President's Award for Innovative Programs to Cuyahoga Falls

High Bridge Glens Park Project
The High Bridge Glens Park was once a popular entertainment destination in the late 1800s. The park was one of the leading tourist destinations in northeast Ohio, at the time drawing 60 trainloads of visitors a day. Located along the banks of the Cuyahoga River, the “Glens” attracted more than 8,000 visitors a day at the height of its popularity, which was approximately four times the population of Cuyahoga Falls in the late 1800s. Boasting dancing pavilions, dining halls, walking paths, caves, even a roller coaster (said to be the first in Ohio), the High Bridge Glens Park was known for its great beauty, lush vegetation, rushing water falls and other features carved by the retreat of the glaciers during the last Ice Age.

Unfortunately, in the early 1900s, the park’s popularity waned, and the pavilions were vacated and eventually torn down. Shortly thereafter, industrial operations took advantage of the river’s power thereby blocking the riverfront from public view and use. Choking access to the community, the river was hardly accessible.

In 2003, the City embarked on a series of neighborhood charrettes whereby residents, business owners, community leaders and developers gathered to discuss their ideas for the future of Cuyahoga Falls. A common theme that arose from every charrette and planning department was the public’s desire to have more access to the Cuyahoga River. In a concerted effort to return the river to the people, the City of Cuyahoga Falls purchased an older industrial building in 2003 known as Prospect Mold and Die located on south Front Street with a matching grant from the Clean Ohio Fund. This would be the site of a new urban park.

In 2004, the City applied for and received a $200,000 grant from USEPA to conduct environmental assessments along the riverfront corridor. Furthering the City’s 2005 redevelopment plan for the corridor, the City received funding from the Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund for remediation and demolition of several buildings, one being the building located on the park site.

With the objective to re-create history on the same site, the manufacturing building was razed in 2008 and in October 2009, a new urban park opened to the public. The old dilapidated bridge was replaced with a new overlook bridge, situated 50 feet above the river’s gorge. Residents living in the single and multi-family units are now able to take advantage of a new recreational amenity located in this walkable area. In 2009, the High Bridge Glens Park received an Ohio Historical Marker honoring its significance to Cuyahoga Falls and the region.

The City of Cuyahoga Falls is passionate about its riverfront heritage and it is that passion and enthusiasm that has resulted in over $3.5 million in grant monies applied for and awarded to support the revitalization of the City’s urban core. The budget breakdown for this project is as follows:

City of Cuyahoga Falls General Fund $ 1,800,000
Clean Ohio Green Fund $ 300,000
State of Ohio $ 640,000
Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund $ 335,000
CDBG $ 165,000
Total Budget $ 3,240,000

Located just south of the Sheraton Suites Hotel, rated one of the best in North America, the High Bridge Glens Park was strategically positioned as the catalyst to further developments. Currently under construction is a new $10 million mixed-use project, dubbed the Watermark.

With a beautiful visual resource to the area, the High Bridge Glens Park began receiving curious visitors before it was officially open to the public. This new urban park on the Cuyahoga River is less than 1,000 feet from the Summit County MetroParks Glens Trail, which leads to the Gorge MetroPark. Creating new regional opportunities for residents and visitors to access the natural beauty and proud heritage of the Cuyahoga River is one goal of many that has been accomplished and we wouldn’t change a thing. Photographs of the park during several phases through the past 100 years are found following this article.

Of special note, the High Bridge Glens Park was highlighted on the Food Network’s new show Food Feuds. Skyway and Swenson’s competed for the best cheeseburger and the grand prize was awarded to Cuyahoga Falls and the region.

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Historic Images of the High Bridge Glens Park 1879 - 1912

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2011 - 12 Executive Committee
President Verna Vance, Fiscal Officer; Montgomery County
Past President Nancy Cook, Sustainability Grants Manager, Department of Planning and Urban Development, Akron
President Elect Angela Williams, Community Development Manager, Kettering
Vice President Donna D. Colglazier, Community Development Administrator; Butler County
Treasurer Ken Langlais, Director, Marion County R.P.C.
Secretary Kathy Wenzelistrator, Director of Housing and Community Services; Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
Board Members
Michael Keyes, Executive Director, Department of Community Development, Warren
Rolin Seward, Assistant Director, Economic Development and Planning Department, Franklin County
Dale Hartl, Director, Ohio Regional Development Corporation
Phyllis Duncan, CCE Consultants, Inc. (Appointed)
Lisa Pult-Daniel, Director of Community Development, Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing (Appointed)

Entrance to the High Bridge Gens
Stairway from entrance

Enterance to the High Bridge Gens
Stairway from entrance
2011 - 2012
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In my search for truth, light and the real American Way, my first intellectual act every Sunday is to read the funny paper. I have my favorites, Garfield, Beetle Bailey, Prince Valiant, Hagar the Horrible and No Fun Sequetir for off-the-wall comments on life. I also read Doonesbury for a view of government usually only CIA guys I knew in Vietnam, so I was surprised by a strip in August that talked about income inequality and indirectly the Guiltless Church of Little Sympathy. Zipper on his PC says, “This is outrageous. The 400 Richest families in America now hold as much wealth as the Bottom 50% of the country combined.” This is where the belfry view of the Guiltless Church of Little Sympathy tapers off. My favorite is: “As a result of a fundamental change in business investment philosophy, from 1979 to 2008 the share of total income for the top 1% of income earning households has gone up 125%. The increase for the top 20% went up about 28%. While real incomes for the bottom 80% has declined.” This data is from the Congressional Budget Office.

Doonesbury sounded like me last spring:

My problem, of course, is I am biased. Lately I find myself in the belfry looking down at my beloved America, preoccupied with those who also love America but who are undermining what I believe is a fundamental responsibility of government, to protect those in our society who are not able to protect themselves. In addition to protecting us from the insane radical Islamic folks who wish to destroy America in the name of their God, there is an internal, peaceful threat that is systematically wiping out the working class in this country and increasing the share of Income, Wealth and Political Influence of a select group of the most affluent.

Doonesbury said it better. As a result of a fundamental change in business investment philosophy, from 1979 to 2008 the share of total income for the top 1% of income earning households has gone up 125%. The increase for the top 20% went up about 28%. While real incomes for the bottom 80% has declined. This data is from the Congressional Budget Office.

I was wrong. A recent front page article in the Columbus Dispatch (not a liberal rag) stated that the income of the top 1% went up 281%.

Power Point presentations from the OCCD Quarterly meetings are posted to the OCCD website when permission is given by the speakers.

The OCCD Winter Quarterly Meeting will be held January 25-26, 2012 at the Embassy Suite Dublin, Columbus.

The OCCD Spring Quarterly Meeting will be in April for 2012. Crowne Plaza North is the location for April 25-26, 2012.
Ohio Department of Development Director’s Awards for Excellence in Housing and Community Development

James A. Leftwich, ODOD Director, Mayor Greg Lands, Julie Ward, ROAP, and Chris Schmier, Incoming ODOD Director

ARRA Project

Village of Russells Point, Logan County

The Village of Russells Point received a $217,773 FY2009 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Recovery Act Project to address community-wide water issues. The project involved the use of an additive to the drinking water to reduce lead. There were no costs associated with this project.

Neighborhood Revitalization Project

Mercer County, Village of Rockford

The project provided funds to add a granular activated carbon to the existing treatment technology. This will correct deficiencies in meeting the disinfection byproducts rule of the Safe Drinking Water Act. The $1.7 million project assisted 591 households, of which 53 percent were considered low and moderate income.

CDBG American Recovery Stimulus Water and Sewer grants are targeted to distressed communities or areas in Ohio with a low or moderate-income population of at least 60 percent. Eligible activities include public facilities improvements such as construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation of infrastructure in targeted areas of distress that allows for a more comprehensive approach than CDBG’s other competitive Community Development Block Grant programs. The grants are funded with Community Development Block Grant Program dollars.

Homelessness Prevention

Cincinnati/Hamilton County Continuum of Care for the Homeless, Inc.

The Cincinnati/Hamilton County Continuum of Care for the Homeless, Inc., received a FY2009 Homeless Prevention Rapid Re-Housing (HRP) grant for $89,900. The grant provided rapid re-housing services through financial assistance and housing relocation services to 150-160 households. A key partner in providing the services was Bethany House Services, Inc. Persons at or below 50% of Area Median Income in Hamilton County were served.

The HRP program funds were provided to the State of Ohio as a result of the enactment of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Funds were made available to eligible applicants to provide individuals and families who would be homeless with assistance. The assistance includes short-term or medium-term rental assistance and housing relocation and stabilization services including mediation, credit counseling, security or utility deposits, utility payments, moving cost assistance, and case management.

A new agency structure was put into place to improve re-housing services and better meet the needs of program participants.

New Agency Structure to Improve Community Development Efforts

Christine Schmier, ODOD Director

Ohio Department of Development

With the transition to JobsOhio comes a new look for the Ohio Department of Development. The Department, which will have a more defined mission of business and community services, will also become the Ohio Development Services Agency. We are excited about the new agency structure and wanted to share with you its layout.

As mentioned in previous letters, many of our valuable programs will continue and become more efficient with this restructuring.

The Ohio Development Services Agency will be broken down into two distinct divisions: Business Services Division and Community Services Division. The Community Services Division will be overseen by William Murdock, with assistance from Karen Fabiano. Murdock is the current director for the Urban Development Division and through his hard work, has earned the respect and admiration of his peers and staff members. I have enjoyed seeing strong leaders such as William shift during this transition.

As part of the Community Services Division, there are five offices that you will be working with in your efforts to improve the quality of life here in Ohio.

Nick Sunday will be heading up our Office of Community Assistance, which will continue to provide programs such as the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), the Home Weatherization Assistance Program (HWP), the percentage of Income Payment Plan Plus (IPPP) and more.

Mike Hiler will lead our Office of Community Development, handling programs such as the Community Housing Improvement Program (CHIP), the Community Housing Infrastructure Block Grant (CDBG), the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP), and more.

Tessa Walsh will be heading up the Office of Redevelopment, which will administer programs such as Clean Ohio, the Ohio Healthy Home, the Ohio Home Improvement Program and the Home Remodeling Assistance Program. The office will also be performing the Job Readiness Sites Program, previously housed in our Strategic Business Investment Division.

Also under the Community Services Division, you will find the Governor’s Office of Appalachia, lead by Karen Fabiano, and the Office of Energy, which has been led by Chase Buckingham.

As always, we appreciate your patience as we continue our transition to a leaner, faster, and more efficient state agency. We believe that with the proper structure and leadership the state remains the same — our unwavering dedication to serving the citizens and communities of Ohio. We look forward to an exciting future, where collaboration is the key to improving our state.

Thank you.

Road Home Program

The Ohio Department of Development is currently working on a number of projects to help families who would be homeless with the costs of moving and paying the initial deposit.

By combining their expertise and resources with those of the local agencies, businesses, and philanthropic organizations, Columbus and Franklin County developed a coordinated approach for providing shelter and services when and how they are needed. By providing homeless individuals and families with the range of services and neighborhood amenities they need (on an individual level) to rebuild their lives, while at the same time focusing on transforming neighborhoods, Columbus and Franklin County have succeeded in blending the need for development in aging neighborhood with the need for affordable housing and services for the homeless, and have had significant positive impacts on neighborhoods throughout the County and on the lives of residents within these areas.

Placed-Based Approach to Transform a Community or Neighborhood

Franklin County and the City of Columbus — Rebuilding Lives Initiative

Franklin County and the City of Columbus will both receive a HUD Award of Excellence for their collaborative Rebuilding Lives Initiative Project that resulted from a Placed-Based Approach to Transform a Community or Neighborhood.

In response to a series of revitalization initiatives in the late 1990’s that displaced many of the home-less in shelters and camps throughout Columbus, the City and County joined forces to create the Rebuilding Lives Initiative in an effort to provide a coordinated, targeted, and cost-effective approach to reducing homelessness in their jurisdictions.

Housing Awards – OCCD Annual Meeting – July 2011

Thom Bilodeau, HUD, Kim Stands, Columbus, James Schmier, Franklin County, Franklin County Commissioner Marilyn K. Breen, Michelle Heritage-Ward, Community Shelter Board, Robin Seward, Franklin County, Rita Panise, Columbus, Mark Pannier, Franklin County, Tiffany Nobles, Community Shelter Board, Amanda King, Franklin County.

Rich Hendershot, HUD, John Carpenter, Neighborhood Development Services, Diane Sherbart, Barberton, Thom Bilodeau, HUD.
Peg's Story

From time to time I’d look out the window of our new home and I’d see how important some things are in places you did not expect. I usually think of the new neighborhood and how it would be for our two big city investments. Hillsboro, Ohio is a town of 6,005 in Highland County, the eastern part of Ohio and therefore of many over 73 years old. Hillsboro is a town of 6,005 in Highland County, where you’d expect to find a lot of older people. I was one of the first to see how important some things are in places you did not expect. I usually think of the new neighborhood and how it would be for our two big city investments. Hillsboro, Ohio is a town of 6,005 in Highland County, the eastern part of Ohio and therefore of many over 73 years old. 

Peg and her crew left that day knowing they had to do something, but a solution looked beyond the limited budget. They had other HUD funds in their Comprehensive Housing Improvement Program (CHIP) but those old buildings were not something to revolve loan fund that others had helped or needed help. But this job was going to take everyone in Peg’s network. First they got a contractor from the Highland County Community Action Agency, CAO. They agreed to be a pre-bid contractors meeting.

Peg's Story

Peg recently ended her tall of the accomplishments of her career in Hillsboro community. This is just one example of the impact made in communities for folks in Ohio who need help. It is more than the dollars; there are so many people, but theynone the less make a difference in our lives and living. Melvin said to me that in her 30s she had a cordial conversation with her husband. Low's offered him a 10% discount but Peg who is not a bargainer said to make this project work they needed to be lower. After checking with headquarters, Low's lowered the price on the materials. Peg called a pre-bid contractors meeting to lay out the steps a couple. The couple had a hard time finding a contractor, a week later they came in and the job was done. The framing contractor who had the low bid told Peg that he had bid written but his wife said, “Chet, you need to drop it to $15,000. All I know is that we are to be the ones to build this house for this couple and you need to go lower.” After they had all the pieces in place, they visited the couple and told them what was going to happen and all the people who were going to help. Peg had a task of telling them they could take nothing from their home because of the HUD funds. Even their clothes had to be left and Melvin’s front porch recliner. On Sunday they were driven away only with the clothes on their back to their temporary housing. Soon these also went into the trash. When Debbie and Peg were going back out to the floor, one of the couple said she felt like a new person after a long, long shower. Peg could not help thinking how we take the water that flows from faucets and shower heads for granted.

Piece by piece, layer by layer, Peg's new home took shape. Comparatively deep, it was a mansion on a hill. Everyone was amazed, city workers, neighbors. Melvin wanted to help. Even the family of the contractors got involved. When construction began Peg’s staff put together a list of all the items the couple would need to set up housekeeping: everything from soap to linens. The list was circulated. Gifts were pouring in. One Hillsboro city worker drove up to Peg’s office with a car load of food to fill the refrigerator and all the cabinets. All the furniture and bedding was donated even a new recliner for Melvin.

Move in day was like a TV show. Melvin and Debbie arrived with one of their sons and family. The most touching moment came when one of the grandsons 8 or 9 ran up to Debbie and said, “Grandma do this” while he took out the key. “Grandma you can breathe in this house.” Grandma, who had cancer, was no longer crying. Melvin sitting in his new recliner said, “I just don’t deserve this.”
The following is a summary of recent General Assembly activity relating to economic development matters through September 1, 2011.

**LEGISLATION RECENTLY ENACTED**

**House Bill 58** (Governor signed March 30, 2011; introduced February 1, 2011) This Bill authorizes the Governor to form JobsOhio, a nonprofit corporation with the purpose of promoting economic development, job creation, and retention and the recruitment of business to Ohio. The board of directors of JobsOhio must consist of nine members, with the Governor selecting the chair and the other eight directors appointed by the Governor.

**House Bill 153** (Governor signed June 30, 2011). The State Budget Bill (amended substitute H. Bill 153) was signed by Governor John Kasich June 30, 2011, with selected vetoes. The Bill contains the following provisions among many others, with effective dates:

- **Revenue Measures**
  - Reduces Local Government net income tax deduction to 75% of FY 2011 levels for the period between August 1, 2011 and to 50% of FY 2011 levels for all months in FY 2012. Those certain protections for counties receiving less than $750,000 for the estate tax beginning January 1, 2013.
  - Accelerates the phase-out of franchise tax reductions to local governments for tangible personal property tax exemptions and utilized personal property tax loss and holds 90% of assessments at calendar year 2013 levels in subsequent years.

- **State and Community Development**
  - Grants lighter notice requirements for proposed transportation projects included with public school districts for a TIF project, a TIF is to receive compensation at the same rate and under the same terms.
  - Amends the JobsOhio program to, among other things, remove the requirement that the Governor serve as a member of the board and chairperson of the Development Council.
  - Requires the power execute contracts, spend funds and hire employees on behalf of the corporation.
  - Within six months following the effective date of the Bill, the Director must submit a report to the General Assembly recommending statutory changes to improve the functioning and efficiency of ODOD, to transfer specified functions of ODOD to JobsOhio or to eliminate designated functions of ODOD.

**House Bill 59** (Govern signed March 7, 2011). This Bill includes a provision expanding a tax credit for qualified income tax projects, to facilitate the transfer of tax credits to businesses.

**House Bill 254** (Introduced February 1, 2011; hearing in Senate Ways and Means Committee on March 2, 2011.) This Bill establishes the Career Development Committee on March 2, 2011; referred to House Economic and Development Committee on March 28, 2011.) This Bill creates the State's Small Business Working Capital Loan Program under which the State Treasurer, upon request of the Director of Administrative Services, may extend a loan to a small business at $50,000 to $75,000.

**House Bill 100** (Introduced January 11, 2011; fifth hearing in House Ways and Means Committee, March 2, 2011.) This Bill authorizes a refundable credit against State income taxes for completion of a voluntary act to remediate a contaminated site and for the return of the sites to productive use. The credit would be equal to the taxpayer's share of 25% of the remediation expenditures and voluntary actions initiated on or before December 31, 2011.

**House Bill 17** (Introduced November 11, 2011; referred to House Ways and Means Committee.) This Bill authorizes a $2,400 income tax withholding credit for an employer that in 2011 employs at least 50% of its Ohio employees at that site.

**House Bill 18** (Introduced November 11, 2011; fifth hearing in House Ways and Means Committee on February 23, 2011.) This Bill authorizes a nonrefundable credit against State income taxes for completion of a voluntary act to remediate a contaminated site and for the return of the sites to productive use.

**House Bill 44** (Introduced January 20, 2011; referred to House Economic and Small Business Development Committee.) This Bill creates the State's Small Business Working Capital Loan Program under which the State Treasurer, upon request of the Director of the ODOD, may extend up to $100 million with participating lending institutions for loans to eligible small business.

**House Bill 50** (Introduced January 26, 2011; sixth hearing in House Local Government Committee on June 23, 2011; Substitute Bill accepted May 24, 2011; amendment accepted June 14, 2011.) This Bill, as introduced, required that only a political subdivision may be considered a landowner in determining whether the landowners of an area proposed for annexation signed the petition in an expedited Type II annexation (one involving no more than 500 acres). Substitute Bill accepted by the Committee on May 24 provides that if a political subdivision signs the petition, the annexation proceeding terminates and instead a cooperative economic development agreement may be entered into. Certain political subdivisions must approve the agreement before it is effective. An amendment was accepted June 14 providing that the state or political subdivision may only be treated as an owner if an employee is located on the property.

**House Bill 56** (Introduced January 28, 2011; first hearing in House Judiciary Committee on March 22, 2011.) This Bill amends the contracts for grants, loans and disapproval of awards. All retain the function of approval by the corporation.

**By: Pamela I. Hanover**

Squire, Sanders & Dempsey (US) LLP
OGCD Legislative Committee
Many torches will be passed. I am confident that while the senior members have a vast wealth of knowledge, those members following will bring their own enthusiasm and expertise to OCCD.

When I look back at the last year, I am amazed at the extent of the trainings, conference topics and networking opportunities. Instead of listing all of the excellent highlights of the past OCCD year, I decided to put them to rhyme. I call this:

To the Order of OCCD:
We kept abreast of N...........S...........P...........!
We learned the SAFE ACT license was N...........P...........!
And our funding cuts helped us N...........S...........P...........!
That staff reductions in the future N...........P...........!

• I know my prose is corny as can be,
• And was not endorsed by Michael Keys,
• But where on a Wednesday night…would you rather be?
• Than with your friends and colleagues …………at OCCD!!!

I began my term with an analogy: I said that the operation of OCCD is similar to the construction of a house. I look around at what we have jointly built and am very proud! The framework for a successful year was already in place. We put up the new drywall on a strong and sturdy frame. It will be up to the next President and the Executive Committee to continue the construction and update as needed. Please give your support to Verna Vance as our New President and her Executive Committee. We wish them all the very best, pledge our support and look to the next chapter in OCCD.

October 26-27, 2011 – OCCD Winter Quarterly Meeting
Embassy Suites, Dublin
Registration: Pat Richards 937.652.3523
Training Info: Debra Mayes 937.215.5872

April 25-26, 2012 – OCCD Spring Quarterly Meeting
Crowne Plaza North Columbus
Registration: Pat Richards 937.652.3523
Training Info: Debra Mayes 937.215.5872

August 13-17, 2012
Training Info: 800.438.5547
Registration: Pat Richards 937.652.3523

Note: For all OCCD Trainings/Quarterly Meetings contact
Patricia Richards – 937.652.3523 or office@occd.org regarding registration information and Debra Mayes – 937.215.5872 for additional training information.

Individual Websites for Training & Events Information
OCCD – Ohio Conference of Community Development, Inc. www.occd.org
OHCP – Office of Housing & Community Partnerships, Ohio Department of Development http://development.ohio.gov/ohcp/calendar/events.htm
Ohio CDC – Ohio Community Development Corporation Association www.ohiocdc.org/training.htm
Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing www.occch.org/news/events.cfm
Community Connections – The Information Center of CPD-HUD www.comcon.org
Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland www.clevelandfed.org
Ohio Housing Finance Agency www.ohiohome.org
COOHIO – Coalition on Homelessness & Housing in Ohio www.coohio.org
Enterprise Community Partners www.enterprisecommunity.org