

BRIDGE is Organization of Year

—Elma group to be honored by Times Plain Dealer on May 30

CRESKO - The BRIDGE Organization in Elma has been chosen as the Organization of the Year for the *Times Plain Dealer's* annual awards presented during the Howard County Business & Tourism Banquet. This year, those in charge decided to "let the cat out of the bag" before the event, rather than during the dinner. This allows friends of those chosen to get their tickets early to attend the event.

Look for the Citizens of the Year and Hall of Fame in the next two weeks. Call Cresco-Area Chamber at 563-547-3434 for tickets to the May 30 banquet featuring Congressman Rod Blum as speaker.

The town and residents of Elma are a prime example of how working together for the greater good, and some part of BRIDGE is usually involved in those projects.

BRIDGE (Building Relationships In the Development of a Greater Elma) Organization Inc. was nominated by Laura Zenner, who gave a long list of accomplishments for the group.

BRIDGE is an off-shoot of Elm-Go, which was organized in the 1970s to help establish low income housing. Around 2002, the group disbanded but had some funds remaining, which were turned over to Elm-Go Business Group for improvements and developments.

In 2004, the owner of the old trailer factory business in town donated their property to the community. The BRIDGE organization was founded in 2005 as a 501c3 organization and the rest is history in the making!

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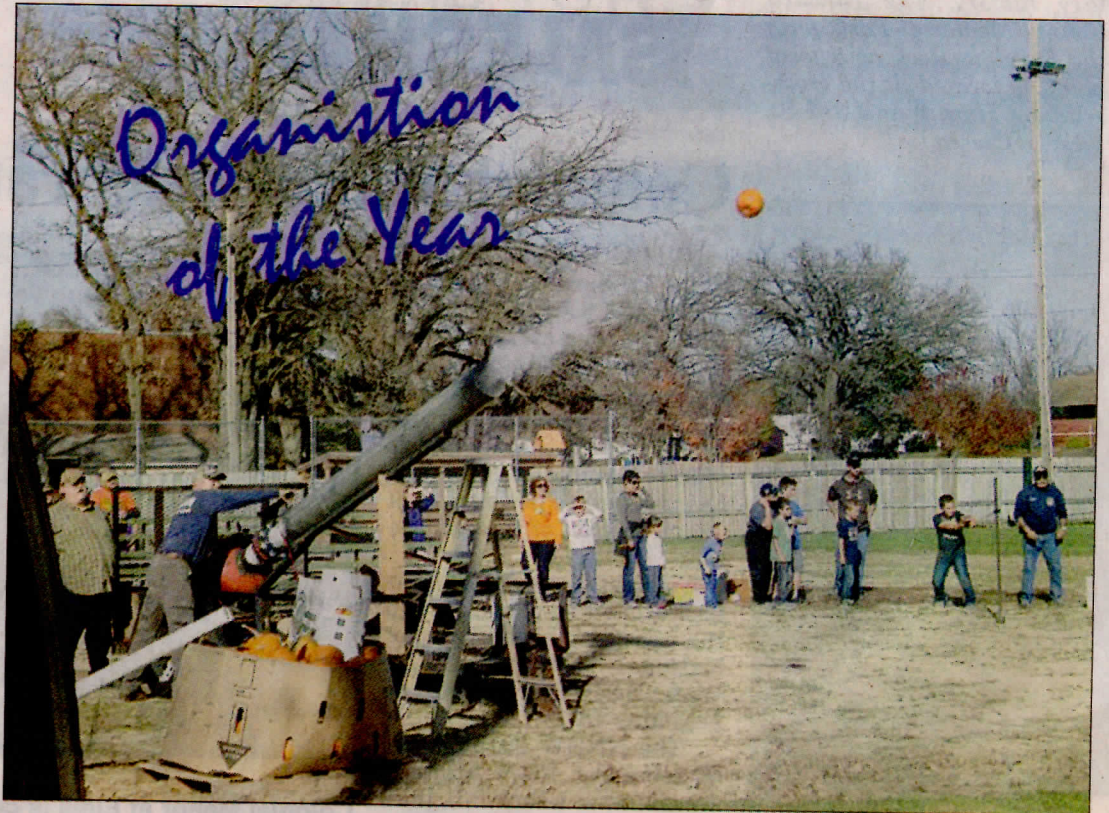


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Elma's BRIDGE Organization was chosen as Organization of the Year in the *Times Plain Dealer's* annual awards presentation. This coming fall will be the fourth year for Pumpkin Fest. This event keeps growing every year! There is pumpkin painting for the kids, a cake walk, games, snacks and pumpkin launching! This past year the SOCC Committee and Entertainment Committee teamed up for the event with concessions and live music in the evening.

Right: The Christmas Light Committee first desired to light the large tree by the trail head and have a Christmas tree lighting ceremony, with caroling, hot chocolate and horse drawn sleigh rides. This event has grown each year and now includes light displays for the park. BRIDGE served as the fiscal agent while donations were being received. For the 2018 season, the group received grants that will allow for the addition of a musical light display.

