Superintendent farewell

Dozens of people gathered Dec. 18 to congratulate Liz Prather on her retirement as superintendent of Richland Newhope.

Current and former co-workers, agency leaders, and public officials were among those on hand for the reception where they reminisced and offered best wishes.

Liz retired Dec. 31 after spending more than 35 years working in the developmental disabilities field, including the past 10 as Richland Newhope’s superintendent. Find out about her plans for retirement in the next quarterly edition of The Insider newsletter, which will come out next week.

Another leader departs

Another member of Richland Newhope’s leadership team retired at the end of 2017.

Carla Rumas has been with the agency for the past 25 years, most recently as director of Educational Services and Therapy.
Staff at the Early Childhood Center held a retirement luncheon and reception for Carla on Dec. 15 that featured special videos and gifts.

“She has left a lasting legacy here,” noted outgoing Superintendent Liz Prather.

Thank you, Carla, for your dedication and passion for helping people with disabilities.

Residential retirement

After more than 30 years working in Richland Newhope’s Residential Department, Rita Maxey retired on Dec. 13. Rita spent nearly all of her tenure at Raintree, most recently as coordinator of habilitation technicians. Raintree hosted a special reception on Dec. 13 so co-workers, friends, and family members could offer their congratulations and thanks for her years of service.

Night to Shine

Night to Shine, a prom night experience for people with special needs ages 14 and older, is coming to Richland County.

On Feb. 9 from 6 to 9 p.m., Storyside Church will join more than 500 churches from around the world, including nearly two dozen in Ohio, in hosting Night to Shine, sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation.

For more information, to register, or to volunteer, visit the Storyside Church website or
**Christmas tradition continues**

A special Christmas luncheon that first began in 2005 was held once again this year for 66 individuals supported by Richland Newhope.

Thanks to the fundraising efforts of local resident Deb Moritz, the individuals enjoyed a baked ziti dinner and received a $30 gift card to Wal-Mart, a coupon for a free Dairy Queen blizzard, and a coupon for a free McDonald's cheeseburger.

They also got to visit with Santa.

The luncheon took place Dec. 4 at the Life Celebration Reception Center.

**Christmas fun at the ECC**

Santa stopped by the Early Childhood Center (ECC) on Dec. 14 to visit the preschoolers and to find out what was on their Christmas list. After visiting Santa, they enjoyed making their own unique gingerbread houses with their parents/grandparents. Even though there was quite a bit of snacking going on, everyone took home a beautifully decorated creation!

**Calendar**

**Jan. 5** - First Friday, 5 p.m. – 8 p.m., Element of Art Studio/Gallery, 96 N. Main St., Mansfield

**Jan. 8** - SCRAP recycling trailer, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m., Early Childhood Center, 255 Hedges St., Mansfield
Jan. 15 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday: Richland Newhope Administration Building, Service and Support Administration, and the Early Childhood Center closed

Jan. 24 - Richland Co. Board of Developmental Disabilities meeting, 11:30 a.m., Newhope Administrative Offices, 314 Cleveland Ave., Mansfield

Feb. 2 – First Friday, 5 p.m. – 8 p.m., Element of Art Studio/Gallery, 96 N. Main St., Mansfield

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