Proclamations issued for awareness month

The Richland County commissioners have joined other local leaders in proclaiming March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month.

During the presentation, representatives of Richland Newhope highlighted the many awareness activities taking place during March. The commissioners also met Heidi C. and her guardian, Linda Pfizenmayer.

“We know how great Newhope is; it provides a great service,” said Commissioner Tony Vero. “It’s a great organization for our community.”

“Without the support of the commissioners in our community, what we do wouldn’t be possible,” added Richland Newhope Superintendent Michele Giess.

The agency has also received proclamations from Mansfield, Bellville, Butler, Lexington, and Lucas. Others are expected from Ontario, Plymouth, Shelby, and Shiloh during March.
The first of four major events takes place this Friday as Richland Newhope honors the 17 winners of our Richland County Third Grade Coloring Contest. On March 14, it’s our Community Awareness Day as 28 leaders from various companies and agencies in the community learn more about supports for people with developmental disabilities in Richland County.

**Displays raise awareness**

Richland Newhope currently has two displays in the community for Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. There's an information table on the second floor of the main branch of the Mansfield-Richland County Public Library. There you'll find various brochures and handouts related to supports for people with developmental disabilities. At the Richland Mall, you'll find a window display. Both will be up until March 29.

**Safety Day!**

Deputy Gary Kiener from the Richland County Sheriff's Office was invited to the Early Childhood Center on Feb. 26 to talk to the preschoolers about safety.

He explained 'stranger danger,' when to call 911, why you should wear seat belts while in a vehicle, how to cross the street/crosswalks, and the importance of wearing a helmet when riding a bicycle. He also showed the kids his police car. The youngsters especially enjoyed sitting in the front and back seat of the cruiser!
Summer Camperships

Applications are now being accepted for the 2019 Summer Campership Program.

The program is designed to provide an opportunity for students with special needs, ages 5-21, to participate in a meaningful summertime activity. Individuals who are eligible are awarded grants for things such as pool memberships, various summer camps, COSI, Little Buckeye Children’s Museum, and zoo passes.

The deadline to apply is April 21. For more information, contact your individual consultant or Tina Baker at 419-774-4309.

In Memoriam

Deb Arehart - Feb. 25, 2019

Ben Studer - March 2, 2019

Calendar

March 6 - Agency provider meeting, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., Longview Center, 1495 W. Longview Ave., Mansfield

March 11 - SCRAP recycling trailer, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m., Early Childhood Center, 255 Hedges St., Mansfield

March 21 – Business Expo 2019, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., Fairhaven Hall, Richland County Fairgrounds

March 27 - Richland County Board of Developmental Disabilities meeting, 11:30 a.m., Richland Newhope Administration Building, 314 Cleveland Ave., Mansfield

March 29 – Step Into Spring fun walk, 10:30 a.m., Richland Mall, Ontario

Richland County Board of Developmental Disabilities

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