



Thank you, neighbors!

We are grateful to Rich Ohlsen of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church for visiting our January meeting to discuss the good work happening with Neighbors Being Human. This group of volunteers assists area residents who are without shelter (some staying for 1-2 week stretches in county campgrounds) and/or who are experiencing food instability. We appreciate the kindness of Neighbors Being Human.



The Ridge Reporter

President's message by Scott Wood

Our next meeting will be on February 21 at 7:30 pm in the upstairs meeting room of Ridge Firehouse on Francis Mooney Drive.

Joining us this month will be Amy Engel, manager of environmental and community engagement at Brookhaven National Laboratory. As a member of BNL's Community Advisor Council, I know this will be a great visit since part of BNL's Community Engagement mission is to address issues that may affect community members' quality of life. Amy will tell us about educational programs offered to local K-12 students, describe some upcoming plans for the Electron Ion Collider, and also educate us about cancer research at BNL.

Finally, you should know that Blessings in a Backpack is hosting a Bake-Off Coffee Fundraiser. This will take place on March 11 from 4 to 8 pm at LYSA headquarters (201 Meadows Boulevard West in Yaphank). The Blessings bake-off seeks entries in regular and gluten-free categories. For a \$22 donation, you get tastings of four entries with four votes. Sign up at longwoodblessings.org or GivetoLB@gmail.com. During the event, unlimited Blessings coffee, tea, and hot chocolate will be available.

See you at our February meeting!



It's just \$10 a year to you, but it makes a world of difference to us!

Please encourage fellow Ridge residents to join Ridge Civic today. Ask them to visit ridgecivic.org to learn more about the work we do and click Become a Member to support us.



**Ridge Civic Association
P.O. Box 354
Ridge NY 11961**

Thank you for supporting Ridge Civic Association!

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Ridge Reporter
February 2024

Never be a dirty bird: Give a hoot; don't pollute



Having grown up with Woodsy the Owl, most of us know very well that littering is wrong. Yet areas of our hamlet are regularly speckled with unsightly trash, and we know from community conversations that this is understandably upsetting to Ridge residents.

Why do people litter? Research shows that there's a kind of logic to it, since humans typically go with the easiest way to accomplish what we want. In the case of garbage, we want it out of our hands or cars—and fast. If there are no trash cans in the vicinity, it ends up on the street.

Since litterbugs rarely face any immediate individual consequences for doing so, we end up with a litter problem.

What can Ridge Civic do about it? We encourage residents to attend our meetings so we can further develop plans for addressing this. We know from research that signage and fines actually have little impact on littering.

More effective approaches include more (and more strategically located) trash bins, educational campaigns on the harmful impacts of littering, and keeping areas cleaner in the first place since litter actually begets more litter. That is, if an area already looks trashy, it doesn't feel like a big deal to some people to toss another wrapper, bottle, or cigarette butt there.

For years, Ridge Civic volunteers on our community cleanup committee have worked to help keep our streets clean. We're always looking for more likeminded friends to help us prevent more litter from the dirty birds. Come be a part of the solution at an upcoming meeting.



Ridge residents regularly volunteer to clean up litter throughout our community.



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