

LIFESTYLES

Cuyahoga Valley railroad talk

The North Ridgeville Rotary Club has scheduled Kelly Steele as guest speaker at its Sept. 18 noon luncheon at the North Ridgeville Senior Center. The topic is the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad. Those interested in attending the Rotary luncheon should contact Brian Ramser at (440) 452-5666 to reserve a lunch.

In addition, local Rotary clubs representing Lakewood/Rocky River, Westlake/Bay Village, Fairview Park/Westpark and North Ridgeville will take a wine train charter trip from 5-9 p.m. on Oct. 3. The train departs from Rockside Road Station, 7900 Rockside Road in Independence, at 5:30 p.m. sharp. Cost is \$65 per person, payable in advance, and includes the train ride, wine and food. Reservations required as soon as possible by calling Shawn Mueller at 871-6525 or Adam Sonnhalter at (440) 554-1417.

Party in the Park

A Party in the Park will take place from noon-3 p.m. on Sept. 19 in South Central Park. Families are invited to enjoy special performances by the North Ridgeville High School Marching Band (12:30-1 p.m.), Sheltered Reality (1-2 p.m., choreographed drumming) and music and dancing provided by a local DJ (2-3 p.m.).

Also on site will be a dunk tank, a Friends of the Park graffiti wall, a skateboarding competition (\$5 entry fee, all ages), a corn hole tournament (registration at 11:30 a.m.) and a pie throw. There will be appearances by a fire department hook and ladder truck, motorcycle and bicycle police officers, the police K-9 unit, child safety fingerprinting, the Girl and Boy Scouts, North Ridgeville Community Care, an inflatable bounce house and a giant slide. Face painting, a 50/50 raffle and temporary tattoos will also be available, as well as food and games. The event is co-sponsored by the North Ridgeville PTAs and the Citizens for Better Schools Committee.

Olivia Ward benefit

Olivia Ward, the daughter of 1984 North Ridgeville High School graduate Bill Ward, is battling brain cancer, and Bill's high school classmates are sponsoring a fund raiser to help offset the family's medical expenses. Petey's Filling Station, 36040 Sugar Ridge Road in North Ridgeville, is the site of the event, which will take place from 7-9 p.m. on Sept. 19. Cost is \$20 per person and includes pizza, wings, pasta salad, chips, pretzels, pastries and draft beer. Several items will be raffled off.

For those wishing to make a donation, the Olivia Ward Cancer Support Fund has been set up through any First Merit Bank branch. Raffle items may be donated by calling Vicki (440) 865-4344, Donna (440) 937-9675 or Terry (440) 935-1702.

Citizens Police Academy applicants

The city's next Citizens Police Academy class will meet beginning Sept. 24 through Nov. 18 (generally on Thursday evenings) from 6:30-10 p.m. at the police department. Applications are currently being accepted, and the training is free. The class is open to all adults who either live or work in North Ridgeville. Participants will be introduced to many of the aspects of police work through lecture, demonstration and some hands-on experiences. There are no physical prerequisites to be met, but applicants must pass a minimal background check and sign a waiver of liability.

For more information or to obtain an application, call 327-6009. To pick up an application in person, stop in at the police department, 7307 Avon Belden Road.

Coffee with superintendent

Superintendent Craig T. Phillips hosts monthly "Coffee and Conversation in the Community" meetings. Parents and community members are invited to join him for coffee and informal discussions—no agenda, no appointments, no presentations. Coffee

will be provided. Unless otherwise noted, the sessions are 7:30-9 a.m. as follows: Sept. 24, Gourmé Family Restaurant, 32775 Lorain Road; Oct. 29 at 9 a.m. North Ridgeville Senior Center; Nov. 17, Café Ah Roma, 34173 Center Ridge Road; and Dec. 17, Arabica, 33101 Center Ridge Road.

Rummage sale donations

Donations are being sought for a rummage sale to be held from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on Sept. 26 at Lear North Elementary School. Proceeds will benefit the two-mile exercise trail at South Central Park. Drop off donated items from 4-7 p.m. on Sept. 25 at the school gym. Volunteers are also needed to sort and price merchandise on Sept. 25. To volunteer or to get additional information, contact Morgan Rogers at jjrogers93@yahoo.com.

Senior portrait scholarships

SpectraLight Photography is currently accepting applications for three high school senior portrait scholarships. The studio will award each of the \$350 scholarships, based on financial need, to area high school seniors regardless of school. An application may be found at www.spectralight.com/ scholarship or by sending a business-sized, self-addressed stamped envelope to Senior Portrait Scholarship, c/o SpectraLight, 8367 Burlington Drive, North Ridgeville 44039. Deadline for applications is Sept. 30. Recipients will be announced on Oct. 15. For additional information, call Mark Madere at 748-6300.

Crafters sought

The Fields United Methodist Church Missions Committee is sponsoring its 21st Annual Craft Bazaar from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. on Oct. 10. The bazaar will be held in the Fellowship Hall of the church, 34077 Lorain Road. The Missions Committee is looking for interested crafters, new and returning, to fill the many spaces available. Display space costs \$25 per six-foot table. Contact the church

office at 327-8753 or M. Lamm at 235-1895.

Music and Merriment Night

The North Ridgeville City Schools Endowment Funds Group presents its second annual Music and Merriment Night from 7-8 p.m. on Oct. 15 (doors open at 6 p.m. for pre-show activities) at the North Ridgeville Education Center's Community Room. Featured performer is composer and keyboardist Dave Young. Pre-concert activities include face painting and caricatures, as well as a percussion "petting zoo." A silent auction featuring original NRCS student artwork/photography will also be held. Cost is \$5 per person, and entry is by ticket only.

Attendance is limited; children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Tickets available at the Education Center (353-1100), Lear North Elementary School (353-1178), Liberty Elementary School (327-6767) and at Wilcox Elementary School (327-2220).

Career Day speakers sought

The North Ridgeville Middle School will sponsor Eighth Grade Career Day on Oct. 30. It provides an opportunity to provide students with information about careers and serves as a way to involve students in career exploration activities. Community members are needed who are able to volunteer a half day's time to speak to students about their individual careers and the career paths they have traveled. For more information or to volunteer, contact Chuck Morgan at 353-6811 or via e-mail at chuckmorgan@nracs.k12.oh.us.

Craft fair participants

Crafters are wanted for Elyria Catholic's Holiday Craft Bazaar, which will be held Nov. 14 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Early bird registration tables are \$35; \$40 with electric. Call Rita Price at 327-6983 or Cindy Griffith at 366-9920 for more information.