

NORTH RIDGEVILLE

THE COMMUNITY THAT CARES...

Review

APRIL, 2022
VOLUME 3 ISSUE 7

Ridge Kids 4-H Club Visit with Residents of Sprenger Healthcare in Avon Lake

Members of the North Ridgeville Ridge Kids 4-H Club visited residents of The Commons Independent Living, part of Sprenger Healthcare, in Avon Lake on Saturday, March 26.

Senior center staff member, Anne Naumann, first reached out to the Lorain County Extension Office to see if any 4-H clubs would be interested in visiting with the seniors with animals.

When the club advisors mentioned the idea to the North Ridgeville Ridge Kids, the club members voted with an overwhelming majority to bring their animals to visit as part of this community service opportunity and long-awaited return

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Ridge Kids 4-H Club members Ashley McDowell and Sarah Stoessel bring smiles to Sprenger resident Carole Tolaro with their red guinea pig.

2021 Lorain County Older Adults Needs Assessment Results

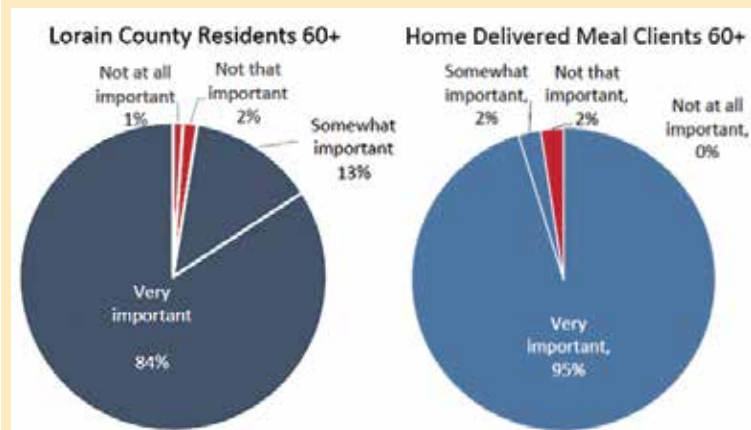
Lorain County Office on Aging Older Adults Needs Assessment and Long-Term Care Cost Analysis: Executive Summary, November 2021

The Lorain County Office on Aging (LCOOA) provides services and supports so Lorain County residents can age successfully in the place they choose to call home. The priority of the office is to treat all individuals with dignity and respect. By offering services for seniors and partnering with multiple agencies and programs, LCOOA both serves and empowers clients and families to direct their own aging journey.

“Lauren Ksiazek, the Director of the LCOOA, has been at the forefront of the issues facing our seniors today,” reports Lorain County Commissioner Michelle Hung. “The commissioners supported this recent survey to be able to forecast their needs as the senior population grows in the next decade. Her strategies to support families and caregivers will see our aging population thrive and to help them continue their involvement in their communities.”

Older Lorain residents want to Age in Place

Older adults throughout the United States consistently indicate they wish to remain in their homes as they age for as long as possible. This trend holds true in Lorain County. One of the top concerns of older adults in Lorain County related is the fear of being placed in a long-term care facility. Ninety-seven percent of residents say it is very important or somewhat important to be able to stay in their homes as they age. Over 95% of home delivered meal clients felt it was very important to remain in their homes.



Getting Connected

- Older adults in Lorain County are fairly well connected to the internet. Using the internet is the number one method older adults listed for accessing information about community services.
- The most common challenge faced by older adults in Lorain County when seeking help with aging needs is not knowing where or who to call, followed by not qualifying for the services they need.

Transportation, Nutrition and Housing are top concerns of Lorain County Older Adults

- Lorain County ranks low on access to public transportation. While a large majority of older residents reported that they drive themselves, those who do not drive struggle with finding safe, reliable and affordable transportation, particularly to medical appointments outside of the county.
- One in four older adults in Lorain County worries that they will run out of food before they can get more. A small number of survey respondents were enrolled in SNAP and some expressed frustration at the low level of the benefit.
- Residents who are both older adults and renters struggle with housing affordability in Lorain County. Over half of renters are cost-burdened by their housing. More than 50 percent of renters aged 60 and over have incomes below \$25,000, and over

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North Ridgeville City Schools: Issue 6

“I have been a strong supporter of the North Ridgeville City Schools for many years and continue to be so. The last time they asked for new money, they made a promise that they wouldn’t ask for another ten years. They kept their promise and now after ten years they have returned for an operating levy. As we all know, costs and expenses have increased greatly over the past ten years and I support their request and I will vote for their levy on election day.”

- Mayor Kevin Corcoran, City of North Ridgeville

- The North Ridgeville City Schools student enrollment has increased over **10% in the last 5 years (4,169 to 4,678 since 2016-2017)**. A new operating levy on the ballot on **May 3, 2022**, will

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Mayor Kevin Corcoran and Supt. of School Roxann Ramsey-Caserio

Community Care Gift

Kinetic by Windstream made a significant gift to North Ridgeville Community Care this month. On hand for the check presentation at the Community Care offices were (from left) Lorain County Commissioner Michelle Hung, Field Operations Director for Windstream Doug Nelisse, Mayor Kevin Corcoran, Windstream Vice President Chris Thomas, Heather Kaesgen, CEO Community Care, Susan L. Schraibman, President-State Operations Windstream, and Abe Jaffee, Manager- Local Operations, Windstream.

“North Ridgeville Community Care is honored to be the recipient of this grant from Windstream,” said Heather Kaesgen, CEO, North Ridgeville Community Care. “We can only continue to do our work with generous donations like these. The past few years have been a challenge to stay open, we have managed with all the caring people in our community. It truly is inspiring to be part of a community that cares.”



The Best Talk Show in Town

The best new talk show in town is the video collaboration between Mayor Kevin Corcoran and Supt. of Schools Roxann Caserio.



The pair teamed to co-host last month's state of the city address at the high school academic center. The format worked so well, that the mayor and superintendent have continued to present this format online on both the city and school websites.

They tackle relevant questions pertaining to all aspects of North Ridgeville life. Moreover, the collaboration sends a strong message to residents: that even though the city and school district are two separate taxing agencies, we are all in this together!

Check out the first three episodes, now available online at nrridgeville.org and nrccs.net.



North Ridgeville's News Team

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Create a Better You

Danbury is proud to announce the start of the Create A Better You, movement specialty program. Partnering with the Parkinson's Foundation Ohio Chapter and Dr. Deb Kegelmeyer of Neukinetics certification, Danbury is participating in this unique program to meet the needs of our community that are impacted by movement disorders like Parkinson's Disease and other neurodegenerative disorders.



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North Ridgeville Review c/o The Villager Newspaper
 27016 Knickerbocker Rd., Suite #1, Bay Village, OH 44140

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NORTH RIDGEVILLE Review

THE COMMUNITY THAT CARES...

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LCCC Student Emese Toth Named Coca-Cola Academic Team Silver Scholar

Lorain County Community College student Emese Toth has been named among the top 150 community college students in the country.

Toth, 19 from Elyria, was named a 2022 Coca-Cola Academic Team Silver Scholar and will receive a \$1,250 scholarship. The Coca-Cola Academic Team recognizes scholars from across the country with gold, silver or bronze status. Toth was nominated for the award based on academic achievement, leadership, and engagement in college and community service.

"I am thrilled for Emese to receive this honor," said LCCC President Marcia J. Ballinger, Ph.D. "Emese emerged as a leader at LCCC during the difficult time of the coronavirus pandemic. Through Emese's focus on equity and inclusion, she helps to make our campus and the community a safe and welcoming place for all."

Toth is the secretary of LCCC's chapter of Phi Theta Kappa honor society, where she leads service projects with local and international impact. Recently, the group collected school supplies that were delivered to children in Iraq. She is also involved with LCCC's Equity Team, where she advocates for underrepresented groups.

"I am very grateful for this award and for the opportunities afforded to me through LCCC," Toth said. "This scholarship will help me tremendously as I continue my academic trajectory."

Toth graduated from Elyria High School in 2019, where her high academic achievement earned her the LCCC Trustee Scholarship. While at Elyria High School, she founded the school's Gay-Straight Alliance. She continues work with the LGBTQ+ community as a certified Q-You Youth Leader at the LGBT Center of Cleveland.

Language plays a critical role in Toth's life, as a first-generation Hungarian-American. Her first language is Hungarian, and she is fluent in English and French, and she is studying Russian. Using her fluency as a tool, Toth advocates for social justice and works to bridge cultural divides.

"Translation is a valuable tool," Toth said. "Language should not be a barrier to sharing experiences and perspectives."

Toth earned an associate of arts from LCCC in December 2021 and continued with additional coursework in preparation to transfer for a four-year university in fall 2022. She plans to earn dual bachelor's degrees in Russian and Comparative Literature. She aims to work in publishing with the goal of increasing the amount of translated works in the United States and around the world.

Coca-Cola Academic Team members, including Toth, will be recognized in a virtual statewide ceremony and during Phi Theta Kappa's annual convention, PTK Catalyst, in April.



Garden Club of North Ridgeville May Meeting & Plant Sale

The Garden Club of North Ridgeville will meet May 10, 2022 at 6:00 pm at the Sandy Ridge Reservation, 6195 Otten Road, North Ridgeville, OH. Our speaker for the evening will be Ann Chanon from the OSU Lorain County Extension Office. Her program will be on Gardens of the Victorian Age.

We will also be having our Annual Plant and Bake Sale on May 21, 2022 at 9:00 to 1:00 at the Giant Eagle Plaza on Center Ridge Road in North Ridgeville by the Dollar Tree store. We have not had a plant sale for two years so we have lots of plants to sell at great prices. The plants are perennials that we dig from our yards. We have repeat customers every year so we are looking forward to seeing everyone again. For information, please call 440-365-8522.

Discount Drug Mart Now Open in North Ridgeville

Discount Drug Mart opened its first location in 1969. Now, over 50 years later, we're proud to announce that we just opened our 77th store in Ohio!

Our newest North Ridgeville store is conveniently located at the corner of Bagley and Lorain road. Stop by any time and you'll be able to:

- Breeze through the drive-thru pharmacy
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- Browse our extensive selections of beer and wine
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By having what you need in one, convenient store, Discount Drug Mart saves you the runaround. We're proud to be a trusted part of Ohio's local communities and look forward to welcoming you to our newest location!



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North Ridgeville Schools Ranger Round-Up

www.NRCS.net

facebook.com/NorthRidgevilleCitySchools

@NRCSRangers

K-8 Art Show

It was great to see the 100s of beautiful art pieces from our students at last week-end's K-8 Art Show! Thank you to everyone who attended!



Punnett Squares

In Ms. Marino's eighth-grade science class, students created Punnett squares to determine the probability of offspring having a specific gene!



Amazing Shake

The Amazing Shake event on March 24 was a success! Every seventh-grade student at NRAC moved through 12 stations and was

assessed on various life skills such as shaking hands, giving eye contact when speaking, interviewing, and the ability to make small talk. We appreciate the community members, business leaders, and staff who participated!



Celebrating National Pi Day

Pi Day was in full swing in the NRAC eighth-grade green studio. Students got to sample different pies (including pizza pies), showcased their Pi Day wardrobe, and Ms. Naro and Mr. Csank got pied in the face due to the impression memorization skills of the Pi digits.

Katherine Tran from the eighth-grade green studio memorized 70 pi digits correctly, resulting in Ms. Naro getting pied in the face! While Jennifer Prokopius, from the eighth-grade green studio memorized 66 pi digits correctly. Her second-place finish resulted in Mr. Csank getting pied in the face!

Sydney Watt from the eighth-grade teal studio recited 99 pi digits. That's right, 99 digits! Amazing job, Sydney!



Jennifer Prokopius, Katherine Tran, Ms. Naro and Mr. Csank




Sydney Watt from the eighth-grade teal

Academic Recognition

On March 16 the Academic Recognition Committee celebrated our seniors that have accumulated a GPA of 3.5 or above for at least one academic school year. We are proud of our students and their success! #RangerSTRONG



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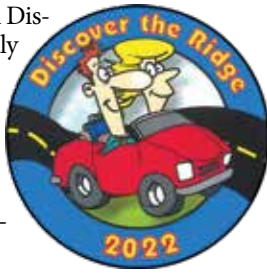
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38600 Center Ridge Road, NORTH RIDGEVILLE

Discover the Ridge, May 7, 2022

The North Ridgeville Visitors Bureau will be hosting the annual Discover the Ridge on Saturday, May 7, 2022. This is a family-friendly open house event throughout the city. Free admission.

Start out at the Discover the Ridge kick-off at Lorain County Community College Ridge Campus, 32121 Lorain Road, at 10 AM with North Ridgeville Jazz Band. Visit all 24 participating businesses/locations. Visit www.nridgeville.org to view the brochure for more details. If you have any questions, please contact the North Ridgeville Visitors Bureau at (440) 327-3737.



Easter Bunny Visits Northridge

The Easter Bunny made a surprise visit this week to the Northridge! He visited with resident and families after they enjoyed a special Easter Brunch.

The Northridge is not just a Skilled Nursing Facility we also offer Long term Care. Whether you are Short term care resident or Long term care resident at the Northridge our Activities team is dedicated to making your stay feel like you are at home!

Your family becomes our family and we celebrate just like family does!

North Ridgeville Community Garden Now Accepting Registrations

North Ridgeville Community Garden is now accepting registrations for the 2022 growing season. Registration deadline is May 15, 2022. The garden is located on Chestnut Ridge Road across from Alternate SR 83. The plot size is 20 feet by 15 feet at \$20 (annually). The land is plowed and disced by a local farmer in the spring. The plots are measured and marked off by volunteer gardeners. Weather permitting, the plots are usually ready for planting by Memorial Day.

Free water is supplied to the plot via an extensive system of hoses connected to a main water source. A large tiller and a variety of garden tools are available to maintain

the plots. The plot fees pay for various maintenance and garden upkeep costs. The Community Garden is a non-profit organization. Each gardener plants and cares for their own plot. Any excess produce is donated to North Ridgeville Community Care.

To participate, please complete the registration form found at www.nridgeville.org no later than May 15, 2022 and drop off with a check payable to North Ridgeville Community Garden to the Mayor's Office at City Hall (7307 Avon Belden Road, North Ridgeville). North Ridgeville Community Garden will communicate directly to registrants with additional information. Questions? Email: nridgevillegarden@gmail.com

Calling All Food Trucks!

North Ridgeville Parks & Recreation will be hosting the first ever Food Truck Wars on Saturday, July 9, 2022 at Shady Drive Complex. Calling all food trucks! Applications are now open for food vendors wishing to participate in the event and will be accepted through May 31, 2022. Click the link below for more details and application form.

North Ridgeville City Schools: Issue 6

continued from page 1

enable the continuation of current academic programming, educational offerings, and will assist the district with its continued rapid enrollment.

- Keeps pace with student learning and technology needs
- Allows for the continuation of retaining and hiring high-quality educators
- Funds the maintenance of school facilities
- The operating levy is 4.9 mills, cost-

ing homeowners \$14.16 per month on a \$100,000 house. Will raise \$5,600,000 per year for 10 years.

• The North Ridgeville City Schools has not asked for new operating funds from the community since 2012, a 10-year promise the district kept.

• The North Ridgeville City Schools has the second lowest school district tax rate for residents in Lorain County.

www.nrccs.net/Issue6OperatingLevy.aspx

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NORTH RIDGEVILLE CITY SCHOOLS 10-YEAR DISTRICT ADVANCEMENTS

COLLEGE CREDIT PLUS (CCP) PROGRAM

- 485% increase in the number of students taking CCP since 2011-2012
- 670% increase in the number of classes taken since 2011-2012
- 49% of the class of 2021 earned college credit
- 1,711 college credits earned by the class of 2021

EXPANDED EXTRACURRICULARS

- Swimming
- Gymnastics
- Sparkle Cheer
- Gaming Club/eSports
- Coding Club
- Creators Club
- Art Club
- History Club
- Robotics Club

Despite operating without new funds since 2012, NRCS has **expanded** academic and extracurricular offerings through fiscal responsibility

THEN
2011-2012
SCHOOL YEAR

NOW
2021-2022
SCHOOL YEAR

Advanced Placement Courses
4 courses offered, 59 tests taken

Foreign Language Courses
Spanish and French

High School Credit for Middle School
Algebra

Advanced Placement Courses
17 courses offered, 312 tests taken

Foreign Language Courses
Spanish, French, Chinese, and American Sign Language

High School Credit for Middle School
Algebra, physical science, industrial technology, Spanish, French, Chinese, and piano

RANGER HIGH TECH ACADEMY

- RHTA opened in 2016-2017 with grades 4-7 and a total of 96 students
- In 2021-2022, 347 students in grades 2-11
- Only fully-accredited public STEM school in Lorain County
- One of less than 70 STEM schools in the state of Ohio

Please remember to vote on or before **Tuesday, May 3, 2022**

2021 Lorain County Older Adults Needs Assessment Results

continued from page 1

15 percent have been behind in their rent and have worried about being evicted.

More Support is Needed

- Caregivers are interested in respite programs to help them manage the stress and isolation that often accompanies caregiving responsibilities. Caregivers would also like the opportunity to have "on-the-job" training to gain skills specifically related to the care their care recipient.

- An estimated 18,000 older adult households in Lorain County may struggle to afford home-based aging supports and services. Those with incomes between \$25,000 and \$75,000 are likely to be over the income for Medicaid and Medicaid waiver programs but without enough financial resources to privately pay for the recommended level of services and supports.

2021 Older Adults Needs Assessment Findings Summary

Prepared by: Lauren Ksiazek, Executive Director, Lorain County Office on Aging

Survey Method

The Lorain County Board of Elections voter registration database was used to randomly select 2,000 residents of Lorain County over the age of 60 to receive a mailed survey. Oversampling occurred in zip codes with higher rates of latinx residents and residents at or below 100% of the federal poverty guideline, in order to ensure these groups were included in the primary data response. Paper surveys were also provided to aging network providers in Lorain County to disseminate to their clients. Additionally, the paper survey was digitalized and shared using links via email and social media. The survey was translated into Spanish and a local Latinx social service agency assisted with disseminating to their clients. A total of 680 valid surveys were received. This exceeded the number needed to have a confidence level of 95 or greater and we can conclude the results of the survey are representative of the older adult community in Lorain County.

Key Demographics

The race and ethnicity breakdown of older adults in Lorain County is as follows: 92% white, 6% Black, 1% Asian and less than 1% American Indian and Alaskan Native. Those with an ethnicity of Latinx descent is 5%. Educational attainment was measured as higher educational attainment has a positive correlation with positive health outcomes and mortality. 12.8% have less than a high school diploma, 36% have a high diploma or equivalent, 30% have some college or associate's degree and 21% have a bachelor's degree or higher. 58% of Lorain County older adults are married, 20% are widowed, 15% divorced and 1% are separated. 15.5% of Lorain County old adults have veteran status and 34% live with a disability. 73.4% of Lorain County older adults are no longer active in the labor force. 8% of Lorain County older adults live in poverty and 7% are poverty-adjacent, meaning their income is between 100 and 150% of the federal poverty line. Lastly, 25% of Lorain County's population is over the age of 60. This percentage is expected to grow steadily until 2030, before tapering by 2040 and beyond.

Key Findings

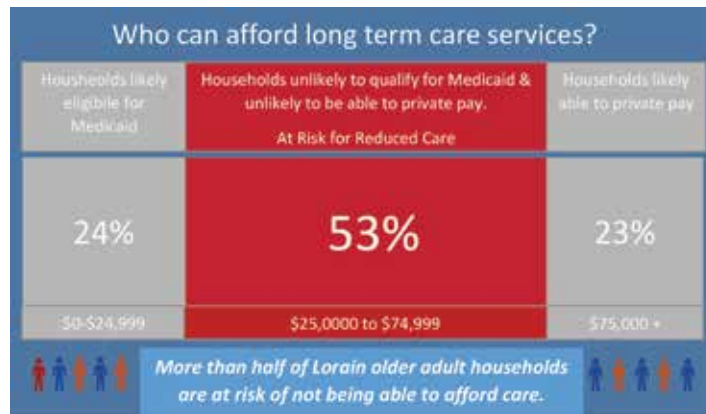
97% of respondents report wanting to remain in their home as they age. This is higher than the national average of 93%. The top concern of older adults in Lorain County is being placed in a nursing facility or being viewed as unable to care for themselves.

An estimated 18,000 older adults in Lorain County may struggle to afford home-based aging supports and services. Those with incomes between \$25,000 and \$75,000 are likely not to qualify for Medicaid Waiver programs but do not have the financial resources to privately pay for the recommended level of services and supports.

Older adult renters in Lorain County are disproportionately cost-burdened, meaning they pay more than 30% of their income towards shelter.

A majority of older adults residents in Lorain County reported that they still drive but those that do not reported difficulty with locating safe, reliable and affordable transportation services.

Lorain County older adults reported being well connected to the internet (88%) and it was the top selection when asked about how they access services they need in the



community.

1 in 4 older adults in Lorain County reported concerns about running out of food before they could get more. Only 40% reported access to home delivered meals in their immediate area.

During the caregiver focus groups, the overwhelming need was respite services so caregivers can better manage the stress, anxiety and isolation that often accompanies the role of caregiving.

4 Key Focus Areas for the Future

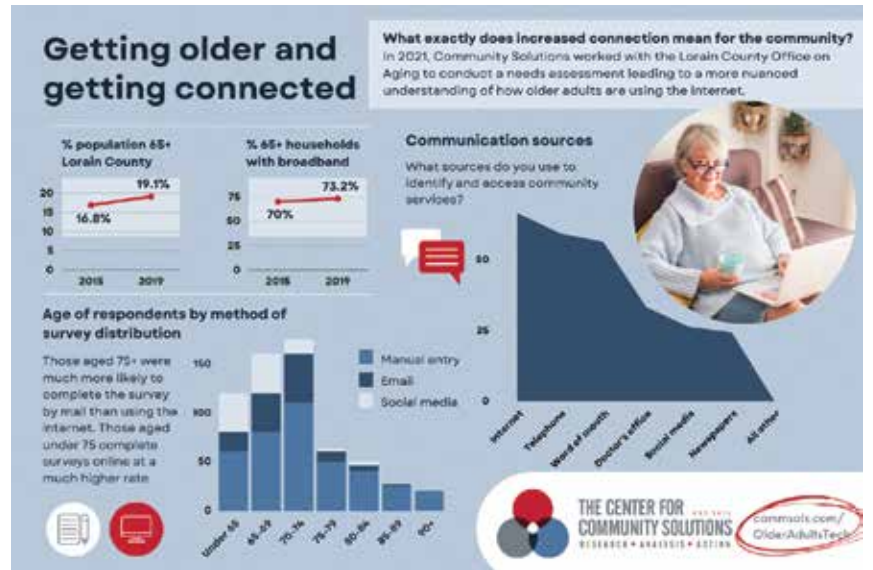
Providing accessible and affordable community-based services and supports (home delivered meals, homemaker services, transportation services, adult daycare etc.). The data from the 2021 Lorain County Older Adults Needs Assessment can be used to inform policymakers at the local, state and federal level and can be used to educate and leverage additional funding dollars from various private and public sources. Additionally, the data will allow Older American Act providers to leverage their current OAA funding to expand their current programming.

Providing basic needs to Lorain County older adults- nutrition, trans-

portation and affordable/safe housing. Increasing access to healthy food options, such as home delivered meals and Senior Food Boxes, will improve food security among older adults in Lorain County. Expanding access to safe, reliable and door-to-door transportation, particularly to medical appointments, will be essential to increase positive health outcomes among older adults in Lorain County. Locating partners willing to provide safe and affordable housing for older adult renters so they can afford to live comfortably and independently.

Developing a caregiver safety net in Lorain County. Implementing an accessible and affordable respite option for caregivers, increased education for caregivers and better access to mental health and self-care resources for caregivers.

Providing education and training on the use of technology devices so Lorain County older adults can remain connected to their community and access needed programs that now require online applications. Providing education on the affordability of aging and dispelling the myths surrounding what Medicare, Medicaid and Long-Term Care Insurance will cover. Ideally, this should start well before an individual retires.



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Ridge Kids 4-H Club Visit with Residents of Sprenger Healthcare in Avon Lake

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of in-person programming to the seniors.

4-H is a youth development program in which students practice leadership and citizenship skills and make connections with their club, community, and world. Visiting with the seniors provided an opportunity for the Ridge Kids to practice public speaking skills as they introduced themselves and their animals, and then went around the room to share information and provide the seniors an up-close and personal visit with the critters including guinea pigs, rabbits, pigs, hamster, and a pygmy goat.

Two members even brought informational posters about their chickens to educate the seniors how the current spread of avian influenza prevented them from bringing their poultry in person for the recommended safety of the birds.

"I enjoyed having conversations with the seniors and seeing them smile," said Ashley McDowell, a nine-year member of the club from North Ridgeville, showing her Abyssinian guinea pig. "It was a very fun experience overall and it was a good learning activity for many of the younger

club members as well."

"I can't thank you and your club enough," Anne wrote to the club advisor. "A resident just came down and said, 'with all the bad things going on in the world, this was just what we needed today!'"

"Thank you [to the Ridge Kids] for making our world just a little bit kinder."

4-H is a youth development program that fosters skill development and encourages youth to practice leadership and citizenship while developing a connection with their community and world. <https://lorain.osu.edu/program-areas/4-h-youth-development>.

The North Ridgeville Ridge Kids range in age from 5 to 16 and live in North Ridgeville, Elyria, Grafton, Columbia Station, Avon Lake, and surrounding communities. The students participate in service opportunities, educational activities, and complete projects in their individual interest areas to show at the Lorain County Fair each year in August. www.facebook.com/RidgeKids4H

For more photos visit www.NorthRidgevilleReview.com



Gemma Schuster shows her rabbit to Sprenger resident Dorothy Sulen.



Aida Varas and her granddaughter, Deliana Irrizary (red shirt) visit with Ridge 4-H Club members Zachary Bibb and his pig and Sarah Stoessel.



Ridge 4-H Members Peyton Orlando-Gibbons, Ellie Schuster and her pygmy goat, Lily Baca, Gemma Schuster, Charlotte Bibb and Aspen Baca.



Hadley Farman with her mom Heather



Sisters Jillian and Hadley Farman with their rabbits.



Dorothy Sulen and Louise Nagel enjoy visiting with Ashley McDowell and her guinea pigs.



Resident Abe Abel gently cradles a white hamster from Lily Baca.

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