



A note from the Mayor

*Mike Ober, Mayor
City of Blue Ridge Manor*

Hello and greetings to the residents of the City of Blue Ridge Manor. Summer is well underway. This letter will update and inform our citizens of the current state of our beautiful City.

Let me start by saying that it is both a pleasure and a privilege to serve as your Mayor. Since taking office in January of 2011, I have had the opportunity to work with your commissioners, many residents and others that have interest in public service. It is refreshing to know people who take time out of their busy lives to dedicate themselves to public service for their community.

As your city government, the Commission and I have accomplished much to move our city forward. Initially, we started with the goal of bringing the city together. As most know, over the course of time, the City of Blue Ridge Manor has grown and incorporated additional areas to include commercial properties and residential condominiums. My goal, when elected, was to unify and establish a sense of belonging and community pride for the whole of our citizens.

We have made many strides toward accomplishing our goals. In the last nineteen months, we have created and distributed a quarterly newsletter to provide timely information about our city and upcoming events. We have negotiated 2 garbage contracts which led to better and less expensive public service costs. We have developed and launched a city website which now provides information, schedules and contacts of city officials, to be approachable and transparent. This site continues to grow.

Additionally, various projects have been conducted to update the city and its appearance. We provided support and direction in the construction of an additional entrance/marker to a newer area of our city, Dorsey Village. As a commission, we have addressed several city drainage issues, to include having a newly constructed draining area between the single family homes and Dorsey Way (next to shopping center), replacing an old and failing infrastructure.

We have organized and supervised our police and public safety efforts to better serve the needs of our city. You may have noticed new signs being installed. This citywide project will be completed later this summer, and was executed specifically to provide a new and distinctive look to the city, while following new Federal Guidelines.

For the first time in the life of the city, we have automated our city's records and procedures. Our city records and treasury have been computerized and backed up. This has been long and detailed work which has been painstakingly done by our Treasurer, Clerk and Commissioners.

We have also obtained storage space within the city to maintain the city's property and records professionally, no longer keeping city records in private homes and garages. This benefits the city in many ways. We are in the process of putting in place a record retention schedule for the maintenance of our city records.

We have reviewed and updated our city ordinances that are to be displayed on our website - again for the benefit and organization of the City.

Our Commission views its public charge to oversee and implement changes that benefit the city at large, to do so in a fiscally responsible way, to do so in a legal and proper way, and to work to maintain and move our city into the 21st century. It is our common goal to provide a stable, safe and effective

environment for all our citizens and our businesses to live, reside, thrive and recreate as a community.

Over the course of the last 6-8 months, the commission has been intensively involved in a "Park Initiative" considering various park improvements that have and will benefit the city residents cumulatively.

After dedicating the park to our previous mayor, Albert Hardesty, our commission has worked to update and renew the city's Municipal Park: Hardesty Park. In the 1970s the park property was purchased by Blue Ridge, with the stipulation that it be used as a park for the citizens of the City. The original plan called for water to be brought into the park, and a parking lot. At that time and in subsequent years, several options were considered, including placing structures in the park.

Based on numerous requests and discussions about the park, the Commission has determined to provide updates to the park, to improve safety, accessibility and beauty. Please keep in mind that the park is the only property that the City as a municipality owns. It has been and should always be a centerpiece of our City, as well as area where our citizens can recreate.

A safe and serviceable park is always a welcome asset to a city providing its citizens the ability to meet and commune together. This is much sought after item, that prospective property owners and families take into account when looking for a suitable place to live.

Initially, when discussion of the parking lot was introduced, several residents from Plainview, and one homeowner from Blue Ridge came to the city meetings with park related concerns. We invited conversation, and I, with other Commissioners, as well as the Mayor of Jeffersonton met at the park to discuss specific concerns. The

Soliciting a Few Good Volunteers ... a Few Good Men, Women or Even Kids!

Spring 2012, Blue Ridge Manor hosted, in conjunction with the Trinity Presbyterian Church, a successful **Blood Drive and Health Fair**. In June, we partnered with the Middletown Fire Department and Louisville Metro Police Department, and hosted a **Safety Fair**, featuring a tour of Division Two Fire House, the Fire Safety House, a children's photo ID book and a giveaway of some smoke detectors/fire alarms. Both of these were exciting new initiatives to provide opportunities for our citizens to get together. Planning for our annual city picnic is underway, and we have been discussing events that all our citizens would find fun and community building. **We need and want your help!**

Along with welcoming feedback about what you would like to see the City provide in terms of community building and development, we could use some event planners and helpers. Specifically for our September 9 "end of summer, Bash in Blue Ridge" picnic, we could use someone to help organize adult games, games for the kids, assistance with the parade... **or** tell us what you would like to help with (set up, clean up, door prize procurement). This year, plans include a

Continued from cover

primary concern articulated at that time was about current drainage in the park. At that meeting, and at subsequent public city meetings, I explained, that the Commission would not approve parking spaces without first addressing any drainage issue, and thoughtfully considering the needs of all of our citizens.

One sentiment expressed was that the park would have increased usage and visitors. Those citing concerns indicated that they don't want the park to have better access, and cited safety and potential drug dealing as issues. Many of these citizens say they don't want additional citizens to recreate in the park. Many of these remarks have come from citizens who don't even reside in Blue Ridge Manor.

(One resident asked me to buy his Plainview property because he doesn't want to see additional people using our Municipal Park. As a mayor, a veteran of foreign war, and a citizen of Blue Ridge Manor, if you don't want people to visit our Municipal Park then don't live next to a park!)

bluegrass/country band, "Big Head Mike and the Minions," bouncer/obstacle course for the kids, a hot dog vendor/cart, plenty of drinks to keep cool and a tent and some chairs if its really hot. There will also be contests for best decorated bike, best decorated vehicle, and best dressed pet in the parade. Well-mannered pets are welcome in the park and there will be ample water bowls and baggies available.

The ideas are flowing to make this the best event ever, but we need you!! All Commissioner phone lines are open, and our Mayor wants to hear from you.

As a Commission, we are moving forward to solve the drainage issue, and continue our plans to revitalize the park. I have concerns that there are exaggerated claims being made (circulated in a recent petition) that are unfounded, with no basis in fact. I thank those citizens who have picked up a phone and inquired regarding what the plan actually is and have availed themselves of our public meetings, or the multiple ways our Commission has made itself approachable on this issue, regularly discussed at our public meetings.

It is the belief of the Commission that we should encourage a new generation of Blue Ridge citizens to recreate and enjoy the Hardesty Municipal Park. It is our belief that we should make the Municipal Park accessible to all our of citizens, handicapped, young, and those who live without safe walking paths to the park. We believe that the addition of the five to six parking spaces will have positive, if any, impact on the safety and security of the park. Parks are more safe when people are present and using the facilities as intended, not sitting vacant and unserved. A parking lot will allow our police patrols to visit the park regularly. The currently discussed five to six spots, off of a city street, and the paving of our street (now gravel) will not negatively impact green space, environmental issues or detract from the recreational space the park provides and is used.

This plan and initiative, and all the work of the Commission, has been public and is regularly discussed at our city meetings. We encourage any citizen to come and visit our meetings. It has been my personal goal to encourage our citizens to take part in our meetings and city projects and activities. May I encourage you to take an opportunity to educate yourself about the facts, and consider the motivation and source of some inaccuracies being promulgated. I, on behalf of our entire Commission look forward to continuing to serve you.

Blue Notes

August 2012

City of Blue Ridge Manor
www.BlueRidgeManorKy.org

Mike Ober, Mayor
(502) 643-9999

Hans Klose, Mayor Pro Tem
Public Property & Finance
(502) 245-0250

Julie Colucci, Commissioner
Public Safety, Works & Sanitation
(502) 550-1843

Carla Kreitman, Commissioner
Community Affairs & Public Records
(502) 727-6468

Porter Lady, Commissioner
Park & Recreation
(502) 245-4963

Pat Gramig, Clerk
(502) 254-5921

Bob Carter, Treasurer
(502) 290-1630

Public Works

Why new signs? New street signs are being installed throughout the city. Many of our street signs have been subject to vandalism, either twisted in the wrong direction, maimed in a sad droop, or stolen altogether. Last year the Federal Transportation Department issued new guidelines for all street signs that include a larger easier to read, more reflective, a larger font and the mandatory use of upper and lower case letters, that all cities must comply with by 2015.

Traffic control signs (STOP and YIELD) also are required to be larger and more reflective as well. Our new traffic control signs have a case that completely encloses the sign. The purpose of the casing is to prevent kids on bicycles from being injured by a sharp edge and to protect from vandals twisting or bending the sign. Traffic control signs are placed closer to the ground, so that kids on bikes can see them sooner rather than later, avoiding an accident with an oncoming car. All of the lampposts will remain where they are,

and the old green street signs have been removed. We plan to have brackets installed on some lampposts with seasonal banners.

Rather than continue to replace the old damaged street signs only to replace them again to comply with the new federal regulations, we chose to make the changes now and update all signs in the city. The new signs are a reflection of our city's name. The signs are dark blue with silver trim and bear an identifying silver mountain - Blue Ridge Manor, they are cast and welded, and less prone to be bent or stolen. The white lettering meets the more reflective requirements as well. Please let me know what you think about the new signs, I would really appreciate hearing from you. Julie Colucci, 550-1843.

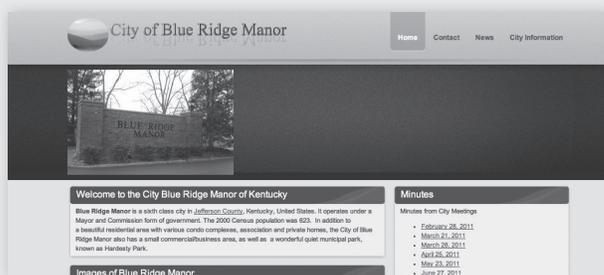


Website Development

Have you checked out www.blueridge-manorky.org? While still growing the site, there is already some useful information to be gleaned from the site and the best use is a direct email link to each of your Commissioners. Minutes of meeting are posted, ordinances appear on the site, and plans for expansion include links to useful Metro numbers including council representatives. Check back frequently to observe the growth of the site and if you have suggestions for changes and improvements, please con-

tact us through the web address (or contact Carla Kreitman directly at 727-6464 or mkreitman@att.net.)

We would like to add photos of the City of Blue Ridge Manor activities, our beautiful landscaping and would also like to add history and information about the city that can not be found on the generic Wikipedia sites. Our primary goal is to provide quick, useful information to you! We rely on your feedback. Email the city at info@blueridgemanorky.org.



Sanitation

Since it has been so beastly hot this summer, Industrial Disposal requested that we allow our drivers to begin picking up at 6:00 a.m. instead of 7:00 a.m. through the month of August. In September hopefully it will be cooler and we will return to the 7:00 a.m. start time.

Only Industrial Disposal issued carts or tubs are acceptable for trash and recycling use. If you need an additional cart please call me, Julie at 550-1843 or Industrial Disposal at 638-9000.

It is a good idea to bag your trash before you throw it in your trash cart. Have you ever seen trash fly out of the top of the truck as it passes by? Loose trash can easily escape from the trash cart as it is being turned upside down and emptied into the truck.

Our contract with Industrial Disposal allows each home one large bulk item on every regularly scheduled pickup day. There is a recent change though, if you have an item too large to fit inside of your trash cart, please call Industrial Disposal (638-9000), give them your address and a description of what the item is and it WILL be picked up. Since the regular trucks are automated with a right hand that lifts the cart up and into the truck, it may be necessary for Industrial Disposal to send a back loading truck to pick up your bulk item. (They prefer a "heads up" phone call notice first.)

Our **Fall Junk Pick Up** is now scheduled for **October 25**, for any large items that will not fit into your trash cart. Furniture, grills and microwaves are all acceptable, A good rule of thumb is 3-foot lengths and 20 pound bundles, if you have items like carpet or swing sets to dispose. Some of the unacceptable items are construction materials, concrete, no liquids and no tires. If you have any question of what is acceptable, you can give me a call (Julie, 550-1843).



www.blueridgemanorky.org

We encourage each resident and business to get better acquainted with their City and what it has to offer. Our monthly meetings are held at the Middletown Fire Station #2 at 7p.m. on the fourth Monday of the month. The City of Blue Ridge Manor belongs to you.

August 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 Last day to file candidacy	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 JCPS First day of school	22	23	24	25
26	Blue Ridge Manor City Meeting, 7 p.m., Middletown Fire Station #2	27	28	29	30	31

September 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	Labor Day	3	4	5	6 Garbage pick-up one day delayed	7
9 City Picnic	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 Rosh Hashanah begins	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	Blue Ridge Manor City Meeting, 7 p.m., Middletown Fire Station #2	24 Yom Kippur begins	25	26	27	28
30						

October 20: Oktoberfest!! Stay Tuned

October 22: Blue Ridge Manor City Meeting, 7 p.m.

October 25: Fall Junk Pick-up