

Athens helps take 10 million steps for fall prevention

We had great weather and a great turnout for the “10 Million Steps to Prevent Falls” event. Over 50 community members showed up to the West State Street Park to walk a mile. This event was created in order to raise awareness in ways older Ohioans can minimize their risks. The Ohio Department of Aging's STEADY U Ohio initiative asks all Ohioans to help take “10 Million Steps to Prevent Falls” throughout the month of September. Regular physical activity is one of the most basic things older adults can do to prevent falls. The event was coordinated by the ACBDD’s Integrate Athens and the Ohio Department of Aging. Thank you to everyone who participated! It was so much fun.



Boxing for Books date set for November 10

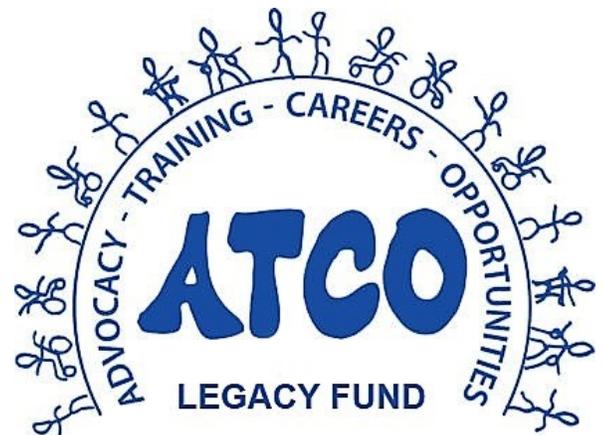
The date has been set for Trimble’s Boxing for Books, organized by Sam Jones of Sam’s Gym. The epic battle between Commish Chris and the Beacon Bomber will go down on Sunday, Nov. 10 at Trimble Local Elementary/Middle School in Jacksonville.



Neither Kevin nor Chris have ever boxed before, but they are willing to risk public humiliation and personal injury to help raise money as part of this great cause. All proceeds go to support educational needs of the Trimble Local School District. Come enjoy the show.

Fall ATCO Legacy Fund RFP due October 1

The Fall 2019 Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for the ATCO Legacy Fund has been sent out to the community. RFPs are due to the Athens County Foundation by October 1.



This program is open to any entity that proposes supporting integration and inclusion for individuals with intellectual / developmental disabilities in Athens County.

These funds can be used for anything creative, so long as it enhances the quality of life AND promotes inclusion/integration for people with I/DD. The structure and funding priorities are intentionally left broad and open-ended to promote creativity and innovation. We have allocated \$10,000 for this year’s Fall cycle. There is no minimum or maximum funding level per request.

For more information, visit the Athens County Foundation’s website at athensfoundation.org.



Infant with rough start to life shows significant progress

A 12 month old baby girl, who was born 16 week prematurely, entered our Early Intervention program diagnosed with Respiratory Distress Syndrome (RDS) and severe Gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), in addition to demonstrating a motor delay. She has recently made progress with her development. She is now crawling on hands and knees, pulling to stand, cruising, taking steps with hands held, and she is beginning to stand alone independently. This is incredibly impressive, given her rough beginning and her corrective age at a mere 8 months of age! We appreciate the hard work of our EI Team for helping this family along.



Beacon receives highest rating

Once again, we are proud to announce that Beacon School has received the highest possible score for our 2019 Special Education Rating from the Ohio Department of Education. We can only continue to provide this quality service to Athens County with our wonderful teachers, instructional assistants, and support staff that make up the Beacon School community. A special thank you to Rebecca Martin for leading the way.

Each year, districts in Ohio receive a rating evaluating the performance of special education programs, known as the Special Education Rating. The compilation of data results in one of four possible ratings: Meets Requirements, Needs Assistance, Needs Intervention or Needs Substantial Intervention.





Grandparents, Family & Friends Day

Our annual Grandparents, Family & Friends Day was another big hit. Students made crafts, took pictures and enjoyed ice cream sundaes with their special visitors.

Special thanks goes out to the Intermediate II classroom for planning all the fun!





Beacon students to receive free breakfast & lunch this school year

We are excited to announce our students at Beacon School will receive breakfast and lunch at no cost for the 2019-2020 school year. That means two free meals a day! Thanks to our supportive community, and to the Board’s decision to do this, we are now able to offer this support to our students and families.

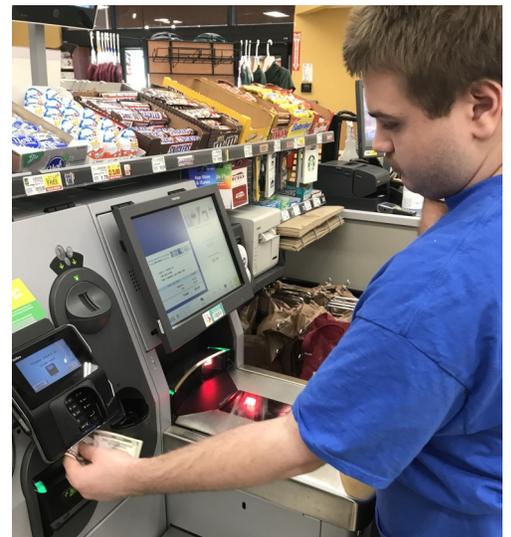


Young Adult students put life skills to the test on fieldtrip

Our Young Adult class went on their first field trip of the year this week, putting their life skills learned in the classroom to the test.

At Kroger, each student followed their groceries list and paid for an item themselves. At the restaurant El Camino, all students ordered their own meals on their own or with their “talkers” (communication device). This was the first time we could do this for the entire class! What a huge accomplishment!

The students and staff had a great time. Thank you to our wonderful community, especially Kroger and El Camino, for being so accommodating to our students and letting them learn.





Sons of Italy donates \$500 to school

Thank you to the Sons of Italy - Southeast Ohio for their recent donation to our school. Their generosity is appreciated!



Beacon seeks input on a new school mascot

The search for a new mascot for Beacon School is now in process. For years, our school and alumni have been represented as The Beacon Blue Devils (pictured at right). While we look back fondly on the students and sports teams that played under this mascot, we hope to represent our school in a new light. Letters were sent home with each student asking for ideas for a name, a description, and how the mascot represents Beacon School. We will use online voting through our Facebook pages that will allow the public to vote for one of the top two. Stay tuned!



Employment Options &



Oct. is National Disability Employment Awareness Month

In recognition of National Disability Employment Awareness Month, our staff in the Employment Options Division are planning a number of activities during the month of October. Keep an eye out for these activities. They plan to:

- Hang a banner across Court Street in Athens to bring attention to the special month.
- Host an Open House at Employment Options on October 4th (all are welcome) from 8-10.
- Run a number of radio promotions to bring attention to the special month.
- Post video vignettes of our success stories on the PersonnelPlus Facebook page.



ACBDD helps with regional job development training

Our very own Doug Mitchell, along with colleagues Holly Shellogg and Vic Gable, hosted a regional training on job development. The purpose of the training was to better equip vendors who assist job seekers with disabilities with tools to assist people obtain and keep jobs.

These three individuals provided the training through their roles as board members of the Ohio Chapter of the Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE), the only national, non-profit membership organization dedicated to the vision that all people with disabilities have a right to competitive employment in an inclusive workforce. Pictured above from left to right are Doug, Holly and Vic.





ACBDD recognizes DSP Appreciation Week

Earlier this month was the official DSP Appreciation Week. Thanks to the staff of Integrate Athens, the ACBDD sent goodies to all of our county's agency providers, sent hand-written "thank you" cards to all of our independent providers, and posted our appreciation on our social media sites and on our school marquee. DSPs revolve their work around helping people with developmental disabilities lead meaningful lives. DSPs inspire those around them by empowering them to make choices, engage with their community, and share their gifts with the world. Thank you, DSPs.



ACBDD needs YOU for OU's Homecoming Parade

The ACBDD is once again building a float for this year's Ohio University Homecoming Parade. We invite the entire community to come be a part of our float. We hope you can join us on Saturday, Oct. 12. Please wear ACBDD gear or OU colors.

Save the Date:
Date: Saturday, Oct. 12
Time: Line up starts at 9 a.m.
Location: 160 W. Union Street





Service & Support

Athens County Board of DD

SSA team de-stresses through song

The work of an SSA can be stressful. To help, SSS Bethany Rivera led a talk on stress relieving strategies. She also shared one of her favorites stress-relieving activities – playing the ukulele. She even brought it with her to demonstrate by playing a song. Thank you, Bethany, for your positivity and for seeking ways to help the team.



SSAs meet, collaborate with the Child Advocacy Center

Earlier this month, SSAs and Amy Goldsberry, Transition Youth Coordinator, had the opportunity to learn more about the Athens County Child Advocacy Center. We are hopeful to exploring ways we can collaborate our efforts to support Athens youth survivors. The Athens County CAC is a nonprofit organization that provides services to children who are survivors of abuse. Their motto is: “Working together to promote health, safety, justice and healing for child survivors of abuse.”



SSAs enjoy private showing of The Peanut Butter Falcon

The SSA team were able to arrange for a private showing of The Peanut Butter Falcon at the Athena Cinema in Uptown Athens. This was a great opportunity to enjoy a little stress relief and share a wonderful story about an individual with Down Syndrome pursuing his dream of becoming a professional wrestler. This activity will serve as the SSA Departments in-service training for the fall.



Parking lot at Beacon soon to have 10 more spots

Thanks to the coordination of our Facilities Division, the Beacon School/Admin parking lot will soon have 10 additional parking spots.

Our own parking lot was installed just two years ago and dramatically improved safety and access to our building. Since that time, we have expanded our preschool program and have additional ESC staff to support the school. These changes increased our need for parking spots. We are hopeful these added parking spots will serve us for years to come.



ACBDD in the news

Fall prevention community walk slated for Sept. 19

The Athens Messenger—August 30, 2019



Community News

Friend of the ACBDD picked to walk the runway

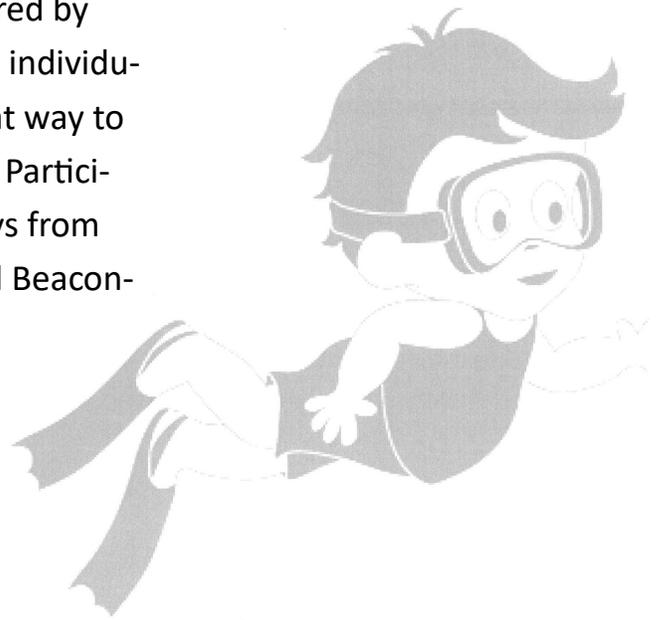
Earlier this month, our friend Susan was invited to be a model in the The Infinity Salon 10th anniversary Fashion Show at the Market on State. The Infinity Salon did Susan's hair and make-up, and then she walked the runway at the show. We loved seeing someone we care about, supported by the community, to do something awesome. So, when Susan tells you she is a model, it is true!



Community News (cont.)

Friday Evening Swim at Beacon continues

Friday Evening Swim at Beacon School, sponsored by the ACBDD, Civitan, and AF-CADRE, is open to any individual with a disability and their families. This is a great way to socialize and also participate in a physical activity. Participants have fun in our heated pool on select Fridays from 4:30 p.m.—6:30 p.m. For more information, email Beacon-EveningSwim@gmail.com.



The remaining Fall 2019 dates are:

- October 4 & 18
- November 1 & 15
- December 6 & 20

Save the Date: Reason For Freezin’ set for January 25

We are excited and grateful to announce that the Albany VFW has once again elected to organize the Reason For Freezin’ event in 2020, with the proceeds going to Beacon School! Thank you, Albany VFW!

The event from earlier this year was their first time organizing the “Polar Plunge”-style event. It was so successful, with nearly 120 people participating and raising \$8,000 for the school.

We are hopeful for another successful event in 2020. See you there!



Save the Date:
Date: Saturday, Jan. 25
Time: TBD
Location: Lake Snowden

Work Anniversaries for September

Debbie Dixon — 28 years

Butch Withem — 22 years

Cressie Chaney — 21 years

Mark Shrivvers — 20 years

Mary Ann Smathers — 18 years

Audra Harrison — 17 years

Barb North-Moss — 15 years

Tristin Lawrence — 9 years

Megan Stack — 6 years

Ruth Robertson — 6 years

Susan Cablish-Kristofco — 1 year

Laura Jayne Hart — 3 years

Angela Carter — 3 years

Stephanie Kendrick — 1 year

More scenes from the “10 Million Steps” event

