



Blueridge Community News

Editor: Sonia McLeod

YOUR MUNICIPALITY NEEDS YOUR VOTE ON NOVEMBER 15!!!

Written by: Eric Andersen

Are you fed up of sitting in traffic jams? Do you get upset when you receive your yearly ever-increasing bill for municipal taxes? Are you interested in a possible amalgamation with the North Vancouver City? Is residential growth too high or too low for you? If you answered 'yes' to any of these questions you should pay particular interest to the municipal election on November 15.

Other than the above important issues the municipality ALSO looks after our rec centers, transportation, parks, garbage, recycling, water, bylaws, libraries, the RCMP, the fire department, the Arts Office, the North Vancouver Museum, they have a representative on Translink, and the list goes on.

This is the most important election you can vote in, because this is where YOU can make a difference. Unfortunately so few residents take the time to vote at a municipal election. At the last two elections we had less than 17% (in 2008) and less than 21% (in 2011) who took the time to go out and vote in the District of North Vancouver (DNV).

It is impossible to say how many residents voted at Blueridge Elementary School in 2011, but totally 648 residents voted for the mayoralty candidates. If you have an average of two voters per household in our roughly 1450 households, this would very roughly work out to about 22% vote, or very close to the sad DNV average of about 21%.

In 2008 a Councillor got elected in our municipality with less the 4,700 votes. This is how little it can take to get elected.

It is no reflection at all on Mayor Richard Walton, but it is really detrimental to the democratic process that he got in by acclamation this year. Nobody decided to run for Mayor against him.

You will still have to vote for up to six Councillors out of a total of 14 candidates, four of these being incumbents.

In addition you will also have to vote for up to four School Trustees out of 12 candidates, three of which are incumbents

Where do you find out about the candidates? The District of North Vancouver's website is an excellent starting point (www.dnv.org). All the candidates (including those running for the school board) are listed there, and most of them have their own website, for which you can easily find the link on the District's website.

At the time of writing a handful of all candidates meetings will be held across the District, one of them is being co-hosted by the BCA – on Monday, November 10, at 7 PM at Mount Seymour United Church. Bring your questions and ask the candidates.

No doubt you will also get some brochures delivered to your door from some of the candidates. Finally the North Shore News usually has an excellent coverage of the municipal election and that may help the undecided voter, too.

Do your research, discuss it with your neighbours, and come out and vote on Saturday, November 15. In Blueridge/Seymour Heights you can vote at Blueridge Elementary School from 8 AM till 8 PM. Advance voting is also possible at the DNV Hall on November 5, 8 and 10.

One of the candidates is from Blueridge, viz. Jim Hanson, who is running for Council for the first time.

We are looking for a question to be asked by the BCA to all the candidates at the start of the all candidates meeting on November 10. If you can think of a good question please send it to us: info@blueridgeca.org
We may use it on November 10!

Do yourself and all of us a HUGE favor: PLEASE take the time to vote on November 15!!!

Wine Tasting in Blueridge!

When: Saturday, November 15th at 7.30pm

Where: 2589 Derbyshire Way

\$30 per person (by cheque payable to the Blueridge Community Association or by Visa). Must be prepaid by Saturday, November 8th.



How do I sign up: Please contact us: info@blueridgeca.org to reserve your spot.

What to expect: Fellow Blueridge neighbour (our resident wine expert) Domenic Carlucci (bottle2glass.blogspot.com) will present a variety of wines for tasting, along with tips on tasting. Some snacks will be provided, but please note this event will not include dinner.

IMPORTANT: Book early – Space is limited to 20 people. Due to space restrictions, this event is open only to Blueridge/Seymour Heights residents.

And please don't drink and drive! Walk, or if you have to drive, please take a cab home.

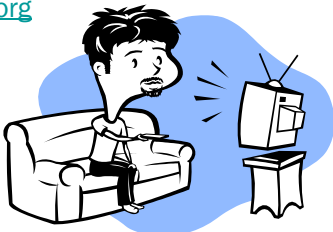
LOVE IT OR LIST IT

Written by: Eric Andersen

Most of us love it in Blueridge/Seymour Heights and a lot of families decide to stay here for a very long time. You get to know the area and your neighbours and it becomes increasingly difficult to find reasons to move out of here. However, a couple of Blueridge families decided over the summer to join the reality show called 'Love It or List It' hosted by TV personality Jillian Harris.

We hear that both couples will have their respective episode shown in November. This is when the rest of us will find out if they decided to love their home in Blueridge... or decided to list it.

The BCA is on this and will let our residents know as soon as we hear from the two families involved. We will e-mail the date out to everyone who is on our mailing list. If you are not on our e-mail list already, please subscribe by sending us your e-mail address to: info@blueridgeca.org



Blueridge Sharing Garden Update

Written by: Colleen Mah

Things are moving right along with the sharing garden project. This past summer the BCA, Cultivate Projects and the DNV worked closely together to come up with the ideal place for the garden. After considering several locations we have settled on the road allowance on Carnation Street that leads down to Lytton Street (across the street from Seymour Heights School). We held a well-attended community consultation night at Canlan in July, and following that, received approval from council to proceed with the garden. This will be a precedent setting first for the DNV, as it will be the only sharing garden on public land in the District.

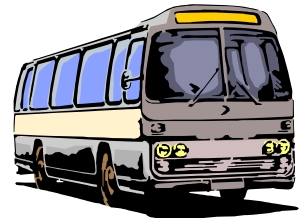
Plans for the garden include 12 raised garden beds and a spiral bed for herbs. There will be a cedar shed with an attached covered patio and benches, as well as a community message board and a Little Free Library.

Cultivate Projects has been instrumental in helping ascertain grant money for the garden. So far we have received funds from Vancouver Coastal Health, Vancity, and most recently the Rotary Club of Lions Gate. The Rotary Club has offered to help fund the split cedar fencing and patio area, as well as provide volunteers and a connection with the Rotary Interact Club at Windsor Secondary. We have also had a generous donation of cedar from local resident Dave Chalmers with Iron River Forest Products. Thanks Dave!

Early in November we hope to start clearing the garbage and blackberry bushes from the site. If you would like to volunteer to help with the garden or if you just want to be in the loop, please email us at blueridgesharinggarden@gmail.com

Blueridge Bus 214 Service Reduction

Written by: Eric Andersen



We note that the already not stellar 214 bus service to/from Blueridge has been decreased during rush hour. Was this move justified by Translink, or does it affect you? If so, please drop us a note at:

info@blueridgeca.org

The dog that jumped out the window...

Written by: Samantha Anderson

It was 4th of July weekend and as any true patriotic American would do we decided to take a road trip to Canada. We drove from Portland up through the Olympic Peninsula, took a ferry to Victoria, and ended our trip visiting our friend Christine in Vancouver, before headed back to Portland. Or at least that was the plan...

Christine opened her beautiful home to my girlfriend and I and our very energetic 2 year old chocolate lab, Juniper. Before heading back to Portland Christine suggested we all go for a hike. While going for a hike on the beautiful trails Blueridge has to offer sounded dreamy, after 5 days of traveling and camping, the only one who had the energy for it was Juniper. So I loaded Juniper up in Christine's car and they were on their way. Christine and Sheri headed out the Bottle Top hike with four happy dogs at their side. Juniper bounded from one side of the trail to the other, splashing thru any water she could find and always checking back in with Christine and Sheri letting them know she didn't go far. It was as if she'd never been on a hike before. Juniper was definitely a happy dog. The hike had come to an end and all the dogs loaded back into the car to head home. It was a warm day and everyone was hot, sweaty and panting so Christine opened the windows in the Jeep to let some air in. As she came around a corner just a couple blocks from the house she heard a strange noise from the back. That was the moment that none of us will ever forget. Christine looked back to where Juniper had been sitting and the seat was empty. She was gone. She had jumped out the window and was bolting towards the fruit stand at Emerson and Mt. Seymour Parkway. In the blink of an eye Christine had lost sight of her. I get a frantic call from Christine, "Meet me outside the house, your dog is gone! She only knows your voice!"

This was the first time Juniper had been to Canada and also the first time she met Christine so she did not recognize her voice or have any bearings about her. When I got the frantic call I actually wasn't nearly as frantic as Christine, as I was confident that I would get to the bottom of the hill and call her name and she would come right to me. We drove around calling her name up and down the streets of Blueridge. 15 minutes became 30, 30 minutes became an hour, before we knew it we had been looking for over 3 hours. That first day we weren't panicked. We were confident she would show up. How far could she go?

The search continued into the evening and after 6 hours of driving up and down the streets, walking the trails calling for her we officially started to panic. This was going to be tougher than we thought. As the evening approached and the sun was going down I was faced with deciding what to do next. My girlfriend and I had to be back in Portland by the morning but I couldn't bear the thought of my June Bug out there all on her own. Christine and her amazing network of friends assured me that the search would not end if we headed back to Portland. So we left Juniper's dog bed and made the 7 hour trek back to Portland, feeling empty and defeated. As we drove back, Christine and her friends walked the trails with cheeseburgers in their packs calling for her. The kindness displayed by people that hardly knew Juniper and I was overwhelming and it was only the beginning. It's true what they say about Canadians.

That night we posted on every lost pet and social media sites we knew as well as the Blueridge Community Association who quickly notified everyone in their database that Juniper was lost. To our surprise the emails and phone calls started pouring in. People were genuinely concerned and willing to help in any way they could. We had never experienced the love and care of a community like Blueridge.

"I'm hitting the trails and will look for your dog," wrote one person.

"I'm getting in my car now to search," wrote another.

We also contacted Pet Searchers who immediately printed out posters and plastered them all over the neighbourhood. Juniper was a local celebrity! It had now been 2 full days of searching and nobody had seen any sight of her. Then at 10 pm on day 3 Christine got a call, "We just saw your dog! She was on Ellis street near Dollarton Hwy headed north!" She then immediately called the Pet Searchers and they told her to take her dog bed and drag it from the corner of Emerson and Mt. Seymour Parkway all the way up to the house. Perhaps some communities would have ignored what looks to be a crazy lady dragging a dog bed in the street at 11 o'clock at night but not this one. Christine is met by a neighbor walking her dog and simply asks what she's doing. After Christine tells her the story of a lost dog the friendly neighbor says, "well I'll walk with you and keep you company."

Meanwhile, I am still back in Portland but as soon as I got the text that my girl had been sighted I hopped

The dog that jumped out the window....cont'd

in the car and drove through the night back to Vancouver. As soon as I arrived I walked through Windridge Park and Windsor Park calling for her. I thought for sure if I could get my voice to carry far enough she'd just come running to me. Later that afternoon we got another call that she had been sighted again. This time she was on the Seymour Bridge looking down at the water. We raced over there within minutes but she had disappeared again too quickly. While it was difficult to be so close and not find her at least we knew she was still alive. The community kept our spirits alive and gave us the fight to keep searching. The emails from neighbors continued to come asking if she had been found and offering words of encouragement.

It was now day 5 and it had been more than 24 hours since the last sighting. Just as we were sitting down to eat dinner we get another call. Someone had seen her the night prior on the 10th hole walking towards the clubhouse. She was headed back towards us! Maybe she figured out how to use that sniffer after all. A few hours after that Christine's phone started to be flooded with calls, "I've seen Juniper at the school," then "she's at the corner of Carnation and Berkely." Neighbors came out of their houses pointing us in the right direction. As I was sprinting down Carnation St. someone pulls up and says, "hop in, I'll take you to the end of the street." A woman watering her flowers on Lennox St. said she just saw her and points me back toward Carnation. She can't be far so I stood at the corner of Lennox and Carnation and yelled for her and ran down into the trailhead at the corner and yelled some more. I see a woman walking very quickly towards me and she said, "I hear something in my backyard and I don't know if it's your dog but I just wouldn't be able to live with myself if I didn't come get you. I received a notification of a missing dog a few days ago so I figured she was close when I heard you out here calling for her."

This kind stranger led me through her family's home to her back yard. Sure enough there was some rustling on the other side of some tall bushes. I said, "Juniper, is that you?" Immediately at just the sound of my voice her tail started wagging so hard it shook all the bushes and trees around her. I pulled her out from behind the fence and we drowned each other with hugs and kisses.

We got her home and fed her but she didn't eat or drink as much as we thought she would as she was pretty distracted by all the love. She must have kept herself hydrated with all the rivers and streams that

surround the area and I can only assume she learned how to fish because she smelled pretty ripe of dead fish. After some much deserved celebratory tequila shooters shared amongst the search party Juniper and I hopped in the shower to wash that stink off. Everyone slept like babies that night as all was right in the world again.

Mostly this story is about a community of people that care and help each other. It's the first time in my life that I have experienced so much love and help from total strangers. The Blueridge community definitely has something special that can't be found just anywhere. I'd like to

thank all those folks who took the time to email, call, search and genuinely be interested in the positive outcome of this scary time. So many people in this neighbourhood have dogs and they do quickly become an important part



of the family. Juniper and I are so incredibly lucky to have such a great friend like Christine and that she is surrounded by such a great community of people. Everybody learned a lot from this experience but most of all I learned about the kindness of strangers. There are some really great people in this world and they live in Vancouver BC.

Blueridge Community Association Scholarship

Written by: Lesley Brooks

We are excited to announce that the B.C.A. is creating a yearly \$500 scholarship to be named the Eric Andersen Blueridge Community Association Scholarship. This will be awarded to a student resident of Blueridge, graduating from a North Vancouver high school and who plans to attend a post secondary B.C. college or university. The successful individual must demonstrate volunteer service to the Blueridge community in one or more of the following areas:

- Environmental protection or beautification
- Seniors or youth service
- Amateur sports
- Assisting disabled or needy residents

Blueridge Community Association Scholarship....cont'd

A candidate will be eligible for consideration when a community member writes a nominating letter to the B.C.A. chair or when the individual applicant submits an application form to the chair. Nomination deadline will be March 15th.

Details of the scholarship will be posted on our website and will be disseminated to North Vancouver high schools.

The successful candidate will be selected by a committee of three, composed of the chair or nominee and two committee members chosen by the chair or nominee.

Presentation to the successful candidate will occur following proof of enrollment in a B.C. post secondary institution.



Another reason to be proud of and to support our Community!

“Building Andy’s Range – the History of the Blair Rifle Range in North Vancouver”

Written by: Donna Sacuta

When I first looked at online photos of the Blair Rifle Range in the collection of Library and Archives Canada in Ottawa, I was certain someone had made a mistake. The images of a small hospital, neatly painted buildings and landscaped streets did not connect with the tangled mess of brambles and bush that now exists in the area just east of Blueridge. It was a mystery that kept me busy for months!

The images I initially found turned out to be just a fraction of what was in the historical archives in Ottawa. I eventually uncovered over 100 photographs and 300 pages documenting the 1934-1936 period when the Blair Rifle Range was one of 163 Unemployed Relief Camps in Canada run by the Department of National Defence. The Blair Rifle Range went on to be a heavily used military training facility through the second World War until it was decommissioned in 1968.

More recently the Blair Rifle Range and the land attached to it were part of a contentious court case between the District of North Vancouver and its owners, the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. It has played a significant role in the social, labour and military history of Canada.

This is a fascinating story that few of us know about. At the next Blueridge Community Association meeting, (November 18, 7 pm at Blueridge Elementary), I will be presenting the information I have collected for all to see and hear. If you are very keen, I will also be speaking to the Deep Cove Heritage Society on Thursday, November 6 at 10:30 am at the Deep Cove Cultural Centre.



“(Relief Projects - No. 134). The camp hospital.” July 1935. Canada. Dept. of National Defence / Library and Archives Canada / PA-037223

Please be Bear Aware!

Written by: Christine Miller

Black Bear Society . 604-317-4911

Please help to get this mother bear and her cub safely off to a den for the winter by keeping your property free of wildlife attractants. This family group has been reported in the Blueridge community on both sides of Berkley since the beginning of October. They have found some household garbage, bird seed – but not much, thanks to the “bear smart” practices that most households have adopted. Many people without garages now freeze the odorous kitchen scraps until the morning of collection, and this has helped to reduce the bear activity this year!

At this time of year, the bears are foraging for easy food sources for up to 20 hours each day as they consume up to 20,000 calories daily. Without unnatural food sources in the community, they should head off and eat the mountain ash berries until they settle into their dens in November.



Photo: D. Schmidt

Operation Red Nose

Written by: Eric Andersen

Please note that the Rotary Club of Lions Gate has invited us to join them in Operation Red Nose:

Wondering if the Blueridge Community Association members would be interested in the following fund raising opportunity? It's fun, worthwhile and a great service to our community!

The Rotary Clubs on the North Shore are once again organizing for this coming holiday season! We will pay your group an honorarium of \$100.00 per team with a min of 3 (3 people to a team) teams. Some groups like to 'take over' and designate a night. We run Friday and Saturday nights during the month of December and late November.

This is 100% volunteer organized and run, we really need as many community groups as possible to assist us getting our North Shore residents safely home with their cars. Volunteers must be over 19 years of age and undergo a criminal record check prior to their volunteering.

Operation Red Nose 2014
Nights of Operation:
Nov 28, 29,
Dec 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, 20
& Dec 31st



Operation Red Nose is a unique designated-driver program dedicated to eliminating impaired driving. Patrons of local pubs and restaurants or individuals enjoying home or company parties can access the service by calling the Operation Red Nose Headquarters on the four weekends before Christmas and on December 31st. A team of three people will be dispatched to the location for pick up. Two of the volunteers will go with the car owner in his/her vehicle while the third volunteer follows in an escort car and retrieves the two volunteers when they have safely taken the client to their destination. There is no charge for the service but donations are welcome.

Fund-raising for our Sharing Garden and our Scholarship will be needed, so this would provide a great opportunity to help residents on the North Shore and raise some funds for the BCA at the same time. If you are interested please contact us:

info@blueridgeca.org

Trails in the Blueridge area

Written by: Anni Danielson

Join me on Saturday, Nov 15 2014 at 2pm for a walk in our neighbourhood. Every one is welcome. Whether you are new to the area or have lived here for a long time and maybe are not familiar with all the local connectors this is for you. This is your chance to meet people from the community and get some fresh air and exercise at the same time.

Bring the kids , dogs, cats andand join me on the corner of Sechelt and Whitman. The walk could be any time from 1-2 hours. I will adjust the length of walk depending on the participants. Call ANNI at 604 929 2807 if you have any questions.

Swinging for Papa and Parkinson's

Written by: Marta Carlucci proud mom of Katrina Carlucci

It started with an idea that our daughter Katrina had to raise funds for people living with Parkinson's Disease. Katrina wanted to host an event, and bring people together to support her cause and her Papa, who is in the advanced stages of Parkinson's. This idea turned into an incredibly fun community baseball game at Blueridge Park, which was held this past August. We had a great turn out with community members, friends, and family in attendance. There was a huge range of talent with the ultimate goal being to have FUN! Thanks to Katrina's efforts she raised \$1,122 with all proceeds going to the Parkinson's Society of BC. Everyone enjoyed themselves so much Katrina is already planning to make this an annual event. Thank you to everyone who was able to join in the fun, and for all of you who helped Katrina reach her goal. Hope to see you out on the field next year!!



Blueridge Good Neighbour Day Volunteers Needed!

Written by: Angela Duso

The **Blueridge Good Neighbour Day** (BGND) planning committee is looking for **volunteers**. If you have attended BGND in past years and wondered “*how does this all come together?*” then here is your chance to find out! A group of dedicated individuals in the community work together in the months preceding BGND in order to plan the event. We need more people to join the planning committee!

If you would like to meet some fantastic people in your neighbourhood and put your event planning skills to work we need you for the following areas:

- Food and Beverage
- Entertainment
- Logistics
- Finance (including someone to run the Silent Auction)
- Marketing and Communications
- Volunteer Coordinators

The time commitment requires meeting approximately once per month in the evening (January to June). The event takes place on **Sunday, June 7th, from 11:00 am – 3:00 pm**. Even if you can't attend on the day – we can definitely use your help on the planning committee.

We are also looking for volunteers to help out on the day of the event to run events and things like the Cotton Candy Machine, Photo Booth, etc. (*requires a minimum of a 1 hour time commitment*). Anyone interested in being a musical act at the event (for an honorarium) should also contact us. For more info, or to volunteer please contact bgnd@blueridgeca.org.

A SINGLE THANK YOU

Written by: Eric Andersen (Thank you Eric and everyone!)

One person, who has not been getting enough credit, is our newsletter editor.

Sonia McLeod has been the editor for the BCA newsletter since October 2008. For the last number of years this means editing two newsletters in the spring and one in the fall.

It is a huge job getting articles and comments from many contributors who present their articles in very different fashions. All the drawings you find in our newsletters are Sonia's work. She puts the articles together and makes it all fit into our newsletter. Sonia is also the (only) person who has the important power to decide what goes into the newsletter and what doesn't! A big responsibility that Sonia handles elegantly.

Over the years our newsletters have for the most part been four pages, but more recently we have a few times gone to eight pages which is a wonderful achievement for a small community like ours, and kudos to our editor. Occasionally Sonia will also throw in a Blueridge/Seymour Heights recipe.

Sonia and her family have lived near Seymour Heights Elementary School since 2000 and she works for a large company on the North Shore. She is a very busy mom with two girls, was on the local school PAC for 5 years and enjoys running, cooking, hiking in her spare time. Travelling to warm locations such as Mexico for her vacations is right up Sonia's alley!

In spite of the often rigid deadlines, we have had to deal with for our newsletters over the years, Sonia has always been wonderful to work with. She takes it all in stride and always manages to put things together, so the deadlines are met, even if some of us (this writer included) have been very late with our submissions. She does it all with a smile and nothing, but friendly comments.

And as if that isn't enough... Sonia ALWAYS volunteers to take a route to distribute our newsletter!

Sonia: the whole community of Blueridge/Seymour Heights thanks you for your wonderful work as our editor for the last six years, and we hope to see many more BCA newsletters from you in the coming years!

Thank you ALL for Donating to the Blueridge Good Neighbour Day!

Written by: Eric Andersen

Below is a list of our generous donors at Blueridge Good Neighbour Day 2014. Without them there would be no Blueridge Good Neighbour Day!

Don't forget to support them when you can, since they support us – and several of them have done so for many years.

Popescu Group Private Wealth Mgmt Team	Arc'teryx	Cori's Kitchen
Rampion Inc.	Highwater Tackle	Colin Hall
Northlands Bar & Grill	Odlum Brown	Western Stevedoring
Northlands Golf Course	Time Out for Sports	Neptune Terminals
Seymour Golf & Country Club	Genesis Hair Studio	CN
My Whistler Cabin	Arms Reach Bistro	Tupper Landscaping
Fairmont Chateau Whistler	Seymour's Pub	Kodet Construction
The Destination Slope & Surf Outfitters	Anonymous donor	Canexus
CrossFit North Vancouver	Tour de Feast	Marci Deane
North Shore Sports Medicine	Village Table	Dave Moucks
North Shore Recycling	Cobs Bread	Judy Killeen
Corinne Przybylski	All Natural and Exotic Meats	Brian Rybchinsky
Dykhof Nurseries	Houweling's Tomatoes	DNV
Pollard Family	Canlan Ice Sports	Nazrin Ishak
Amy Amantea - the Blind Bearer	Rob	Fruition Spa
Gaye Tyson	Avon Summer Mani/Pedi Basket	Boo La La
Mount Seymour Optometry Clinic	Jump Start Fitness	Booster Juice
Mary Kay Cosmetics	Capilano Suspension Bridge	PNE tickets
Shopper's Drug Mart	Luminescence Spa & Yoga Studio	Skoah
Ruth Hanson, Sotheby's	Special Times Out of School	Seymour Nails
Jim Hanson	The Sanctuary Esthetics Studio	Tim Hortons
Port Metro Vancouver	Wafaa Masri	Tea Time
Jolly Meats & Fine Foods	North Shore Pediatric Dentistry	
Bridge Brewery	Helping Hands	
Paul Rickman, Re/max Masters	Maa Yoga	
Starbucks - Dollarton - North	In the Raw...Food for Dogs & Cats Inc.	
Moja Coffee	North Vancouver Rec. Commission	
North Vancouver Child Development Center	Belkin	
Dr. Don Milton, N.S. Children's Dental	Mount Seymour Optometry Clinic	

IMPORTANT DATES

November 10 at 7 PM – All Candidates Meeting (for Councillor candidates)

Location: Mount Seymour United Church

November 15 – Municipal election – Please go and vote!

November 15 at 2 PM – Trails in the Blueridge area (see details separately)

November 15 at 7.30 PM – Wine Tasting (see details separately)

November 18 at 7 PM – Blueridge Community Association meeting at Blueridge Elementary School

Guest Speaker: Local resident Donna Sacuta (on the Blair Rifle Range)

January 13 at 7 PM – Blueridge Community Association meeting at Blueridge Elementary School

March 15 – Scholarship Nomination Deadline

March 24 at 7 PM – Blueridge Community Association meeting at Blueridge Elementary School

Please visit our website at www.blueridgeca.org or contact us at info@blueridgeca.org