



**MurrayRidgeCenter**  
HELPING PEOPLE... FOR A LIFETIME

# The Murray Ridge Courier

October 2012

## Art Appreciation Event at EOVC Showcases Murray Ridge Talent

Art is all around us, and opinions on art can vary from person to person. But regardless of opinion or taste, all can show appreciation for the time, effort, and talent required to create an artistic piece.

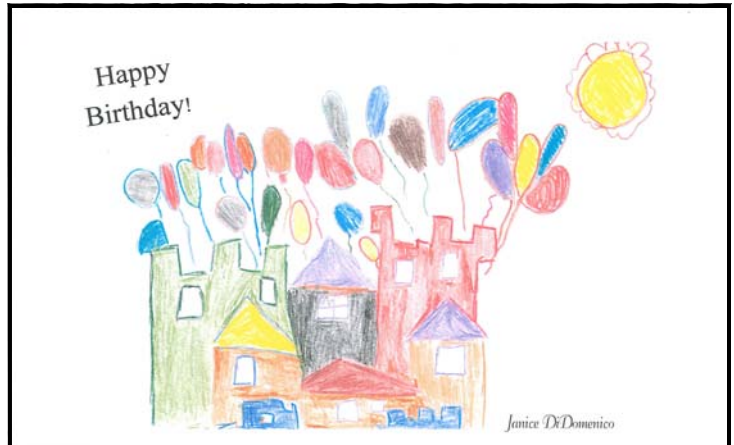
For these reasons, the Murray Ridge Center Elyria Opportunity/Vocational Center (EOVC) decided to bring its budding artists together for an evening of food, fun, and fine arts.

The EOVC's Evening of Art Appreciation was the trial run of what is hoped will be an annual and growing event. On Thursday, September 27, consumers and staff from the EOVC gathered for an evening reception that allowed everyone, including family and special guests, to walk the halls and peruse the amazing artwork created by consumers.

The event tied in with an annual contest whereby consumers are invited to design birthday cards that will be delivered to staff and others throughout the year. The top three card designs are selected at each OVC by both consumers and staff, and each artist whose card is picked is recognized with a certificate of appreciation for his/her work.

A big "thank you" to all the EOVC staff who contributed time and effort to making this inaugural Evening of Art Appreciation a huge success, especially EOVC secretary Betty Hall, who spent countless hours planning and executing the event. "Betty did an excellent job identifying the talent of the consumers and framing the artwork with the right colors to bring out the pictures," said Director of Adult Services Pam Sebastian.

Thank you, Betty! And thank you to all who came to support our Murray Ridge artists.



Winning card (above) created by Janice DiDomenico, an EOVC attendee since 1979. Below, 2nd place card winner, created by Lutz Fazekas, an attendee since 2004.



3rd place winner Kista Atkins (card pictured below) has attended the EOVC since 1982; honorable mention (left) winning card created by Casey West.



Cards made by Murray Ridge Center can be ordered by contacting Trina Albrecht at (440) 284-2720.

# Murray Ridge Center Celebrates National Disabilities Employment Awareness Month

Each October, Murray Ridge celebrates National Disability Employment Awareness Month. We are proud to salute the more than 600 Lorain County citizens with developmental disabilities who are part of the American workforce. Through our supported employment program, job assistance services, and three Opportunity and Vocational Centers, Murray Ridge continues to focus on creating opportunities for program participants to contribute and grow. Within our Community Employment program, hundreds of individuals with developmental disabilities are assisted in choosing, obtaining, and maintaining employment. In total, Murray Ridge Center partners with 100 local businesses to help eligible individuals participate, earn, and achieve through employment.

One participant in our Community Employment Program, Hector Lozano, recently celebrated 20 years of employment at the Sheffield Village Taco Bell. His duties as a Dining Room Host include cleaning and organizing the dining room, restrooms, and parking lot. His manager says that Hector takes great pride in his work and in the appearance of the restaurant, calling Hector a “great employee with perfect attendance” and an “outstanding employee.”

Since his father’s death in 2004, Hector has successfully lived on his own with support from his family and Murray Ridge. He participates in the Murray Ridge Special Olympics and Evening Recreation Program.

Congratulations to Hector, and all of the Lorain County citizens with developmental disabilities who are honored this month!



Hector smiles in front of Taco Bell as he gets ready for another day of work!

## BOARD ROOM BRIEFING

### **The Lorain County Board of DD convened at 12:30 p.m. on September 28, 2012:**

A presentation was given by Director of Service and Support Jeff Neal, regarding the Transition Waiver, a program that will be transferred from The Department of Jobs and Family Services to DODD on January 1, 2013. The Board approved a motion to request that the County Auditor certify the availability of Medicaid match money in the amount of \$2,324,317 for the calendar year 2013. The Board passed a resolution to request that the County Commissioners request the Lorain County Auditor to certify the tax valuation of the county and the dollar amount that would be generated by 1.6875 mills for the purpose of a LCBDD renewal or replacement levy. The Board unanimously established the dollar amount that the Family Support Parent Committee is authorized to approve for the fourth quarter in 2012. A resolution to purchase equipment for the Lorain County Metropolitan Park District’s inclusive playground and general sensory room was passed. In other news, Board President Michelle Hunt was selected to be the delegate for Murray Ridge Center at the upcoming Ohio Association of County Boards delegate assembly, and Superintendent Fisher was selected as the alternate. The 2013 Organizational Meeting date was set for Jan. 25, 2013.



# National Down Syndrome Awareness Month Celebrated at Murray Ridge School

Murray Ridge is celebrating the sixteen students with Down Syndrome who attend Murray Ridge School this October during National Down Syndrome Awareness Month. Teacher Cheryl Bieri, as well as



Murray Ridge School celebrates its students with Down Syndrome during National Down Syndrome Awareness Month. Pictured (top, l-r): Joe Cechura, Tyler Rudolchick, Annessa Pugh, Grant Holbrook, (bottom, l-r): Deja Sherman, Stephanie Jackson, Patrick Boey, Tiffany Demyan, Jasmine Carter, Steven Fosdick, Kyre Beathea.

while providing fun and informative programs for all Murray Ridge School students throughout the month.

Some of the projects that Cheryl Bieri is spearheading include "Down Syndrome fact of the day" on the morning announcements each day, a

display of the 16 school students, and magnets – made by Cheryl herself – that say Down Syndrome Awareness. These magnets were given to each student in the school with Down Syndrome, and are available for purchase later this month at the school's craft bazaar.

The school's National Down Syndrome Awareness month theme, named Campaign 31 for 21 (31 for the number of days in October, and 21 because people with Down Syndrome have an extra portion of chromosome 21 present in all or some of their cells), is aimed at raising awareness of Down Syndrome

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For more information on Down Syndrome and the Campaign 31 for 21, contact Cheryl Bieri at Murray Ridge School, 440.329.3760.

## Murray Ridge Donates Artwork to Community Event

Murray Ridge Center's remarkable artists continue to make appearances throughout Lorain County in October.

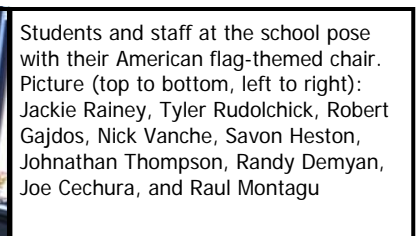
MRC donated two intricately painted chairs to Main Street Amherst's Wine and Brew Review, held on October 6 in Amherst.

Local artists were given furniture to paint, return, and have auctioned off at this annual event. Adult Services and Murray Ridge School were both chosen to represent the Agency, and the results were spectacular!

Thank you to the consumers whose work will now be enjoyed by others throughout the community!



James Klink, who has attended the EOVC since 1983, sketched and painted the entire zebra-themed chair donated to the event. James has been involved in art for many years. His specialty is creating scary Halloween creatures.



Students and staff at the school pose with their American flag-themed chair. Picture (top to bottom, left to right): Jackie Rainey, Tyler Rudolchick, Robert Gajdos, Nick Vanche, Savon Heston, Johnathan Thompson, Randy Demyan, Joe Cechura, and Raul Montagu

## A.V.E.R.T. to Present at National Conference



Tracey Casada (Murray Ridge Center) and Peg Calvey Grignon (Genesis House) hold a poster from a recent class. The ladies made tracings of their own hands and created a board with ways to be kind to each other during class.

The A.V.E.R.T. (Abuse & Violence Education & Recognition Training) Committee has been requested to introduce a new curriculum to victim advocates and professionals at a national conference, Bridging the Gap, which is sponsored by The VERA Institute of Justice in Louisville, Kentucky on November 1st.

The A.V.E.R.T. Project has been a formal community collaboration between Murray Ridge Center and the Genesis House Domestic Violence Center since 2000. The committee is comprised of staff from Murray Ridge Center (Tracey Casada, Susan Craycraft, Jeff Camp, Terri Camp, and Ann Born) and Genesis House (Peg Calvey Grignon, and Darlene Talbert).

Throughout the past years, the A.V.E.R.T. Project has been awarded as a *Promising Practice Program* for its innovative abuse prevention education program curriculum, "The Being Safe Class," by the Office of the Ohio Attorney General. It has also been bestowed the Partnering for Justice award from the Ohio Domestic Violence Network and the former Ohio Coalition Against Sexual Assault.

It's newest curriculum, S.A.S.S.I, SAFE And Strong Successful Individuals, is for women who are survivors of victimization. It is currently being pilot tested at the Elyria OVC. This is the first support group curriculum that has been developed on this issue for women with disabilities in the state of Ohio, and there is no other known curriculum available that addresses this topic. Congratulations to the A.V.E.R.T. members on this honor!

## Murray Ridge Center Welcomes Guests from LCCC

On October 3, Murray Ridge School and the Elyria Opportunity/Vocational Center welcomed guests from LCCC for a tour of our facilities. Pictured, left to right, are Tracy Green, Catherine Worden, Lisa Augustine, Cindy Kushner, Selina Gaddis, Superintendent Fisher, and LCCC President Roy Church.



## New to the LCBDD Crew

Please Welcome the Newest Members of the Murray Ridge Team!



Jenny Soto will be working as a part time group home aide at the East College group home. She is currently studying nursing at LCCC. Jenny has a six-year-old daughter, Amaiya, with whom she enjoys crafting, scrapbooking, and spending time outside. She lives in Avon with her daughter and boyfriend, Cory.

Donna Williams will be working as a part time secretary at the EOVC. She previously worked at the Nordson Corporation for 18 years. She and her husband, Eddie, have three children and four grandchildren. Donna lives in Vermilion and enjoys volunteering, and working as a Sunday school teacher.



**Date**

Nov. 4, 2012

**Time**

Registration: 6:00 a.m.  
Race: 8:00 a.m.

**Register**

ncnracing.com or at the  
Murray Ridge Center  
Fun & Wellness Expo  
Nov. 3, 2012 at  
Murray Ridge School

**Course Records**

Marathon **2:33:25**

Half Marathon **1:09:50**

**Host Hotel**

Elyria Ramada Inn  
1825 Lorain Blvd  
Elyria, OH 44035  
440-324-5411

Hotel offers a group rate that  
includes a Pasta Dinner on  
November 3, 2012.

**Cost**

Marathon \$75  
Half \$40  
5k \$25

*“Boston Starts Here”*

# The Murray Ridge Center 7th Annual Inland Trail Marathon | Half | 5k Elyria, Ohio

*“3<sup>rd</sup> Fastest Qualifier for  
Boston Marathon in U.S.”*

– Runner’s World Magazine

**Awards**

Top 3 Males & Top 3 Females Overall,  
Top 3 Males & Top 3 Females in each Age Division  
Each finisher will receive a commemorative medallion

**Location**

Murray Ridge School, 9750 Murray Ridge Rd., Elyria, OH, 44035

**Course**

The majority of the race takes place on the North Coast Inland Trail

**Features**

T-shirts to pre-registrants



MurrayRidgeCenter

HELPING PEOPLE...FOR A LIFETIME

*“It’s About Time”*

murrayridgecenter.org



Murray Ridge Center presents the

# Fun & Wellness Expo



Check out our booths!

Face and Pumpkin Painting  
Free children's games  
Gymnastics  
Fitness  
Music and Dancing

....and many more!

The Elyria Sherriff's  
Department will be  
creating free child ID  
cards!

Saturday, November 3, 2012

11:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

Murray Ridge School  
9750 Murray Ridge Road, Elyria

Join us for a day of free family fun and wellness that will include food, games, pumpkin painting, and a variety of informational booths from local health, sports, and wellness organizations.

Plus, you will have an opportunity to pre-register or sign up to participate in the Murray Ridge Inland Trail Marathon|Half-marathon|5K on November 4, 2012.



MurrayRidgeCenter

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For more information call 440-329-3734.



# October 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 	5	6
7	8 	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19 	20
21	22	23	24 	25	26 	27
28	29	30	31 			

## Activities and Events

- 10/4 - Murray Ridge Support Group Meeting, EOVC, 4:15 p.m.
- 10/8 - **Agency closed for Columbus Day holiday**
- 10/19 - Murray Ridge Support Group Dance, 7-9 p.m., Murray Ridge School, 9750 Murray Ridge Road in Elyria
- 10/24 - Family Support Parent Committee meeting, 6:00 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmiry Road in Elyria
- 10/26 - **Agency closed for In-Service Day**



## Lunch Menu



Cost Per Day: Youth = \$3.15, Adults = \$3.25

October 9-12  
October 29 - November 2

- Monday**- Salisbury Steak w/Gravy, Scalloped Potatoes, Corn, Peaches, Cookie
- Tuesday**- Turkey or Bologna with Cheese on Wheat Bread, Peas & Carrots, Pears, Nutri-Grain Bar
- Wednesday**- Meat Lasagna, Green Beans, Tossed Salad w/Low fat Dressing, Wheat Bread, Cookie
- Thursday**- Pepperoni & Cheese Pizza, Tossed Salad w/Low fat Dressing, Banana, Nutri-Grain Bar
- Friday**- Fish Patty, French Fries, Cole Slaw, Apple Slices, Wheat Bread, Cookie

October 15-19  
November 5 - 9

- Monday**- Ham, Wheat Bread, Rice Pilaf, Diced Carrots w/Herbs, Applesauce
- Tuesday**- Hamburger on a Bun, Potato Wedges, Corn, Crushed Pineapple, Cookie
- Wednesday**- Chicken Patty w/Gravy, Au Gratin Potatoes, Green Beans, Fruit, Wheat Bread, Cookie
- Thursday**- Pepperoni & Cheese Pizza, Tossed Salad w/Low fat Dressing, Banana, Nutri-Grain Bar
- Friday**- Macaroni & Cheese, Cooked Carrots, Diced Pears, Cookie

October 1-5  
October 22-26

- Monday**- Chicken Patty on a Bun, Potato Rounds, Corn, Crushed Pineapple, Cookie
- Tuesday**- Meat Lasagna, Tossed Salad w/Low fat Dressing, Diced Peaches, Nutri-Grain Bar
- Wednesday**- Rigatoni w/Meatballs, Green Beans, Tossed Salad w/Low fat Dressing, Wheat Bread, Cookie
- Thursday**- Pepperoni & Cheese Pizza, Tossed Salad w/Low fat Dressing, Fresh Fruit, Nutri-Grain Bar
- Friday**- Meat/Cheese Burrito, Spanish Rice, Cole Slaw, Applesauce

Lorain County Board of  
Developmental Disabilities

Murray Ridge Center  
1091 Infirmiry Road  
Elyria, OH 44035

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If you wish to receive future newsletters by email,  
please visit [www.murrayridgecenter.org](http://www.murrayridgecenter.org) and click on  
the Sign Up for Our Email Newsletter link.



## Out and About in Lorain County!

Murray Ridge Center has been busy getting out into the community to promote the amazing people who utilize our services! On September 19, Jennifer Jones was on-air with Big John from WOBL (below). And on September 30, consumers, staff, family, and friends marched in the Woollybear Festival in Vermilion (right)!

