



MurrayRidgeCenter
HELPING PEOPLE... FOR A LIFETIME

The Murray Ridge Courier

December 2014

Local Salon Offers "Day of Beauty" to Three Lucky Consumers

On Friday, November 7, three lucky women from the Elyria Opportunity/Vocational Center were whisked away to The Comfort Zone Salon in Amherst for complimentary makeovers. The services included hair color and/or highlights, haircut, and styles, all completed by the amazing staff at The Comfort Zone.

Owner Molly Born contacted EOVC Program Specialist Tracey Lewis and asked if she knew of any women who might be interested in receiving a day of beauty. Tracey picked three women, Christal McLaughlin, Judy Tesar, and Cindy McGough, who have experienced loss throughout their lives and have difficulties around the holidays.

All three women were surprised and thankful for the opportunity, and reaction to their makeovers was very positive at the EOVC! "When we returned from the workshop, they were like celebrities being surrounded by everyone telling them how wonderful they looked; a few staff were brought to tears," Lewis said. "What a self-esteem booster!"
What a wonderful day, indeed! Each woman left The Comfort Zone feeling a renewed sense of pride, and

the feeling has lasted!

Christal, Judy, and Cindy weren't the only ones affected by their makeovers. "It was an incredible day, for the ladies, myself and the staff at the

Comfort Zone," Tracey said. "We were all changed by the experience. It was amazing...the before and after pictures say it all!"



Christal McLaughlin receives highlights from a stylist at The Comfort Zone.



Our three lucky ladies with before and after pictures from their makeovers at The Comfort Zone Salon & Spa. Pictured left to right are Cindy McGough, Christal McLaughlin, and Judy Tesar. Thank you to the staff at The Comfort Zone Salon & Spa for taking such good care of our EOVC attendees!



MURRAY RIDGE CENTER

CHORALEERS

Book Your Performance!

The Choraleers are prepped and ready to perform!

The Murray Ridge Choraleers have become a popular performing group for concerts, civic clubs, and special events throughout the county. Through singing and entertaining, the Choraleers provide insight into Lorain County citizens with Developmental Disabilities and the programs available at Murray Ridge.

The Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities, commonly known as Murray Ridge Center, has been providing services to individuals with developmental disabilities since 1967. The Board currently serves more than 2,000 Lorain County citizens in Early Intervention, Murray Ridge School, and Opportunity and Vocational Centers. Murray Ridge also provides residential services, family support services, community employment, and Service and Support Administration.

If you are interested in booking a Choraleers performance, please contact Tina Tucker at the Murray Ridge Oberlin Opportunity/Vocational Center at 440.774.7400 or by email at ttucker@murrayridgecenter.org.



MurrayRidgeCenter
HELPING PEOPLE... FOR A LIFETIME

DODD Announces Public Meetings in December on Ohio's Medicaid Waiver Transition Plan

As explained in Superintendent Fisher's article in the September edition of the Courier, the federal Medicaid agency (CMS) will be requiring that waiver recipients (like people enrolled on the IO and Level 1 Waivers) have the opportunity to receive services in more 'community-based' settings.

The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) has scheduled a series of public meetings in December designed to educate the public on the state's current efforts to achieve compliance with new federal Medicaid rules. Also discussed will be the state's draft transition plan that will be submitted to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in the coming weeks.

These meetings are the first such public education events hosted by the Department about the transition plan itself. These are meant to be informational only and are not for the purpose of receiving official public comment on the state's proposed transition plan.

The Department has indicated the Governor's Office of Health Transformation (OHT) will be coordinating the official comment process, and forum attendees will receive instruction on how to submit public comment during the meetings. OACB will also share this information with members as soon as it becomes available.

Meeting Information:

December 2, 2014 from 6:00 pm—8:00 pm

Hamilton County Board of Developmental Disabilities -
Queensgate Office
801 W. 8th Street
Cincinnati, OH 45203

December 6, 2014 from 10:00 am—12:00 pm

Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI)
470 Glenmont Avenue
Columbus, OH 43214

December 9, 2014 from 6:00 pm—8:00 pm

ESC Conference Center
6393 Oak Tree Blvd South
Independence, OH 44131

December 11, 2014 from 5:30 pm—7:30 pm

Athens County Board - Beacon School
801 W. Union Street
Athens, OH 45701

December 17, 2014 from 6:00 pm—8:00 pm

West Toledo Public Library
1320 Sylvania Avenue
Toledo, OH 43612

* All meetings are free and open to the public.

Swimmers Win Big at Tournament!

The Murray Ridge Swim Team put in an impressive performance at the Strongsville State Area Qualifying Swim Meet on November 9th! Final results from the meet: 13 individual gold medals, 3 relay team gold medals, 13 silver medals, and 8 bronze medals! Great job swimmers!



Above: The team smiles before the big tournament, Back Row: Coach Brian Chutes, Katie Kellogg, Martha Lombeida, Amy Trigilio, James Peters, Kyle Young, Lutz Fazekas, Coach Anne Born. Middle Row: Sarah Ward, Joann Gall, Stephanie Budwig, Michael Elliott, Michael Urban, Dustin Mitchell, Coach Noreen Romano. Front Row: Coach Sean Morris, Sally Gordon, Kevin Plata, Kenny Martin, Doreen Alaksa, Richard Smith, Alicia Ticconi, Jennifer Moccabee. Not pictured: Ryan Eliason. Left: Gold medalist in the 4x50 relay - Mike Urban, Ryan Eliason, Ken Martin, Kevin Plata.

Welcome to "The Crew"



The Crew at Murray Ridge School held its annual induction ceremony on November 19.

The Crew is a pre-vocational work program for soon-to-be transitioning students at Murray Ridge School. It was developed as a way to provide real world work experience, and takes students through each phase of the process: completing an application, preparing for an official interview, being offered and accepting a job, job training, performing the job, and completing responsibilities in order to maintain good work status.



Above: Shawn McCaffrey gets his new Crew shirt from Julie Kraker. Right, Danny Bader sings the national anthem with microphone help from Crew director Nick Kish.

Teacher Nick Kish developed this program five years ago to help Murray Ridge School staff provide students with a sense of responsibility and pride in their work, resulting in increased self esteem, social appropriateness, being part of a team, and an opportunity to give back to their school community.

"It is a total team effort to best prepare our students for life after graduation," Kish said. "The students gain the necessary skills to be contributing members of our community."

This year, 70 students were inducted at the Crew Ceremony; 32 jobs were available, including 8 community-based enclaves. Other teachers and staff are very much involved in helping to train the students to do their jobs, be on time, and assist them in any way they need.

"This program is probably the most complete vocational training program in any school around," said Director of Education Dann Swift. "It's on the cutting edge of Employment initiative4."

Congratulations to the new Crew team members, and best of luck with your new jobs this year!

MISSING

Please be on the lookout for a missing Murray Ridge Center adult program participant!

Name: Aaron Zimmerman

Age: 26

Last seen: At his family home in Lorain the morning of November 14, 2014

If you have any information, please call the Lorain Police Department or 440-381-2137.

If you see Aaron Zimmerman, please call 9-1-1 immediately!

Thank you for your help.



Important Weather-Related Announcements

Murray Ridge program closing information will be available on TV station Fox 8, on the Fox 8 website fox8.com, and on radio stations WEOL 930 AM and WOBL 1320 AM, as it has in the past. **There will be two separate listings for Murray Ridge Center:**

- **Murray Ridge—Adult Activities Centers**
- **Murray Ridge School**

Parents and caregivers of school students should disregard the "Murray Ridge—Adult Activities Centers" listing, and follow only the listing for "Murray Ridge School." Conversely, adult consumers who attend our Opportunity/Vocational Centers and their parents/caregivers should disregard the "Murray Ridge School" listing, and follow only the listing for "Murray Ridge—Adult Activities Centers."

If "Open—No Transportation" follows the announcement for "Murray Ridge—Adult Activities Centers," parents/caregivers are welcome to transport adult consumers to their day service sites. Regular programming will be provided. Consumers should be dropped off no earlier than 8:30 a.m. and must be picked up by 3:45 p.m.

In the event of bad weather, the decision to transport individuals to Murray Ridge Center will be based on the ability of our buses to travel safely on city and county roads. Regardless of whether or not transportation is available through Murray Ridge Center, if our Opportunity/Vocational Centers are open, but there is an individual concern about the weather, adult consumers should feel free to stay home. Likewise, parents/caregivers of Murray Ridge School students who have individual concerns regarding the weather should feel free to keep their child at home.

Please be aware that transportation to enclave sites is generally available even if transportation to the Opportunity/Vocational Centers is cancelled. Murray Ridge Center does not broadcast the status of enclave transportation on the television or radio. Consumers should assume that enclave transportation will be available unless they receive a phone call from a member of our Community Employment program.

First Student bus company can be reached at 288-2222

Turkey Times at Murray Ridge School

Murray Ridge School prepared for Thanksgiving in a unique and fun way - a Turkey Bowl and Turkey Pin Decorating Contest!

On November 21, classes paired up and competed in a head-to-head bowling match in the MRS gymnasium. Kristen Marunski's senior class won the battle!

Additionally, each class at the school decorated bowling pins in a Thanksgiving theme for teachers and staff to vote on; winning classes were Gary Hawke's senior class, Erin Mason's intermediate class, and Kristin Dickerhoff's primary class. Congratulations to all our winners!



Left: Decorated bowling pins on display. Above: Jaydon Smith and teacher Erin Mason at the Turkey Bowl.



The need is constant.
The gratification is instant.
Give blood.



**American
Red Cross**

Murray Ridge Road Blood Drive

Lorain County Sheriff's Office - 9896 Murray Ridge Road
Public Lobby Entrance

Thursday, December 11, 2014

12:00 pm - 5:00 pm

To commit to donation or for questions call:
Capt. Jack Hammond at 440-329-3734

redcrossblood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS

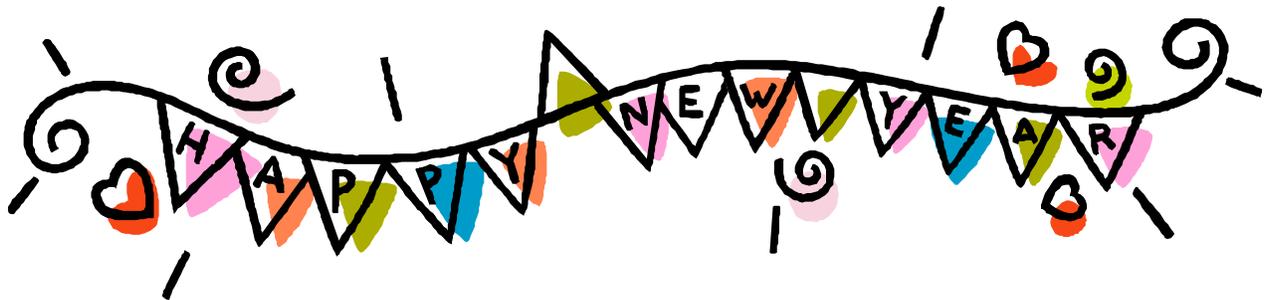
© 2010 The American National Red Cross, Mid-America #03953 Oct. 2010

December 2014

Activities & Events

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 			

- 12/3 - Family Support Parent Committee meeting, 6:00 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmiry Road in Elyria
- 12/11- LCBDD Finance Committee meeting, 12:00 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmiry Road, Elyria
- 12/11 - Murray Ridge Support Group Meeting, EOVC, 4:15 p.m.
- 12/12 - Murray Ridge Support Group Dance, 7-9 p.m., Murray Ridge School, 9750 Murray Ridge Road in Elyria
- 12/19 - Regular Meeting of the Board and Ethics Council, 12:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmiry Road in Elyria, 6:00 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmiry Road in Elyria
- 12/22 - 1/4/15 - **Murray Ridge School closed for winter break**
- 12/24, 25, 26, 29, 30, 31 **Agency closed for winter holiday**



BOARD ROOM BRIEFING

The Lorain County Board of DD convened at 12:30 p.m. on November 21, 2014:

Superintendent Amber Fisher provided an update on Murray Ridge Special Olympics programs and the Community Education and Supported Employment Marketing campaigns. Superintendent Fisher also updated the Board on developments related to the new CMS rule. The 2015 budget was approved, as submitted. Twenty-four additional Medicaid Waiver Enrollments were discussed and approved. In other news, Board President Michelle Hunt was chosen as the Agency delegate to the upcoming Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) delegate assembly. The Murray Ridge Support Group announced a donation of 40 \$100 gift certificates that will be handed out to families in need this holiday season. The Inland Trail Marathon was a great success; many thanks to all who volunteered!

Lorain County Board of
Developmental Disabilities

Murray Ridge Center
1091 Infirmary Road
Elyria, OH 44035

Standard Presort
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 146
Elyria, OH 44035

Return Service Requested



Exceptional Service Award

Do you know a Murray Ridge employee whose work efforts reflect remarkable dedication and have significantly contributed to the well being of people with developmental disabilities? Nominate that employee for an Exceptional Service Award! If you are a community member; consumer; or parent, guardian, sibling or other relative of a Murray Ridge program participant, submit your nomination to Jennifer Judkins, Public Relations/Volunteer Director. Include a brief paragraph outlining your reasons for nominating the employee. All nominations will be forwarded to the Board for consideration. The Board presents Exceptional Service Awards on a quarterly basis at regular scheduled meetings, usually held on the last Friday of each month at 12:30 p.m. in the Board Room. If you have any questions, contact Jenn Judkins at 440-329-3734 or jjudkins@murrayridgecenter.org.

Work at the Ridge!

Check out our website
www.murrayridgecenter.org to see
our open positions!

**Murray Ridge Center
wishes all Lorain
County
residents a
safe and
joyous
holiday
season,
and best
wishes for a wonderful
new year!**



If you wish to receive future newsletters by email, please visit www.murrayridgecenter.org and click on the Sign Up for Our Email Newsletter link.