



MurrayRidgeCenter  
HELPING PEOPLE...FOR A LIFETIME

# The Murray Ridge Courier

July 2019

## Avon Duck Tape Parade Kicks Off Summer Season

A group from the Lorain Opportunity/Vocational Center (LOVC) recently participated in the Avon Heritage Duck Tape Festival Parade. The festive decorations of the Murray Ridge float certainly captured the tasty theme of this year's parade, 'Sweet 16.'

Murray Ridge also received the parade's Legend Award trophy given to a group who has participated in five or more Avon Heritage Duck Tape Festival parades. From those groups eligible a winner is chosen by the parade committee and/or judges. Committee members indicated that they've always been pleased that Murray Ridge Center chooses to participate in the parade each year.



Shown at this year's Duck Tape Parade are (from left): Rovinson Villafane, Gregory Weller, Zuleyka Perez, Hector Lozano, Amanda Spreng, John Armstrong, Katie Kellogg, Robert McFadden, and Tracy Horn.

**Did you know that individuals on Medicaid who need assistance with activities of daily living such as bathing and dressing can access (through use of the Medicaid card) up to 14 hours per week of Home Health Aide or Nursing services? This year in the *Murray Ridge Courier*, we are profiling the various State Plan Home Health providers that work with individuals with developmental disabilities in Lorain County. For more information about services covered with the Medicaid card ('Medicaid State Plan services'), see the Ohio Department of Medicaid's website at [Medicaid.ohio.gov](http://Medicaid.ohio.gov) or contact the Murray Ridge Service and Support Administration (SSA) Department at (440) 324-2366.**

### Spotlight on . . .

## Maxim Home Healthcare Services - Ohio

Maxim Healthcare Services is an established leader in home healthcare, behavioral care, healthcare staffing, personal caregiving, and population health and wellness services across the United States. As a recognized provider of a comprehensive suite of services, we have been making a difference in the lives of our employees, caregivers, and patients for 30 years. Our home healthcare locations and divisions deliver a comprehensive level of care in the comfort of patients' homes. We provide home healthcare services for adult, senior, and pediatric patients with a variety of conditions and needs. Our caregivers will work with the patient, family and physician to implement a plan of care that promotes quality through management assessments and progress updates. Contact your local office today to learn more.

Some of our areas of expertise include: skilled medical care, private duty nursing, pediatric nursing, school nursing, pediatric services and behavioral support services.

*Submitted by Colin Petty, Operations Manager*

*(440) 617-9559 / [copetty@maxhealth.com](mailto:copetty@maxhealth.com)*



# Special Olympics State Summer Games

Congratulations to the 47 athletes who represented Murray Ridge Center at the recent Special Olympics State Summer Games held in Columbus on June 28-30.

The athletes competed in Bocce, Volleyball (Modified and Traditional), Soccer, Tennis, and Track and brought back one State Championship, several medals and other honors.

Look for full State Summer Games results in the August issue of the *Murray Ridge Courier*.

## Murray Ridge Raiders State Champion Modified Volleyball Squad



Front row (l-r): **Coach Rick Rovere, Kim Herman** (holding trophy), **Chad Kothe, Megan Craig, Jeffrey Torres, Douglas McCartney** and **Ryan Brown**. Back row (l-r), **Joe Bellottie, Eric Johnson** (partially obscured by trophy), **Coach Jen Coleman, Kurt Caris**.



**Special Olympics**  
Ohio



Pictured front left are Bocce Bronze Medalists **Pamela McClain** and **Charity Anderson**. Behind with caps are 4th place winners **Alexshawn Averett** and **Tim Stewart**. Right are **Maria Poling** and **Wendy Smitkowski** who took 5th place honors.



Cleveland Browns offensive lineman **Austin Corbett** (left) took in the action at the Special Olympics State Summer Games this past weekend, and posed for a photo with Murray Ridge Volleyball Coach and staff member **Rick Rovere**.

**MURRAY RIDGE TO SPONSOR COUNTY-WIDE SELF-ADVOCACY EVENT**

# Find Your Voice

**Learn about speaking up for yourself  
so that others listen!**

*Join Murray Ridge for an evening of inspiration, food, fun and prizes.*

*Listen to Guest Speakers talk about advocacy and employment.*

*Listen to local self advocates talk about their experiences.*

*Hear inspiring stories about how others are achieving their goals and dreams.*

**ENJOY A FREE TACO BAR AND DESSERT.**

**WIN A T-SHIRT! WIN A TRIP TO STIR TRAINING! TAKE HOME A BUCKET OF FUN!**

**Who:** Adult Lorain County Residents with Developmental Disabilities

**When:** Thursday, August 22 from 6-8 p.m. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

**Where:** Spitzer Center at Lorain County Community College

1005 N. Abbe Rd, Elyria Ohio 44035

**SPEAK UP!  
SPEAK OUT!**



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**Registration is required.**  
*Please contact Corry Ritzert at  
440-324-2366 to register.*

# Planes, Plays and Princesses



**RIGHT:** The Elyria Opportunity/Vocational Center (EOVC) recently raised \$300 to donate to Sharon's Signers, a sign language choir for people with disabilities which performs frequently at EOVC and which was also planning a trip to perform at Disney World. Shown (top right) is a scene from the group's most recent performance at EOVC -- 'Peter Pan.' Pictured below right is program participant **Jesse Frisch** (center) presenting the donation,



**LEFT:** Several program participants from the Lorain Opportunity/Vocational Center are shown during a tour of the Liberty Aviation Museum in Port Clinton. Saluting is **Mason Klusek** and posing in front of a vintage plane are (from left): **Carl Jeans, Daylan Bodiford, Robert Serrano and Bobby Farmer.**



The 2019 Lorain International Festival Princesses recently visited the Lorain Opportunity/Vocational Center (LOVC). Each area of the facility was decorated to represent a different country, and the visiting princesses toured the facility, posed for pictures and joined in on a special LOVC Dance Party.

Pictured with the touring princesses are LOVC program participants **Alexshawn Averett** and **Julianne Sobol** (center).

## Ohio Library for the Blind & Physically Disabled

Provided by the Cleveland Public Library, The Ohio Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled (OLBPD) is available to any Ohio resident or Ohioan living abroad who is unable to read or use standard print materials as a result of a temporary or permanent visual, physical or neurological limitation. Braille and audio materials are circulated to eligible borrowers in the State of Ohio by postage-free mail. Interested parties may request an application from the OLBPD, the State Library of Ohio, as well as most public libraries. Applications are also available at the OLBPD website at <http://olbpd.cpl.org>.



## Communication Disability Law

According to a recent article in the *Mansfield News Journal*, Ohio drivers or passengers who suffer from diagnosed communication disabilities now have an extra layer of protection during traffic stops. Since August, 2018, Ohio has a '**Communication Disability Law**,' which allows individuals diagnosed with certain communication disabilities to have that condition registered with the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles. This law covers people on the autism spectrum, those who can't hear well, and those who become easily confused or have other disabilities that alter their interactions with other humans. Officers making traffic stops are immediately notified through a database if an affiliated vehicle is pulled over.

## Q & A Corner

**As the system for serving people with developmental disabilities evolves, those eligible for services and their family members may have many questions. Below are answers to a couple of questions that have arisen.**

### Q. What are 'participant-directed' supports?

**A.** Participant-directed supports are available through the Medicaid waivers that are administered by county boards of developmental disabilities; these waivers include the Individual Options Waiver, the Level I Waiver, and the SELF Waiver. (There is a waiting list for these waivers.)

There are two types of 'participant-directed' supports:

Participant-Directed Goods and Services (PDGS) is a support category that is only available through the SELF Waiver. Providers of PDGS (which may include services, equipment, supplies, etc. that are not available through the Medicaid State Plan and are not covered under another SELF Waiver support category) do not need certification from Medicaid or the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD). Every county board of developmental disabilities must approve or deny requested PDGS based upon the DODD rule and uniform guidelines, including the requirement that PDGS "are a medical necessity supported by the results of the person's assessment."

Participant-Directed Homemaker Personal Care (PDHPC) is a support category that is available through the Individual Options Waiver, the Level I Waiver, and the SELF Waiver. Providers of PDHPC (which may include assistance with daily living, decision making, accessing community, accessing medical/health care services, etc.) do need certification from Medicaid and the DODD; however, for PDHPC providers, waiver recipients may choose to negotiate rates other than the standard 'rule rates' for Homemaker Personal Care, and for Independent Providers of PDHPC may waive certain DODD certification requirements.

### Q. With regard to 'participant-directed' supports, what is the role of the state-appointed financial management agency?

**A.** Morning Sun is the financial management agency that has been designated by DODD to process PDGS and employ Independent providers of PDHPC.

All PDGS are paid for through Morning Sun. Morning Sun also orders the equipment and supplies, and sends the items to SELF Waiver recipients.

Independent Providers of PDHPC must submit employment applications (completed together with the waiver recipients they will serve) to and be hired by Morning Sun; the county board must confirm that a PDHPC Independent Provider has been hired by Morning Sun before adding the services to be delivered by the provider to the ISP. The provider/Morning Sun employee must submit service documentation and timesheets signed by the waiver recipient/designee to Morning Sun in order to receive payment for services.

**For more information on requirements related to self-directed support, see Ohio Administrative Code sections 5123-9-32 and 5123-9-45.**



If you are a Lorain County resident with developmental disabilities or a family member/advocate of an eligible individual and have unanswered questions, we would like to have the opportunity to address your concerns in person. In the month of July, Superintendent Fisher has set aside 7/11 and 7/25 for individual meetings with LCBDD-eligible individuals and/or their family members; appointments will be available from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on those dates. To schedule your meeting, please contact Michelle Trupo, Administrative Assistant, at (440) 329-3734. Additional opportunities for meetings will be available throughout the year.

## Arabian Nights and Birthday Greetings

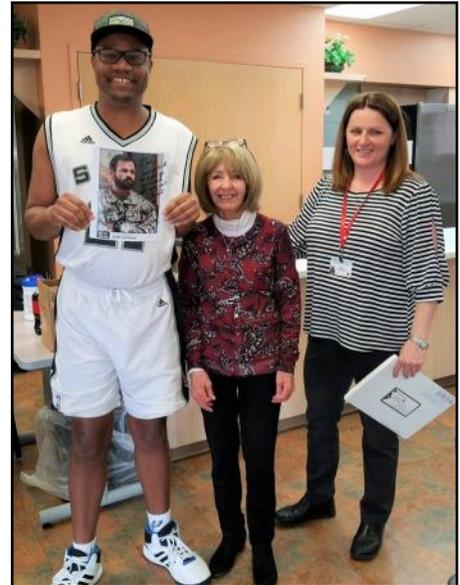
### Prom Memory



**LEFT:** "Arabian Nights" was the theme of this year's Murray Ridge School Prom. Getting into the spirit of the evening was student **Brandon Rivera**.

**RIGHT:** **Mark Oliveras** from the Elyria Opportunity/Vocational Center (EOVC) was recently surprised by a special birthday message and gift from actor Judd Lormand who stars as Lt. Commander Eric Blackburn on one of Mark's favorite TV shows, SEALTeam. Mark received a SEAL Team hat, an autographed photo and a handwritten note from the actor. Pictured with Mark are EOVC staff members **Mary Shimer** (center) and **Judy Hartung** who helped arrange the special surprise and presented the gift to Mark.

### Seal Team Fan



## Thank You, Mega Championship Wrestling



Several weeks ago, Mega Championship Wrestling held its 9<sup>th</sup> Annual 'Breaking Down Barriers' fundraiser for Murray Ridge Center and raised more than \$1,600 to assist Murray Ridge in helping residents of Lorain County with developmental disabilities and their families. Murray Ridge staff member – and former Mega Championship Wrestling star – Jim 'Mad Dog' Nagy presented the generous donation at a recent board meeting, noting that these popular family-friendly wrestling events have raised almost \$15,000 since they began back in 2011. Pictured (from left) are: **Jim Nagy**, Nagy's son, **Andrew**, and **Board President Robert Gajdos**.



## Nominations Sought for Exceptional Service Awards

***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 Chris Vasco, Community Education/Volunteer Director. Please 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. If you have any questions, contact Chris at (440) 329-3734 or [cvasco@murrayridgecenter.org](mailto:cvasco@murrayridgecenter.org)***



# July 2019

## 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			

- 7/4 - Independence Day Observed - Agency Closed
- 7/11- Sheffield Lake Community Days Parade
- 7/17 - Family Support Parent Committee meeting , 6:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road in Elyria

**PLEASE NOTE:  
No Board Meeting in July**



### BOARD ROOM BRIEFING

#### The Lorain County Board of DD convened at 6:30 p.m. on June 24, 2019:

Murray Ridge Program Specialist Jim Nagy (retired wrestler 'Mad Dog Manson') and his son Andrew presented a check for the Friends of Murray Ridge in the amount of \$1,610, proceeds from Breaking Down Barriers IX which was held on May 4, 2019; Breaking Down Barriers, an annual family-friendly wrestling event put on by Mega Championship Wrestling (MCW) for the benefit of Lorain County residents with developmental disabilities, was initiated more than nine years ago and, in addition to providing much appreciated financial support to the Friends of Murray Ridge, is eagerly awaited and attended by many members of the Murray Ridge family each year. Board member Dan White announced that the Board Award Committee had selected a nominated Murray Ridge employee to receive the next quarterly Exceptional Service Award. The Board unanimously passed revisions to the policy on Federally Funded Grants, as well as four new policies related to procurement and management of federally funded grants. The Board also unanimously approved the initiation of Medicaid waiver enrollments that were originally planned for CY 2020, immediately upon completion of the required/standardized assessments of every individual who was on the county's waiver waiting list prior to the (09/01/2018) effective date of the current waiting list rule; at this time, it is anticipated that these assessments will be completed by 09/01/2019, four months ahead of schedule.

Lorain County Board of  
Developmental Disabilities

Murray Ridge Center  
1091 Infirmary Road  
Elyria, OH 44035

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## Work at the Ridge

Anyone looking for a rewarding career should consider working with or on behalf of local citizens with developmental disabilities. While we're fortunate to have hundreds of skilled and dedicated employees presently on our team, a variety of excellent full and part-time opportunities are available at Murray Ridge throughout the year.

Opportunities range from critically important roles as direct service professionals, to a wide variety of other professional and support roles. Whether you come to us right out of school – are looking to make a career change – or are a retiree looking for a position with flexible hours, why not consider joining the Murray Ridge team?

**For the latest job opportunities, visit our website at [murrayridgecenter.org](http://murrayridgecenter.org).** You may find something that is just right for you, and a chance for a rewarding job that makes an important difference in the lives of others.

## News You Can Use

### Second Harvest Summer Mobile Food Pantry

The Second Harvest Mobile Food Pantry is a source in the community for fresh, nutritious food. To utilize the Mobile Food Pantry, households must be income eligible; picture ID and proof of residency are required.

For the full summer Mobile Food Pantry schedule and more information on Second Harvest Food Bank go to [secondharvestfoodbank.org](http://secondharvestfoodbank.org).

### National Down Syndrome Society 'Buddy Walk'

The 2019 Buddy Walk will take place Saturday, August 24 from 7 a.m.-12 noon at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo and Palava Hut. For more information or to register, go to [usod.org](http://usod.org).