



MurrayRidgeCenter  
HELPING PEOPLE...FOR A LIFETIME

# The Murray Ridge Courier

August 2019

## Special Olympics Tennis Squad Brings Home Gold, Silver



The Murray Ridge Raiders Special Olympics Squad had a successful trip to Columbus for the State Games bringing home 30 medals in total. Pictured left are (l-r) Tennis Gold Medal winners (and State Champions) **Michael Cooper**, **Victor Elder** and **Andrew Prihoda**, with Silver Medalist **David Zsigray**. Congratulations to the Raiders Tennis Team and **Coach Starr Price** for a great showing in Columbus. *See full State Special Olympics Games results below.*

**Congratulations again to all the Murray Ridge athletes who took part in the State Special Olympics Games in Columbus several weeks ago. The team brought back 11 Gold Medals, 14 Silver, 5 Bronze, as well as one 4th place finish, 3 fifth place finishes and 1 sixth place finish. Well done, Raiders!**



### Bocce Teams:

Alexshawn Averett/Tim Stewart	4th Place
Maria Poling/Wendy Smitkowski	5th Place
Charity Anderson/Pamela McClain	3rd Place
(Bronze Medalists)	

**Soccer Team:** 2nd Place Silver Medalists

**Modified Volleyball:** 1st Place State Champions

**Traditional Volleyball:** 2nd Place Silver Medalists

### Tennis/Doubles:

Andrew Prihoda/David Zsigray	2nd Place
Michael Cooper/Victor Elder	2nd Place

### Tennis/Singles:

Andrew Prihoda	1st Place State Champion
David Zsigray	2nd Place Silver Medalist
Michael Cooper	1st Place State Champion
Victor Elder	1st Place State Champion

### Track and Field:

#### 4x400 Relay

Alicia Lawrence, Austin Turner,	
Bill Lacko, Bryon Ragin	2nd Place Silver Medalist

#### 4x100 Relay

Elena Reinhold, Sarah Ward,	
Mark Lacko, Kayla Stearns	1st Place State Champions

### Individual Events:

Tom Dammeyer	5th Shotput/5th 400M Dash
Lutz Fazekas	6th Shotput/3rd 200M Dash
Sally Gordon	3rd Standing Long Jump/2nd 100MDash
Kevin Johnson	1st Shotput/2nd Standing Long Jump
Bill Lacko	1st Shotput/2nd 200M Dash
Austin Turner	3rd 400M Dash/5th Mini Javelin
Sarah Ward	1st Shotput/2nd 200M Dash
Mark Lacko	2nd Shotput/3rd 200M Dash
Alicia Lawrence	1st Standing Long Jump/3rd 200M Dash
Kayla Stearns	1st 100M Dash/4th Mini Javelin
Bryon Ragin	1st 200M Dash/2nd Shotput
Elena Reinhold	2nd Mini Javelin/3rd 100M Dash

## Murray Ridge Housing Corp. Sponsors Crushers Event



The Murray Ridge Housing Corporation (MRHC) sponsored an event for tenants of its homes at the July 18 Lake Erie Crushers game at Sprenger Stadium. More than 160 tenants, staff members, and caregivers attended the game, where they cheered on the Crushers to a 9-2 victory against the Florence Freedom. Shown above is **Robert Kerpics** celebrating after having the honor of throwing out the ceremonial first pitch. Tenants and staff received admission to the game, food, and a t-shirt. The event was sponsored by Midwest Siding, Geisel Heating & Air, Schlather Insurance, Yuhasz Builders, Sellers Concrete, and Premier Printing.

## Oberlin College 'Credo' Musicians Visit OOVC



Young musicians from the Oberlin College 'Credo' program once again entertained program participants and staff at the Oberlin Opportunity/Vocational Center (OOVC). Credo is an intensive program which brings students from around the world here to study at the Oberlin Conservatory - preparing the students musically, personally, and spiritually for a life of music and service.

## Open Door Christian School Conducts Cheer Camp



At the end of June, Open Door Christian Schools cheer coach, Dawn Daniels held a free, four-day cheer camp for adults with disabilities. Participants learned cheers and dance routines alongside student cheerleaders from Open Door. There was a showcase on the last day of camp where the participants performed for an audience to show all they had learned. It was a fun and enjoyable experience for all involved. Pictured left are **Torie Ambers** and **Katie Coleman** learning from the student cheerleaders. Above (l-r) are **Zoey Moore**, **Alyssa DeAngelis**, and **Katie Coleman**.





**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.*

## Murray Ridge Preschool Earns 5-Star Award



The Murray Ridge Preschool Program recently earned a 5-Star rating for meeting the quality standards established by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and the Ohio Department of Education. **Step Up to Quality** is a Five-Star Tiered Quality Rating and Improvement system created to recognize and promote early learning and development programs that meet quality standards over and above the health and safety licensing requirements.

Murray Ridge Preschool offers students with a variety of developmental disabilities the advantages of in-room therapies, an array of state-of-the-art equipment, outstanding staff, and an opportunity to learn alongside typically developing peers.

The Preschool Program runs Tuesday through Friday. Children with disabilities must be referred to the Murray Ridge Preschool Program by their local school districts. Applications for typically developing children are available through Murray Ridge School. For more information, contact **Dann Swift**, Director of Educational Services at (440) 329-3760.

## Sheffield Lake Parade 'Summer Shenanigans'



Murray Ridge Center once again participated in the Sheffield Lake Parade, which this year featured the fun theme of 'Summer Shenanigans.' Pictured are: Standing, l-r, staff member **Sharri Wilson**, **Diane Pasa**, staff member **Brittney Seitz**, **Tim Quisenberry**, **Alyssa DeAngelis**, **Torie Ambers**, **Michael Elliott**, and **Mike Hawley**. Front, l-r, are **Carlton Mitchell** and **Ann Wester**. Seated in the van is staff member **Tyler Robinson**. Not pictured are **Tim Mack**, staff member **Tracey Carroll** and **Katherine Lightner**.



## Supported Employment Worker Recognized in JFS Newsletter

Congratulations to supported employment worker **Dorian Chaffin** on being featured in a recent Lorain County Job & Family Services (JFS) staff newsletter. According to his Vocational Placement Specialist **Jasmine Stafford**, JFS staff loves Dorian so much that they attend all his basketball games, gave him Christmas presents, and met his parents.



"To the line... to the lane...  
Dorian with the scoop for 2!"

~ Joe Remaklus



### Meet Dorian:

Dorian is our friendly and always cheerful help here at the agency. He loves basketball and plays on a basketball team at Murray Ridge as some of you might already know from attending his games on Saturday mornings.

His smile and personality are so bright; he has made such an impact here at the agency. The Corporate Challenge basketball team decided to name their team after him: Dorian's Fan Club.

Next time you see him say hello and check out his shoes, he's got shoes for everyday of the month!

By Jackie Tomaszewski



## Consumer Profile — Meet Melissa 'Missy' Skidmore

Missy is a kind and accomplished woman who is supported to live the life she chooses. **Missy's Service and Support Administrator (SSA), Sandy Desai, who is an employee of Murray Ridge Center, assists her with development of an Individual Service Plan** that identifies the supports Missy needs to be happy and healthy, and the providers of her various services. **Sandy also monitors Missy's services**, and helps her to keep her plan up-to-date as her needs and desires change. Missy's services are funded through **Medicaid**, and **'local match money' is used by Murray Ridge** to 'pull down' the federal Medicaid funds.

Missy has lived in small group settings in Lorain County since 2004, and recently moved into a new home in Amherst. Her SSA coordinated necessary bathroom modifications in the new home to enable Missy to remain as independent as possible. Missy lives with three friends, and their **landlord is Murray Ridge Housing Corporation (MRHC)**. **Missy receives supports in her home through Our Lady of the Wayside (OLW)**, an organization that has served local residents with developmental disabilities for more than fifty years. OLW assists Missy with life tasks such as cooking, cleaning, personal care, keeping medical appointments and following doctor's recommendations.



Missy gives a 'thumbs up' in her new bedroom.



Missy and housemate at Cavs game.

Missy enjoys family style meals, and loves to cook for herself and her housemates. She also loves to be out and about, and **OLW supports her to engage in many activities in the community**. She stays fit by working out at a local gym several days a week. Missy particularly enjoys going shopping, to parks, out to eat, to concerts, to Cedar Point, to the Cleveland Zoo, to casinos, to baseball games, and bowling. Her favorite thing this past year was seeing the Backstreet Boys in concert!



Missy poses at Cedar Point.



Missy at holiday event.

On weekdays, **Missy attends a day program operated by**



Missy dressed for Halloween.

**Creative Enrichment Centers of Ohio (CECO)**. Missy has attended CECO since 2010 and has made many friends there that are important to her. Missy reports that, at her day program, she enjoys arts and crafts, computer programs, games, exercising, socializing and learning life skills. CECO also assists Missy to volunteer at a local food pantry, and to engage in a variety of activities in the community.

Missy thrives on spending time with **family and friends**. She visits with her mother regularly, and also enjoys visiting other family members who live nearby, particularly her nieces and nephews. Missy also loves to help others, and to be a good friend. She is described as someone who "always goes that extra mile to see how you are doing and is genuinely interested in your life."

According to Missy's SSA, she regularly reports how much she enjoys her life. We at Murray Ridge are very happy for her!

# August 2019

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Thu

Fri

Sat

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25	26 	27	28 	29	30	31

## Activities & Events

- 8/11- North Ridgeville Corn Festival Parade, 1:30 p.m.
- 8/14- LCBDD Finance Committee meeting, 12:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria
- 8/21- Murray Ridge School—First Day for Students
- 8/26- Regular Meeting of the Board and Ethics Council, 6:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria
- 8/28- Family Support Parent Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road in Elyria



## 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)***



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



## 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

**Adapted Fitness And Yoga Plus LLC** offers adapted wellness and fitness classes (and more!) for individuals with disabilities and their families. Adapted FYP was established in 2017 by Owner/Instructor Angela Siciliano. After teaching adapted aerobics since 2004 and having worked in the direct care field serving individuals with disabilities, Angela decided to start her own business teaching wellness and fitness classes for this special population. **REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR ALL FALL SESSIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING CLASSES:**

\*Adapted Aerobics

\*Family/Partner Yoga

\*Adapted Yoga

\*Beginner Basic Yoga for Parents & Everyone

\*Westlake Wellness Kids Yoga

For more information on each class check the Events section on the Adapted Fitness and Yoga Plus Facebook page or go to [adaptedfyp.com](http://adaptedfyp.com).