



MurrayRidgeCenter  
HELPING PEOPLE...FOR A LIFETIME

# The Murray Ridge Courier

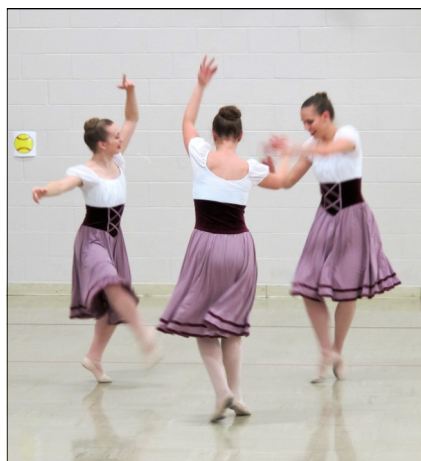
December 2018

## Murray Ridge School Begins its Holiday Season With a Performance of 'The Nutcracker'

Dancers from North Pointe Ballet in North Ridgeville recently visited Murray Ridge School to perform selections from the holiday classic, 'The Nutcracker' for students and staff.

Shown (at right) are featured North Pointe Ballet performer, **Theresa Holland** (as the 'Sugar Plum Fairy') with students **Alexis Throckmorton** (top) and **Stephanie Jackson** (below).

Also, on December 1, several Murray Ridge students participating in the A Chance to Dance Program took the stage to perform with North Pointe Ballet during a special 'sensory-friendly' version of 'The Nutcracker' at the Lorain Palace Theater. This performance was designed to increase access and inclusion for our community's children and families affected by Autism Spectrum Disorders and other sensory, social, and cognitive disabilities.





## School Field Trip Features Therapeutic Horsemanship

Ms. Amy Daniels's and Ms Kristen Marunski's classes went horseback riding at Boots to Grasses Therapeutic Horsemanship Program on Wednesday November 14<sup>th</sup>. Boots to Grasses, in Berlin Heights, offers therapeutic riding to individuals with disabilities. They graciously agreed to allow the 16 students to come and learn all about their horses, pet the horses, and receive a free ride.

Every student was able to ride, no matter their abilities, and the students had an absolute blast. The staff at Boots to Grasses were knowledgeable and extremely welcoming and generous to our students. We cannot thank everyone enough for making this possible, especially our Physical Therapist, Becky Farmer, for arranging such a fun experience.



Above: **Sophia Hicks**; Below: **Bentley Spooner**  
Below left (riding): **Rayen Seagers**



## Thanksgiving Fun at Murray Ridge School and Preschool



Kristin Dickerhoff's class at Murray Ridge School got in the Thanksgiving spirit in many ways.

Shown at left, **Daniel Vazquez** displays his colorful dish of Turkey Waffles.

At right, 'Pilgrims' **Quinn Tompkins** and **Audrey Sighman** prepare to land the Mayflower at Plymouth Rock.



## Weather-Related Announcements Reminder

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**

**REMINDER: Last year there was a change made as to how the information for our Adult Activities Centers is displayed by Fox 8 on its website and on television.**

- **On fox8.com**, the information will be under the 'Daycare' tab in the School Closings section.
- **On Channel 8**, information about the status of our Adult Activities Centers will now scroll from left to right beneath the School Closings information at the very bottom of the television screen under 'Daycare.' These listings are in alphabetical order by county; however, no county names will be listed due to the limitations of Fox 8's computer systems. Therefore, if you choose to use the TV to determine the status of the Adult Centers, you must continue to monitor that 'Daycare' listing until it has run a complete cycle.
- NOTE: You can also sign up with Fox 8 to receive text alerts on Murray Ridge School and Adult Activities Centers closings. To do so, click on 'Closing Text Alerts' in the School Closings section of the Fox 8 website.

**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, even if school is in session.

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 Supported Employment Department.

First Student bus company can be reached at 288-2222.





## LOVC Gives Thanks . . . and Gives to Others

The Lorain Opportunity/Vocational Center (LOVC) got into the Thanksgiving spirit this year in several ways.

Adult Program participants and staff were given the opportunity to show what they are thankful for this holiday season. Consumers wrote their thankful ideas on a leaf and placed each leaf on the tree within the facility. Everyone enjoyed reading the inspirational leaves and contributing to this very special way of celebrating Thanksgiving! Shown (below left) are **Annie Cirillo** and **Donna Wolfe**.

The LOVC Service Club held a food drive through November 16. The collected food was donated to Christ Lutheran Food Pantry. Pictured below right, are **Torie Jackson** (left) **Amanda Spreng** (center) and **Bridget O'Keefe** (right). All three are members of the LOVC Service Club.



## EOVC Collects 'Coats for Kids'



Consumers at the Elyria Opportunity/Vocational Center (EOVC) recently gave back to the community by collecting coats for local children in need this holiday season

About 25 coats were dropped off at the collection box located in Midway Mall. Shown during the delivery are EOVC attendees (from left) **Rochelle Buy**, **Ashley Kriegmont**, **Sarah Waters** and **Nate Carlton**.

## Murray Ridge Choraleers Tuning Up for Holiday Shows

The Holiday Season is upon us — and with that is the beginning of a busy performing season for the Murray Ridge Choraleers.

Not only have the Choraleers become a popular performing group for concerts, civic groups and special events throughout the county. . . Through their singing and entertaining, the group provides insight into Lorain County citizens with developmental disabilities, and the programs available for them through Murray Ridge. For well over 40 years, Murray Ridge Center has been providing lifelong services for Lorain County citizens with developmental disabilities, assisting more than 2,000 individuals and their families each year.

Among the holiday 'gigs' the Choraleers already have booked are performances at **First Methodist Church** in Wellington on December 12 at noon and at **DeLuca's Place in the Park** on December 21 at noon.

If you are interested in booking a Choraleers performance for your group or organization, please call Amber Fitzgerald at the Murray Ridge Elyria Opportunity/Vocational Center at (440) 284-2720 or email her at [afitzgerald@murrayridgecenter.org](mailto:afitzgerald@murrayridgecenter.org)

## New Basketball Season Starts in December



It seems like just yesterday that March Madness captivated fans of Murray Ridge Basketball with a spirited run that ended just short of a state championship.

The Raiders' new 2018-19 season is just around the corner with the first games scheduled for December 10.

The 'Home Openers' (all home games are held at Murray Ridge School) begin on December 13 when Team 1 faces Summit County at 5:30 p.m. Team 2 opens against Huron County on December 17 at 6 p.m. Team 3 faces Strongsville at 11:30 a.m. on January 12. And, the Lady Raiders'

home opener takes place on December 18 at 6 p.m.

Want to check out some of the games and cheer for your favorite Raiders' teams? Visit our website at [murrayridgecenter.org](http://murrayridgecenter.org) and look for the entire 2018-19 schedule under the Special Olympics tab.

## Agency Draft Strategic Plan

A copy of the agency's draft Strategic Plan for the years 2019-2021 will be available for viewing at all agency facilities until the end of business on Wednesday, December 12.



## Murray Ridge Special Olympics Swimmers Successful in State Competition

Congratulations to the 12 Murray Ridge swimmers who participated in the State Aquatics Meet on December 1-2 in Columbus. The Raiders brought back four first place finishes at the State Meet:

- **Ryan Eliason** took home a gold medal in the 50 Meter Freestyle race with a time of :47.12.
- **Shari Reitenbach** took first place in the 50 Meter Backstroke with a time of 1:08.30.
- **Kenny Martin** won gold in the 100 Meter Freestyle with a time of 2:09.80.
- The 4x25 Freestyle Relay team of **Shari Reitenbach, Amy Trigilio, Stephanie Budweg** and **Melissa Figula** won gold with a time of 1:59.33.

Congratulations also go to the rest of the Murray Ridge athletes who traveled to Columbus for the State Meet: **Lutz Fazekas, Jeremy Foster, JoAnn Gall, Maria Lombeida, Richard Smith and Austin Turner.**

The 'Road to Columbus' went through the sectional qualifying event held at the Strongsville Recreation Center in November. Sixteen swimmers competed there for a chance to continue to the State Meet.

Those who placed in Strongsville but did not continue on to Columbus were: **Doreen Alaksa, Noah Griffiths, Jennifer Moccabee and Kayla Stearns.**

Congratulations to all of our hardworking Special Olympics athletes!



**Left: Murray Ridge's Gold Medal Winning 4x25 Meter Freestyle Relay team.**

**Shown far left on the 1st place stand are: (from left) Shari Reitenbach, Amy Trigilio, Stephanie Budweg and Melissa Figula.**



**Right: Murray Ridge's Silver Medal Winning 4x25 Meter Freestyle Relay team.**




**Shown (from left) are: Ryan Eliason, Kenny Martin, Richard Smith and Jeremy Foster.**



# December 2018



## 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						

12/05 - LCBDD Finance Committee meeting, 12 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria

12/12 - Strategic Plan Public Forum, 10 a.m., Administration Building, 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria

12/14 - **Murray Ridge Adult Dance, 7-9 p.m. at Murray Ridge School\***

***\*A Statement of Understanding with required signatures is an admission requirement for the dance. Contact Jill Camp at 282-2131 with any questions.***

12/17 - Regular Meeting of the Board and Ethics Council, 6:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road in Elyria

12/24 - 1/2 - Murray Ridge Center closed for Holiday Break

12/24 - 1/2 - Murray Ridge School closed for Winter Break

# Happy Holidays!

## BOARD ROOM BRIEFING

**The Lorain County Board of DD convened at 6:30 p.m. on November 26, 2018:**

Board member Vassie Scott reported on the Special Olympics Committee meeting; Murray Ridge Special Olympics remains a popular, rewarding and cost-effective program. Superintendent Fisher discussed a survey that was distributed in October to all eligible individuals on record with the county board and/or their parents or legal guardians. The respondents represented all age groups, and 52% reported no unmet needs/desires; responses to open-ended questions about unmet needs/desires were categorized and addressed programmatically, or through the strategic plan or budget proposal. The proposed 2019 budget was unanimously passed by the Board. The Board approved a resolution to request that the county auditor certify the availability of funds needed to pay the non-federal share of Medicaid services in 2019. The Board approved, for public review, the proposed 2019 – 2021 Strategic Plan, and announced that a Public Forum on the document will be held on December 12 at 10:00 AM at the Agency's Administration Building: 1091 Infirmary Rd., Elyria. The Board also established the dollar amount that the Family Support Parent Committee is authorized to approve for the first quarter of 2019.

Lorain County Board of  
Developmental Disabilities

Murray Ridge Center  
1091 Infirmary Road  
Elyria, OH 44035

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

## Work at the Ridge!

Check out our website  
[murrayridgecenter.org](http://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!**



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