



MurrayRidgeCenter  
HELPING PEOPLE...FOR A LIFETIME

# The Murray Ridge Courier

December 2019

## Athletes, Coaches, Volunteers, Community Supporters Recognized at Murray Ridge Special Olympics Banquet

More than 200 athletes, including some 2019 State Champions, were recently recognized for their accomplishments by Murray Ridge Center at its annual Special Olympics Banquet at Lorain County Community College.

Following a keynote address by former WEOL Radio personality and new 'voice of the Cavs' **Tim Alcorn**, Murray Ridge Special Olympics Coordinator **Shawn Hatcher** presented the following special awards and recognitions:

- **Coach of the Year – Brian Chutes** (a 20-year veteran coach of track and field, softball, basketball, bowling and aquatics)
- **Sportsmanship and Kindness Award – Chad Kothe** (for "having fun, trying his best, being a good teammate, and, being a good opponent to his competitors")
- **Hall of Fame Inductee – Carl Jeans** (for his many years of success in basketball, softball, and various track and field events)
- **2019 Modified Volleyball State Champions – Kim Herman, Chad Kothe, Megan Craig, Jeff Torres, Douglas McCartney, Ryan Brown, Joseph Bellottie, Eric Johnson, Kurt Caris and Noah Griffiths**
- **2019 4x100 Relay State Champions – Elena Reinhold, Sarah Ward, Kayla Stearns and Mark Lacko**

Also recognized at the banquet were all the athletes and coaches who participated in various sports throughout the year, volunteers who helped out in various ways, and three local businesses and organizations who have been long-time supporters of Murray Ridge Center's Special Olympics program:

- **Rebman Recreation** – for supporting Murray Ridge's Special Olympics bowling program for many years
- **Amherst Athletic Association** – for providing two softball fields as Murray Ridge's 'home field' for games
- **Shoreway Sports & Graphics** – for donating and updating Murray Ridge's Special Olympics sports banners



Keynote Speaker Tim Alcorn



Special Olympics Coordinator Shawn Hatcher and Brian Chutes



Shawn Hatcher and honoree Chad Kothe



Shawn Hatcher and honoree Carl Jeans



Modified Volleyball Gold Medalists: Front (l-r), Megan Craig, Kim Herman, Ryan Brown, Joe Bellottie, Chad Kothe. Back (l-r), Noah Griffiths, Coach Jennifer Coleman, Kurt Caris, Coach Rick Rovere, Douglas McCartney, with Shawn Hatcher. (Not present for the photo, team members Eric Johnson and Jeff Torres).



4x100 Relay Gold Medalists (l-r), Elena Reinhold, Sarah Ward, Kayla Stearns, and Mark Lacko with Hall of Fame Inductee Carl Jeans.



## Halloween Memories from Murray Ridge School



Almost every imaginable character visited this year's Murray Ridge School Halloween Party . . . even Wayne and Garth from 'Wayne's World' made a special appearance! We hope you enjoy a few of this year's Murray Ridge School Halloween memories.

Top left: **Audrey and Penelope Dodge**

Below left: **William Norris**

Below center: **Teacher Becky Farmer, Evey Rodgers, teacher Lindsay Bookshar, Deja Sherman, Sierra Long**

Top right: **Scarlett Wallace**

Below right: **Jayden Steible**



## 'Bring Your Child to Work Day' Fun at Murray Ridge



Murray Ridge staff members recently had a special opportunity to educate their children about our agency and what we do for individuals with developmental disabilities during 'Bring Your Child to Work Day.' Activities were held at our three Opportunity/Vocational Centers in Lorain, Elyria and Oberlin.

Taking part in a trip to Carlisle Metropark was one of the highlights of the day at the Lorain Opportunity/Vocational Center (LOVC). Pictured left to right are: **Ruben Gonzalez, Michelle Miller, Gavin (staffer MaryLynn Woodyard's son), Nicholas Perez, Jordan (Gail Babcock's granddaughter), Amanda Spreng, Gabryella (Joe Norris's daughter) and Kyle Brello.**

## 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.





## EOVC Gives Back to Others



Program participants from the Elyria Opportunity/Vocational Center (EOVC) have been busy making hats and scarves for the homeless in preparation for the cold weather.

Recently **Mike Kimbrough, Katie Schneider, Joe Bellott, John Ahart** and **Armous Ruffin** visited the Catholic Charities Homeless Shelter to deliver boxes of hats and scarves, along with some food.



## Raiders Tip Off New Special Olympics Season

Murray Ridge's new basketball season has begun with four teams sporting new team names this year - Scarlet, Gray, Red and White. For the latest results, check out the Murray Ridge Facebook page. To see each team's schedule, go to our website, [murrayridgecenter.org](http://murrayridgecenter.org), then click on Services for Adults/Murray Ridge Adult Services/Special Olympics.'

Basketball is just one of the sports on tap this winter season. Swimming will begin its season in December. And, Special Olympics Ohio has announced that Cheerleading is now a Special Olympics sport for the first time! All this will lead up to an exciting addition to the Special Olympics calendar, State Winter Games which will take place in February 2020 at sites including Bowling Green State University. Go Raiders!



## Murray Ridge Says "Thank You, First Responders!"



Program participants from the Elyria Opportunity/Vocational Center decided to mark 'National First Responders Day' by creating large 'Thank You' cards and traveling to the Lorain County Sheriff's Office, the Elyria Police Department and the Elyria Fire Department to deliver the cards in person.

Shown delivering the cards at two of those locations are **Joe Bellott, John Ahart, Jessica Jones** and **Rochelle Buy**.

## Murray Ridge to Operate a Point of Distribution in the Case of Certain Emergencies

In the event of a county-wide health emergency requiring the distribution of medicine or treatment, Murray Ridge Center, in conjunction with Lorain County Public Health, will operate a temporary Point of Distribution (POD) to provide medicine or treatments to consumers (people with developmental disabilities who have been determined eligible for services from the Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities), and their immediate caregivers.

Family members who live in households with children and adults with developmental disabilities will be eligible to receive medication/treatment from the Murray Ridge Center closed POD. Caregivers assigned at the time of POD operation to work with individuals with developmental disabilities who do not live with family will also be eligible to receive medicine/treatment from the Murray Ridge Center POD for themselves and members of their immediate households.

Should the need to operate a Murray Ridge Center POD occur, specifics will be communicated on the Murray Ridge Center Facebook page, on our website, and/or through other local media and other communications.

## Message from the Superintendent: Family Support Services Update



Supt. Amber Fisher

I am pleased to announce that our Board has approved several changes that, effective 01/01/2020, will expand the availability of funds through our **Family Support Services (FSS) Program**.

This program, which is available to family members of children and adults with developmental disabilities who live with them (and also to individuals with developmental disabilities who live on their own), can be used to secure some funding for goods and services needed by the family member with developmental disabilities. For example, FSS funds can be accessed for/applied to such things as respite care, adaptive equipment, home modifications, food that is required for special diets, and special summer camp programs.

In addition to increasing local funding for this program in 2020, our Board has modified the co-pay requirements for goods and services accessed through the FSS Program. The existing co-pay schedule will not change with regard to eligible individuals who are enrolled on Medicaid waivers (the Individual Options, Level I and SELF Waivers), but a new (liberalized) co-pay schedule has been established with regard to eligible individuals who are **not** enrolled on Medicaid waivers; the co-pay requirements are based on the family's federal taxable income, and can be viewed on the Family Support Services tabs on our website (under Services for Adults and Services for Children).

Finally, while FSS funds are allocated to families on a quarterly basis, beginning in 2020, families will be able (through arrangement with our Family Support Coordinator) to utilize unused FSS funds that were allocated to them in previous quarters of the same calendar year, and to utilize in advance FSS funds for future quarters during the same calendar year.

With any questions about the FSS Program and/or the changes that will go into effect next year, please feel free to contact our Family Support Coordinator, **Diane Smith**, at (440) 329-3734.

I would like also to take this opportunity to thank the members of our Family Support Parent Committee, a number of whom have worked to administer this program for many, many years. If you are interested in participating on the committee, please contact Chairwoman **Damita Vanche** at (440) 988-3427.

I wish you all a safe and very happy holiday season!



## Murray Ridge Service Clubs Help the Hungry

During the first three weeks of November, Service Clubs at Murray Ridge Center's three Opportunity/Vocational Centers (OVCs) in Elyria, Lorain and Oberlin collected more than **1166 pounds** of nonperishable food items during a friendly competition to see which OVC could collect the most to assist some of Lorain County's less fortunate. Here are the results:

- The Lorain Opportunity/Vocational Center (LOVC) was declared the winner by collecting **620 pounds of food that was donated to Christ Lutheran Food Pantry in Lorain.**
- The Oberlin Opportunity/Vocational Center (OOVC) placed second by collecting **366 pounds of food that was donated to the Oberlin Community Services Center.**
- The Elyria Opportunity/Vocational Center (EOVC) collected **180 pounds of food that was donated to Second Harvest Food Bank.**

Shown in the photo (right) delivering the donation to the Food Bank are (from left) EOVC program participants **Ken Freeland, James Ochoa, John Ahart and J.R. Seip.**



## AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER

### Navigating Insurance & Medical Necessity



January 23, 2020, 6:00pm-8:00pm  
Murray Ridge SSA Office  
9740 Murray Ridge Road Elyria, Ohio 44035



Join **Marla Root**, the Founder of Ohio Autism Coalition, as she explains how to navigate private and public insurance benefits to meet the needs of individuals with autism!

Participants will be able to:

- Explain the different types of health insurance plans in Ohio and which offer an autism treatment benefit.
- Define details from the Medicaid ABA benefit.
- List the barriers that still exist to access ABA, speech and OT for individuals with autism.
  - Learn how to access ABA, speech and OT for individuals with autism.
- Define the Coalition's efforts to build service capacity and assure access to prescribed treatments.

**\* TO REGISTER, CALL (440) 324-2366 BY JANUARY 21 \***

**Marla Root** is the Founder of the Ohio Autism Insurance Coalition. The Coalition supports families, providers, state agencies and health care systems in building service capacity and assuring access to prescribed treatments such as mental health, behavior analytic treatments, and speech and occupational therapies. Marla's experience as an administrator in mental health, DD services, and program development led to her 2010 Advocate of the Year award by The Governor's Council for People with Disabilities and for many years was the Public Policy Chair for the Autism Society of Ohio. Marla is the proud parent of Eli, age 22, with severe ASD/ID.

## Activities & Events

12/4 - LCBDD Finance Committee meeting, 12:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria

12/4 - Family Support Parent Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m., Administration Building, 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria

12/13 - **Murray Ridge Adult Dance, 7-9 p.m. at Murray Ridge School\***

***\*A Statement of Understanding with required signatures CURRENT WITHIN THE LAST 12 MONTHS is an admission requirement for the dance. Contact Jill Camp at 282-2131 with any questions.***

12/16 - Regular Meeting of the Board and Ethics Council, 6:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road in Elyria

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

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



# December 2019

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				

# Happy Holidays!

## BOARD ROOM BRIEFING

**The Lorain County Board of DD convened at 6:30 p.m. on November 18, 2019:**

Board member Vassie Scott reported on the Special Olympics Committee meeting; Competitive Cheer is now an official sport of Ohio Special Olympics, and we're all in! 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 2020. Superintendent Fisher discussed recommendations of the Family Support Board Committee (see also the Message from the Superintendent in this issue of the Murray Ridge Courier), and the Board unanimously approved changes to the Board policy on Family Support Services. The proposed 2020 budget was unanimously passed by the Board. Dr. Fisher shared that the federal court recently preliminarily approved a proposed settlement agreement in a class action lawsuit called Ball v. DeWine; copies of the proposed settlement agreement have been posted, and can be accessed by interested parties through county boards of DD.

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 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 current 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 [murrayridgecenter.org](http://murrayridgecenter.org) and click on the Sign Up for Our Email Newsletter link.