



MurrayRidgeCenter
HELPING PEOPLE...FOR A LIFETIME

The Murray Ridge Courier

February 2019

Murray Ridge Consumers Visit Special Places



The 'Christmas Story' House Museum: Sarah Ward (above) a program participant at the Oberlin Opportunity/Vocational Center (OOVC) is shown posing with a 'Ralphie' cut-out and sampling the bathtub from the famous holiday movie. **The Greater Cleveland Aquarium:** Enjoying the stingray touch tank (right) are OOVC program participants (from left): **George Opel, Austin Turner, Doreen Alaksa, Mark Vanek, Zoey Moore** and staff member **Walter Campbell**.



Several program participants from the Lorain Opportunity/Vocational Center (LOVC) recently visited the **Riddell** football equipment company's Production and Distribution Facility in North Ridgeville.

LEFT: **Daylon Bodiford**. BELOW LEFT: **Stephen Holley, Larry Diaz, Robert Sarrano, Greg Weller** and **Daylon Bodiford**. RIGHT: **Carl Jeans, Leif Hammonds** and **John Armstrong** trying on actual game-worn pro and college helmets. BELOW RIGHT: **Melinda Eckinrode, Grant Holbrook, James Papenfuss** and **Alexshawn Averett**.



'Donors Choose' Program Helps Teachers Fund Class Projects



Throughout the year, Murray Ridge School teachers in need of a little extra financial support for class projects make use of a program called **Donors Choose** — a civic crowd funding platform founded in 2000 which allows individuals to donate online directly to public classroom projects.

Teacher **Cheryl Swierz** received funding to purchase art and craft supplies for her project called "Go to the Art Show." Shown (top left) are: **Kyle Orozco** and **Jonathan Powell**. Teacher **Lissa Lopez** received funding to purchase fiber optic wands and Snowflake wands for her "Light it Up" project. Shown (bottom left) are: **Chris Fowler, Jayden Steible, and Quenshawn Williams**.

For more information on Donors Choose, log onto donorschoose.org.



Knights of Columbus Donation

Thank you to the Knights of Columbus Fr. Ragan Council 3269 of Avon for it's generous holiday-season donation to Friends of Murray Ridge. Pictured are (left) Chris Vasco, Community Education/ Volunteer Director accepting the donation from Fr. Ragan Council Grand Knight Jim Brady.



Murray Ridge Center Continues Giving Back

In our January newsletter, readers met **Beverly Ross**, a program participant at our Elyria Opportunity/Vocational Center (EOVC) who decided to make Get Well Cards (shown below) despite having Cerebral Palsy which affects her fine and gross motor skills. Pictured delivering the get well cards to a volunteer at University Hospital Elyria are (from left) **Bev Ross, Ashley Kriegmont** and **Austin Carpenter**. The get well cards will be delivered to patients on their meal trays.



Exceptional Service at Murray Ridge Center

Congratulations to **Mo Silvis**, Adult Program Instructor at the Elyria Opportunity/Vocational Center (EOVC) for being awarded the most recent Exceptional Service Award. Mo was nominated by the mother of a consumer who has been involved with the agency since 1984. In the nomination, she said:

"I am nominating Mo because of Mo's efforts to stay connected. She always lets me know what's going on during the day with (my daughter). She has some behavior problems when she doesn't get her way. As an example, one day she had money for the Santa Shop in her purse, but couldn't find it. She became upset, but Mo texted me and was told that the money was in the side pocket of her purse. So they found the money and gave it to her and she was fine. Mo makes things a whole lot better for (my daughter) and a whole lot better for everybody else. Mo is just really in tune with all the consumers at EOVC. She's a very feeling person. She really goes above and beyond her job and does her very best for all of the people there."



To nominate a staff member for this award, contact Chris Vasco, Community Education/Volunteer Director at (440) 329-3734/cvasco@murrayridgecenter.org.

Presenting the Exceptional Service Award to **Mo Silvis** (left) was Board Member **Dan White** (right).

Murray Ridge School
MARDI GRAS
Prom Fundraiser

Saturday, February 23, 2019
at the Amherst Eagles
1161 Milan Ave, Amherst

doors open at 5:00 pm • dinner served 5:30-7:30 pm
DJ and dancing 7:30-11:00 pm

\$25 per ticket includes
- dinner -
cajun roasted chicken, andouille sausage with red beans and rice
creole style corn, mac & cheese, salad, dessert
- draft beer - soft drinks -
- cash bar -

50/50 raffle ~ square-board ~ basket raffles ~ door prizes

Contact Murray Ridge School at (440)329-3760 to purchase tickets.

Triumph through the Challenges Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder

Who should attend?

This course series is for nurses, social workers, counselors, physicians, educators, parents, and caregivers who work with individuals that may have had prenatal exposure to alcohol/drugs.

Learn about Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) and how to best work with those affected in order to reach his/her fullest potential.

Gather useful tips and local resources!

Discover ways to succeed!

2019 Spring Course Series

Evening Sessions:

April 09, 2019: Section 1, 6-9 p.m.

April 11, 2019: Section 2, 6-9 p.m.

April 16, 2019: Section 3, 6-9 p.m.

April 18, 2019: Section 4, 6-9 p.m.

Location:

Murray Ridge Center LCBDD
Lorain County Board of Developmental
Disabilities Service & Support Administration Bldg.
9740 Murray Ridge Road, Elyria, 44035
Building at the rear of Murray Ridge School
*Evening parking available at Murray Ridge SSA
lot. Please enter in back door.

Register

Contact : Kathy Bevaque, M.Ed., D.S. w/LCBDD
(440) 284-3655
e-mail: kbevaque@murrayridgecenter.org

No fee to attend. Space is limited.

Bring your own personal refreshments and food.

Facilitator:

Kathleen Bevaque, M.Ed., D.S. w/LCBDD



Series Details

- **Section 1:** FASD Basic Facts; Characteristics; Chronological vs. Developmental Age
- **Section 2:** Neurological Issues & Behaviors of FASD: Coping Skills
- **Section 3:** Developing Effective Strategies for FASD: Advocacy & Finding Resources
- **Section 4:** Advocacy in Schools; Discipline; Daily Living & Future Planning for Individuals with FASD

Contact Hours Available

- Social workers, counselors, and chemical dependency RCH: provided by the ADAS Board of Lorain County
- Developmental Disability hours provided by Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities
- Certificate of Attendance for contact hours
- Ohio Approved Specialized Training for Early Childhood SUTQ, ODE, ODH (pending)



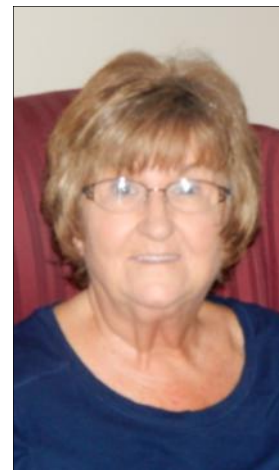
Murray Ridge Welcomes New Board Member

Elyria resident **Rebecca Cornman** is the newest member of the Murray Ridge Center Board. She was appointed by the Lorain County Commissioners to a term which expires in January, 2022.

"I had a cousin who attended Murray Ridge School, worked in the workshops, and lived in the group homes for most of her life. She looked at me, and my sisters as her sisters," Cornman said. "I have been aware of how much Murray Ridge did to help her have a healthy, normal life full of friends and things to do. Our family was very grateful for what was offered to her to make her life full and happy. We can't just take in this life. Being on the board is my way of giving back."

A graduate of Lorain High School, Cornman has lived in Lorain County her entire life. She holds an Associate's Degree in Business from Lorain County Community College and a Bachelor's Degree in Business from David Myers College in Cleveland. Cornman worked in the Purchasing department of Nordson Corporation and retired from Nordson after 20 years. She then opened Classy Kid's Closet children's resale shop in Amherst.

Cornman was also a member of the Murray Ridge Production Center Board. She has been married for 43 years, and has one child, three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.



Rebecca Cornman

OOVC Consumers Helping Lorain County Youth



In recent months, program participants at the Oberlin Opportunity/Vocational Center (OOVC) have been volunteering to assemble Kernels for Life training resource kits for Communities That Care of Lorain County, a coalition of community members and organizations that focuses on the issues of alcohol, tobacco, drugs, and other anti-social behaviors in the community with particular attention to the impact on the youth of Lorain County. Murray Ridge Center is one of many participants in the Communities That Care of Lorain County coalition.

Pictured top left is **Brandon Varner** and **Austin Turner**. Shown below left is **Heather Bennett Bachman**.



Kernels for Life is a prevention program being done in partnership with the Alcohol & Drug Addiction Services (ADAS) Board of Lorain County. The project targets young people ages 4-14 and is designed to reduce problem behaviors and improve performance and relationship skills at home or in the community. In the near future, trained facilitators will be training parent groups and providing the kits assembled for use in their own homes.

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.



February 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		

2/14 - LCBDD Finance Committee meeting , 12:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria

2/15 - LCBDD Adult Dance, 7-9 p.m., Murray Ridge School, 9750 Murray Ridge Road, Elyria*

****It is your responsibility to ensure that a Statement of Understanding with all required signatures is on file for you before the date of the dance; this is an admission requirement.. Contact Jill Camp at 282-2131 with any questions.***

2/18 - **Agency closed for President's Day holiday**

2/20 - Family Support Parent Committee meeting, 6:00 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria

2/23 - Mardi Gras Dinner Dance fundraiser for School Senior Prom 5 - 11 p.m., Amherst Eagles Club, 1161 Milan Ave, Amherst

2/25 - Regular Meeting of the Board and Ethics Council, 6:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria



BOARD ROOM BRIEFING

The Lorain County Board of DD convened at 6:30 p.m. on January 28:

At the annual Organizational Meeting, held immediately prior to the regular meeting of the Board and Ethics Council, Board Vice President Keith Boey announced the appointment of Rebecca Cornman; she took the Oath of Office in January, 2019. The Board elected the following officers for 2019: Bob Gajdos, President; Keith Boey, Vice-President; and Beverly Gedid, Secretary. Newly elected Board President Gajdos then made Board committee appointments for the year. In its regular meeting, the Board approved a resolution to provide educational services to children ages 6-21 in the 2019/2020 school year, and discussed the Murray Ridge School summer camp program for 2019. Director of Human Resources, Faira Corbett, reported on accomplishments related to the Agency's 2018 Risk Management Plan, and discussed the goals that have been established by the Risk Management Committee for 2019. The 2019 Board calendar was established, and Superintendent Fisher reported on the appointment by Governor DeWine of Jeff Davis as the new Director of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities.

Lorain County Board of
Developmental Disabilities

Murray Ridge Center
1091 Infirmary Road
Elyria, OH 44035

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**Work at the
Ridge!**

**Check out our website,
murrayridgecenter.org**

News You Can Use

Future Planning for Families — Lorain County

A program designed to help students in grades 8-12 (and their families) with information about employment and living in their community after graduation.

- **Saturday, March 9/9 a.m.-3 p.m./Lorain County Community College Ben and Jane Norton Culinary Arts Center/1003 N., Abbe Rd., Elyria** (Lunch is included). **Registration is FREE and REQUIRED by March 1.** To register, log on to <https://tinyurl.com/LorainFamilies3919>. For more information, contact Jamie Tischer at (440) 324-5777 (ext. 1132)/tischer@sstr2.org

(Sponsored by State Support Team Region 2. Hosted in partnership with Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities, The Lorain County Educational Service Center, and Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities – OOD).

Two resource fairs sponsored by Connecting for Kids.

Programs designed to highlight local providers and services for families who have a concern about their child.

- **5th Annual Lorain County Resource Fair** (Formerly known as the Lorain County Special Needs Resource Fair)/**Tuesday, March 12/5:30 -7:30 p.m./John A. Spitzer Conference Center/1005 N. Abbe Rd., Elyria**
- **8th Annual Meet and Greet/Thursday, April 11/6:30-8:30 p.m./Don Umerley Civic Center, Rocky River**
For information, contact Joellen Podoll at (440) 340-9394/joellenpodoll@connectingforkids.org