



MurrayRidgeCenter  
HELPING PEOPLE...FOR A LIFETIME

# The Murray Ridge Courier

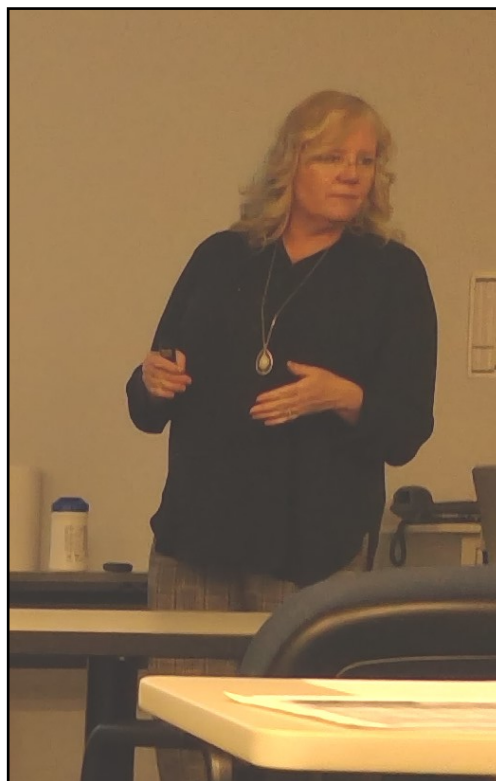
February 2020

## Murray Ridge Sponsors Program on Autism Spectrum Disorder Insurance Issues

High on the list of challenges for family members of those with autism is 'navigating the system' of private and public insurance benefits that meet the needs of those individuals. To help these families, the Murray Ridge Center Service and Support Administration (SSA) Department sponsored a free program entitled **"Autism Spectrum Disorder: Navigating Insurance and Medical Necessity"** on Thursday, January 23.

Presenting this important program was **Marla Root, founder of the Ohio Autism Insurance Coalition**. In addition to having extensive experience as an administrator in mental health, DD services and program development, Marla is a former Ohio Advocate of the Year, and proud parent of a 22-year-old son named Eli who has severe autism spectrum disorder.

Future informational programs for the community on other topics are being planned, so to stay informed by checking the Murray Ridge Center Facebook page and the events calendar on our website homepage at [murrayridgecenter.org](http://murrayridgecenter.org).



## Elyria Kiwanis Club Donates Bike



Murray Ridge School would like to thank the Elyria Kiwanis Club for its thoughtful and generous donation of a Mobo Triton Bike for students to enjoy during gym class and recess. Students couldn't wait to take this 'mean machine' for a spin . . . in fact, the Kiwanians who brought the Mobo Triton to the school saw first-hand how students quickly formed a long line to take a ride and just how much they enjoyed testing out the brand-new bike!

Pictured with the new bike (from left) are: **Classroom Supervisor Stacie Starr**, with **Glenn Mittler, Kathryn Karpus and Dennis Lehman** from the Elyria Kiwanis Club.

# Presenting the 2019-2020 Raiders Basketball Squads



**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SCARLET TEAM FOR ADVANCING TO THE STATE TOURNAMENT IN BOWLING GREEN THE WEEKEND OF FEBRUARY 21! GO RAIDERS!!**

## RED TEAM

Front row: Diana Clement, Marko Govich, Megan Craig, Kevin Long

Middle row: Alicia Lawrence, Angel Rivera, Tom Dammeyer, Sean Ware

Back row: Chelsie Jenkins, Shari Reitenbach, Victor Elder, Charles Johnson, Bryon Ragin

## WHITE TEAM

Front row: Assistant Coach Lisa Hardway, Ryan Bockey, Head Coach Rick Rovere

Middle row: Angelissa Pardo, Andrew Prihoda, Sarah Ward, David Zsigray, Robert Assanakis

Back row: Jesse Kimbro, James Papenfuss, Mike Cooper, Katie Bryant, Brittany Botson



## SCARLET TEAM

Front row: Ray Behner, Robert Messenger, Jeremy Foster

Back row: Assistant Coach Tyler Robinson, Demetrius Overall, Logan Yatson, Ryan Eliason, Head Coach Russ Moyer

## GREY TEAM

Front row: Raul Torres, Jon Torres, Jeffrey Torres, Ryan Brown, Robert McFadden

Middle row: Dorian Chaffin, Hector Lozano, Tony Harris, Daniel Montgomery, Isaiah Wicks, Timothy Dammeyer

Back row: Head Coach Russ Moyer, Assistant Coach Orlando Jones



# 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!

## 2020 Spring Course Series

### Evening Sessions:

April 21, 2020: Section 1, 6-9 p.m.

April 23, 2020: Section 2, 6-9 p.m.

April 28, 2020: Section 3, 6-9 p.m.

April 30, 2020: 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



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## 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; Behavioral Strategy; 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, now including EI .
- Certificate of Attendance for contact hours
- Ohio Approved Specialized Training for Early Childhood SUTQ, ODE, ODH (pending)



# 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: In 2018, 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.



# Consumer Profile: Martha Lombeida



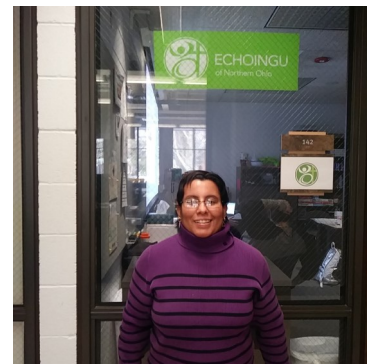
**Martha and her family on vacation in Corsica.**

Martha lives in South Amherst with her family and has lived in Lorain County for most of her life! Her family is originally from Ecuador. Martha is a very active and social person. She always has a positive attitude. She is easy going and always willing to help others. Martha loves knitting, crocheting, coloring, and playing her violin!

Martha loves traveling with her family every chance she gets! She especially enjoys going to New York, Ecuador and Vienna, Austria, where her brother and his family live!

Martha is supported by her **Murray Ridge Service and Support Administrator** Tracy

Dunlap. Tracy helps Martha with the development of her Individual Service Plan (ISP), monitors her services, and helps to keep her plan up-to-date as Martha's need and wants change. Tracy helped Martha get involved in echoingU.



**Martha enjoys attending echoingU at LCCC.**



**Being in the water is great fun for Martha!**

**echoingU**, which is located on the **Lorain County Community College (LCCC)** campus, is a program offered by **Echoing Hills Village, Inc.** echoingU's mission is to "enable young people with special needs to achieve their dreams through experience-based learning, community integration, and social and professional networking." echoingU is a four-year program designed "to successfully catapult young adults into the next season of their adult life with a purpose and meaning. echoingU has a copyrighted curriculum that enhances differentiating instruction and provides person centered learning."

At echoingU, Martha attends a variety of classes to learn independent living, social skills, and job/ career readiness skills. She enjoys participating in the job skills, money skills, communication, independent living and college prep classes. Martha's dream is to go to college and work in an office setting. The echoingU program is helping her to learn the skills that she needs to move toward achieving her goals. She is very happy to have this opportunity!

Martha loves being active. While at echoingU, she enjoys "Fun Fridays." During this time, the class goes out into the community for a variety of activities including going out to eat and bowling! Martha is a member of the Mercy Recreation Center and Splash Zone Aquatic Center and attends both regularly. Her favorite exercises are Zumba and water aerobics! She is also an active member of her church and takes violin lessons. Martha is an avid tennis player and swimmer, and has been awarded numerous medals while participating in the **Murray Ridge Special Olympics program!**

Martha is living her life to the fullest, having fun and doing what makes her happy!

**Martha makes the most of every day at echoingU.**

**In addition to enjoying her classes, she takes advantage of the LCCC Library and socializes at the Student Lounge.**



## Disco Fever at Murray Ridge School



Murray Ridge School stepped back in time and turned into a 1970s 'Disco Inferno' as students recently enjoyed a Disco Dance. Shown boogieing to the music are **Deja Sherman** (above left) and **DJ Hicks**.

## Hitting the Lanes



Murray Ridge School's Room B students practiced their mingling skills and invited a senior wing classroom to join them on a trip to the bowling alley. Miss Sam & Miss Nicole took their students and staff to Rebman Recreation for a friendly bowling competition. Students and staff scattered across four lanes to spend time with unfamiliar staff or student peers. It was a great opportunity to get to know new friends and share a great afternoon!

## Exceptional Service Award Nominations Sought

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)

## Special Olympics Swimmers Headed for State Winter Games



Pictured left are **Martha Lombeida** and **Melissa Figula** who took the top two spots in their 50 meter freestyle race. Shown above are **Richard Smith**, who won first place in the 25 meter backstroke and 100 meter freestyle, and **Coach Aaron Simmons**.

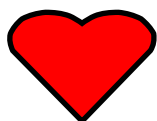
Ten swimmers from Murray Ridge competed at the regional qualifier event January 19 in Canton at the C.T. Branin Natatorium next to the Pro Football Hall of Fame and Stadium. Participating athletes included **Martha Lombeida**, **Melissa Figula**, **Doreen Alaksa**, **Mark Holland**, **Kenny Martin**, **Richard Smith**, **Dylan** and **Kayla Stearns**, **Amy Trigilio** and **Sarah Ward**. Of the 22 total races competed in that day, Murray Ridge swimmers brought home 18 Gold, Silver or Bronze medals! Next stop for our swimmers is the Ohio Special Olympics Winter Games the weekend of February 21. Go for the Gold, Raiders!

# February 2020

## Activities & Events

- 2/12 - LCBDD Finance Committee meeting, 1 p.m. Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria
- 2/17 - Agency closed for President's Day holiday
- 2/19 - Family Support Parent Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria
- 2/21 - **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.***
- 2/24 - Regular Meeting of the Board and Ethics Council, 6:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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9	10	11	12 	13	14 	15
16	17 	18	19 	20	21 	22
23	24 	25	26	27	28	29



## BOARD ROOM BRIEFING

### The Lorain County Board of DD convened at 6:30 p.m. on January 27, 2020:

At the annual Organizational Meeting, held immediately prior to the regular meeting of the Board and Ethics Council, the Board elected the following officers for 2020: Vassie Scott, President; Keith Boey, Vice-President; and Beverly Gedid, Secretary. Newly elected Board President Vassie Scott introduced Lorain County Probate Judge James T. Walther, an appointing authority for the Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities, along with Cathie Leimbach, who Judge Walther appointed to replace Robert Gajdos on the Board. Judge Walther then administered the oath of office to Ms. Leimbach, and she was welcomed to the Board. Superintendent Fisher and the Board provided a special recognition to outgoing board member Bob Gajdos, who had served three consecutive terms from January 2008 to January 2020. The Board unanimously approved a resolution to provide educational services to children ages 6-21 in the 2020/2021 school year, and discussed the Murray Ridge School summer camp program for 2020. Director of Human Resources, Laura Yates, reported on accomplishments related to the Agency's 2019 Risk Management Plan, and presented the goals that have been established for 2020. Dr. Fisher provided an update on the Ball v. DeWine class action lawsuit. The 2020 Board calendar was established.

Lorain County Board of  
Developmental Disabilities

Murray Ridge Center  
1091 Infirmary Road  
Elyria, OH 44035

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Permit No. 146  
Elyria, OH 44035

## Work at the Ridge!

Check out our website,  
[murrayridgecenter.org](http://murrayridgecenter.org)  
to see  
our currently open  
positions!



## News You Can Use

### Connecting for Kids 2020 Winter Programs

Connecting for Kids 2020 Winter programs are now underway. Among the winter program highlights is:

#### **Speaker Series**

Challenging Behavior Series Part 1: Solving Challenging Problems, Tuesday, February 25, 6:30 p.m. / Westlake Porter Library.

Connecting for Kids is an organization that provides education and support to families who have concerns about their child. For more information go to [connectingforkids.org](http://connectingforkids.org), email [info@connectingforkids.org](mailto:info@connectingforkids.org), or call/text (440) 570-5908.

#### ***MARK YOUR CALENDARS!***

**The Sixth Annual Lorain County Resource Fair will be held Thursday, March 12 from 6-8 p.m. at LCCC's Spitzer Conference Center. For more information, visit [connectingforkids.org/lorain-resource-fair](http://connectingforkids.org/lorain-resource-fair)**