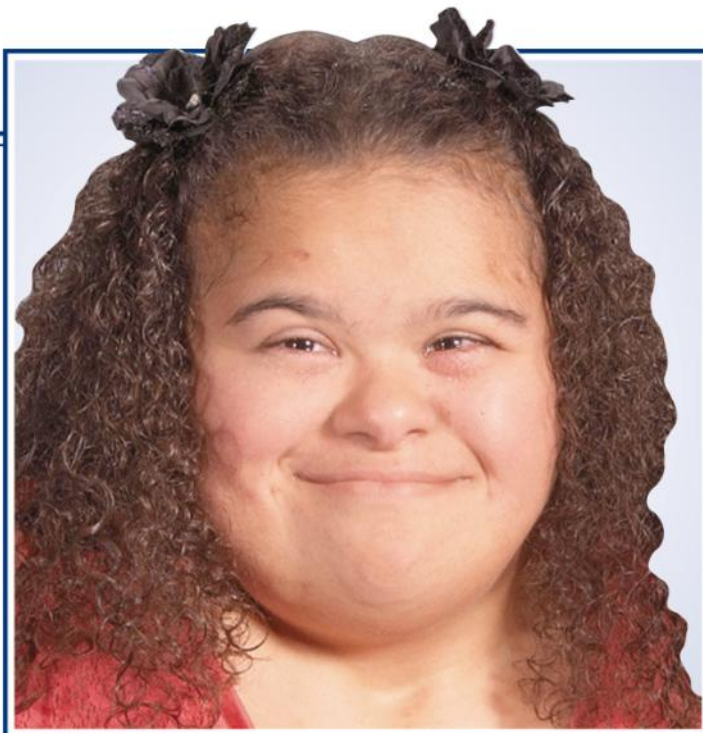




MurrayRidgeCenter
HELPING PEOPLE...FOR A LIFETIME

The Murray Ridge Courier

March 2018



March Is National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

Murray Ridge Center works with more than 2,000 Lorain County residents through Early Intervention, Murray Ridge School, Service and Support Administration, Adult Opportunity/Vocational Centers, Supported Employment, Special Olympics, Supported Living/Residential Services, and Family Support.

For more information or to schedule a tour of our facilities, contact us at:

440.329.3734 • murrayridgecenter.org • 

Paid for by Friends of Murray Ridge.



MurrayRidgeCenter

HELPING PEOPLE...FOR A LIFETIME

OOVC Attendee Earns Red Belt

John Hall, an Adult Program participant at the Murray Ridge Oberlin Opportunity/Vocational Center, has been interested in karate for a number of years because of his brother-in-law's involvement in the sport. When his sister, Joyce Cooper, and her husband, James, bought Harbourtown Martial Arts Academy in Vermilion two years ago, they decided that their studio would be one where anyone could take classes, regardless of his or her ability. Joyce and James immediately enrolled John in karate, and on February 10th, John earned his red belt and secured his spot as one of the top performers at Harbourtown.



John's involvement in karate is on the same level as others in the class. "He has to do everything that everyone else does," Joyce said. "That includes all the exercises and stretching, following instructions, and focusing on the drills and forms." Joyce partners with John for the class and James is the instructor, and they have found that other class participants are quick to help John if needed. "Everyone knows John and helps him out!" said James. "And he loves being part of what everyone is doing."

John's red belt is a huge accomplishment, and is known in the industry as an "honorary" belt, which James explained. "Due to his disability, John is not capable of memorizing the techniques, so he can't recall them on demand like the other students are required to do. But, he can do them when shown an example, and that satisfies the criteria for an honorary belt. He's learned the skill, knows the skill, but just needs a reminder of the movement."

John is looking forward to continuing his karate training, and the Coopers are interested in continuing to provide classes for those with any level of ability. Through John, they've seen that anyone is capable of success when they put their mind to it. "He's very teachable," Joyce said of her brother. "He's very involved. He's willing to help others. He has the right heart."

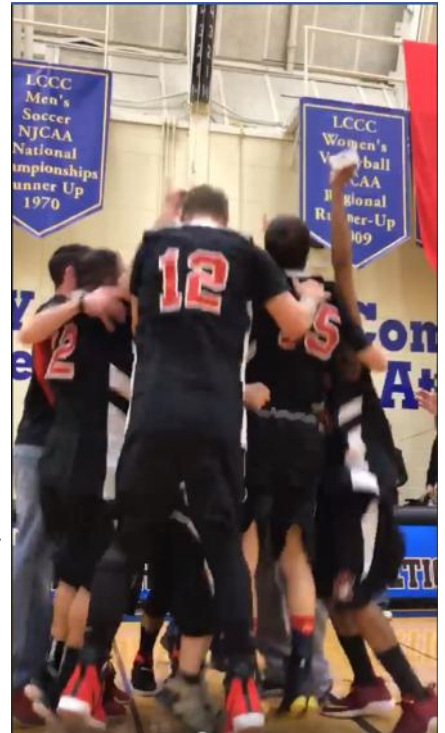
Results from the Special Olympics North Section Basketball Tournament

The Special Olympics North Section Basketball Tournament was held March 1-4 at Lorain County Community College. The tournament was a single elimination tournament. Great job to all our Raiders teams!



LADY RAIDERS: Lost to Stark County Divas

TEAM 1: On March 3, Team 1 defeated the Geauga County Blue Streaks by the score of 54-38. On March 4, Team 1 defeated Summit County to become the Special Olympic North Section Champions! Right, Team 1 celebrates its amazing win!



TEAM 2: Lost to Cuyahoga MBB Grinders

Team 3: Lost to Lake County Cougars

Basketball Skills Team:

Competition held @ Elyria High School on 3/3/18. The athletes participate in passing, dribbling, and shooting competitions against other athletes in their divisions.

Gold medals: 12
Silver medals: 9
Bronze medals: 1
Fourth Place: 1

Annual Talent Show Brings Big Laughs and Even Bigger Cheers to Murray Ridge School

Murray Ridge School held its 6th Annual Talent Show on February 16! Thank you to all the students who showcased their amazing talents, and the staff who made this another successful show!

Right, (l-r), Daniel Potter, Kyle Offenberg, Chris Dodson, Brandon Rivera, Gus McKee, and Shaun Tidmore are "Macho Men."



Above, Evey Rodgers channels her inner Gene Simmons of KISS. Below, right, Obed Robledo shows off his skills in a Drum Line skit. And middle, right, TJ Nagy and Jayden Steible sing "Let it Go" from the movie "Frozen!"



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.

2018 Spring Course Series

Evening Sessions:

April 10, 2018: Section 1, 6-9 p.m.

April 12, 2018: Section 2, 6-9 p.m.

April 17, 2018: Section 3, 6-9 p.m.

April 19, 2018: 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



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!

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)



Important Weather-Related Announcements

Murray Ridge program closing information will be available on TV station Fox 8, on the Fox 8 website fox8.com, on radio stations WEOL 930 AM and WOBL 1320 AM, and on Murray Ridge Center's Facebook page. **There will be two separate listings for Murray Ridge Center:**

- **Murray Ridge—Adult Activities Centers**
- **Murray Ridge School**

There has been a change 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 is now under the 'Daycare' tab in the School Closings section.

On Channel 8, information about the status of our Adult Activities Centers will now scroll beneath the School Closings information at the very bottom of the television screen under 'Daycare', from left to right. 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, you must continue to monitor that 'Daycare' listing, as you will have no indication which county is being listed at any given time.

You can also sign up to receive text alerts on Murray Ridge School and Adult Activities Centers closings. To do so, click the Closing Text Alerts under 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.



Murray Ridge Support Group Annual Spaghetti Dinner

- Saturday, April 28 from 3:00-6:30 p.m.
- AmVets Post 55, 530 Abbe Road in Sheffield Lake
- Sponsored by the Murray Ridge Support Group

This Italian feast, which includes spaghetti with meatballs, fresh bread, salad, desserts, and beverages, is being generously donated by the AmVets Post 55. Take-outs are available! Activities will include a gift basket auction and a 50/50 raffle. Proceeds will go toward programs and services for Lorain County citizens impacted by developmental disabilities.

Tickets are \$8 for persons 6 years of age and up, and free for kids 5 and under. Sponsorships are available. For more information, please contact Joaquin Page at 440-453-2576.

OOVC Adult Program Participants Honored at Appreciation Luncheon

Volunteers from the Oberlin Opportunity/Vocational Center attended an Appreciation Luncheon at Oberlin Community Services (OCS) on February 16.

What started out as a part of our 50 Acts of Giving Back initiative has evolved into monthly volunteering, wherein participants from our Adult Program package bread, stock food bank shelves, separate eggs into cartons, and weigh pasta.

Consumers have also worked together to create a garden area and grow vegetables that were then harvested and donated to the OCS food bank throughout the entire summer.

At the appreciation luncheon, Murray Ridge volunteers had the chance to speak to the group about their love for volunteering, their positive experience at the food bank, and the close relationships they have formed with the staff and other volunteers at Oberlin Community Services.

Murray Ridge congratulates our program participants for making a positive difference in their community!



Pictured are Oberlin Community Services staff Rosa and Murray Ridge Center volunteers Carol Anderson and Doreen Alaksa.

Travelling Art Show Moves to Avon Library

Check out the Travelling Art Show in March! Consumer artwork is on exhibit at the Avon Branch of the Lorain County Public Libraries. In April, the exhibit will move to Domonkas Public Library in Sheffield Lake.

Please stop by and see the amazing works of art created by consumers from our Adult Services Program and students from Murray Ridge School.

If you are interested in submitting art work for future displays, please contact Jenn Judkins at 329-3734 or jjudkins@murrayridgecenter.org.





March 2018

Activities & Events

- 3/1 - 3/4 - Special Olympic Ohio North Section Basketball Tournament, Lorain County Community College
- 3/14 - LCBDD Finance Committee meeting, 12:00 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria
- 3/14 - Murray Ridge Support Group meeting, 4:15 p.m., Elyria Opportunity/Vocational Center, 1095 Infirmary Road in Elyria
- 3/16 - Murray Ridge Support Group Dance, 7:00 p.m., Murray Ridge School, 9750 Murray Ridge Road in Elyria
- 3/26 - Regular Meeting of the Board and Ethics Council, 6:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria
- 3/30 - Agency closed for Good Friday

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 	27	28	29	30 	31



BOARD ROOM BRIEFING

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

The Board approved an allocation for the Family Support Parent Committee to authorize families to use in the second quarter of 2018. Annual benchmarks addressing provider recruitment and direct service to Medicaid waiver recipients were considered; a continued area of emphasis will be the recruitment of providers that are willing/able to serve individuals with significant medical and/or behavior-related challenges. The Board approved a resolution that a Public Forum for the Strategic Plan Progress Report/Annual Action Plan: Programs and Expenditures-2018 will be held on March 14, 2018 at 2:30 p.m. at the Agency's Administration Building. Board member training requirements for 2018 were discussed; Department of Developmental Disabilities-required topics for this year are: Supportive Technology, Ohio's HCBS Waiver Waiting List, Key State-Wide Data and the Data Warehouse, and Cash Projections Tools.

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
www.murrayridgecenter.org to see
our open positions!**



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 Jennifer Judkins, 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 at regular scheduled meetings. If you have any questions, contact Jenn Judkins at 440-329-3734 or jjudkins@murrayridgecenter.org.