



MurrayRidgeCenter
HELPING PEOPLE...FOR A LIFETIME

The Murray Ridge Courier

September 2018

Back to School Time for Murray Ridge Students and Staff!

The first day of the new school year was a busy, fun, and exciting day at Murray Ridge School as students received a warm and friendly greeting by staff and then went off to meet their teachers and classmates.

The school, which celebrated its 50th Anniversary last year, is designed to be a positive, caring and nurturing environment that enables students to acquire and practice functional skills in a manner that fosters self-esteem and a sense of accomplishment.

The school-age program features a functional life-skills curriculum. Functional academics, vocational skills, leisure time activities, and social opportunities provide the basis for lessons designed to meet a student's individual goals and objectives. Art, Adaptive Physical Education, music and swimming supplement the curriculum. Classroom learning is enhanced for students throughout the year by community experiences, such as field trips and volunteer opportunities.



Shown on the first day of school are (from left): Daniel Bader and staff member Cindy Jackson; Jazlynn Smith and aide Sandy Schreur; and Supervisor Stacie Starr greeting Sierra Long and aide Shelley Stipe.



New Community Education/Volunteer Director Named

Please welcome Chris Vasco as the new Community Education/Volunteer Director at Murray Ridge Center. Chris has a wealth of experience in Marketing and Public Relations, including work with Summit County Children Services, Fairview General Hospital, and with his own PR business, Vasco Communications, which has represented a variety of clients, including Elyria United Methodist Village. Chris and his wife, Liz, live in Fairview Park and have two grown children, and two grandchildren.



Annual Transportation Safety Instruction

Murray Ridge Center wants you to be safe when travelling. These are guidelines that students, eligible adults, and their caregivers should be aware of when utilizing transportation services.

WAITING FOR THE BUS

- Wait for the bus at least 10 feet from the road.
- Dress properly - winter clothing, hats, mittens, and boots will help keep you warm in the winter.
- Watch for the bus' red lights.
- Wait until the bus has stopped and door opens before stepping into the roadway.
- Wait for the driver to signal to cross. Cross at least 10 feet in front of the bus.
- Use the handrail when stepping onto the bus.
- If you use a wheelchair, it must be equipped with a functioning seat belt. The wheels should lock as well.
- Store all belongings in a backpack so nothing gets dropped.

BUS SEAT SAFETY RULES

- Follow all of the driver's instructions.
- Speak softly so the driver will not be distracted. At railroad crossings, be quiet.
- Stay seated until your stop and keep the aisle clear.
- Never put head, arms, or hands out of the window.
- Never do anything to distract the driver.
- Keep aisles clear and free of tripping hazards.
- Never throw things on the bus or out the windows.
- Tell the driver or monitor if you are being bullied.
- If there is an emergency, listen to the driver and follow instructions.
- Do not eat on the bus, as this could present a choking hazard.

GETTING OFF THE BUS AT HOME

- If you have to cross the street in front of the bus, walk at least ten feet ahead of the bus along the side of the road, until you can turn around and see the driver.
- Make sure that the driver can see you.
- Wait for the signal from the driver before beginning to cross.
- When the driver signals, walk across the road, keeping an eye out for sudden traffic changes.
- Do not cross the center line of the road until the driver has signaled that it is safe for you to begin walking.
- Stay away from the bus' rear wheels at all times. If you drop something near the bus, leave it. If you leave something on the bus, never return to get it. The driver may not see you come back and start to move the bus. If you drop something near the bus, tell the bus driver before you pick it up so he/she knows where you are.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION GENERAL SAFETY TIPS

- When you enter or leave a vehicle, watch for slippery or uneven pavement and other hazards that could cause you to fall.
- Have your LCT ID, bus fare, ticket, or pass ready so you don't lose your balance while looking for it.
- Do not carry too many packages – always leave a free hand to grab a railing.
- Allow extra time to cross streets, especially in bad weather.
- If it's dark outside, wear light-colored or reflective clothing.
- Do not talk to strangers. If you are being bothered by someone, tell the driver immediately.
- If you use a stop assistance card, remember to show it to the driver as you board the bus.
- Most LCT stops are not sheltered. Dress appropriately for the winter weather, and utilize sunscreen in the summer.
- Whether you are in a bus, car, or van – **ALWAYS WEAR YOUR SEATBELT IF THE VEHICLE IS EQUIPPED WITH ONE!**



Murray Ridge Consumers Helping Their Community

SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE: Consumers at the Elyria Occupational/Vocational Center (EOVC) recently collected school supplies and presented them to the Ambassador Brothers of Lorain County to be distributed to children in the Elyria Public Schools.

Shown (below) delivering the school supplies are, from left, Jack Captain, Sean McCaffrey, Aric Bowen with Ambassador Brothers, Bev Ross, Angel Rivera, Jaclyn Guerrieri, Tiffany Harris and Ethan West with Ambassador Brothers.



VALOR HOME DONATION: Members of the EOVC Service Club recently held a fundraiser to raise money for The Valor Home, which provides transitional housing to homeless male veterans in Lorain County. Shown below are, from left, Jesse Frisch, and a representative from Valor Home, accepting the check. The donation will be used to provide pillows for transitioning veterans.



Murray Ridge School Offers 30th Year of Summer Camp

For 30 years, Murray Ridge School (MRS) students have been invited to participate in the Murray Ridge Summer Camp, a 3-4 week long day camp where attendees have the opportunity to engage in many enjoyable activities and field trips, and to try their hands at a variety of crafts, recreational programs, and special classes. This year, 40 students had the opportunity to attend MRS Summer Camp.

This summer's theme was community safety. Staff created crafts, snacks, and other projects to engage the campers, providing a fun summer experience in a relaxed setting, and an opportunity for participants to stay connected to their peers and learn from the dedicated team of Murray Ridge School camp counselors.

Thank you to all who helped make the 2018 Murray Ridge Summer Camp a huge success!



Aiden Harper (left) learns about Safety Town with Deputy Tony Kovach. Pictured, below, are campers learning team-building skills with a parachute.



Murray Ridge Softball Has Strong Showing at Sectionals

Congratulations to Murray Ridge Softball Teams 1 & 2 for a strong performance at the recent sectional tournament in Austintown. Both teams made it to their respective championship games, before dropping their final contests. Murray Ridge also had 20 athletes take part in a Softball Skills competition to showcase their hitting, fielding, baserunning and throwing skills, resulting in 10 Gold Medals, 2 Silvers, 4 Bronze Medals and a 4th place ribbon.



Among the athletes participating in sectionals were (from left): Robert Assanakis, EOVC, Ryan Brown, LOVC, and Donna Wolfe, LOVC.

Cascade Park Is the Site of Elyria's First Inclusive Playground



Thanks to funding from the Elyria Rotary Club, Elyria now has a playground designed to be enjoyed by children of all abilities. Murray Ridge program participants volunteered at the July 29 ribbon-cutting ceremonies by offering face-painting to young playground goers. Shown (at left) painting decorative face designs is consumer Ashley Tarrant from the Elyria Opportunity/Vocational Center accompanied by staff member Penni Shuster.

According to Elyria Rotarian and Murray Ridge Superintendent Amber Fisher, "It's not about finding a place for people with disabilities, it's about having a place in the community for people with disabilities to interact with their community."

Oberlin College Credo Students Visit Murray Ridge

For many years, Oberlin College has been sending students from the Credo Program to perform for the Adult Program participants and staff at the Elyria and Oberlin Opportunity/Vocational Centers (OVCs). In July, the young musicians, ages 13-23, gave another wonderful musical performance at both OVCs.

Credo is an intensive program of music study, service, and performance which brings students from around the world to the Oberlin Conservatory. Credo students hail from across the nation and several foreign lands, and cover a wide variety of social and faith backgrounds.

Murray Ridge is thrilled that Credo continues to reach out as part of their community service endeavors to bring classical music to the Agency. Thank you to all the Credo students who performed!



Murray Ridge Has Got Talent

Congratulations to Mark Oliveras of North Ridgeville (pictured below) who attends Murray Ridge's Elyria Opportunity/Vocational Center (EOVC), for taking First Prize in a recent Talent Show competition featuring the top three winning performers from each of Murray Ridge's three Opportunity/Vocational Centers.



Mark brought the house down with an energetic rendition of Ricky Martin's 1999 mega-hit 'Livin' La Vida Loca.'

Second place went to Tiajana Crumble and James Wilson, both of Lorain, who attend the Lorain Opportunity/Vocational Center (LOVC). The duo performed the Alicia Keys hit "Powerful," and were backed up by actors wearing T-shirts that read, "I MATTER." Elyria resident Diana Clement, from the EOVC, took third place for a dance she performed to the tune "Let it Rock," by Kevin Rudolf.

Special thanks go to the five individuals who volunteered their time to judge the competition: Ann Findlan, Former Assistant Superintendent of Murray Ridge Center; Judge Coordinator Terri Camp, Supervisor at the Oberlin Opportunity/Vocational Center (OOVC); Michele Gray, Investigative Agent at Our Lady of the Wayside; Sheryl Ownbey, Director of Nursing at Empowering People and Maria Hisey, Program Director of Residential Services at Echoing Lake.

Murray Ridge Housing Corporation Sponsors 5th Annual Lake Erie Crushers Night Out

On August 2, the Murray Ridge Housing Corporation (MRHC) sponsored an event for tenants of its homes at the Lake Erie Crushers game played at Sprenger Stadium. Some 140 residents, staff members, and caregivers attended the game to cheer on the Crushers. Tenants also had an opportunity to be involved in the game, with one participant, Robert Kerpics, throwing out the first pitch (right)!



MRHC is a non-profit housing board, providing financing, acquisition, and management of housing in Lorain County for individuals with developmental disabilities since 1992. Since its inception, MRHC has been committed to the goal of ensuring the availability of community-based living arrangements for eligible Lorain County citizens with developmental disabilities. Collectively, the houses owned by MRHC are home to more than 125 individuals with developmental disabilities. The 33 MRHC-owned houses are located in residential neighborhoods throughout Lorain County.

The event was sponsored by Ross Builders, Midwest Siding, Mr. & Mrs. Les Spike, Elyria Plastic Products, Geisel Heating and Air, McGreal and Company, Schlather Insurance, Reliable Contractor Services, and Yuhasz Builders. Residents and staff from the homes received admission to the game, food, and a t-shirt!

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!

2018 Fall Course Series

Evening Sessions:

October 16, 2018: Section 1, 6-9 p.m.

October 18, 2018: Section 2, 6-9 p.m.

October 23, 2018: Section 3, 6-9 p.m.

October 25, 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

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)



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September 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						

- 9/12 - LCBDD Finance Committee meeting, 12 p.m., Administration Building, 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria
- 9/23 - Vermilion Woollybear Parade, 1:30 p.m.
- 9/24 - Regular Meeting of the Board and Ethics Council, 6:30 p.m., Administration Building, 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria
- 9/26 - Family Support Parent Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m., LCBDD Administration Building, 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria

Come walk with us at the Woollybear Festival Parade in Vermilion September 23rd!

If interested, contact Tracey Carroll at (440) 329-3734.



BOARD ROOM BRIEFING

The Lorain County Board of DD convened at 6:30 p.m. on August 27, 2018:

Jeff Miller, Director of Vocational and Transportation Services, provided an update on recent communications related to Vocational Habilitation. Mr. Miller also presented and the Board unanimously approved Murray Ridge School bus stops for the 2018-2019 school year, and Superintendent Fisher/her designee(s) were authorized to relocate or designate additional bus stops during the school year, as needed. The Board unanimously established the dollar amount that the Family Support Parent Committee is authorized to approve for the fourth quarter of 2018. Dr. Fisher discussed with the Board the expectation of the Department of Developmental Disabilities that no county board begin to provide Medicaid waiver services to any individual that is not already receiving Adult Services from that county board, unless there is no other provider willing to provide Adult Services to the individual.

Lorain County Board of
Developmental Disabilities

Murray Ridge Center
1091 Infirmary Road
Elyria, OH 44035

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Elyria, OH 44035

Return Service Requested

Work at the Ridge!

**Check out our website at
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 a parent, guardian, sibling, or other relative of a Murray Ridge program participant, submit your nomination to Director of Community Education Chris Vasco. 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 Vasco at (440)329-3734 or cvasco@murrayridgecenter.org.