

MONTHLY



MURRAY RIDGE COURIER

SEP 2022



Paulina Lilly was full of smiles as Susan Rundell helped her off the bus!

First Day of School!

Thursday, August 23rd was the first day of classes for the 2022-2023 Murray Ridge School year! We would like to extend a warm welcome to all of our new students and staff members, as well as those returning for another great year of learning. Have a wonderful year, everyone!



Lisa Koney walking Kenneth Kingsley, Alexis Throckmorton, and Mia Williams to their first day of classes.



Vanessa Medina helps Brayden Altobelli off the bus.

Murray Ridge School

More Than 50 Years of Excellence

For more than a half-century, our school has provided a positive and nurturing environment that enables students to develop functional skills in an environment that fosters self-esteem and a sense of accomplishment. In addition to a solid life-skills curriculum supplemented by academics, art, adaptive physical education, music, science, and more, students' classroom learning is enhanced by community experiences and volunteer opportunities.

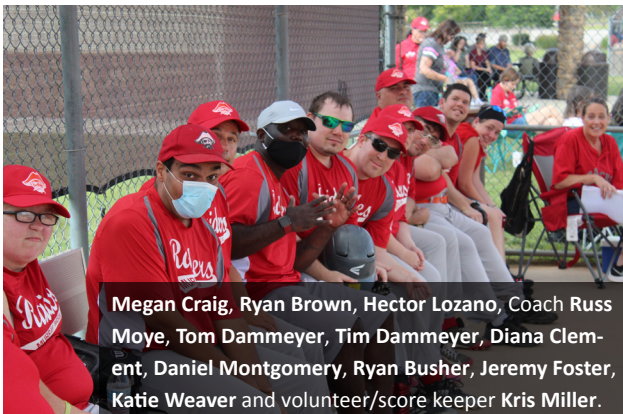
Drive for show, putt for dough! **Bill Lacko** is about to put one in the hole.



Murray Ridge Raiders Softball Season Recap

This season, we had 20 athletes attend softball tryouts in July at Amherst Middle School. The Division II Scarlet Team consisted of 14 players from Supported Employment, all three OVCs, and four other adult day providers, while the Grey Team was a non-divisional, developmental team with 12 members, six of whom also played on the Scarlet Team. This multi-team arrangement allowed every player at the tryouts to be placed on a team without any cuts! Better still, four of those athletes were on a competitive team for the first time in their Special Olympics careers!

The Grey Team, with Head Coach **Rick Rovere**, played a total of four games and had a season record of two wins and two losses. All of the players showed growth in both skills and confidence throughout the season.



Megan Craig, Ryan Brown, Hector Lozano, Coach Russ Moyer, Tom Dammeyer, Tim Dammeyer, Diana Clement, Daniel Montgomery, Ryan Busher, Jeremy Foster, Katie Weaver and volunteer/score keeper Kris Miller.

Murray Ridge Center invites all Lorain County adults with developmental disabilities to participate in our Special Olympics Program. If you'd like to learn more about our upcoming Special Olympics Ohio activities and events and how to participate in them, please contact Shawn Hatcher at 440-284-2720 or at shatcher@murrayridgecenter.org

Regional Golf Tournament

The Special Olympics Ohio Regional Golf tournament was held Sunday, August 10 at the Mallard Creek Golf Club in Columbia Station, Ohio! The Raiders had five athletes, and they competed with their unified partners in an alternate shot (taking turns) format. The team of Bill Lacko and Merle Simmons won the Gold Medal in its division, and the teams of Annie Cirilo with Joe Croftcheck and Benji Lewis with Tracey Lewis each earned Bronze medals. And last but not least, the teams of John Ahart with Tonya Guitar and Steve Slutzker with Shawn Hatcher each earned fourth place finishes.



Ryan Brown making the play!

Head Coach **Russel Moyer's** Scarlet Team had an undefeated, albeit abbreviated, season with the weather canceling half of the six scheduled games. However, the three that it did play were victories by ten or more runs each game! Scarlet's season ended on August 24th at a Regional Tournament Semi-final game against Medina. The Raiders defense hung on as long as it could, turning two impressive double plays, but the Raiders unfortunately fell to Medina 17-7 in 5 innings.

In the Softball Skills season, ten athletes began practicing in July, five of whom attended the Regional Skills competition in Canton on August 28th. Those competitors earned four gold medals and one bronze medal in their respective divisions. About two weeks later, on Saturday, September 10th, **Kenny Martin** brought home a gold medal at the State Softball Skills Competition!

Next up is basketball! Basketball tryouts will be held Monday, October 3rd, at Murray Ridge School. Signup forms can be found at Murray Ridge Center's website under the Adult Services tab!

Want to see more pictures? Be sure to visit our Facebook page!



Left to right: Echoing Hills Staff Member **Angie Stapleton**, Murray Ridge Center Administrative Secretary and Parade Committee Member **Jennifer Ryan**, Echoing Hills Staff Member **'Nay Curry**, **Jeremy Foster**, **Charles Garn**, **Roberta Gorr**, **Corin Cobb** (waving), **Elena Reinhold** (kneeling), **Dan White**, **Sally Gordon**, Echoing Hills Staff Member **Cassie Strauderman**, and **Mark Vanek**



Sally Gordon and **Elena Reinhold** waiting for the parade to start

North Ridgeville Corn Festival Parade

Sunday, August 14th, was the annual North Ridgeville Corn Festival's Parade! We had a great turnout, and our participants added an extra layer of fun by wearing cowboy hats and bandanas. And better still, the judges loved our group's enthusiasm and awarded us "Best Commercial Unit" in the parade! Thank you and great work to everyone involved!

Parades and other public events like these are great opportunities for people with developmental disabilities to be represented in our communities, and to further our agency's goal of promoting community inclusion and acceptance.

Check out our Facebook page for more parade pictures!



Murray Ridge on the march!

WELCOME, 2022 MRS PRESCHOOLERS!



Occupational Therapist **Trish Myers** working with **Chakrika Bommisetty**



Preschoolers **Owen Skinner**, **Brodie Reynolds**, and **Claire Demyan**

Tuesday, September 6th, was the first day of preschool! Murray Ridge School offers an inclusive and integrated preschool program four days a week for both typically developing children and those with developmental disabilities ages three to five.



Preschooler **Hadley Victor**

EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE AWARD PRESENTED

The most recent recipient of our Exceptional Service Award was **Lisa Reed**, a Vocational Placement Specialist in our Supported Employment Department. Lisa was nominated by the Lacko family, who told us that her care and assistance was indispensable in helping brothers Bill and Mark navigate the sudden and extensive changes at their workplaces that were brought about by the pandemic. The Lacko family likened Lisa's help to a light that "shone brightly through the dense cloud of COVID-19." We congratulate Lisa for her great work with the Lacko family, especially under the difficult circumstances presented by the pandemic.

Do you know a Murray Ridge staff member who has gone "above and beyond"? If so, submit your nomination to Kevin Naughton, Community Education & Volunteer Director at (440) 329-3734 or at kevin@murrayridgecenter.org.



Superintendent **Amber Fisher**, Vocational Placement Specialist **Lisa Reed**, and Board Member **Rebecca Cornman**



It has been an honor for Bill and Mark to work with Lisa.

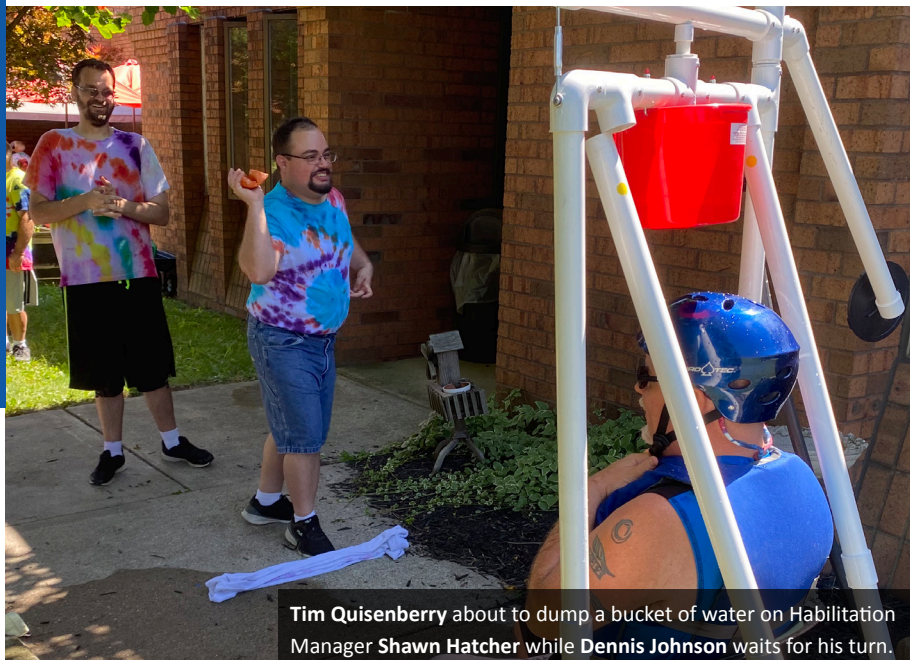
-The Lacko Family



Becky Sue Burianek and **Alicia Lawrence** enjoying the beautiful weather at the picnic.

EOVC Summer Picnic

On Thursday, August 18th, the Elyria Opportunity & Vocational Center held its annual summer picnic! Staff and adult program participants got to enjoy the beautiful weather and play some fun outdoor games like horseshoes, cornhole, and more. A highlight of the picnic was the dunk tank, where program participants got to throw beanbags at a target in order to dump a bucket of water on staff members!



Tim Quisenberry about to dump a bucket of water on Habilitation Manager **Shawn Hatcher** while **Dennis Johnson** waits for his turn.

Want to see more pictures and video from the picnic?

Be sure to visit our Facebook page for more fun!

Annual Transportation Safety Instructions

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.
- Store all belongings in a backpack so nothing gets dropped.

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 signalled 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!



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.

Virtual Zoom Meeting!

2022 Virtual Fall Series

Evening Sessions:

October 17, 2022: Section 1, 5-7:30 p.m.
October 19, 2022: Section 2, 5-7:30 p.m.
October 24, 2022: Section 3, 5-7:30 p.m.
October 26, 2022: Section 4, 5-7:30 p.m.

Registration Information:

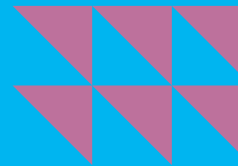
Contact : Kathy Bevaque, M.Ed., D.S. w/LCBDD
Agency mobile # (440) 731-0358
e-mail: kbevaque@murrayridgecenter.org

Facilitators:

Kathleen Bevaque, M.Ed., D.S. w/LCBDD
Angelique Yost, parent/former foster parent



MurrayRidgeCenter
HELPING PEOPLE... FOR A LIFETIME



Learn about Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) and how to best work with those affected in order to help them to reach their fullest potentials.

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; Behavioral Strategy; Daily Living & Future Planning for Individuals with FASD

No fee to attend.



Contact Hours Available

- Social workers, counselors, and chemical dependency RCH provided by the MHARS Board of Lorain County
- Developmental Disability hours provided by Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities, now including EI.
- Certificate of Attendance for contact hours



Nominations Sought for Exceptional Service Awards

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 Kevin Naughton, 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 Kevin at (440) 329-3734 or kevin@murrayridgecenter.org

Boardroom Briefing

The Lorain County Board of DD convened at 6:30 p.m. on August 29, 2022

The Board approved bonuses for Agency employees who pick up additional over-night and weekend paraprofessional shifts at the Meister Rd. Home; funding for this purpose is available through a State-provided allocation for ICF-IID relief and workforce incentive expenses. The Board approved the implementation of a subsidy of the cost of having nurses at privately-operated Day Programs; this subsidy will be rolled out in the months ahead. The Board unanimously approved the 2022-2025 collective bargaining tentative agreement with OAPSE Local 625 – SSA Unit, and recommended that it be submitted to the Lorain County Board of Commissioners for consideration. The Board approved changes to the following policies: (1) Agency Chain of Command, (2) Management & Confidential Policy on Bonus Time and Sick Leave Conversion Options, and (3) Management & Confidential Policy on Calamity Days. Jeff Miller, Director of Vocational and Transportation Services, presented and the Board unanimously approved Murray Ridge School bus stops for the 2022-2023 school year, and Superintendent Fisher/her designee(s) were authorized to relocate or designate additional bus stops during the school year, as needed.

Now Hiring!

FEATURED positions



Direct Support Professionals (Home Setting)

We have openings available for permanent and PRN (as-needed) positions to care for residents of our Meister Road Home. Hours vary based on position and/or assignment.

Service and Support Administrator (SSA)

We have openings for full-time Service and Support Administrators. Hours are generally during the day.

SSA Data/Account Clerk

We are looking for a full-time SSA Data/Account Clerk. Hours are generally during the day.

Direct Support Professionals (Adult Program Setting)

We have openings available for permanent and PRN (as-needed) positions to care for participants in our Adult Program. Hours are generally during the day.

We are looking for PRN (as-needed) and 9 month full-time and part-time Speech and Language Pathologists!

Custodial/Maintenance Positions

We are looking for full-time and PRN (as-needed) custodial staff and a full-time Maintenance Technician. Hours are generally during the day.

We provide the training.
You provide the ♥

To see our current openings and to apply, go to the Murray Ridge website and click on "Opportunities"

All candidates:

Must have valid Ohio drivers license, good driving record, and High School Diploma/GED.
Must pass background check, drug test, and physical.

Lorain County Board of
Developmental Disabilities

Murray Ridge Center
1091 Infirmary Road
Elyria, OH 44035

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Photo of the Month: Brenden Stull, Matthew Schoerverth,
Scott Issak, and Michael Elliot with the Honorable Judge
James Walther at the Lorain County Fair!

Contact Us

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440.329.3734

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Web & Email :
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kevin@murrayridgecenter.org

Be sure to follow us on Facebook!

