



MurrayRidgeCenter
HELPING PEOPLE...FOR A LIFETIME

The Murray Ridge Courier

April 2015

Murray Ridge Raiders Special Olympics Basketball Teams Finish an Impressive Season

The four Murray Ridge Raiders Basketball Teams and Skills Team ended a great 2014-2015 season in March! Below is a snapshot of all that the teams accomplished this winter.

Team 1 finished its season with a 3-5 record. The team welcomed new players Joe Garsky and Steve Lucruto, and saw veteran players Ryan Eliason and John Torres contributing as high scorers throughout the season; Ryan averaged 15 points and John averaged 12 points per game! At the Special Olympics Hoops Tournament at Lorain County Community College, Team 1 won its opening round game and advanced to the Championship game. The Championship game went into double overtime before Team 1 ultimately lost to Stark County by the score of 78-88, putting it in 2nd place!



Team 2 ended its season with a 5-5 record. Charles Johnson, Hector Lorzano, and Raul Torres consistently led the team in scoring. Defense was led by Tim Dammeyer and Pat Whitworth. Pat Whitworth led the team in blocked shots. Team 2 lost in the first round of the Special Olympics Hoops Tournament to the Columbiana Comets by a score of 33-49, giving it a 5th place finish in the tourney. The most impressive accomplishment of this team was its unity and sportsmanship. The players had great team pride and always supported each other throughout the season!



Team 3 had many returning veterans and several new players this season; coaches and veterans welcomed new players Matt Griffin and Charles Keller. Charles finished his season early due to illness but the team went



on to dedicate the rest of the season to him. Veteran players Angel Rivera and David Zsigray stepped in and provided leadership skills to the Team. The team was excited to win the opening game of the Special Olympics Hoops Tournament; Team 3 continued on to the second round and played an excellent game, having fun all the way though. Team 3 placed 3rd in the tournament this year!

While the **Lady Raiders** only won one game this season, they were competitive and played hard at every game. This season was a good learning experience and the team looks forward to improving next year. The Lady Raiders



welcomed a new player this year, Elena Reinhold. Elena did very well her first season and the team is hoping to see her next year as we continue to grow as a team. JoAnn Gall and Britiny Bennett were both out for most of the season due to injuries, and Maria Poling also had an injury towards end of the season. Shari Reitenbach was a constant high scorer, at one point scoring more than 25 points in three consecutive games. At the Special Olympics Hoops Tournament, the Lady Raiders lost their only game 41-24 against Stark County.

All 50 members of the **Basketball Skills Team** competed at the Special Olympics Hoops Tournament. Nine athletes, Alyssa DeAngelis, Julie Allesandro, Chelsie Jenkins, Jessica Johnson, Isaiah Johnson, Tom Djordjevic, Lisa Schultz, Alex Avertt, and Dennis Johnson, were chosen to advance to the State competition in Columbus. At state, they competed against other counties in passing, dribbling, and shooting, and in total earned 2 Gold, 5 Silver, 1 Bronze, a 4th place, and a 5th place.



The players and coaches would like to send out a special thank you to all the fans, caregivers, and family members that supported the team! We look forward to next year!

April is Autism Awareness Month

Join Murray Ridge Center as we observe April as National Autism Awareness Month. According to the National Autism Society, Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs) affect 1 in every 88 births, and almost 1 in 70 boys. Autism affects individuals differently and to varying degrees, but the National Autism Society estimates that more than 1.5 million Americans are living with some effects of ASDs.

Autism is treatable, and early diagnosis and intervention can lead to significantly improved outcomes. Visit www.autism-society.org for more information or, to learn about programs and services offered by Murray Ridge School, contact Director of Educational Services Dann Swift, or Supervisors Joan Peterson or Amy Bodnar at 329-3760.



Annual Spaghetti Dinner a Huge Success!

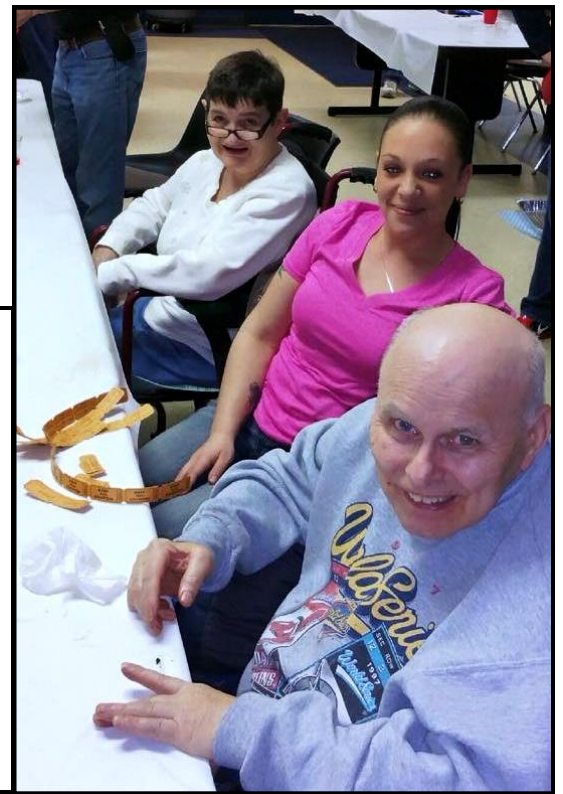
On March 16, the Murray Ridge Support Group (MRSG) held its annual Spaghetti Dinner at the AmVets Post 55 in Sheffield Lake.

In total, the MRSG raised more than \$5,000 through the event, and all proceeds will benefit Lorain County citizens impacted by developmental disabilities.

Thank you to all who came out for great food, great company, and a worthy cause!



Left: Shelley Stipe, teacher's aide at Murray Ridge School, and a fellow volunteer serve spaghetti. Right: Academy Court Group Home resident Donna Baker, staff member Missy Obeshaw, and resident Tom Altman wait patiently for their meals!



Travelling Art Show Moves to Avon Lake Public Library

Check out the Travelling Art Show in April! Adult Program participants' and Murray Ridge School students' artwork is on exhibit at the Avon Lake Branch of the Lorain County Public Libraries.

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



Mega Championship Wrestling Presents "Breaking Down Barriers 5!"

Mega Championship Wrestling, a local entertainment company, will be presenting an event called **"Breaking Down Barriers 5."**

As in the past, proceeds from this event will go to the Friends of Murray Ridge, a non-profit charitable organization which supports the mission, community education and informational outreach of the Murray Ridge Center.

Although wrestling may not be for everyone, many of our consumers enjoy watching WWE wrestling and would be interested in attending this event.



Date: Saturday, May 16th, 2015
Time: Doors open at 5:30 pm
Showtime 6:00-8:00 pm
Where: St. John's Lutheran Church Gymnasium, 1140 W. River Rd N, Elyria
Cost: \$8/ticket in advance and \$15 at the door

T-Shirts will be available at the door for \$15.00 (2XX plus sizes will cost more). There will be a concession stand open for you to purchase snacks.

To purchase tickets in advance for \$8.00 each:

1. Fill in the section below and cut on the dotted line.
2. Return the completed form below with your money or check in an envelope addressed to one of the buildings below:

Loretta Binder at the Oberlin Opportunity/Vocational Center	(440) 774-7400
Amber Fitzgerald at the Elyria Opportunity/Vocational Center	(440) 284-2720
Christine Mazze at the Lorain Opportunity/Vocational Center	(440) 282-2131
Beverly Monteleone at the Administration Building	(440) 329-3734
Peggy Smith at Murray Ridge School	(440) 329-3760

3. If you are sending a check make it out to: Mega Championship Wrestling **OR** You can stop in at one of the sites listed to purchase tickets.

If you have any questions call the numbers above.

Breaking Down Barriers 5 Ticket Order Form:

NAME OF PERSON ORDERING TICKETS: _____

NUMBER OF TICKETS (at \$8.00 each): _____

TOTAL AMOUNT MONEY/CHECK ENCLOSED: _____

A PRESCHOOL OPTION

The Murray Ridge Preschool Program offers students with a variety of developmental disabilities the advantages of in-room therapies, an array of state-of-the-art equipment, outstanding staff and an opportunity to learn alongside typically-developing peers.

Murray Ridge Preschool Offers:

- Individualized Speech, Occupational and Physical Therapy in the classroom
- An extensive collection of early childhood educational equipment
- Full-time nurse on site
- Behavior Support Services
- Music classes



- A well-rounded curriculum based on the Ohio Early Learning Content Standards
- Dynamic, ODE-certified staff
- Physical development through indoor/outdoor physical education classes
- Door-to-door transportation services

Did You Know...

The Murray Ridge preschool serves children with a wide range of developmental disabilities, from those with mild delays to those profoundly impacted, and Murray Ridge is a recognized leader in its comprehensive approach to teaching children with autism. The Preschool Program runs Tuesday through Friday. Children with disabilities must be referred to the Murray Ridge Preschool Program by their local school district. Applications for typically-developing children are available through Murray Ridge School (see below).

For More Information Contact:

Dann Swift
Director of Educational Services
Murray Ridge School
9750 Murray Ridge Road
Elyria, Oh 44035
440.329-3760
dswift@murrayridgecenter.org
www.murrayridgecenter.org



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EOVC Attendee Continues Tradition of Giving Back

EOVC attendee and resident philanthropist Jesse Frisch continued his yearly tradition of donning leprechaun garb and making his rounds throughout the EOVC and the MRC Administration Building to collect money for the Friendship Animal Protective League in Elyria.

For more than six years, Jessie has made the APL the place where he donates his St. Patrick's Day collection. This year, Jessie gifted the APL \$317.57; the total raised throughout the year through change jars located in the EOVC, and through his requests on March 17th.

Thank you, Jessie, for continuing the spirit of giving by making this donation to the APL!



Jessie poses with an APL employee during his annual donation trip.

Sock Hop at Murray Ridge School

Murray Ridge School held a sock hop on March 18. Students and staff dressed up in their finest 60's clothes and be-bopped the afternoon away!



Pictured, far left: preschool students Hannah Draper, Lana Ayala, and T.J. Nagy. Left, middle: Zachary Rader, Teacher Laura Baus, and Patrick Boey. Above: Liaison teachers Julie Kraker and Nick Kish. Far right: Pat Churavy (PT) and Shadab Sohail.

Thank You to all our Murray Ridge Center Volunteers!

National Volunteer Week is April 12-18, 2015. Throughout this week and throughout the entire year, Murray Ridge Center would like to recognize the individuals who give their time as volunteers at Murray Ridge School, in our Opportunity/Vocational Centers, throughout our Special Olympic sports, and in many other facets of the Agency. Murray Ridge Center extends its sincerest thanks to these community volunteers for making a considerable and lasting difference in the lives of the individuals we serve. In addition to the many staff volunteers, thank you to the following community volunteers:

Pete Barth	Matt Dailey	Michelle Hunt	Henry Patterson, Jr.	Marge Winemiller
Linda Baus	Mary Demmy	James (Kurt) Koepf	Stephen J. Ross	Cindy Worzel
Jim Berarducci	Ann Findlan	Matt Krivak	Terry (Pete) Schilling	Tina Woskobunik
Keith Boey	Gerry Findlan	Kathleen Lewis	Vassie Scott	Denis Wright
Greg Butchko	Robert Gajdos	James Miller	Les Spike	
Kern Cantenese	Ruben Garcia	Jane Miller	Jim Uldrich	
Sandi Camp	Nadyne Hamner	Karen Moore	Jerry Vessalo	
Rebecca Cornman	Betty Hanson	Kathy Oblak	Daniel White	

For more information on how you can volunteer with Murray Ridge Center, contact Jennifer Judkins at 440.329.3734 or jjudkins@murrayridgecenter.org.



**Friends of Murray Ridge &
Joe Firment Chevrolet Present**

2014 Chevy Sonic Raffle

Raffle held on May 16, 2015 @ 3:00 p.m.
at Rebman Recreation, Inc.
5300 Oberlin Ave, Lorain, OH 44053

Tickets: \$20 each or 3 for \$50



Call 440.329.3734 to purchase tickets
All proceeds benefit Friends of Murray Ridge

JOE *FIRMENT*

Contestants need not be present to win • Contestants must be at least 18 years of age to participate •
Please see www.murrayridgecenter.org for Official Rules



April 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 	4
5 	6	7	8 	9	10	11
Murray Ridge School Spring Break 4/6 - 4/10						
12	13	14	15	16 	17 	18
19	20	21	22	23	24 	25
26	27	28	29 	30		

Activities & Events

- 4/3 - Program closing day for Good Friday**
- 4/6-4/10 - Murray Ridge Preschool and School Closed for Spring Break**
- 4/8 - Murray Ridge Support Group meeting, 4:15 p.m., Elyria Opportunity/Vocational Center, 1095 Infirmary Road in Elyria
- 4/16 - LCBDD Finance Committee meeting, 12:00 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria
- 4/17 - Murray Ridge Support Group Dance, 7:00 p.m., Murray Ridge School, 9750 Murray Ridge Road in Elyria
- 4/24 - Regular Meeting of the Board and Ethics Council, 12:30 p.m., Administration Building, 1091 Infirmary Rd in Elyria
- 4/29 - Family Support Parent Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road in Elyria



BOARD ROOM BRIEFING

The Lorain County Board of DD convened at 12:30 p.m. on March 27, 2015:

Board Member Dan White announced that the Exceptional Service Board Award committee had selected a recipient for the award to be presented at the April meeting. The Board approved a resolution to adopt three Strategic Plan Addendums and the Strategic Plan Progress Report/Annual Action Plan: Programs & Expenditures - 2015. Superintendent Fisher requested and the Board approved a rescission of the Board Policy on *Administrative Resolution of Complaints for Early Intervention*. The Board also approved a new Board Policy, *Early Intervention*. Superintendent Fisher explained anticipated revenues and variable expenses of the Agency's preschool program for the 2014/2015 school year. The Board voted unanimously to retain the current rate structure for both school districts and parents of typically developing peers that place students in the Murray Ridge Preschool program for the 2015/2016 school year. The Board approved the dates of the Murray Ridge School Summer Camp for June 10 - July 2, 2015. The Board unanimously established the dollar amount that the Family Support Parent Committee is authorized to approve in the second quarter of 2015. The Murray Ridge Support Group announced it had made more than \$5,000 at its annual Spaghetti Dinner. Public Relations/Volunteer Director Jennifer Judkins announced two upcoming fundraisers; a Chipotle fundraiser to benefit Murray Ridge School Prom, and a car raffle from Friends of Murray Ridge.

Lorain County Board of
Developmental Disabilities

Murray Ridge Center
1091 Infirmary Road
Elyria, OH 44035

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U.S. Postage
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Elyria, OH 44035



Further News You Might Use...

We are often in receipt of information from external sources on offerings designed for people with DD. Some examples include summer camps and special interest classes. Many such offerings have an associated cost to the participant. Although we are not in a position to "vouch for" or promote such offerings, we recognize that these opportunities may be of interest to our consumers, their families and/or guardians. If you are interested in learning more about such consumer-oriented events and opportunities, please contact Jeff Neal, Director of Service & Support Administration at 440-324-2366.

—The Editor

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, Public Relations/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, usually held on the last Friday of each month at 12:30 p.m. in the Board Room. If you have any questions, contact Jenn Judkins at 440-329-3734 or jjudkins@murrayridgecenter.org.