



MurrayRidgeCenter
HELPING PEOPLE...FOR A LIFETIME

The Murray Ridge Courier

August 2015

Annual Talent Show for OVCs a Big Success!

The annual Murray Ridge Talent Show was held at the Murray Ridge School gymnasium on July 29. The top 3 finalists from the Elyria, Lorain, and Oberlin Opportunity/Vocational Centers competed against each other for the title!

Hosts Jim Nagy and Judy Hartung (below) were on hand for introduction of acts and provided many laughs throughout the show, while judges (below right, l-r) Bev Johnson (Supervisor, EOVC), Michelle Gray (Administrator, Our Lady of the Wayside), Juanita Francis-Mastin (Supervisor, Res Care), Michelle Hunt (Board President), and Tim Neville (Director, Echoing Lakes) provided feedback to all who performed.



The winners! (above, l-r):

3rd Place: John Hall and Lori Norton with Swing Dancing, In the Mood (Glen Miller)

2nd place: Four Guys: James Wilson, Jonathan Whitfield, Andrew Prihoda, and Angel Rivera, dancing to Uptown Funk (Mark Ronson/Bruno Mars)

1st Place: Shasta Knarr with Ice, Ice Baby (Vanilla Ice)



For more information on the show—and to see additional photos and videos of the performances—please Like us on our Murray Ridge Center Facebook page.

Thank you to all our participants, both in the semi-finals and finals! You are all talented in so many ways. We look forward to new acts next year!



Happenings at...

The Elyria Opportunity/Vocational Center



Above: Mike Telloni and Joe Bellottie pick their favorite bike. Right: Matt Anthony poses in front of his favorite bike. Below: Brandon Berkley (seated) and staff member Tom Mangan in their hot rod ensembles. Brandon is the ring and Tom is the wrestler!

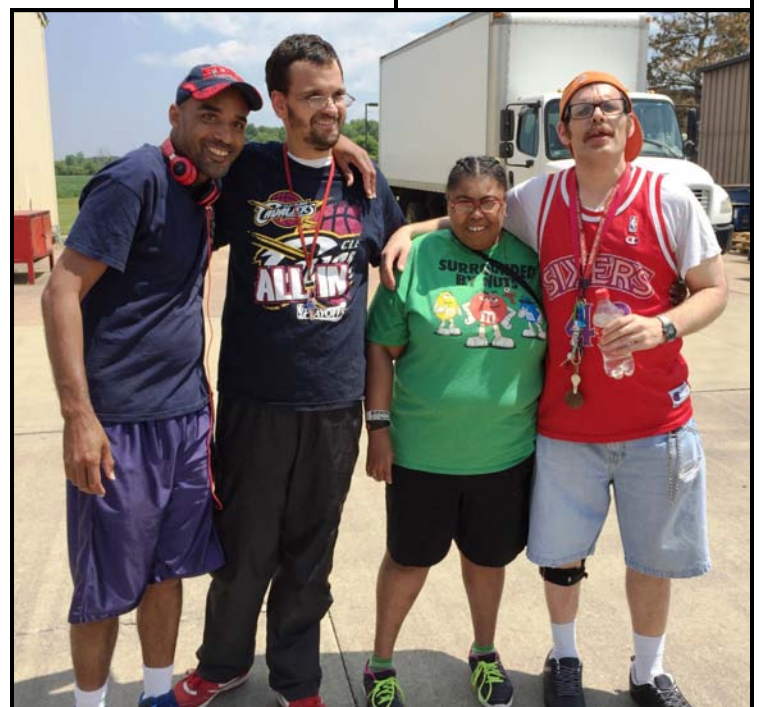
The EOVC has been pursuing interests in all things motorized with two big shows this summer: a motorcycle day and the new - hopefully to be annual event - Hot Rods at the Ridge.

For Motorcycle Day, bikes from members of the Christian Motorcycle Association were on display, and adult program participants voted on their favorites! Staff and attendees also dressed in their finest motorcycle clothes for the occasion!

Hot Rods at the Ridge was a new idea for the summer that started in May and culminated with the big show on July 28. Seventeen consumers participated; staff helped decorate wheelchairs and choose music for each "hot rod" driver to use for his or her lap. Ribbons, certificates, and trophies were donated by staff member George Gedid and presented to each driver.



Below: James Peters, Dennis Johnson, Daris Hall, and James Ochoa show their support for the hot rod drivers!



The Lorain Opportunity/Vocational Center (LOVC)

The LOVC has been enjoying the beautiful summer weather by taking advantage of every second of sunshine! Consumers have been making the rounds throughout Lorain County and beyond!



Above: Robert Baker, Kevin Palotai, Katie Kellogg, and Yaletti Arroyo got wild at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo!



Above: Adult program participants had a great time at the Lake Captain's Game during a day trip on July 28. Front row: Chelsie Jenkins, Jonah Griffore, Daniel Diaz. Back row: Donna Wolfe, D'Ronda Fleming, Mark Wright.



Left, Adult attendees of the Lorain Opportunity/Vocational Center enjoyed a putt-putt golf game during a day time trip on July 28! Pictured are Larry Diaz, Mark Joyner, John Armstrong, and Judy Wood.

The Oberlin Opportunity/Vocational Center (OOVC)



The OOVC is getting close to nature with its recently developed small bird watching garden just outside the windows of Area 4. Hummingbirds and birds of many varieties are attracted to the garden, which is within feet of a viewing area inside the Center.

It's been amazing how many different kinds of birds have already frequented the new garden, and OOVC program participants have enjoyed being close to the nature and wildlife.

Left: MRC Activity Aide Charlie Hearn is being assisted by Lisa Acord and Terry Gereke in watering the plants of the new garden. Terry really loves looking outside for birds and the occasional deer that wander the grounds of OOVC.



Credo Chamber Music: Students involved in a three week summer instructional program of intensive chamber music and performance shared their talents with consumers and staff at OOVC on July 9.

Through the Oberlin College Conservatory of Music, Credo students, ages 13-23, hail from across the nation and several foreign countries. As an important part of Credo's mission of service, students devote one day a week to a variety of service activities.

The OOVC has been fortunate to have the Credo Chamber Music group perform for staff and consumers for a number of years; these performances allow program participants to experience music, interact with the musicians, and enjoy the wonders of art in an environment where they are free to show their appreciation in whatever way they see fit. We look forward to Credo's return next year!

MRC Continues its Participation in Lorain County Parades!

Join Murray Ridge Center at our upcoming events. We will be marching in the North Ridgeville Corn Festival Parade Sunday, August 9. And come see us at the 168th Annual Lorain County Fair August 24-30 in Wellington.

Cheer us on, march in the parade, or stop by our booth to learn more about our services!

Thank you for helping make these events a success!



Murray Ridge Support Group 2015-2016 Dance Schedule

Please join consumers from all over Lorain County each month at the Murray Ridge Support Group Dances! See schedule below for dates. For more information, please contact George Gedid at 284-2720.

September 25
October 23
November 20
December 18
February 12
March 18
April 15
May 20
June 17



Getting Ready to go Back to School!

I hope everyone has been having a great summer. It's hard to believe that it's time to start thinking about the 2015-2016 school year!

To make the transition from summer vacation to school days easier, please read the following information, which includes important dates and helpful reminders to get all parents and students started off in the right direction!

- The school-wide "Meet the Teacher/Open House" is scheduled for August 26 from 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM
- First day of school is Thursday August 27
- Preschoolers start September 8

Parents should make sure that all school forms for their children have been filled out and submitted. If not, please mail them as soon as possible. Contact the school if you need to have a packet mailed to you.

We will be participating in the National Free/Reduced Lunch program. Free/Reduced Lunch applications will

go home the first week of school. However, you may purchase a lunch for your child before the application is processed. The cost for Breakfast is \$1.30, and the cost for Lunch is \$2.35

Parents can contact the bus company to find out bus routes and estimated times for pickup and drop-off. Please note that First Student has a new phone number: (440) 288-2222.

For any other information, please visit our website at www.murrayridgecenter.org or call the school office at (440) 329-3760.

I look forward to seeing you this school year!

Sincerely,

Dann Swift
Director of Educational Services



Sports News!



Team 1 is halfway through its season, currently holding a 6-1 record! Catch one of the team's last games:

Saturday, August 8 vs. Stark Public—Home
 Wednesday, August 12 vs. Medina County— Away
 Monday, August 10 vs. Erie County—Away



Team 2 is also midway through its season with a 5-2 record. You can attend any of the team's remaining games below:

Saturday, August 8 vs. Stark Public D-4—Home
 Thursday, August 13 vs. Sandusky County—Away
 Tuesday, August 18 vs. Ashland County—Away
 Wednesday, August 19 vs. Lake County—Home



Brothers Bill and Mark Lacko (both adult program participants at the Elyria Opportunity/Vocational Center) ran a complete 5K on July 25 with an incredible time of 41:34! Special Olympics Track coach Brian Chutes ran it with them. The race was called Wigs for Kids - a fundraising event for kids with hair loss due to chemotherapy. Congratulations, Gentlemen! Pictured left to right: Mark Lacko, Brian Chutes, and Bill Lacko.

Congratulations to the Murray Ridge Unified Golf Team! They competed in the North Section Qualifying Tournament on August 2. Winning Gold medals were Bill Lacko/George Gedid, Chad Kothe/Shawn Silvis. Silver medals: Ken Freeland/Tim Schrader, Mike Yanda/Gary Lyons, Ben Lewis/Tracy Lewis. Bronze Medals: Kris Sommer/Jacob Diaz, Steve Slutzer/Tom Mangan. Great job golfers!



August 2015



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	31					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
Lorain County Fair						

Activities & Events

- 8/9 - Participate in the North Ridgeville Corn Festival parade
- 8/20- LCBDD Finance Committee meeting, 12:00 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria
- 8/24 - 8/30 - Lorain County Fair
- 8/26 - First day of school for staff
- 8/27 - First day of school for students
- 8/28 - Regular Meeting of the Board and Ethics Council, 12:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road in Elyria

It's August and that means it is time to take those last-minute vacations and to get your children ready for returning to school. Here are a few simple safety tips to help make back-to-school less stressful for everyone involved:

- Keep backpacks light for safety: It is easy to overload a backpack with books, lunches, supplies and so forth. Keep in mind that a backpack should not be heavier than 10-20% of a child's body weight.
- Sunscreen: Don't forget to send sunscreen to school so it can be applied for those outside activities while the weather is still nice. This is especially important if your child is sensitive to the standard sunscreen with PABA and needs a PABA-free product
- Getting rest: Kids will do better in school if they have plenty of rest. Now is the time to start back in with set bedtime habits to encourage adequate sleep and rest.
- Communicating with the nursing staff: Keeping the school nurses aware of what is going on with a child will ensure continuity of care and will allow closer monitoring of health related conditions. Be

Eye On Health

Kevin Eye, Director of Nursing Services



sure to let the nurses know of any changes in medications, allergies and/or treatments; and to let the nurses know if there are any issues happening at home that may impact the health of the child or classmates (bed bugs, lice, fleas, flu and so forth). The nurses will work collaboratively with parents to get through almost any health related crisis.

- For those students returning to Murray Ridge School, the annual "Bring Your Supplies to School Day" will be August 11th between 8AM and 4PM. This is a great time to bring in any medical supplies that your child needs during the school year and it is also a good time to talk to the nurses one-on-one.

Have a happy and healthy school year!
Kevin Eye
Director of Nursing Services

Lorain County Board of
Developmental Disabilities

Murray Ridge Center
1091 Infirmary Road
Elyria, OH 44035

Visit our Web site
www.murrayridgecenter.org



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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 Nancy Simko, SSA Manager. You may reach her by telephone at 440-324-2366.

—The Editor

Volunteer This Summer

Have fun and educate the community about Murray Ridge Center. We need volunteers to help us staff booths and participate in parades at several events throughout Lorain County this summer. If you are interested in representing Murray Ridge at an event, please contact Jennifer Judkins at 329-3734.



If you wish to receive future newsletters by email, please visit www.murrayridgecenter.org and click on the Sign Up for Our Email Newsletter link.