



MurrayRidgeCenter
HELPING PEOPLE...FOR A LIFETIME

The Murray Ridge Courier

December 2017

Murray Ridge Honors Special Olympic Athletes at Annual Ceremony

At Murray Ridge Center's annual Special Olympics awards banquet on November 8, athletes were honored for their participation throughout the year in more than ten sports.

The evening's keynote speaker was Todd Krieg (pictured, right), who began motocross racing at the age of 5 and raced for sixteen years. Todd raced for 2.5 years as a professional. He won numerous local, regional, and state championship series. Todd continued racing until a career ending accident in October 2014. Todd inspired the crowd with his speech which detailed his journey and what can be accomplished with a positive attitude and a strong will!

At the awards banquet, exceptional achievements throughout the year were recognized; acknowledgements included the Sportsman of the



At Murray Ridge, we strive to assist all of the individuals we serve to master skills, and we are thankful to the staff members and volunteers who take the time to coach, mentor, and support our athletes in the many competitions throughout the year.

Congratulations to all Special Olympics athletes! Murray Ridge is proud of all you've accomplished and looks forward to celebrating many victories in the years to come!



Team 3 Basketball Team

Year award, which was given to Victor Elder for his displays of excellent sportsmanship, and the Hall of Fame induction of Bev Ross for her success in Special Olympics bocce. Each athlete was called up - sometimes multiple times! - by sport and team, and awarded a Special Olympics umbrella with the Murray Ridge logo imprinted on the front.



Lady Raiders Basketball Team

MRS Field Trip Includes Vocational Experience

Preparing our senior students for what lies beyond the school walls is an important aspect of what we do at Murray Ridge School. Many of our students want to work in the fast food and restaurant industry after graduation. To give them exposure to this vocation, teacher Cheryl Swierz and her class took a field trip to Pizza Hut in Amherst where they were treated to a firsthand restaurant job experience. This trip allowed the class to learn how food is properly stored and the importance of a clean restaurant environment. Students were also given instruction on preparing and baking a pizza. Life skills learned on the trip included understanding good table manners and how to place an order at a restaurant! Thank you to Amherst Pizza Hut for this educational and delicious experience!

Right: Gus McKee, Lorenzo Cooke, and Sean McCaffrey learn how to make a pizza.



Important Weather-Related Announcements

Murray Ridge program closing information will be available on TV station Fox 8, on the Fox 8 website fox8.com, and on radio stations WEOL 930 AM and WOBL 1320 AM, as it has in the past. **There will be two separate listings for Murray Ridge Center:**

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

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



THE MURRAY RIDGE SUPPORT GROUP IS SEEKING NEW MEMBERS!



The Murray Ridge Support Group, a not for profit organization that exists to support the mission of Murray Ridge Center and local residents with developmental disabilities and their families, is seeking new members!

Some activities of the Murray Ridge Support Group include:

- * Provide education and advocacy for people with developmental disabilities and their families
- * Conduct fundraisers
- * Address special financial needs of consumers
- * Sponsor social activities for the benefit of individuals with developmental disabilities and their caregivers

M R S G

For more information on how you can join the Murray Ridge Support Group, please contact Joaquín Page at 440.453.2576.

OOVC Hosts Oberlin Meeting

On November 16, the Oberlin Opportunity/Vocational Center (OOVC) hosted the quarterly Oberlin Industrial Park Roundtable. Representatives from companies within the industrial park in which OOVC is situated, as well as Oberlin City and area economic development representatives, were in attendance. During the meeting, Murray Ridge Center (MRC) was able to share its capabilities for subcontracting with local businesses to perform a variety of assembly jobs, and to provide group employment and community job placement for adult program participants with developmental disabilities. Attendees were also able to view an exhibit of various jobs MRC consumers have worked on at the three OVCs, and take a tour of the OOVC at the conclusion of the meeting.



LOVC Shows Its Thankful Side



The Lorain Opportunity/Vocational Center (LOVC) got into the Thanksgiving spirit this year by offering Adult Program participants and staff the opportunity to show what they are thankful for this holiday season. Consumers wrote their thankful ideas on a leaf and placed each leaf on the tree within the facility. Everyone enjoyed reading the inspirational leaves and contributing to this very special way of celebrating Thanksgiving!

Left, Spencer Reynolds and Stephanie Bastock pose in front of the tree after placing their "thankful" leaves!

Thanksgiving Kindness Pays Off in 'Turkey Bucks!'

For the month of November, Adult Program participants from the Elyria Opportunity/Vocational Center (EOVC) had the opportunity to earn 'Turkey Bucks' from staff for acts of kindness throughout the facility!



On November 30, all Bucks received were used to purchase items at a treat shop set up at the EOVC. Buyers could purchase gifts, snacks, and small trinkets with their Turkey Bucks!

Left, Nicholas Hoffman smiles as he earns a Turkey Buck from Carol Cable.



MURRAY RIDGE CENTER

CHORALEERS

Book Your Performance!

The Choraleers are prepped and ready to perform!

The Murray Ridge Choraleers have become a popular performing group for concerts, civic clubs, and special events throughout the county. Through singing and entertaining, the Choraleers provide insight into Lorain County citizens with developmental disabilities and the programs available at Murray Ridge.

For more than 40 years, Murray Ridge Center has been providing lifelong services for Lorain County citizens with developmental disabilities. Our broad range of services and supports assist more than 2,000 individuals and their families annually.

If you are interested in booking a Choraleers performance, please contact Amber Fitzgerald at the Murray Ridge Elyria Opportunity/Vocational Center at **440.284.2720** or by email at **afitzgerald@murrayridgecenter.org**.



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State Aquatics Qualifying Meet a Success for Murray Ridge Special Olympics Swimmers

Congratulations to the 26 swimmers who participated in the November 12th Greater Cleveland Aquatics Meet qualifying event held in Strongsville. Twenty-six swimmers competed for a chance to continue to the State Aquatics Meet on December 9 and 10! Congratulations to all of our hardworking Special Olympics athletes! Here are the results:

Gold:

Stephanie Budweg (50m freestyle)
Stephanie Budweg (50m backstroke)
Melissa Figula (50m breaststroke)
Jeremy Foster (50m freestyle)
Mark Holland (25m freestyle)
Jenna Jones (50m freestyle)
Jenna Jones (25m freestyle)
Martha Lombeida (25m backstroke)
James Peters (25m freestyle)
Sherri Reitenbach (25m backstroke)
Sherri Reitenbach (25m freestyle)
Amy Trigilio (25m backstroke)
Womens 4x25 freestyle relay
Womens 4x50 freestyle relay

Silver:

Doreen Alaksa (25m freestyle)
Doreen Alaksa (25m backstroke)
Ryan Eliason (50m butterfly)
Jeremy Foster (100m freestyle)
Joanne Gall (25m backstroke)
Doug McCartney (25m freestyle)
Amy Trigilio (25m freestyle)
James Wilson (50m freestyle)
Mens 4x25 freestyle relay
Mens 4x50 freestyle relay

Bronze:

Katie Bryant (50m backstroke)
Melissa Figula (25m freestyle)
Mark Holland (50m backstroke)
Martha Lombeida (50m freestyle)
Kenny Martin (100m freestyle)
Doug McCartney (50m freestyle)
Jennifer Moccabee (25m backstroke)
Alicia Ticconi (25m freestyle)
Mike Ward (25m freestyle)
Womens 4x25 freestyle relay

Fourth Place Ribbons:

Linda Brewer (25m freestyle)

Katie Bryant (25m freestyle)
Ryan Eliason (100m freestyle)
Lutz Fazekas (50m freestyle)
Lutz Fazekas (25m freestyle)
Joanne Gall (25m freestyle)
Noah Griffiths (25m freestyle)
Kenny Martin (50m freestyle)
Mike Ward (25m backstroke)
Sarah Ward (25m freestyle)
Sarah Ward (50m freestyle)
James Wilson (25m freestyle)
Womens 4x25 freestyle relay

Fifth Place Ribbons:

Noah Griffiths (50m freestyle)
Jennifer Moccabee (25m freestyle)
Alicia Ticconi (50m freestyle)











Sixth Place Ribbons:

Linda Brewer (50m freestyle)
James Peters (50m freestyle)

Top, right: Doreen Alaska, Linda Brewer, Jenna Jones, and Alicia Ticconi smile after a race. Below, Stephanie Budweg poses with her medal. Below, right, Doug McCartney and James Peters celebrate after their victories!



December 2017

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
31						

Activities & Events

- 12/06 - LCBDD Finance Committee meeting, 12:00 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria
- 12/15 - Murray Ridge Support Group Dance, 7-9 p.m. at the Murray Ridge School
- 12/18 - Regular Meeting of the Board and Ethics Council, 6:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road in Elyria
- 12/20 - Family Support Parent Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road in Elyria
- 12/22 - 01/01 - **Murray Ridge School closed for Winter Break**
- 12/25 - 01/01 - **Agency closed for Holiday Break**

Happy Holidays!

BOARD ROOM BRIEFING

The Lorain County Board of DD convened at 6:30 p.m. on November 27, 2017:

Board Vice President Kurt Koepf reported on the Special Olympics Committee meeting; the Murray Ridge Raiders had another great year, and Murray Ridge Special Olympics remains a popular and cost-effective program. Superintendent Fisher provided an overview of the 2018 budget proposal, as it compared to budgets and (anticipated) expenditures in 2016 and 2017; the proposed 2018 budget was unanimously passed by the Board. The Board also established the dollar amount that the Family Support Parent Committee is authorized to approve for the first quarter of 2018. The Board approved resolutions to request that the county auditor certify the availability of funds needed to pay the non-federal share of Medicaid services in 2018, per 5126.0510(A), and the current valuation of property in Lorain County. Board President Michelle Hunt reported on upcoming activities of the Murray Ridge Support Group.

Lorain County Board of
Developmental Disabilities

Murray Ridge Center
1091 Infirmary Road
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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, usually held on the last Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room. If you have any questions, contact Jenn Judkins at 440-329-3734 or jjudkins@murrayridgecenter.org.

Work at the Ridge!

Check out our website
www.murrayridgecenter.org to see
our open positions!

**Murray Ridge Center
wishes all Lorain
County
residents a
safe and
joyous
holiday
season,
and best
wishes for a wonderful
new year!**



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