

## They've Got Game



Murray Ridge Raiders Team 1 members **D. J. Overall**, **Charles Johnson** and **Carl Jeans** take a half-time breather at their home game against Medina.

Nationwide, basketball season is in full dribble as fans sit on the edge of their seats to see what amazing feats of physics may be performed next by the LeBron Jameses and Kobe Bryants of the basketball world.

But, you don't have to spend your next paycheck on NBA tickets, nor do you have to become part of the fabric of your sofa at home to enjoy this exciting sport.

The Murray Ridge Raiders have proven to be stars in their own rights when it comes to the hoops. Whether it is the experience and polish of veteran members of Team 1 and Team 2, or the youth and exuberance of the new Girls' Team, there is not a dull moment to be had at the Raider's games. And with admission being free, the price is certainly right!

Fans still have more than a month left to come cheer for the Raiders before the Area Qualifiers February 22-24. So, get off that sofa and contact Judy Hartung at (440) 284-2720 for game schedules.

## Happy Valentine's Day!



As you prepare to send chocolates, flowers and cards to loved ones this February 14, you may wonder about the origin of Valentine's Day.

One legend suggests that St. Valentine sent the first Valentine greeting himself around 270 A. D. It is believed that he fell in love with a young woman while in prison. Before his death, he is said to have written the woman a letter, signed "From Your Valentine."

Another story claims that St. Valentine was put to death for attempting to help Christians escape harsh Roman prisons.

Most scholars, however, believe that St. Valentine was a priest who served during the 3rd century in Rome. At this time, Emperor Claudius II had forbidden marriage for young men in order to build

an army. Against the Emperor's wishes, St. Valentine performed secret marriages for those couples who wanted to marry.

In 496 A.D., Pope Gelasius declared February 14 to be St. Valentine's Day. It was not until the 14th century, however, that the day became definitively associated with romantic love when the poet Chaucer composed a poem in honor of the engagement between England's Richard II and Anne of Bohemia.

The giving of gifts and hand-made cards became common in England by the 18th century. But, the tradition of giving Valentine Cards did not become widespread in the United States until the 1850's when Esther A. Howland began mass-producing them.

Whatever the true story, Valentine's Day is a cherished tradition of showing loved ones that you care. Murray Ridge Center wishes all Lorain County citizens a Happy Valentine's Day!

## Food and Friends



Murray Ridge Center senior **Juanita Williams** enjoys cake, ice cream and laughs at a party with some senior friends.

## New Adult Lunch Program Procedures

Due to the number of lunches ordered each day and the ordering time, the following procedures are in place effective January 1, 2008:

- Adults purchase lunch each morning in their work area. Lunch order must be called in to DeLuca's by 10:30 a.m. Consumers who arrive after 10:15 a.m. will not be able to order a lunch, so they will need to bring a lunch or money for the vending machines.
- Please have the **correct change**. The lunch price is \$2.55 each day for a hot lunch or salad (this does not include a drink).
- If consumers need to prepay for the week, the exact money amount (cash or check) must be turned in on **Monday morning** (or the first work day) for the **entire week of lunches**. Checks should be made to "LCBMR/DD" for the exact amount (\$12.75 for five lunches). If there is a holiday or program closing day during the week, pay only for the days that the workshop is open that week.
- Prepaid lunches **will be ordered for the entire week**, so no lunch money can be credited or returned if a lunch is missed during the week.
- If a consumer plans to order a lunch only on certain days, then those lunches may not be prepaid. Staff cannot "hold" money for consumers.
- No lunch can be ordered if a consumer does not have the money for a lunch.
- No extra food will be sold or given away.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping us to operate the lunch program smoothly and fairly for all participants.

## "Presidents' Day" or "Washington's Birthday?"

While it is commonly referred to as Presidents' Day, to honor both Presidents Washington and Lincoln, the holiday observed on the third Monday each February is officially a celebration of Washington's birthday.

President Washington's birthday was celebrated publicly for the first time in the late 18th century and became an official federal holiday in 1885. Since individual states are not required to adopt federal holidays, President Lincoln's birthday never became a federal holiday. However, it has been celebrated as a legal holiday in many states. Conversely, most states have adopted Washington's Birthday as a holiday, while a dozen of them officially celebrate Presidents' Day.

Whatever the name of the holiday, Murray Ridge Center wishes you a great February 18!

## Helping Others to Help People



Murray Ridge Center Early Intervention (EI) Specialist **Kathy Bevaque** answers questions at an EI Training session for Guardians Ad Litem. The purpose of the training was to help these dedicated volunteers to learn the signs of developmental delays so that they may better advocate for the children they represent.



## New Faces in Murray Ridge Places

Welcome, new members of the Murray Ridge Center team!



**Joyce Fuerst** has been hired as a part time Language Development Specialist at the Murray Ridge School. Joyce received her B.A. from the University of Toledo and her M.S. from Bowling Green State University. She enjoys reading, walking and scrap-booking.



**Natasha Moore** has been hired as a Group Home Aide/Permanent Sub at the East College Group Home. She resides in Elyria with her two children. In her spare time she enjoys cooking baking and eating!



**Bashiru Abubakare** has been hired as a Group Home Aide for the Meister Group Home. Bashiru earned his B.S.C. in physics from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in Kumasi, Ghana. Bashiru enjoys reading in his spare time.

**Did You Know?** Ohio boasts eight U. S. Presidents: William Henry Harrison, Ulysses S. Grant, Rutherford B. Hayes, James A. Garfield, Benjamin Harrison, William McKinley, William Howard Taft and Warren G. Harding.



## New Positions Assumed



**John Gintonio**, formerly a Workshop Pspecialist II, has been promoted to the position of Service and Support Administrator.



**Bob Hokes** has been promoted to the position of Maintenance Supervisor



Previously working as a Sub for the Murray Ridge School and the Work Activity Centers, **Lindsey Kloboves** has been hired as a full time Teacher Aide.



**Debra Wilburn** has been hired as a full time Teacher Aide at the Murray Ridge School. She previously worked as a Sub for the Elyria Work Activity Center.



Previously a Substitute Teacher for the Murray Ridge School, **Jared Smith** has been promoted to the position of Service and Support Administrator.










**Kimberly Lorenz**, formerly a Sub at the Work Activity Centers, has been hired as a Teacher Aide for Murray Ridge School.



# February 2008

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| 17 | 18  | 19  | 20 | 21   | 22  | 23  |
| 24 | 25   | 26   | 27 | 28  | 29  |   |

## Murray Ridge Center

2/4 —Murray Ridge Support Group Meeting, Elyria Work Activity Center, 1095 Infirmary Rd., 4:15 p.m.

2/8 —Murray Ridge Support Group Dance, Murray Ridge School, 9750 S. Murray Ridge Road, Elyria, 6:30 p.m.

2/8—LCBMR/DD Meeting, Administration Building, 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria, 12:30 p.m.

2/14—Early Intervention Playgroup, 5:00-6:00 p.m. and 6:00-7:00 p.m., Murray Ridge School

2/18—Agency Closed in Observance of President's Day

2/19—Family Support Parent Committee Meeting, Administration Building, 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria, 6:30 p.m.

2/28—Early Intervention Playgroup, 5:00-6:00 p.m. and 6:00-7:00 p.m., Murray Ridge School

## What's Cookin'?

Well, lots if you have the Caring Hearts Cookbook, which was put together voluntarily by parent **Alice Moreland**, and staff members **Petra Collins**, **Beverly Johnson**, **Cindy Kozman**, **Mary Lakner**, **Lucy Tolley** and **Kiki Watchorn**. The books are filled with recipes submitted by Murray Ridge Center staff, volunteers and other friends. If you are interested in trying out your culinary skills, there are still books available for purchase. The cost of the books is \$8 each. Contact Jessica Kolb at (440) 284-2720 for more information.

## Leap Year is Here!

**Did You Know:** People born on February 29, or Leap Day, are called "Leapers." Currently, there are approximately 4.1 million Leapers in the world.

So, why do we have Leap Years anyway? Essentially, Leap Years make up for the fact that an earth year is basically 365.2425 days long. So, that extra .2425 of a day is made up every fourth year to keep our measurement of time on track.



## February is Black History Month!



**In 1976, Black History Month was established to expand the week-long celebration of African-American history that began in 1926. This is a time for all of us to recognize and honor the considerable contributions that African-Americans have made to our country and our culture.**

## Board Room Briefing

The Lorain County Board of MR/DD convened at 12:30 p.m. on January 11:

At the **Organizational Meeting** the Board elected Michelle Hunt, President, and re-elected James Uldrich, Vice-President and Janet Taylor-Remalius, Secretary. President Hunt made all sub-committee appointments.

At the **Regular Meeting**, the Board approved the Resolution to Continue Services to Children Ages 6 through 21. Dr. Fisher noted that this resolution includes a mandatory training period for Personal Aides provided by referring school districts. The Board also approved a draft of the 2008 Annual Action Plan for public review. The document will be available for inspection at all Work Activity Centers, Murray Ridge School, the Service and Support Administration office and the Administration building. The Public Forum on the document is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on February 11, at the Administration building, 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria; announcements about the Public Forum will appear January 18 and February 1 in select community newspapers.

In other business, Dr. Fisher provided an update regarding the departure of some consumers. The Board then noted that Superintendent Fisher is empowered to make indicated staff reductions. Dr. Fisher explained that the updated projection reflects a smaller number of consumers leaving the Center than originally anticipated.

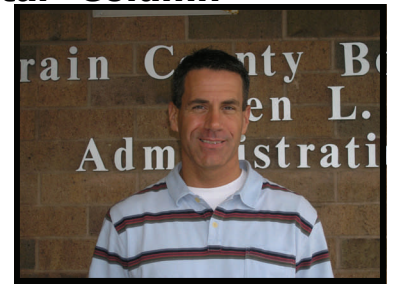
The Board approved new Murray Ridge Housing Corporation Agreement that is to remain in effect through December 31, 2010, and a revised policy on Soliciting, Selling and Fund Raising that more accurately reflects and responds to contemporary marketing strategies.



Members of Murray Ridge Raiders Team 1 prepare for a rebound shot at the Medina home game on January 19, 2008. The Raiders won that game, 57-37.

## The "Incidental" Column

The Incident Report is a key tool for Investigative Agents (I. A.'s), as it is what often initiates an investigation. While attending to the health and safety of the consumer is paramount, completing an accurate Incident Report is also very important.



**John Syrowski**

When completing the report, it is important to remember the basics: *Who, What, When* and *Where*. Keeping these basics in mind, also remember that the report should not contain emotional content or opinion. The Incident Report drives the investigation. With accurate, objective information and a concise explanation of the events, the I. A. will be better able to make an accurate initial determination.

In order to provide useful information, it is best to be specific. For example, if an incident report was written because a consumer broke his or her wrist, it would be important to note *which* wrist was broken. Further, if the incident involves hospitalization, documenting *which* hospital the individual was admitted to is helpful.

Remember also that it is absolutely imperative that the consumer's correct name is used when completing the Incident Report. Using a consumer's initials or nickname is not acceptable. While you, the reporter, may be very familiar with the individual, and you may refer to him or her by their nickname, the I. A. who receives the Incident Report may not know this person.

Some incidents are rather emotional and sensitive in nature when they occur. Keep in mind that the Incident Report should not reflect the reporter's emotions or opinions. If appropriate, during the course of an investigation an I. A. may conduct an interview to gather additional information. At that time, the I.A. may ask for the reporter's insight, since he or she would have first hand knowledge of the situation.

I hope that this information helps to clarify what is most important and most appropriate in an Incident Report. If you are required to submit a report, just remember those journalistic basics: *Who, What, When* and *Where*!

Incidentally,  
John

**Editor's Note:** Over time we hope to feature a guest columnist on a occasional basis. It will give everyone an opportunity to know a little bit more about how different departments work to serve the mission of Murray Ridge.

Lorain County Board of Mental Retardation  
& Developmental Disabilities

Murray Ridge Center  
1091 Infirmary Road  
Elyria, OH 44035

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## Lunch Menus for Murray Ridge Center

Cost Per Day: Youth = \$2.55, Adults = \$2.55

### January 28-February 1

February 18-22

March 10-14

March 31-April 4

**Monday-** Ham, Wheat Bread, Rice Pilaf, Diced Carrots w/Herbs, Applesauce

**Tuesday-** Hamburger on a Bun, Potato Wedges, Corn, Crushed Pineapple, Cookie

**Wednesday-** Chicken Patty w/ Gravy, Au Gratin Potatoes, Green Beans, Fruit, Wheat Bread, Cookie

**Thursday-** Pepperoni & Cheese Pizza, Tossed Salad w/ Low fat Dressing, Banana, Nutri-Grain Bar

**Friday-** Macaroni & Cheese, Cooked Carrots, Diced Pears, Cookie

### February 4-8

February 25-29

March 17-21

April 7-11

**Monday-** Chicken Patty on a Bun, Potato Rounds, Corn, Crushed Pineapple, Cookie

**Tuesday-** Meat Lasagna, Tossed Salad w/Low fat Dressing, Diced Peaches, Nutri-Grain Bar

**Wednesday-** Rigatoni w/Meatballs, Green Beans, Tossed Salad w/ Low fat Dressing, Wheat Bread, Cookie

**Thursday-** Pepperoni & Cheese Pizza, Tossed Salad w/Lowfat Dressing, Fresh Fruit, Nutri-Grain Bar

**Friday-** Meat/Cheese Burrito, Spanish Rice, Cole Slaw, Applesauce

### February 11-15

March 3-7

March 24-28

April 14-18

**Monday-** Salisbury Steak w/Gravy, Scalloped Potatoes, Corn, Peaches, Cookie

**Tuesday-** Ham & Cheese on Wheat Bread, Peas & Carrots, Pears, Nutri-Grain Bar

**Wednesday-** Meat Lasagna, Green Beans, Tossed Salad w/ Low fat Dressing, Wheat Bread, Cookie

**Thursday-** Pepperoni & Cheese Pizza, Tossed Salad w/ Low fat Dressing, Banana, Nutri-Grain Bar

**Friday-** Fish Patty, French Fries, Cole Slaw, Apple Slices, Wheat Bread, Cookie