



MurrayRidgeCenter  
HELPING PEOPLE...FOR A LIFETIME

# The Murray Ridge Courier

March 2014

## March is National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month



MurrayRidgeCenter

HELPING PEOPLE...FOR A LIFETIME

Murray Ridge works with more than 2,000 Lorain County residents through Early Intervention, Murray Ridge School, Service and Support Administration, Adult Opportunity/Vocational Centers, Supported/Community Employment, Special Olympics, Residential Services, and Family Support.

For more information or to schedule a tour of our facilities, contact us at:  
440.329.3734 or [www.murrayridgecenter.org](http://www.murrayridgecenter.org)

# Raiders Team 1 Advances to State Finals in Basketball!

Congratulations to the Murray Ridge Raiders teams that competed at the 2014 Basketball North Section Tournament at Lorain County Community College February 27 through March 2!

All the Murray Ridge teams put in impressive performances:

- Raiders Team 3 lost to the Ashtabula Lakers in Division IV (30-54)
- Raiders Team 2 lost to the Medina Flash in Overtime in Division III (29-32)
- Lady Raiders lost to the Medina Lady Thunderbolts in Division II (17-33)
- Raiders 1 defeated the Portage DD Flashes in Division II semi-finals (62-29)



The Lady Raiders pose after the loss!

Raiders 1 will play for the Sectional Division II championship against the Stark Public Royal Knights #1 team on Wednesday, 3/5 at 6:30 PM in LCCC's Main Gym.

Again, a big congratulations to ALL our Murray Ridge Raiders teams for a spectacular weekend!

## Travelling Art Show Moves to Columbia Station

Check out the Travelling Art Show in March! Consumer artwork is on exhibit at the Columbia Branch of the Lorain County Public Libraries in Columbia Station.

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



## Annual Spaghetti Dinner a Huge Success!

On March 1, the Murray Ridge Support Group (MRSG) held its annual Spaghetti Dinner at the AmVets Post 55 in Sheffield Lake.

Proceeds will benefit programs and services for Lorain County citizens impacted by developmental disabilities.

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



Volunteers from the Midview High School Key Club (left); Superintendent Amber Fisher and staff member Deborah Sternad serve spaghetti (above); Academy Court Group Home resident Donna Baker and staff person Faith Gray enjoy their meals (right)!





# 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.

## 2014 Spring Course Series

### Evening Sessions:

**April 1, 2014:** Section 1, 6-9 p.m.

**April 3, 2014:** Section 2, 6-9 p.m.

**April 8, 2014:** Section 3, 6-9 p.m.

**April 10, 2014:** Section 4, 6-9 p.m.

### Location:

Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities Service & Support Administration Bldg.  
9740 Murray Ridge Road, Elyria, 44035

\*Evening parking available at Murray Ridge SSA lot. Please enter in back door.

## Register

[www.loraincountyhealth.com/fasdcourse](http://www.loraincountyhealth.com/fasdcourse)

Contact: Natalie Karn, R.N., M.S.N.

440.284.3272, [nkarn@loraincountyhealth.com](mailto:nkarn@loraincountyhealth.com)

No fee to attend. Space is limited.

Bring your own personal refreshments and food.

### Facilitators:

Natalie Karn R.N., M.S.N.

Lorain County General Health District Public Health Nurse

Kathleen Bevaque, M.Ed.

Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities

### Sponsor:



@LorainCoHealth

Lorain County General Health District

**Learn** about Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) and how to best work with those affected in order to reach his/her fullest potential.

**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; Discipline; Daily Living & Future Planning for Individuals with FASD

## Contact Hours Available

- Nurses; provided by Lorain County Community College Department of Allied Health and Nursing
- Social workers, counselors, and chemical dependency RCH; provided by the ADAS Board of Lorain County
- Developmental Disability hours provided by Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities.
- Certificate of Attendance for contact hours given.



# 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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# Lorain County Commissioners Proclaim March as "DD Awareness Month"

The Lorain County Commissioners adopted a resolution on March 5, 2014, declaring the month of March as "Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month" in Lorain County.

Three program participants accompanied Superintendent Amber Fisher to share their stories and to thank the Commissioners for their support of the Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities (LCBDD), more commonly known as Murray Ridge Center.

Christopher (CJ) Ackley, a student in the primary wing at Murray Ridge School, thanked the commissioners for their support. Benji Lewis, an active participant in Murray Ridge's Community Employment Program, shared his job responsibilities and love of Special Olympics with the crowd. And Juanita Young, a resident at the East College Group Home in Oberlin, shared her love of volunteering and extra-curricular activities.

During the meeting, Dr. Fisher also highlighted the services that more than 2,000 Lorain county citizens with developmental disabilities receive from Murray Ridge Center.

For example, the Early Intervention program served 680 children from birth to three years of age in 2013, and Murray Ridge School educated 161 students. Murray Ridge Center provided day services and/or work experience for more than 1,000 adults in one of the three Murray Ridge Opportunity/Vocational Centers, several community employment enclaves operated by the Murray Ridge Production Center, or in other locations throughout the community. Residential services were provided to 547 individuals, many of whom require this care due to deceased parents and/or elderly family caregivers. Also in 2013, the Family Support program assisted 685 Lorain County families with the care of a relative with developmental disabilities.



Commissioner Lori Kokoski, Superintendent Amber Fisher, Murray Ridge School student CJ Ackley, adult program participants Juanita Young and Benji Lewis, and Commissioners Tom Williams and Ted Kalo at the meeting on March 5.

Since 1979, agencies across the country have formally recognized the abilities of persons with Developmental Disabilities (DD) every March. Throughout the month, efforts were made to help the public become more aware of people with developmental disabilities, the accomplishments and potentials of these individuals, and the programs and services available to them. Ohio proudly participates in this tradition and Lorain County's Murray Ridge Center is eager to support this effort.

Posters announcing DD Awareness Month will be displayed in libraries, community buildings, and places of worship across Lorain County throughout the month of March.

Thank you to all who work throughout the month of March - and all year long - to help educate the community about developmental disabilities, and encourage all to focus on *abilities* first!

# Parent Night

## Encouraging Successful Task Completion

This session will focus on the general principles of prompting, and how it can work for individuals with developmental disabilities. The strategies discussed will focus on supporting individuals with developmental disabilities in their learning and development, including: least-to-most prompting, graduated guidance, and simultaneous prompting. An overview of each of these procedures will be discussed.



**When:** Tuesday, March 18, 2014

5:30-7:00 pm

**Please note: adults only, no child care will be available.**

**Where:** Murray Ridge Service & Support Administrative Offices

9740 Murray Ridge Road

Elyria, Ohio

**RSVP:** Sherry Lacko

SSA/Behavior Analyst

slacko@murrayridgecenter.org or

440-324-2366





# March 2014

## Activities & Events

- 2/28-3/2 - Special Olympic Ohio North Section Basketball Tournament, Lorain County Community College
- 3/1 - Murray Ridge Support Group Spaghetti Dinner, 3:00-6:30 p.m., AmVets Post 55, 530 Abbe Road in Sheffield Lake
- 3/12 - Family Support Parent Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road in Elyria
- 3/14 - Murray Ridge Support Group Dance, 7:00 p.m., Murray Ridge School, 9750 Murray Ridge Road in Elyria
- 3/20 - LCBDD Finance Committee meeting, 12:00 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria
- 3/28 - Regular Meeting of the Board and Ethics Council, 12:30 p.m., Mercy Health & Recreation Center, 47160 Hollstein Drive, Amherst
- TBD - Special Olympics Ohio State Basketball and Skill Tournament, Bowling Green State University; contact Bob Burkhardt for details, 284-2720

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

## BOARD ROOM BRIEFING

### The Lorain County Board of DD convened at 12:30 p.m. on February 28, 2014:

Superintendent Fisher reported to the Board that the Lorain County Commissioners will declare the month of March to be "Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month" in Lorain County, and outlined a number of ways the agency would celebrate the month throughout the county. Board Member Henry Patterson gave a report on the Public Relations Committee meeting held February 21, 2014. Superintendent Fisher gave a report on the newly formed Socialization Committee. Superintendent Fisher requested approval of a resolution to adopt the 2014 Annual Action Plan Programs and Expenditures, contingent upon no substantial changes indicated as a result of information gathered in Public Forum on March 3, 2014. The Board unanimously approved the resolution. Following this, a 2013 expenditure update was given. The Board unanimously approved revisions to policies on *Addressing Major Unusual Incidents & Unusual Incidents to Ensure Health, Welfare & Continuous Improvement* and Management/Confidential Staff *Vacation Leave*. Murray Ridge Support Group member George Gedid announced that the next meeting would be on March 7 and the next dance will be March 14.



Lorain County Board of  
Developmental Disabilities

Murray Ridge Center  
1091 Infirmary Road  
Elyria, OH 44035

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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](mailto:jjudkins@murrayridgecenter.org).