



MurrayRidgeCenter  
HELPING PEOPLE...FOR A LIFETIME

# The Murray Ridge Courier

October 2016

## National Disability Employment Awareness Month

Murray Ridge Center will once again be participating in National Disability Employment Awareness Month, an annual awareness campaign that takes place each October. Murray Ridge Center's Supported Employment Program provides services to assist individuals to choose, obtain, and maintain employment in the community.

Murray Ridge Center is proud to salute the nearly 1,000 Lorain County citizens with developmental disabilities who are part of the local workforce, and the more than 100 local businesses that provide jobs for these individuals. Through its three Opportunity and Vocational Centers and Supported Employment Program, Murray Ridge Center continues to focus on finding and placing individuals in positions where they can grow and excel in today's competitive job market.

Read the stories below to learn how our program participants are making a difference in local businesses!

### Lutz Fazekas Olive Garden

Lutz began receiving assistance through our Supported Employment Department in 2011. He initially worked at the Elyria Opportunity and Vocational Center, and later was placed on supervised work crews at Oberlin College, and at the Federal Aviation Administration. His dream job, though, was to work at Olive Garden and, after hard work and a few very good interviews, he was offered a job as host at its Elyria restaurant! Lutz is loving his new job and can truly say, at this time, that he has achieved his vocational goal.



### Kim Nadolski Ruby Tuesdays

Kim has been working at Ruby Tuesdays in Cobblestone Square in Elyria since October 2015. She works several evenings a week and on the weekends as a server assistant, where her job duties include clearing and wiping down tables, straightening restaurant displays, and retrieving ice from the bar.

This is Kim's first job with the Murray Ridge Supported

Employment Department where she is on her own out in the community, and her supervisors say she is doing very well at her job!



### Shawn Igoe Wal-Mart

Shawn has worked at Wal-Mart in Elyria for more than four years! He has numerous job duties and is skilled at operating many different pieces of machinery in the store, including a bailer machine which presses cardboard boxes into smaller pieces for rolling. He also unloads trucks and separates inventory into pallets, then uses a pallet jack to deliver merchandise to different areas of the store. Shawn uses tools to clean up store debris, and a floor buffer to buff and wax the entire store! Shawn loves his job and all of his responsibilities!



## Team 1 and Skills Team Dominate at the State Softball Tournament

On September 10, Raiders Softball Team 1 and 10 athletes from the Murray Ridge Softball Skills team competed at the State Softball tournament in Oregon, Ohio.

After a rain delay (below, left), the Murray Ridge Raiders Team 1 Softball players won the State Championship (right)!

The Softball Skills Team also put in an impressive performance; earning gold medals were: Alicia Lawrence (top, left), Ashley Tarrant, Noah Griffith, Casey West, Sarah Ward and Pam McClain. Silver Medal: Torie Ambers. Bronze Medal: Alyssa DeAngelus. 5th place finisher: Dennis Johnson.

Congratulations to all of the softball athletes!



## Firefighters Visit Murray Ridge School

Murray Ridge School welcomed members of the Elyria firefighters on October 4 to kickoff Fire Safety Prevention Month.

The firefighters showed how they get ready for a call, talked about safety and what students can do in case of a fire, and let students climb into the fire truck!

Thank you to the Elyria firefighters for teaching our students about fire safety and prevention!



Left: Andrew Buckosh shows off his fire truck shirt to an Elyria firefighter.  
Middle: Elizabeth Schaeffer's class poses in front of the fire truck.  
Above: the Elyria firefighters talk fire safety and prevention.



# 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



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

# Murray Ridge School Holds Annual CREW Ceremony

On September 30, the CREW at Murray Ridge School held its annual induction ceremony for MRS students.

The CREW is a pre-vocational work program for soon-to-be transitioning students at Murray Ridge School. It was developed by teacher Nick Kish as a way to simulate real world work experience, and takes students through each phase of the process: completing an application, preparing for an official interview, receiving and accepting a job offer, job training, performing the job, and being responsible in order to maintain good work status.

Teachers and staff are very involved in helping to train the students to do their jobs, and assist them to be successful in any way needed.

Congratulations to the new CREW team, and best of luck with your new jobs this year!



Above: New CREW member Matthew Mason celebrates with teacher Ryanne Gelp. Left: Kendrick Warner, Julie Kraker, and Nick Kish discuss Kendrick's new role. Middle: Emily Gessner and her mother are all smiles during the ceremony.



## Rockin' Out at the Elyria Opportunity/Vocational Center

Known for its crazy theme days, Area G at the Elyria Opportunity/Vocational Center outdid itself when it held a Rock Star Day on September 26th.

In true "rock star" form, consumers and staff were invited to dress up like rockers, complete with hair and makeup! Area G also had rock star music playing all day! Blow up guitars and microphones were given to the consumers who got to take them home. To keep with the theme, consumers learned about different rock stars from today and the past, and completed a group activity where they made microphones and guitars.

Great party, Area G!! Keep rockin' and rollin'!



Left: Darryl Young poses with a guitar. Right: Greg Smith and Meredith Noble smile in their rock star best. Below: Staff show off their rock star skills.





## 'Tis the Season for the Cold and Flu

How do you know if you have the symptoms of a cold or of the flu? Here is a helpful guide!

### Symptom

Fever

Cough

Chest Discomfort

Sore Throat

Sneezing

Stuffy Nose

Exhaustion

Fatigue

Aches/pains

Headache

### Cold

rarely

coughing

mild to moderate

common

common

common

never

mild

mild

rarely

### Flu

100-102 degrees (lasting 3-4 days)

severe cough

mild to moderate

sometimes

sometimes

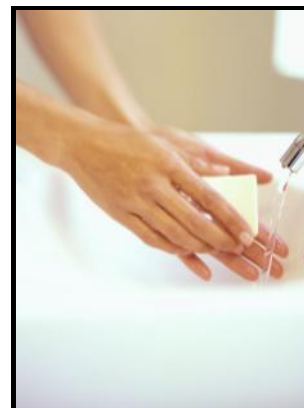
sometimes

early and severe

can last several weeks

severe

can be severe and last several weeks



Recommendations to stay healthy and prevent the spread of illness:

1. Get a flu shot!
2. Wash hands frequently and thoroughly.
3. Encourage others to wash their hands frequently and thoroughly.
4. Cough or sneeze into a tissue. You can use your sleeve on your upper arm.
5. Regularly disinfect surfaces and items, such as door knobs, phones, and items people touch often.
6. Keep alcohol based sanitizers nearby.

## Early Intervention Outing to Apple Hill!

Murray Ridge Center's Early Intervention Department held its annual outing at Apple Hill on Tuesday, September 20. Almost 60 people, including 29 children, were treated to a tour of the market, free time on the orchard's large hay-filled playground, and plenty of time for apple picking!

Far right, Michael Beal tastes tests a fresh apple, while Daisy Arntz finishes off her pick! Thank you to all who attended this fun-filled event!



## Now Accepting Nominations for the Murray Ridge Center 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. If you have any questions, contact Jenn Judkins at 440-329-3734 or [jjudkins@murrayridgecenter.org](mailto:jjudkins@murrayridgecenter.org).



## 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

## 2016 Summer Parade Season Ends With Woollybear Festival!

Murray Ridge Center said goodbye to summer 2016 on Sunday, October 2, as consumers, staff, family, and friends participated in the Woollybear Festival Parade in Vermilion!

The Woollybear Festival Parade is the 4th parade for Murray Ridge this summer; the 5th and final parade for 2016 will be the Miracle on Main Street Parade held in Amherst on December 2.

Thank you to all who helped make this another successful parade season!





# October 2016

## Activities & Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
						1	10/10 - Columbus Day, Agency Closed for Holiday
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	10/14 - Agency Inservice Day, Agency Closed
9	10 	11	12	13	14 	15	10/28 - Murray Ridge Support Group Dance, 7-9 p.m. at the Murray Ridge School
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	TBD - Murray Ridge Support Group Meeting, 4:15 p.m. at the EOVC
23	24	25	26	27	28 	29	* There is no Board Meeting this month.
30	31 						



### Murray Ridge Annual In-service is October 14!

The annual employee in-service promises to be an entertaining and educational day for all.  
The agency offices will be closed.

## BOARD ROOM BRIEFING

**The Lorain County Board of DD convened at 12:30 p.m. on September 26, 2014:**

The Board nominated Michelle Hunt to serve as the delegate for the annual assembly of the Ohio Association of County Boards; Superintendent Fisher will be the alternate. Superintendent Fisher announced that the next Board meeting will be moved to November 17 at 6:30 pm. The 2017 Organizational Meeting will tentatively take place on January 30 at 6:30 pm, and upcoming meetings of the Budget and HR Committee, the Special Olympics Committee, and the Public Relations Committee were discussed. In other news, Superintendent Fisher presented a revision to the Personnel Policy *Family and Medical Leave*; a rescission of the Board Policy *Waiver Administrative Claiming*; and a new Board Policy, *Training Priorities for Direct Service Staff*; all were unanimously approved. Superintendent Fisher also discussed priority of mortgage liens for two homes owned by Murray Ridge Housing Corporation, and the Board unanimously established the dollar amount that the Family Support Parent Committee is authorized to approve for the fourth quarter of 2016. The Murray Ridge Support Group dance will be held on October 28; all are invited to come in costume. Dr. Fisher announced that the Agency will celebrate its 50th anniversary through "acts of giving back."

Lorain County Board of  
Developmental Disabilities

Murray Ridge Center  
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Visit our Web site  
[www.murrayridgecenter.org](http://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 Heather Gurchik, Director of Service & Support Administration. You may reach her by telephone at 440-324-2366.

—The Editor

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