

MONTHLY



MURRAY RIDGE COURIER



JAN 2024

Pictured, left to right: Speech Therapist Jennifer Hakko, Nick Green, Lorain County Drug Task Force Captain Richard Bosley, Cameron Conn, Wellington Fire Chief Mike Weatherbee, Jenny Sislowksi, Elyria Police Chief Bill Pelko, Brady Bella, and Lorain County Sheriff Office Captain Robert Vansant

Brew it Smooth visits The County Commissioners' Office

Our Murray Ridge School coffee shop and vocational program, the Brew It Smooth Café, was invited to set up and serve its drinks and snacks at the Lorain County Commissioners meeting this past December. It was exciting for our students to be able to showcase their vocational skills in yet another location in Lorain County, and we are excited that the visit was so successful that the Brew It Smooth Café was asked to return to the meetings on a regular basis. You can see pictures from the December visit on our Murray Ridge School Facebook page. We at Murray Ridge are grateful and fortunate to have so much community support for our endeavors to bring work experience and job training to the senior students at Murray Ridge School.



Barista extraordinaire Brady Bella!

HOLIDAY FUN AT MURRAY RIDGE



Pictured, left to right: **Jonah Griffore**, **Robert Serrano**, **Ryan Brown**, and Adult Program Instructor **Rick Rovere** with the perfect Christmas tree at LOVC



Seated, left to right: **Tim Young**, EOVC Director **Judy Hartung**, **Sandra Tite**, and **Austin Carpenter** play a game of Uno



Left to Right: OOV Adult Program participants **Judy Armstrong**, **Mary Gressler**, **Brittany Brlas** at the Amherst Diner



Meister Manager **Stephen Osundina** and resident **Robert Gajdos** looking festive at the Meister Christmas party



SANTA CLAUS VISITS MURRAY RIDGE SCHOOL

Be sure to visit the Murray Ridge School Facebook page for more pictures from Santa's visit!

Pictured with Santa, top left: **Marvelous Seymore**

Bottom left: **Alianna Meads**

Below: **Calvin Kaminski**



EARLY INTERVENTION AT THE MIX-OFF

Our Early Intervention (EI) Department participated in the 22nd annual Zero-Proof Mix-Off! The event took place on Thursday, December 14th at LCCC's Stocker Center and was held to promote safe driving and responsible alcohol use. Our EI team entered with its "Buddy's Brew", a Buddy the Elf themed maple-flavored cold brew coffee with a whipped topping, salt, and syrup drizzle. It didn't win, unfortunately, but everyone had a wonderful time!

Pictured, left to right: **Ashley Balasko, Jen Doseck, Kim Ohl, Amber Bowers, Mel Liddy, Heather Knoble.**



LOVC Christmas Concert

On December 20th, Adult Program participants and staff at our Lorain Opportunity and Vocational Center celebrated the holiday spirit with a Christmas Concert. The event was put together by Recreation Specialist **Karen Pavelschak**. Attendees gathered to sing Christmas carols, read Christmas poems, and, most importantly, create some wonderful memories together. Be sure to check out our Facebook page to see more photos!



Pictured above, left to right: **Joshua Haught**, LOVC Secretary **Jorgann Mendosa**, **Carmen Perez**, **Robert Serrano**, **Michael Vega**, **Hector Ortiz**, **Jalitz Rodriguez**, and Activity Aide **Eva Torres**

Pictured left: an especially festive **Kenny Martin**

EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE AWARD PRESENTED



The most recent recipient of our Exceptional Service Award was **Jen Bishop**, a Service and Support Administrator. "She did not give up and put in the extra effort to assist us," wrote Jen's nominator **Nancy Golinski** in her nomination letter, "and for that I will forever be grateful." Thank you, Jen, for your strong dedication to those you serve!

Do you know a Murray Ridge staff member who has gone "above and beyond"? If so, please submit your nomination to Kevin Naughton, Director of Communications, at (440) 329-3734 or at kevin@murrayridgecenter.org.

Superintendent **Amber Fisher**, Service and Support Administrator **Jen Bishop**, LCBDD Board Member **Becky Cornman**

GENEROUS DONATION

On December 11, 2023, American Legion Post 30 in Lorain graciously presented Lorain Opportunity and Vocational Center (LOVC) with a check for \$1,000. These funds are earmarked for Community Connections, enabling Adult Program participants to partake in fun activities in their community. The Lorain Opportunity and Vocational Center is very appreciative of the generosity of American Legion Post 30!

Pictured, left to right: LOVC Director **Cindy Castro-White** and Adult Services Director **Gary Lyons** with American Legion Post 30 veterans **Jeremiah Garza** (Post Commander), **Richard Brant**, and **Cheryl McElroy**.



JESSE FRISCH'S ANNUAL F.A.P.L. SANTA DONATION

Recently, **Jesse Frisch**, an Adult Program participant at our Elyria Opportunity and Vocational Center, organized a special Christmas project. Dressed as Santa Claus, Jesse visited several Murray Ridge Center buildings and collected \$272.00 for the Friendship Animal Protective League in Elyria! And as an added bonus, while Jesse was at the animal shelter delivering his donation, he delighted a young boy who thought the real Santa was visiting to check on the animals! Jesse has collected donations for the Friendship Animal Protection League for quite a few Christmas seasons now, and we'll be excited to see him continue the tradition into the future! Lastly, be sure to visit our Facebook page to see Jesse dressed as Santa.



Jesse Frisch dressed as Santa

OOVOC Knits & Donates Mats, Hats, & Scarves

In December, during their monthly volunteering at LaGrange Global Methodist Church, Adult Program participants from our Oberlin Opportunity and Vocational Center helped prepare knitted cold weather items as part of the church's Mats Matters program. They helped process plastic bags so they could be knitted into sleeping mats, and knitted hats and scarves for donation to the Valor House and the Salvation Army. Thanks to a joint effort by program participants and staff, thirteen hats were donated. Congratulations to everyone for helping put together such generous donation!



Pictured, left to right: **Saundra Kilgore** and **Kista Atkins**, with several members of the church standing behind them

Weather-Related Announcements Reminder

NOTICE: Below is UPDATED information about how Fox 8 lists weather-related closing information.

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

Fox 8 displays information on the status of our School and Adult Activities Centers as described below:

- On fox8.com, the information is listed under the "Closings" tab. These listings are in alphabetical order by the name of the facility, and both facilities appear sequentially in the "M" section as "Murray Ridge School" and "Murray Ridge Adult Activities Centers."
- On Channel 8, information about the status of our School and Adult Activities Centers scrolls from left to right in the Closings information at the very bottom of the television screen. These listings are in alphabetical order by the name of the facility, and both facilities appear sequentially in the "M" section as "Murray Ridge School" and "Murray Ridge—Adult Activities Centers."

NOTE: You can also sign up with Fox 8 to receive text alerts on Murray Ridge School and Adult Activities Centers closings. To do so, click on 'Closing Text Alerts' in the School Closings section of the Fox 8 website.

NOTE: Some problems with the Fox 8 text alerts have recently been reported to us.

We will make every effort to post weather-related announcements on our agency's website and Facebook pages, but please do not rely solely on these notices, as it may not always be possible to post them.

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 and 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 and 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 children 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 and 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.

Nominations Sought for Exceptional Service Awards

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 Kevin Naughton, Community Education/Volunteer Director. Please 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. If you have any questions, contact Kevin at (440) 329-3734 or kevin@murrayridgecenter.org

Boardroom Briefing

The Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities convened at 6:30 p.m. on January 29, 2024. At its annual Organizational Meeting, held immediately prior to the regular meeting of the Board and Ethics Council, Board President Beverly Gedid congratulated Elaine Baus on her reappointment to the Board by Lorain County Probate Judge James T. Walther, for the period January 29, 2024 to January 28, 2028. The Board elected the following officers for 2024: Beverly Gedid, President; Keith Boey, Vice-President; and Robert Gajdos, Secretary. President Beverly Gedid then made committee appointments, and the Board established its calendar for the remainder of 2024 before adjourning the Organizational Meeting. At its regular meeting, the Board unanimously approved a resolution to provide educational services to children ages 6-21 in the 2024/2025 school year. Director of Educational Services Dann Swift and Superintendent Fisher discussed options for a 2024 summer camp program at Murray Ridge School. Director of Adult Programs Gary Lyons provided an update on the discontinuation of Murray Ridge Adult Services at the Elyria Opportunity and Vocational Center (EOVC) after February 23, 2024; the transition is going well, and the majority of those currently at EOVC who are not enrolled on Medicaid waivers will be transferring to either the Oberlin OVC or Lorain OVC, and have attended open houses at these locations. Dr. Fisher updated the Board regarding potential busing arrangements.

Now Hiring!

FEATURED positions



Direct Support Professionals (Home Setting)

We have openings available for full-time, part-time, and PRN (as-needed) positions to care for residents of our Meister Road Home. Hours vary based on position and/or assignment.

Direct Support Professionals (Adult Program Setting)

We have openings available for full-time, part-time, and PRN (as-needed) positions to serve participants in our Adult Program. Hours are generally during the day.

Lifeguard (Full-time 9-month)

We have an opening for a full-time (9-month) Lifeguard that will function also as a classroom aide at Murray Ridge School.

Licensed Practical Nurse

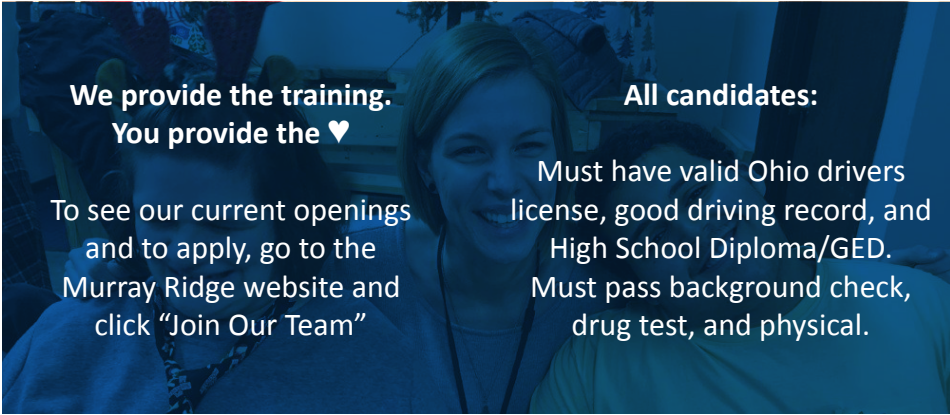
We have openings for part-time, full-time, and PRN Licensed Practical Nurses.

Murray Ridge School Teacher

We have openings for full-time and PRN (as-needed) teachers at Murray Ridge School.

School Aide

We have openings for PRN (as-needed) and Full-time (9-month) School Aides at Murray Ridge School.



We provide the training. You provide the ♥

To see our current openings and to apply, go to the Murray Ridge website and click "Join Our Team"

All candidates:

Must have valid Ohio drivers license, good driving record, and High School Diploma/GED. Must pass background check, drug test, and physical.

Lorain County Board of
Developmental Disabilities

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Photo of the Month: Students and staff performing "The Grinch" for Murray Ridge School's Holiday Storybook Showcase! Left to right: **Susan Rundell** as the Grinch, **Anellys Ortiz Lebron**, Personal Aide **Castiel Wheaton** behind **Becky Diar**, Classroom Aide **Khloe Smiddy** behind **Sheila Harness**, **Adriel Neal**, Substitute Teacher **Glenn Mittler**, **Mathew McKinney**. Visit our Facebook page to see more pictures!

Contact Us

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