

MONTHLY



MURRAY RIDGE COURIER

MAY 2024



Oh yeah, brother! Wrestling to raise money for Friends of Murray Ridge!

Breaking Down Barriers!

On Saturday, May 4th, **Mega Championship Wrestling (MCW)** held its 12th annual **"Breaking Down Barriers"** professional wrestling fundraiser event! Over the course of these exciting, family-friendly shows, MCW has raised more than \$15,000 for Friends of Murray Ridge.

Dozens of wrestlers came to the Lorain County Community College Field House to perform, showing their support for people with developmental disabilities in our Lorain County community. Fans cheered and jeered as the wrestlers put on an incredible display for everyone.

What really made this event special was the spirit of inclusivity that was present throughout the night. People from different backgrounds came together to see the spectacle, sharing a rowdy night of thrills together. Thank you to everyone at Mega Championship Wrestling for putting together such a fun and exciting evening for a great cause!



WE'RE OUT...



Back Row: Marci Coen, Dylan Stearns, and Kayla Stearns. Front: Fred Biller and Melissa Glaze

Peter Pan

In May, a group of Adult Program participants from Lorain Opportunity & Vocational Center (LOVC) enjoyed a magical performance of the North Pointe Ballet's "Peter Pan" at the Lorain Palace Theater.

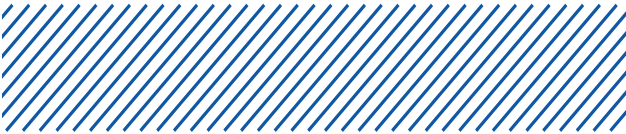
Recently, a group from LOVC got their rain gear and visited Cascade Park Waterfalls, part of Lorain County Metro Parks, in Elyria during some April showers. Pictured are **Jamie Velez**, Adult Program Instructor **Penni Shuster**, and **Yaletti Arroyo**.



Coffee Shop & Jazz Concert

Oberlin Opportunity & Vocational Center (OOVC) Adult Program participants **Jacob Pantalone** and **Amber Cummings** took in an afternoon jazz forum at The Cat In The Cream Coffee House.





Lorain County and the surrounding regions have so many wonderful small businesses, local restaurants, and other fun places to offer their residents. Enjoy these photos of our Murray Ridge Center community out on the town!



Juliaunna Mason (right) getting her nails done during an LOVC visit to Northern Institute of Cosmetology in downtown Lorain



OOVC Adult Program Participants Megan Giammaria, Cassie Kilgore, and James Hertzell went grocery shopping at Oberlin IGA to purchase ingredients for an upcoming cooking activity

...AND ABOUT!



Pictured, clockwise from left: David Helton, Dorion Lowe, Vito Faga, Eric Hodge, Brione Monk, and Mary Moriarty (in front).

LOVC Birdwatching

A group of Adult Program participants from our Lorain Opportunity and Vocational Center recently enjoyed some birdwatching at the Vermilion River Reservation!



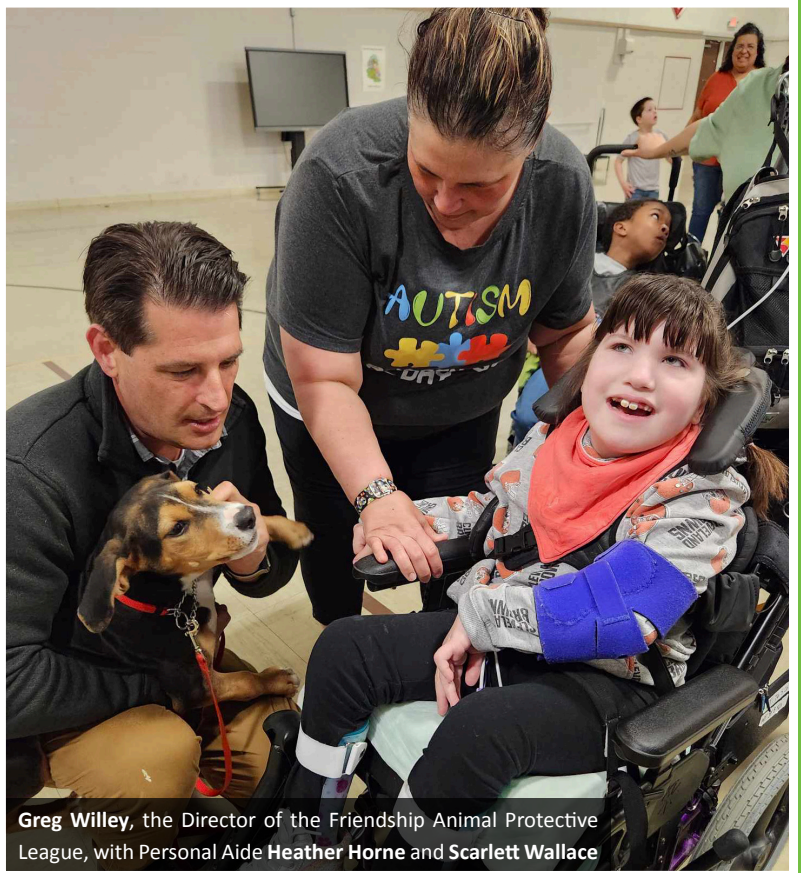
OOVC Adult Program Participants Mandy Raycher, Esther Schnable, and Cathy Pence went out for a treat at Big Ed's Main Street Soda Grill in Vermilion

WHAT'S NEW AT Murray Ridge School?



School APL Donation

This year, for its community service project, the Murray Ridge School Scout Troop held a change drive and managed to collect nearly \$700 for Elyria's Friendship Animal Protective League! The money was presented to Greg Willey, the Director of the FAPL, at a special gathering in the Murray Ridge School gymnasium. Great job, everyone!



Greg Willey, the Director of the Friendship Animal Protective League, with Personal Aide Heather Horne and Scarlett Wallace



Murray Ridge Preschool Receives 5-Star Rating!

Murray Ridge Preschool recently received a 5-Star Step Up To Quality (SUTQ) rating from the Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services.

SUTQ recognizes and promotes learning and development programs that meet quality program standards that exceed preschool licensing and school-age child care licensing health and safety regulations. Step Up To Quality program standards are based on national research identifying standards that lead to improved outcomes for children.

Congratulations Murray Ridge Preschool staff!

Friends and Family Day Visit

Some students from Eastern Heights Middle School came to visit the Brew it Smooth Cafe for friends and family day! The middle schoolers participate in a similar vocational program at their school, so they came to visit their barista counterparts at Murray Ridge School.



Brady Bella (middle) between two guest baristas from Eastern Heights Middle School

2024 MURRAY RIDGE SCHOOL PROM!



"Welcome to the jungle!" Murray Ridge School students enjoyed a prom like no other. The gymnasium, transformed into a tropical paradise, glowed with colorful lights and decorations.

As the music pulsed through the dense foliage, the dance floor was alive with energy. Amidst the wild festivities, friendships blossomed, and

memories were etched into the students' hearts, creating a prom night they would never forget.

All in all, about 175 students, loved ones, and staff attended. Three students who are graduating, **Jose Smith**, **Chris Fowler**, and **Bilyan Dimitrievich**, were all crowned Prom King (or "King of the Jungle"!) by Superintendent **Amber Fish-**

er, Supervisor **Stacie Starr**, and Board Member **Keith Boey**.

Special thanks to DJ **Jocelyn Noble-Spraggins** and photographer **Dominic Price**, who donated their time and talents. Be sure to check out our school Facebook page for more pictures and video of the event!

Ja'Quan Warren gave this year's prom two thumbs up!



Supervisor Stacie Starr crowns Jose Smith one of this year's Prom Kings with Principal **Dann Swift**, Superintendent **Amber Fisher**, and School Aide **Martha Hoyt** looking on

MURRAY RIDGE VOLUNTEERS



OOVC Volunteers at Lorain County Safe Harbor

Last month, a group of OOVC Adult Program participants volunteered at the Lorain County Safe Harbor and helped them paint rocks for their rock garden. Safe Harbor's mission statement says they "provide a comprehensive range of family-focused services for Lorain County victims of domestic violence."

Pictured: Jacob Pantalone and Tom Smith (seated at right, left to right) with staff members from Lorain County Safe Harbor

OOVC Adult Program Participants Volunteer at the Elyria Arts Council



Last month, some OOVC Adult Program participants volunteered at the Elyria Arts Council and helped assemble art packets for an upcoming student art project.

Pictured: Rozalynne Everett (left and above, front left) and Dustin Mitchell (above, front right) with two staff members from the Elyria Arts Council

Boardroom Briefing

The Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities convened at 6:30 p.m. on April 29, 2024

Board member Rebecca Cornman reported that a nominee had been selected for the Quarterly Exceptional Service Award. The Board unanimously approved minor revisions to its policy on Waiting Lists. Agency calendars were approved for July 01, 2024 – June 30, 2025; these are posted on the Agency website. Superintendent Fisher reported on the existing leases for parts of the building at 1095 Infirmary Rd. (the previous site of the Murray Ridge Elyria Opportunity & Vocational Center) that are being used by private providers of Adult Day Support/Vocational Habilitation; the Board unanimously passed a motion recommending the renewal of the leases with the existing provisions and rates, for the upcoming fiscal year (July 2024 - June 2025). Dr. Fisher provided an update on the 2024 summer camp program for Murray Ridge School students.



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, Director of Communications. 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

Now Hiring!

FEATURED positions



Direct Support Professional (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.

Assistant Manager, Residential

This is a full time management position at our Meister Road Home.

Licensed Practical Nurse

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

Provider Compliance and Resource Specialist

This is a full time position within our Service and Support Administration Department.

Intervention Specialist

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.

Custodial Service PT

This is a part time position in our Maintenance Department.

Service & Support Administrator

This is a full time position in our Service and Support Administration Department.

Adult Program Instructor

This is a full time position in our Adult Services Department, likely assigned to Supported Employment.

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: Adult Program Aide Dianna Markwood and Sara Lempeck enjoyed some tasty treats at Brew it Smooth's pop up visit to LOVC! Behind the counter are Murray Ridge School students Ja'Quan Warren, Brady Bella, and Jonas Bennett, with Personal Aide Emily Barbee

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