

# MURRAY RIDGE COURIER



## Murray Ridge Athletes Shine at Ohio Special Olympics State Summer Games



MRC athletes pose with Ohio Governor DeWine. Pictured (l-r, front row) Jericho Bailey, Ajonie' Glinsey, Kimberly Nadolski, Governor DeWine, Melissa Skidmore, Sarah Ward; (l-r, middle row) Jacob Pantalone, Coach Russ Moye, Justin Tucker, Diana Clement, Tim Dammeyer; and (l-r, last row) Alicia Lawrence, Maria Pincura, Elizha Suggs, Volunteers Sophia Pohorence and Hope Myers and Coach Laura Roby.

Thirty-eight remarkable athletes from Murray Ridge Center (MRC) traveled to The Ohio State University June 13-15 to compete in the Ohio Special Olympics State Summer Games!

MRC athletes competed in four sports—Bocce, Tennis, Track & Field, and Traditional Volleyball—and gave it their all, representing themselves, their teams, and the entire Murray Ridge community with pride, strength, and sportsmanship.







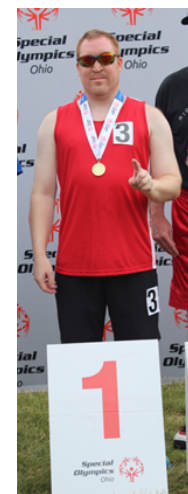
Their outstanding efforts led to an incredible medal count: 17 Gold, 7 Silver, and 13 Bronze! Each win is a testament to their athletic skill and relentless dedication, teamwork, and competitive spirit.

Supported by dedicated coaches and volunteers, the athletes showed the entire state what it truly means to be a Murray Ridge Raider. Their accomplishments go beyond the medals: they are a celebration of inclusion, perseverance, and the powerful impact of unified sports.

Congratulations to every athlete, coach, and supporter who participated in the Ohio Special Olympics State Summer Games. You've inspired us all!



Left, the Raiders Volleyball Team! Pictured (l-r) Robert Assanakis, Special Olympics Volunteers, Coach Leroy Keen, Joe Bellottie, Dorian Chaffin, Ryan Busher, Noah Griffiths, Tony Harris Jr., Zuleka Perez, Jeffrey Torres, Shari Reitenbach, Ryan Brown, Andrew Westover, and Coach Sarrah Zeiter. Right, Bocce Athletes, (front, l-r) Tim Quisenberry, Kenny Martin, Lisa Schultz, Coach Missi Obeshaw, (back, l-r) Coach Aaron Simmons, Joseph Linden, Dennis Johnson, Cassie Kilgore.



Above (left to right) the MRC Tennis Team, pictured (l-r, front row) Ryan Eliason, Victor Elder, Martha Lombeida; and (l-r, back row) Fred Biller, Mike Cooper, Bobby McFadden, and Coach Sherri Lhotsky. Justin Tucker celebrating his gold medal win in the 100M Dash. 200M dash medalists Elzha Suggs (silver) and Ajonie' Glinsey (gold). Tim Dammeyer after winning his 100M dash event.





## Giving Back!

Murray Ridge Adult Program participants regularly volunteer at Safe Harbor in Elyria, demonstrating their commitment to giving back to the community. With enthusiasm and compassion, they support Safe Harbor's mission by assisting with daily tasks, organizing supplies, and bringing positive energy to the space. Their efforts not only make a meaningful impact but also reflect the spirit of inclusion, service, and community connection that defines Murray Ridge.



Pictured (l-r): Jacob Pantalone and Jeremy Risner volunteering by painting rocks for the Safe Harbor rock garden.

## Movie Time!

A lively group of Adult Program participants from the Lorain Opportunity and Vocational Center (LOVC) headed to Phoenix Theatre at Great Northern Mall for an afternoon packed with big-screen fun. They caught a showing of the beloved Disney classic Lilo & Stitch—a perfect mix of laughter, adventure, and a little “ohana” magic. With popcorn in hand and smiles all around, the crew soaked up every moment, making it a movie day to remember!



Pictured (l-r): Chelsie Jenkins, Ashley Tarrant, Michelle Miller, Annie Cirilo, James Wilson, and Iveliss Ortiz.

## Oh Deer! A Day at the Park!

Adult Program participants from Oberlin spent a meaningful day at Lagoon Deer Park, enjoying the opportunity to engage with animals and explore the peaceful surroundings. The visit offered a chance to connect with nature, spend time with friends, and experience something new in a relaxed, welcoming environment!



Pictured above (l-r): Colleen Sumskis; John Hall; Joann Gall, John Hall, and Harold Kilpatrick.



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## Cue Good Times!

A group from the Lorain Opportunity and Vocational Center (LOVC) recently turned an ordinary afternoon into a mini outing full of laughs, lunch, and a little friendly competition at the Dawg House in Elyria. The group showed off its cue skills—or at least had a blast trying!



Above (left to right) RJ Jandrew, Earnest Harrell, Robert McFadden, John Armstrong, and Michael Hawley

## Mini Golf Adventures with Murray Ridge

Fore! Participants from the Oberlin Opportunity and Vocational Center (OOVC) recently traded their usual routines for putters, golf balls, and a whole lot of laughter during a fun-filled day of mini golf at SportsVille.

Murray Ridge continues to bring community experiences to life, one adventure at a time—and this one definitely scored a hole-in-fun!



Above (left to right) Andrea Stewart, Sean McCaffery, and John Hall playing putt-putt!

## A Purr-Fect Day Out for the OOVC!

Participants from the Oberlin Opportunity and Vocational Center (OOVC) spent a heartwarming day at Kitten Krazy in Medina, where they enjoyed plenty of furry cuddles and friendly feline company. After time with their new four-legged friends, the group headed to Courthouse Pizzeria for lunch!



Above (left to right) Brittany Brlas and Sarah Bremke.



## A Royal Visit! Lorain International Princesses Celebrate With MRC

The Lorain International Festival Princesses recently made their annual visit to the Lorain Opportunity and Vocational Center (LOVC), and their presence was met with warm smiles and enthusiastic welcomes!

After touring the facility, the princesses joined our Adult Program participants for LOVC's monthly dance—a much-anticipated event that quickly turned into an afternoon of shared laughter, music, and movement.

This tradition is a favorite for many at Murray Ridge Center, offering a chance to connect, celebrate, and enjoy the spirit of community. For participants, dancing alongside the princesses is more than just fun—it's a meaningful moment they look forward to year after year!

As always, the visit served as a reminder of the power of inclusion and celebration in bringing people together!



Pictured (left, I-r, top) Judy Hersha and Dennis Bills and Italian Princess; (right, I-r, top) Darryl Jackson and Princesses; (left, I-r, bottom) a dance party at the OVC; (right, I-r, bottom) Dominican Princess and Judy Armstrong.





## LOVC Enjoys a Day at the Pier

Adult Program participants from the Lorain Opportunity and Vocational Center (LOVC) have been making the most of summer—and they're taking their adventures all over town!

Earlier this month, LOVC participants enjoyed a breezy day out at the Jackson Street Pier in Sandusky. With sunshine overhead and scenic lake views all around, it was the perfect setting for a relaxing stroll along the boardwalk.

This trip is just one of many activities that keep Murray Ridge Center participants engaged with their community and connected to the world around them. From downtown Sandusky to hometown favorites, Murray Ridge is always on the move—and always finding ways to enjoy the journey!



Pictured above (left): Hector Ortiz, Jessica Mager, and Kenny Martin. Pictured (right): John Armstrong, Carmen Perez, Penni Shuster (staff), and Thomas Wohlever.

## Do a Job That Matters: Work for MRC!

Go to the Murray Ridge website [murrayridgecenter.org](https://murrayridgecenter.org) and click "**Join Our Team**" (or scan the QR code, below) to see all current openings, read job postings, and to apply!



### All Candidates Must:

- Have valid Ohio drivers license, good driving record, and High School Diploma/GED
- Pass background check, drug test, and physical



## Splish, Splash, Smiles!

On June 26, Murray Ridge Early Intervention (EI) families and staff beat the summer heat with a refreshing visit to the Amherst HealthPlex Splash Pad.

EI families and staff laughed and played as water jets and sprinklers kept the fun going, making it a joyful day of connection, movement, and cool summer memories.

Events like this give families a chance to relax, bond, and celebrate the progress their children are making—all while having fun!



Pictured (left, top to bottom): Ethan Munoz, Charlie Makris, Alina Alderman; (right, top to bottom) Cullen Makovic, Killian Lavery, and Levi Alderman and EI staff member Shawna Livingston.

## Game On: A High-Score Day at Bowlero Arcade!

Participants from the Oberlin Opportunity and Vocational Center (OOVC) recently spent an afternoon at Bowlero Arcade in North Ridgeville. From racing games to skee-ball and claw machines, there was something for everyone to enjoy! Adult Program participants tried their luck, earned tickets, and cheered each other on. Bowlero proved to be the perfect spot for fun, games, and great memories with friends!



Pictured above Devin Bryner (left), and Matt Kanter (right).





## Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities

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## Boardroom Briefing

**The Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities convened at 6:30 p.m. on June 30, 2025.**

Murray Ridge Program Specialist Jim Nagy, on behalf of Mega Championship Wrestling (MCW), presented a check for more than \$1,050; this donation was the proceeds from the 2025 Breaking Down Barriers wrestling event, the thirteenth annual MCW fundraiser for the Friends of Murray Ridge. Due to changes to the related rule of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD), the Board approved changes to its policy on Addressing Major Unusual Incidents and Unusual Incidents to Ensure Health, Welfare and Continuous Quality Improvement. The 2024 Strategic Plan Progress Report was adopted. Superintendent Fisher announced that DODD Director Kim Hauck had retired on June 27, 2025, and that Assistant Director Lindsey Nash was acting as Interim Director of DODD. Dr. Fisher discussed the upcoming visit of Board members to the Meister Road Home.

## 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 [awards@murrayridgecenter.org](mailto:awards@murrayridgecenter.org) or call Jen Ryan at 440-329-3734. 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.