

MONTHLY



MURRAY RIDGE COURIER



SEP 2024

Murray Ridge School Supervisor Stacie Starr, Sariah Lugo, and School Aide Joe Croftcheck

A New Year at Murray Ridge School!

Thursday, August 22nd was the first day of classes for the 2024-2025 Murray Ridge School year! We would like to extend a warm welcome to all of our new students and staff members, as well as those returning for another great year of learning. Have a wonderful year, everyone!



A bus driver for First Student and Music Teacher Lissa Lopez helping Marra Board off the bus

Murray Ridge School 56 Years of Excellence

For more than a half-century, our school has provided a positive and nurturing environment that enables students to develop functional skills in an environment that fosters self-esteem and a sense of accomplishment. In addition to a solid life-skills curriculum supplemented by academics, art, adaptive physical education, music, science, and more, students' classroom learning is enhanced by community experiences and volunteer opportunities.

MURRAY RIDGE AT THE LORAIN COUNTY FAIR

Christopher "John" Hall and OOV Program Specialist Shawn Silvis



Connie Rogers with a rabbit friend



Cathy Pence with a large wooden waterfowl



Robert Assanakis and an equine acquaintance

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

MURRAY RIDGE IS OUT AND ABOUT!



Kim Nadolski, Annie Cirilo, Tiajana Crumble, Michelle Miller and Chelsie Jenkins at the Winking Lizard in Avon



Aboard the Mystic Belle in Vermilion! Pictured, left to right: Tre'Sean Fitch, Jessica Mager, Michael Elliot, Melissa Glaze, Judith Hersha, Fred Biller, and Kim McDonald

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!



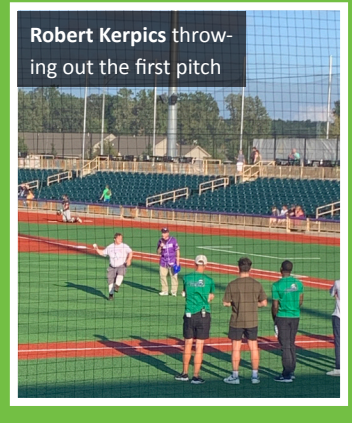
Brendan Stull during an OOVG tour of the Elyria Fire Station

Timothy Young, Helena Hurt, James Fink, Alicia Lawrence, Latonya Mitchell, and Alec Jones at Lakeview Park in Lorain



MRHC's Annual Crushers Baseball Event

Murray Ridge Housing Corporation hosted its annual trip to Mercy Health Stadium to watch the Lake Erie Crushers. This annual event, sponsored by MRHC, is a way that the housing board says "thank you" to its tenants; more than 75 of the tenants were present. Pictured, left to right: LCBDD Superintendent **Amber Fisher**, LCBDD Administrative Assistant **Jennifer Ryan**, MRHC Trustee **Terry "Pete" Shilling**, LCBDD SSA Manager **Nancy Hollins**, MRHC Vice Chairperson **Tim McLaughlin**, MRHC Trustee **Lynne Barth**, Maintenance Technician **Chuck Heisler**, MRHC Treasurer **Ken Oswald**, MRHC Secretary **Bill Forthofer**, **Stephanie Forthofer**, and **Charles Johnson**.



WELLNESS DAY With Empower Sports



Cathy Pence and Joyce Cox

Murray Ridge and Empower Sports hosted a Wellness Day on Wednesday, August 28th for eligible adults. This fun-filled, action-packed day consisted of individual and team challenges, allowing individuals to focus on teamwork, learn new skills, and, most importantly, work towards healthy living and fitness habits. It was great to see the participants come out of their shells and not only show off their abilities, but also cheer each other on. Thank you to Empower Sports staff for facilitating the event, as well as to T3 Performance for allowing us to use its facility. Everyone had a wonderful time! This event was made possible by the Myrtle Endowment Fund of the Community Foundation of Lorain County.



Clockwise from left: **Matthew Schoerverth**, **Sarah Bremke**, OOV Adult Program instructor **Lisa Lee**, **Cathy Pence**, **Joyce Cox**, Executive Director of Empower Sports **Tom Heines**, **Brenden Stull**, OOV Adult Program Instructor **Tammy Stanley**

Annual Transportation Safety Instructions

Murray Ridge Center wants you to be safe when travelling. These are guidelines that students, eligible adults, and their caregivers should be aware of when utilizing transportation services.

WAITING FOR THE BUS

- Wait for the bus at least 10 feet from the road.
- Dress properly - winter clothing, hats, mittens, and boots will help keep you warm in the winter.
- Watch for the bus' red lights.
- Wait until the bus has stopped and door opens before stepping into the roadway.
- Wait for the driver to signal to cross. Cross at least 10 feet in front of the bus.
- Use the handrail when stepping onto the bus.
- If you use a wheelchair, it must be equipped with a functioning seat belt. The wheels should lock as well.
- Store all belongings in a backpack so nothing gets dropped.

BUS SEAT SAFETY RULES

- Follow all of the driver's instructions.
- Speak softly so the driver will not be distracted. At railroad crossings, be quiet.
- Stay seated until your stop and keep the aisle clear.
- Never put head, arms, or hands out of the window.
- Never do anything to distract the driver.
- Keep aisles clear and free of tripping hazards.
- Never throw things on the bus or out the windows.
- Tell the driver or monitor if you are being bullied.
- If there is an emergency, listen to the driver and follow instructions.
- Do not eat on the bus, as this could present a choking hazard.
- Store all belongings in a backpack so nothing gets dropped.

GETTING OFF THE BUS AT HOME

- If you have to cross the street in front of the bus, walk at least ten feet ahead of the bus along the side of the road, until you can turn around and see the driver.
- Make sure that the driver can see you.
- Wait for the signal from the driver before beginning to cross.
- When the driver signals, walk across the road, keeping an eye out for sudden traffic changes.
- Do not cross the center line of the road until the driver has signalled that it is safe for you to begin walking.
- Stay away from the bus' rear wheels at all times. If you drop something near the bus, leave it. If you leave something on the bus, never return to get it. The driver may not see you come back and start to move the bus. If you drop something near the bus, tell the bus driver before you pick it up so he/she knows where you are.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION GENERAL SAFETY TIPS

- When you enter or leave a vehicle, watch for slippery or uneven pavement and other hazards that could cause you to fall.
- Have your LCT ID, bus fare, ticket, or pass ready so you don't lose your balance while looking for it.
- Do not carry too many packages – always leave a free hand to grab a railing.
- Allow extra time to cross streets, especially in bad weather.
- If it's dark outside, wear light-colored or reflective clothing.
- Do not talk to strangers. If you are being bothered by someone, tell the driver immediately.
- If you have any questions, ask the driver.
- Most LCT stops are not sheltered. Dress appropriately for the winter weather, and utilize sunscreen in the summer.
- Whether you are in a bus, car, or van – ALWAYS WEAR YOUR SEATBELT IF THE VEHICLE IS EQUIPPED WITH ONE!

Dental Hygiene Clinic



*Lorain County
Community College*

**FREE SPECIAL EVENT
For Murray Ridge
Clients**

SERVICES TO INCLUDE:

- Cleaning, X-rays, and Dentist Exam
- Oral Health Instructions

All Services Provided by LCCC
Dental Hygiene Students
under faculty instruction

**Saturday
11/2/24 @
9am**

**LIMITED APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE
CALL TO SCHEDULE**

CALL 440-366-4948

Boardroom Briefing

The Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities convened at 6:30 p.m. on August 26, 2024

Jeff Miller, Director of Vocational and Transportation Services, presented and the Board unanimously approved Murray Ridge School bus stops for the 2024-2025 school year, and the superintendent/her designee(s) were authorized to relocate or designate additional bus stops during the school year, as needed. Superintendent Amber Fisher highlighted the outcome of the agency's recent Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) Accreditation Review, which took place on July 31 and August 01, 2024; she reported that the Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities (LCBDD) received a three-year accreditation, the maximum currently available through DODD. Dr. Fisher also discussed multiple commendations received from the Accreditation Team in areas including LCBDD-coordinated self-advocacy events, effective processes and structural changes in the MUI Department, the creation of a Law Enforcement & Judicial System Navigator position, leadership in exploring referrals for Early Intervention (EI) in an effort to promote prompt services for all eligible infants and toddlers, the use of grants to grow the EI lending library and provide proactive environmental supports for families of eligible individuals with challenging behaviors, the addition of Service and Support Administration (SSA) Supervisor positions to address growing day-to-day needs within the SSA Department, and the creation by LCBDD SSA Managers of a guide on the recently-introduced OhioISP; she added that LCBDD had no citations in the area of service planning, which is uncommon and highly commendable! Superintendent Fisher also discussed the upcoming Kids Summit to be hosted by the recently-created Ohio Department of Children and Youth, and initiated discussion about expanding training for childcare providers on autism spectrum disorders/support implications.

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.

Licensed Practical Nurse

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

Service & Support Administrator

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

Intervention Specialist (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.

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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Elyria, OH 44035

Photo of the Month: Breaking news! Broadcasters **Ja'Quan Warren** and **Brady Bella** delivering one of their daily news broadcasts with their classmates on our Murray Ridge School Facebook Page

Contact Us

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Be sure to follow us on Facebook!

