

MURRAY RIDGE COURIER



Shaken, Not Stirred

MRC's Early Intervention Department Goes 'Home Alone' at Lorain County Zero Proof Mix-Off!

The Murray Ridge Center (MRC) Early Intervention (EI) Department once again participated in The Safe Communities Coalition's Annual Zero-Proof Mix-Off event at Lorain County Community College.

The Mix-Off was created to raise awareness on sober driving and alcohol-free celebrations—during the holidays and beyond! The event showcases innovative concoctions perfect for the season, like "The McCallister," EI's drink contribution this year!

Pictured (l-r): EI Supervisor Heather Knoble, Developmental Specialist Jen Doseck, Speech Pathologist Kim Ohl, Developmental Specialist Amber Bowers, Beau Bowers (Amber's son), and Developmental Specialist Melanie Liddy.

Monthly Adventures at Ritter Public Library

Once a month, Adult Program participants from the Lorain Opportunity and Vocational Center (LOVC) visit the Ritter Public Library in Vermilion for its lively Adult Storytime. On January 9, library staff kicked up the fun with cookies and coloring! Who says storytime is just for kids?

Pictured (l-r): LOVC Adult Program participants Carol Urbine, Melissa Glaze, Darryl Jackson, and Fred Biller.



Boardroom Briefing – December 2024

Board member Rebecca Cornman, Chair of the Exceptional Service Award Committee, reported that a nominee had been selected for the First Quarter 2025 Exceptional Service Award. Board member Ryan Egbertson reported on a Special Olympics Committee meeting, and on the 2024 meeting of the delegate assembly of the Ohio Association of County Boards Serving People with DD. The Board unanimously passed its 2025 Budget, and a 2025 Strategic Plan. Director of Service and Support Administration Heather Gurchik reported to the Board on the Supported Living cost ceilings, and recommended no changes to the existing cost caps. Superintendent Fisher discussed and the Board passed changes to the Governing Rules and Regulations, based on statutory changes impacting some provisions. The Board also passed a resolution to enter into an agreement with and in support of the Murray Ridge Production Center.

MRS' Brew It Smooth Café Takes its Talents on the Road!

Murray Ridge School (MRS) hit the road in January, bringing coffee, smoothies, and treats to the Oberlin Opportunity and Vocational Center (OOVC).

Opened in 2022, the Café is a fully functional, student-run business where teamwork, customer service, and life skills are learned.

From pouring the perfect cup to sharing smiles with customers, Murray Ridge students are serving more than just coffee, they're brewing confidence!



Pictured (l-r): OOVC Adult Program participants (picture 1) Will Foster and Sarah Bremke, (picture 2) Michael Jarrett, (picture 3) Cassie Kilgore and Amber Cummings, (picture 4), Brew Café Crew members Ja'Laysia Brown and Tiffany Demyan, and (picture 5) OOVC Adult Program participant William Prahst.

Work For The Ridge!

Go to the Murray Ridge website murrayridgecenter.org and click "**Join Our Team**" (or scan the QR code, right) to see all current openings, read job postings (including full postings for the Featured Positions below), and to apply!



Featured Positions



School Aide

Full Time, 9-month, and Intermittent (substitute) positions available.

- Support students with daily living skills.
- Assist teachers and carry out assigned activities in various settings.
- Help with bussing and ride the bus with students when needed.
- Maintain records, share progress with teachers, and input data using basic computer programs.
- Provide/assist students with personal care.
- Collaborate as part of a transdisciplinary team and attend required meetings.



Group Home Aide

Full Time, Part Time, and Intermittent (substitute) positions available.

- Provide direct care in a residential setting, including personal care, transfers, and recreational activities.
- Implement Individual Service Plans (ISP/IHP).
- Maintain electronic records (progress notes, charts, reports).
- Transport residents to programs, appointments, and activities.
- Perform housekeeping tasks (bathrooms, laundry, kitchen, resident rooms, and activity clean-up).



Lifeguard

Full Time, 9-month position, following School calendar.

- Perform lifeguard responsibilities, including supervising students in the pool.
- Assist students with swim preparation, and post-swim needs.
- Document student performance relative to individual goals, as requested.
- Ensure pool area safety and cleanliness, and compliance with applicable rules and Public Health guidelines.
- Perform School Aide duties, as assigned (see position featured in the first column to the left); pool may be closed if a Lifeguard is needed to cover for classroom personnel.
- Work in lunch room, as needed.
- Attend meetings and events, as assigned.



All Candidates Must:

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

Weather-Related Announcements Reminder

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 been 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: It appears that Fox 8 no longer has a mechanism for signing up for text alerts on Murray Ridge School/Murray Ridge Adult Activities Centers. If you have signed up for text alerts in the past, we cannot advise you to rely on text alerts this season; please instead access the 'Closings' tab on the Fox 8 website (or one of the radio/television options described above).

Parents and caregivers of school students should disregard the "Murray Ridge—Adult Activities Centers" listing, and follow only the listing for "Murray Ridge School."

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 440-288-2222.

Holidays at the Ridge

Murray Ridge Center had a busy December! Read more on the amazing experiences our Adult Program participants had last month.



Holiday Cheer at LOVC

Singer-songwriter Chad Hoffman brought his musical magic to the Lorain Opportunity and Vocational Center (LOVC), spreading holiday cheer through a sing-a-long with Adult Program participants.

Chad has been delighting MRC for years, performing at summer picnics and holiday events across all of our Opportunity Vocational Centers. Want to catch him live? Check out his schedule at chadsolo.com!

Caroling and Honoring a Friend

Adult Program participants from the LOVC brought the spirit of the holidays to Life Care Center of Elyria through joyful caroling. The group also had the chance to visit with former LOVC Adult Program participant, Leroy Davis.



Leroy, who passed away on December 8, 2024, left a lasting impression on all who knew him. This visit was a heartwarming reminder to the LOVC carolers of the connections we have and hold dear. Leroy's memory will continue to bring warmth and joy to all who were fortunate to know him.

Pictured (l-r): LOVC Adult Program participants Lorenzo Cooke, Haley Philman, Jalitza Rodriguez. Amanda Spreng, MRC staff member Penni Schuster, LOVC Adult Program participant Hannah Hughes, Life Care Center attendee Leroy Davis (wheelchair, left), LOVC Adult Program participants Darryl Jackson (wheelchair, right), James Wilson (behind Leroy), and Nicholas Tallos (behind Darryl).



Santa Makes Donations!

Santa has a soft spot for furry friends! Each year, MRC's very own Jesse Frisch brings holiday cheer by collecting and delivering donations to the Friendship Animal Protection League (FAPL), a tradition loved by all!

Pictured left, Jesse accepts a donation from MRC staff member Danielle Burgess. Right, Jesse and Greg Willey, FAPL Executive Director, get some snuggle time with a few of the Shelter's adoptable cats!

Saturdays are SUPER for the Raiders!

Super Saturday wasn't just a basketball event for our Murray Ridge Special Olympics athletes—it was an all-day celebration of teamwork, growth, and competition!

On December 7, 2024, the basketball court was alive with energy as our three MRC Raiders teams played!

- **Scarlett** took on the Cuyahoga Rockets and Stark Lucas Lightning
- **Grey** faced off against Stark Public and Lucas County
- **Red** battled the Strongsville Mustangs and Lucas County

With two wins and four losses, these games weren't just about the scoreboard. Our Raiders were busy building their athletic skills and preparing for February's high-stakes Regional Tournament at Spire Academy in Geneva, OH! Congratulate your favorite Raider on their Super Saturday showing and wish them best of luck in their upcoming tournament!



Pictured left: Sani Smith going in a for a layup. Pictured top right (l-r): Charles Johnson (#44), Darnez Otero (#12), and Denum Otero (#24) wait to contest a rebound. Pictured bottom right: the Grey Raiders Team huddles up!

Spotlight on the LOVC

From festive caroling to serious gaming, the Lorain Opportunity and Vocational Center (LOVC) had an amazing December!

Indoor Adventures!



The weather outside may be cold, but inside it's toasty warm.

LOVC Adult Program participants got their steps in with an indoor walking adventure, visiting some local retailers and making the most out of every stop! Whether it was making friends at Walmart or sharing laughs at Home Depot, they proved that a little shopping can go a long way in warming up your day!

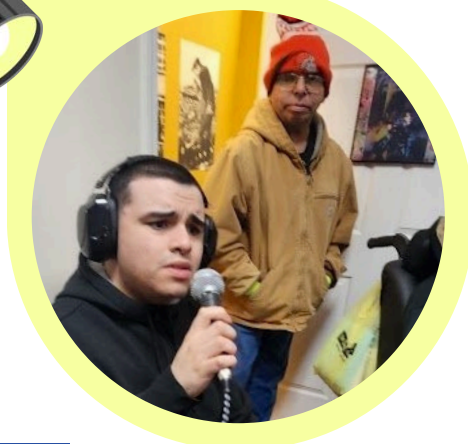


Pictured left (l-r): Penni Schuster (MRC staff) and Adult Program participants Austin Carpenter and Alec Jones. Pictured right (l-r): Adult Program participants Charles Owens, Eric Hodge, Austin Carpenter, Dennis Johnson (back), Alec Jones, Walmart Greeter, and Adult Program participant DaeJon Hamlin.

Food Court = Bingo Fun

Playing Bingo is a favorite activity for LOVC's Adult Program participants. And what better place to play BINGO than at Great Northern Mall? Food Court Friday Bingo takes place on the 2nd and 4th Friday of every month.

Pictured (l-r): Brione Monk, Julian Mingus, Abby Kisner, and Michael Telloni.



Rockin' Out at Rock Town

LOVC Adult Program participants had a blast at Rock Town Music Academy in Lorain. The Academy is a music school featuring album-themed rooms, where participants were able to jam out and soak up the music-filled atmosphere! Thank you to the Rock Town team for making this experience so memorable!

Pictured (l-r): Gabriel Maldonado tests out his vocals while Jorge Rivera listens to his song.

Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities

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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 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.