

# Dateline

July/August 2013

Published by the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities  
"Helping people to live, learn and work in our community"

## Open house set for accessible apartments

FCBDD's Service Coordination Department and Creative Housing are hosting an open house on Wednesday, August 7th at the recently constructed accessible apartments at 1216 Lamplighter Drive in Grove City. The event will run from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The project is the eighth and most recent of a multi-year partnership between FCBDD and Creative Housing aimed at developing needed accessible apartments throughout Franklin County.



Development of the eight sites has attracted over 7 million dollars from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in addition to funding from the Ohio Finance Fund, the Columbus Foundation and the City of Columbus.

Lamplighter Drive is located off Buckeye Parkway just south of Stringtown Road. AMC Grove City 14 at 4218 Buckeye Parkway will provide additional parking for the open house. If attending, please RSVP no later than July 24th to [ctouffer@creativehousing.org](mailto:ctouffer@creativehousing.org).

## Community star awards 2013: the winners

The 11th Annual Community Star Awards will be presented at a banquet Wednesday evening, October 9th, at the Villa Milano. Award recipients have just been announced.



**ECE Director Becky Love, Star Award recipient for management staff.**

The winners are: Jill Davis, *Adult Participant*; David Cope, *Youth Participant*; Nancy Beu, *Parent/ Family Member*; Marguerite Crabtree, *Adult Services Staff*.

Dr. Tiffany Eggleston, *School Staff*; Home Health Connections, Inc., *Provider Organization*; Theresa Setser, *Volunteer/ Good Neighbor*; Paula Kassa, *Transportation Staff*.

Mary Martin, *Early Childhood Staff*; Pat Chapman, *Residential Staff*; Becky Love, *Management Staff*; Bob Thomas, *Service Coordination Staff*; Kay Nophsker, *Support Services*, and Forest Hills Center, *Employer*.

Reservations will be accepted next month. Reservation forms may be found in the September issue of *Dateline*. Please contact Linda Fleming with any questions at 342-5950.

## Hague artists display work by Jack Karner

The participants at Hague Living Skills Center welcome opportunities to be admired for their dynamic and unique contributions to the lives of others. Such an opportunity arose this past spring when folks at Hague were requested to create art for an exhibition at Brothers Drake Meadery, 26 E. 5th Avenue.



**Artist Kevin Krouse**

Adaptive brushes were built allowing each artist to maintain hold of the brush and yet reach the canvas from a wheelchair. Hague staff donated extra house paint. The Hilton at Easton generously donated sheets that became the canvas for these colorful works.

The project proved to be a collaborative one, with artists working side-by-side. The show generated a warm and encouraging response from those who viewed the paintings.



**Artist Willie Jo Watts**

Special thanks to the First Community Church for providing Hague artists this chance to display their talents.

For more information on Brothers Drake, go to <http://brothersdrake.com>.

## “Now You See Me” exhibit a success

Over 400 guests attended the opening party for the ARC Studios exhibit, “Now You See Me,” held at the Ohio State University’s Urban Arts Space, 50 W. Town St., on the evening of June 15th. According to Valarie Williams, Executive Director, the event was on “of the most well attended openings” at the facility.

Open to the public, the exhibit will run through July 20th.



**Artist Michelle Harrigill,  
“Dancing with the Stars”**



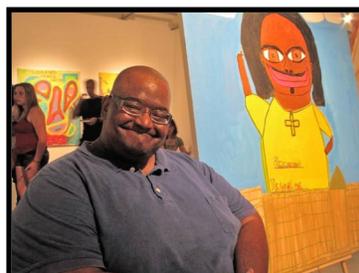
**Artist Ebony Baccus, “Circus Time”**



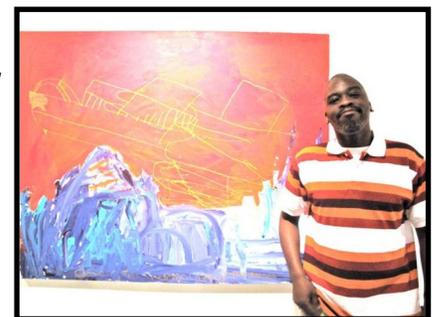
**Artist Jimmy Matteis, “Snowflakes”**



**Artist Robin Horner, “Happy House”**



**Artist Heath Alan Woodruff,  
“Emmanuel is with Us”**



**Artist Jerome Carter,  
“Airplane over Blue Mountain”**

## Team player Mona Decker retires

Behavior Support Specialist Mona Decker retired from FCBDD at the end of June. Her departure marked the completion of more than 35 years of serving people with disabilities.

According to Chief of Psychology Angela Ray, the agency is losing "a great team member."

"Mona's priority has always been meeting the needs of students. Her friendship and work ethic will be greatly missed by her colleagues and those she served."

Mona began her career in the field at the old Orient Developmental Center. She went on to Miami Trace Local Schools as a teacher for persons with severe to profound cognitive delays. She joined FCBDD in 1986, when she became Behavior Support Specialist for the Transportation Department.

In 1996, Mona moved to the Hague Living Skills Center, where she stayed six years before shifting to Bixby. She celebrated July 4, 2005 by moving to the school program with the assignment to work with

collaborative classrooms and cross-setting behavior plans.

In retirement, Mona plans to work in flower beds, visit with her 95-year old father in Nebraska and go to her sister's cottage in the Poconos. She also plans to spend more time scrapbooking, reading, fishing and expanding her interest in Native American culture and history.

Asked for parting comments, Mona said, "I've really enjoyed getting to know everyone over the years and I'm looking forward to my 'next life'."



## ECE retirees saluted

Early Childhood Department staff members who retired at the end of the 2012-2013 school year were saluted at a celebration at the Early Childhood and Family Center on May 30th.

Pictured below are: Bev Ryan, Teacher; Noe Farfan, Home Based Specialist; Peggy Meredith, Occupational Therapist; James Brown, Maintenance Foreman; and Pam Hagar, Assistant Teacher.

Retiring staff not pictured are: Susan Schraff, Home Based Specialist; Lynn Spinosi, Assistant Teacher; Miriam Jordan, Assistant Teacher; and Cheri Janes, Occupational Therapist.

"We congratulate these staff members and wish them the best as they move on to the next chapter in life," said Superintendent Jed Morison. "We also want to thank them for their exceptional work over the years. They will be sorely missed."



## David Dohnal discusses roles of board and staff

An overview of the roles of board and staff members was presented to the seven members of Franklin County Board of DD and administrative staff at an in-service training session held at Administration on June 27th

The presentation was made by David Dohnal, a longtime member of the Summit County Board of DD and a past president of the Ohio Association of County Boards.

According to Mr. Dohnal, board members set policy, staff implements it.

He also expressed pride in his association with county board services. "I'm absolutely convinced our service



system is the best in the world."

A retired attorney, Mr. Dohnal described his "first and foremost job" as "being a father."

FCBDD President Dean Fadel thanked Mr. Dohnal for the presentation and praised board and staff members for their service.

## Donna Baird

A memorial service celebrating the life of Donna Baird was held at the Schoedinger Worthington Chapel on May 20th. The former FCBDD Account Representative passed away on May 16th.

Donna had retired from the agency in December, 2003 after 25 years of service. At the time of her retirement she commented, "We have a great mission to concentrate on -- continuing quality services."

Superintendent Jed Morison recalled that Donna was instrumental in securing ARC Industries' first contract with Simpson Strong-Tie, a leading manufacturer of structural connectors. "That contract has resulted in a great deal of work for ARC employees over the years," he added.

Donna was survived by her husband of 49 years, Jim; children, Jeff, Mike and Amy; and seven grandchildren.

## Vera Schmarr

Vera Schmarr passed away on May 4th at Kobacker House. She was 86.

Vera was a member of the first Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities upon its creation in 1967. Along with her late husband, Virgil, she devoted much of her life to activism and advocacy on behalf of persons with developmental disabilities.

In 1979, Vera was also a co-founder of Families United, a support and advocacy group. Regarding this group, Vera once told *Dateline* "You can learn a lot from each other."

"Vera certainly made her mark as a strong and very able advocate for needed community services," said Superintendent Jed Morison.

Vera was predeceased by her son, Greg, and survived by her son, John.

## Pete Williams

Longtime FCBDD job trainer Pete Williams was honored in a memorial service on May 31st. He had been with the Job Placement Department for 20 years. Pete had a "special way" with the consumers, taking care of the whole person and often going above and beyond his job duties to meet their needs.

Pete and his life partner Larry Alsbach, who predeceased him, were avid gardeners and animal lovers. At their home in German Village, they raised birds. They also raised goats and an alpaca on their farm in Greenfield.

Pete was 59 years old. A veteran, he had served in the U.S. Air Force for ten years. He was survived by two daughters, Katie and Becky, son Andrew, four granddaughters, and life friend Karen. He'll be greatly missed by all.

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## From SunApple Studio by Jan Montgomery

Jill Davis is an artist in the SunApple Studio and her specialty is fan pulls. As of late, Jill has been expanding her artistic repertoire by painting and throwing on the pottery wheel.

Jill was a participant at ARC West in a habilitation room where she learned to string pony beads. When the studio opened, she moved on to stringing beautiful fan pulls with natural stone beads. Now she is painting, using an adapted brush to assist her in covering large canvases.

Jill has blossomed into an incredible artist and a very humorous young lady, with a quick wit and infectious laugh. If you should visit ARC West, please stop by and see Jill at work. You are sure to leave with a smile on your face!



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## Quotable Quote

"We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give."

-- Sir Winston Churchill

## Good for you

Notable achievements in the FCBDD community

FCBDD's Director of Psychology **Angela Ray** and ARC South's Behavior Support Specialist **Rick Robertson** teamed up on a presentation to the **Ohio Association of County Boards** Spring Conference on May 24th. Titled, "Positive Culture and Behavior Support Services," the presentation focused on the shift away from control and coercion toward affirmation and encouragement.



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Hats off to the folks at **Hague Living Skills Center** for their recent donation of art work to the **St. Margaret of Cortona Parish** Festival. The donated items included a set of three black and orange abstract paintings and a decorative basket containing gourmet dog bones. Located at 1600 North Hague Avenue, the parish is a neighbor of the center.

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**Dr. Margo Vreeburt Izzo**, retired Professor and Program Director of OSU's Nisonger Center, received the university's distinguished *Diversity Enhancement Award* last month. Presented by the Office of Human Resources, the award recognizes efforts to improve diversity.

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The stories of 15 immigrants who settled in Franklin County are told in a 39-page booklet by **Estera Piroso**, an intern in the office of **Franklin County Commissioners** and a student at **OSU's John Glenn School of Public Affairs**. "The stories have you in tears of sorrow and laughter," said County Commissioner **Marilyn Brown**.

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Special thanks to ARC South staff member **Kim Ferrell** for organizing Ohio Health's Mobile Mammography and Bone Density screening on July 8th. Available at South from 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., mobile screening offers FCBDD staff a convenient way to schedule important medical checks.

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Congratulations to the nine FCBDD staff members who were awarded **John J. Siebold** scholarships in June. They are: **Sharon Bryant**, ARC South Training Specialist; **Chelsea Harvey**, West Central Teacher; **Christine Hunter**, ECE Teacher; **Farrah Langlois**, Service Coordinator; **Andrea Lyle**, APE Instructor; **Jonathon Mayton**, ARC Business Office; **Levi Pryor Jr.**, ARC West Training Specialist; **Amber Schmitter**, ARC North Training Specialist; and **Tina Turpin**, ARC East Training Specialist. ARC Industries will recognize the scholarship recipients at a luncheon in September. Since 2004, ARC has awarded over \$97,000 in scholarship funds through the Siebold program.

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Administration staff member **Jennifer Cunningham** and her husband **Bryan Fox** have been busy fine-tuning their dance skills with the help of **Arthur Murray Dance Studios**. On June 2nd, the couple took part in the Columbus Showcase held at the Boat House Restaurant at Confluence Park.



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## Career Milestones

### 40 years

**Richard Grawemeyer**

### 30 years

**Charles Potts**  
**Shara Sagraves**

### 25 years

**Michael Butchko**  
**Theresa Doughty**  
**Sonya Hall**  
**Susan Lee**  
**Debra Sherman**  
**Stephen Snyder**  
**Patrice Sorenson**  
**Eric Thompson**  
**Robert Williams**  
**Debora Wyche**

### 20 years

**Jacqueline Boyle**  
**Sue Heischman**  
**Darla Hodo**  
**Cheryl Kellum**  
**David Miller**

### 15 years

**Louann Elkins**  
**Martha Higgins**  
**Toby Paine**  
**Karen Widmayer**

### 10 years

**Jacqueline Batts**  
**Elizabeth Baumhackl**  
**April Brehob**  
**Edward Herrmann**  
**Mary Linden**  
**Linda Masterson**  
**Mary Sevy**  
**Haley Simpson**  
**Melissa Zech**

### 5 years

**Megan Boncela**  
**Beth Droese**  
**Christie Fletcher**  
**Ann Guthrie**  
**Sheila Hitchcock**  
**Linda Monroe**  
**Dale Pugh**  
**Dena Saylor**  
**Megan Sheumaker**  
**Deborah Tumbison**  
**Jeanette Wehrle**

## Window replacement work underway

A project to replace original windows with insulated, energy-efficient windows at the Early Childhood Learning Community is expected to be completed by August.

A crew from Precision Installation, Inc., is performing the work. The original windows date back to 1965.

According to Dot Yeager, FCBDD's Chief Financial Officer, the project "is something that will improve the environment for students and staff. The new windows were designed to allow better temperature control and conserve energy."

Franklin County purchased the building, which was originally a Columbus public school, in 1981. It is located in northwest Columbus at 4141 Rudy Road.



## Calendar

### July, 2013

- 17 Family Support meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 9:30 a.m. Meeting is open to all family members.
- 22 ARC Industries Board of Trustees meeting, Fawcett Center, 11:30 a.m.
- 25 FCBDD Finance and Human Resources Committees meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 4 p.m.
- 25 FCBDD Board meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 5 p.m.
- 26 School-age Summer Center programs end.

### August, 2013

- 1 ECE Summer Center program ends.
- 2 Staff Development Day for Adult Services and Transportation staff. All adult facilities closed.
- 13 Franklin County Residential Services Board of Trustees Facility Visit, 1021 Checkrein Ave., 11 a.m.
- 19 ECE and School staff returns - Staff Preparation/Development Day.
- 21 First day of classes, Northeast and West Central Schools.
- 24 Third Annual ARC Industries Golf Scramble, Royal American Golf Course, Galena, 12:30 p.m.
- 26 ARC Industries Board of Trustees meeting, Fawcett Center, 11:30 a.m.
- 27 First day of classes, ECE - please consult program schedule.

## Dateline

The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities

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**Linda Craig**, Secretary  
**John Bickley**  
**Marie Crawford**  
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Superintendent / C.E.O. **Jed W. Morison**

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## Golf scramble set

The 4th Annual ARC Industries Golf Scramble will be held on Saturday, August 24th at Royal American Links, 3300 Miller Park Road, in Galena.



Fees are \$85 per individual or \$340 for groups of four. Fees cover green fees, driving range, golf cart, gift bag, buffet dinner and awards. Free beer and hot dogs will be provided while supplies last.

For more information, please call Mark Isenhardt at 436-4800.