

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

Board supports senior levy

The Franklin County Board of MRDD endorsed the Senior Options levy at its meeting on October 25th.

The levy will appear on the Franklin County ballot as Issue 14 in the election on November 6th.

The levy provides 93% of the operating budget for the Franklin County Office on Aging. The agency's services help senior citizens remain at home and independent.

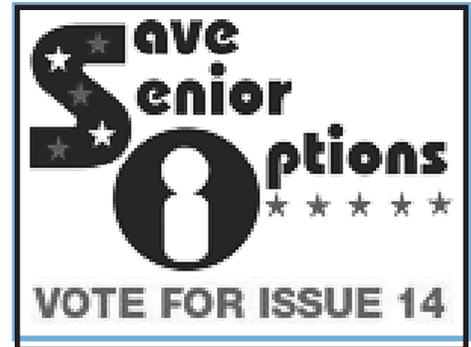
Last year, the agency provided seniors with nearly 500,000 home-delivered meals, 95,000 hours of light

housekeeping assistance, 19,000 days of adult health care, and 1 million miles of transportation.

The 5-year, .9 mills levy would cost the owner of a \$100,000 house \$27.56 per year.

Board President Ben Hale described Issue 14 as "very deserving of our support."

He noted that older MRDD consumers frequently receive services such as Meals on Wheels through the Office on Aging.



CARF surveyors to arrive soon

A team of surveyors from the Commission on Accreditation (CARF) will visit FCBMRDD's adult programs in mid-November to evaluate how well the agency's services measure up.

Three surveyors will spend three full days at FCBMRDD beginning November 14th. They plan to tour the four ARC Industries workshops, the Bixby and Hague Living Skills facilities, and Administration.

They will also conduct extensive interviews of consumers, families and staff.

If the surveyors determine that FCBMRDD's services meet CARF's standards, the agency will be accredited for a fixed period of time.

Adult Services Director John Mitchem oversees the agency's survey preparation. He explained the reason for seeking accreditation.

"Having a CARF certificate is evidence to consumers and their families that we are committed to providing the best possible services."

Founded in 1966, CARF is a private, nonprofit organization that accredits human service providers.

Photo courtesy of the CARF website

Public hearing set

FCBMRDD will hold a public hearing on its annual action plan on Monday, December 17th, at 4 p.m. The hearing will be in the board room at 2879 Johnstown Road.

The hearing is intended to provide all interested persons the opportunity to ask questions and give feedback concerning the agency's annual goals.

All in attendance will be invited to make oral or written comments.

Superintendent Jed Morison urges all those interested to take part.

"In a service agency like ours, it is very helpful to get feedback, particularly from our consumers and their families. That can really help us improve."

Anyone needing special accommodations in order to participate may call Linda Rockwell at 342-5950.

Families to hear OPRA director

Maureen Corcoran, Executive Director of the Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA), will address a meeting of Families United on Thursday, November 8th, at 7 p.m. The meeting will be held at Overbrook Presbyterian Church, 4131 North High Street.

Topic of the presentation will be rules regulating day habilitation services. Updated information about Intermediate Care Facilities for the Mentally Retarded will also be provided.

The public is invited to attend.

Siebold scholarships awarded

ARC Industries has presented eight FCBMRDD staff members scholarship awards through its John J. Siebold Scholarship Program.

The awards, valued at \$1,500 each, are given each year to support agency staff members seeking to further their education in the developmental disabilities field. Since its creation in 2003, the program has awarded a total of \$32,000 in scholarships.

The scholarship program is ARC's way of honoring the memory of John Siebold, a staff member of FCBMRDD for 27 years who passed away June 23, 2003. At that time, he was the Director of Business Operations for ARC Industries.

"John had tremendous enthusiasm for helping people," recalled Superintendent Jed Morison. "As a result, he was much loved and admired."

The recipients this year were: Krystal Brown, Erin Harmon, Jack Karner, Brian Luebke, Ollene Meyers, Jerry Rose and Rosia White.



Front row, left to right are: Lisa Schnees, Pat Newell, Robert Siebold, Mary Snelling, Sherry Siebold and Kyle Siebold. In the back row are: Jerry Rose, Krystal Brown, Jessica Siebold, Erin Harmon, Rosia White, Jack Kamer and Jim Siebold.



Left to right are: Marcy Samuel, Michael Settineri (ARC Industries Board Chairman), Jerry Rose, Krystal Brown, Erin Harmon, Jack Kamer, Rosia White and Jed Morison.

Parents group celebrates 30 years

FCBMRDD's Parent League turned 30 last month. That is no small feat in an era when the hectic pace of living leaves many with little time to spare.

The group was established in October, 1977 as a means to ensure open communication between agency administrators and parents, or other family members, of persons receiving services.

Since then, they've held monthly meetings at FCBMRDD's administrative offices, featuring discussion of issues related to the agency and consumers. Superintendent Jed Morison hosts the gatherings.

All are welcome to attend. Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 9:30 a.m.

The group has little structure. There are no dues nor even a roster of members.

"Our meetings are very informal," said Superintendent Jed Morison. "Basically we sit around a conference table and -- over coffee and cookies -- share news and concerns."



From left are: Peggy Martin, Elaine Bechant, Don Wire, Dodie Whitaker, Marjorie Petruzzi (seated), Susan McCrary, Jean Williams, Ted Williams, Sandy Giusti and Superintendent Jed Morison. Photo by Linda Rockwell.

One person has been with the group over its entire history. Marjorie Petruzzi attended the first meeting in 1977, and still continues to do so, despite the

fact that her son, who received services from FCBMRDD, passed away years ago.

In memoriam

Sheila Davis

Bixby Living Skills Center lost a well respected staff member when Sheila Davis passed away on September 19th.

Employed as a Habilitation Specialist since 2001, Sheila was caring and kind to co-workers and consumers.

She was a foster parent with Ohio Youth Advocates for many years. Sheila enjoyed church, traveling, art and her beloved dog, Jeffrey.

Sheila was survived by three children, Michael, Daryl and Dana Davis; nine grandchildren, and a brother and sister.

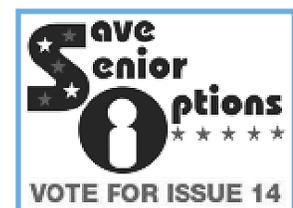
A celebration of Sheila's life was held at Brown-Robinson Funeral Home in Lorain on September 29th.



Did you know?

The Franklin County Council on Aging serves 5,100 clients per month. The typical client is older than 75 and living alone. More than 300 clients are older than 90.

You can help assure that these much-needed services continue without interruption by voting for Issue 14 on November 6th.



Artist shares talent at PACE

An artist who is employed as a Habilitation Specialist at the PACE Berwick facility has been sharing his talent with the participants there.

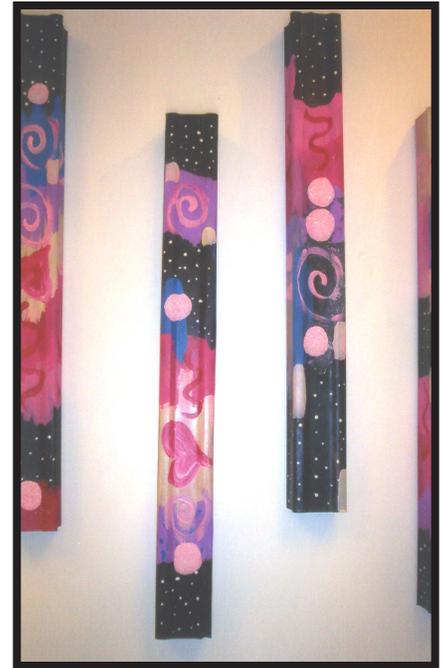
Tim Carsey's vivid and colorful art work is done using empty boxes, old packaging material, recycled wire, paper and stones.

His displays create a homeroom that is dazzlingly colorful.

"Tim's artwork must stimulate and intrigue the participants, and present them with something to think about, learn from, and talk about," said Fiona Edmonds, whose daughter attends the program.



Tim Carsey with some of his work.



Garden program plants a seed

"Gardening with Farmer Paul" allows children enrolled in FCBMRDD's Early Childhood program to explore and learn about soil, plants and animals. Each week Paul Ethridge brings a new activity that the children can experience. Children's experiences range from pretending to be a seed to watching a seed grow into a beautiful plant.

The program has introduced the children to growing produce as well as healthy eating. The children made salads from vegetables grown in the garden.



Farmer Paul Ethridge and Grace share a fresh cucumber.



YMCA preschoolers shared the experience of working in the garden and then eating their crops.



Instructor Cam Yeagley helps a Summer Center participant with salad from the garden.

Good For You

Notable Achievements in the FCBMRDD Community

Career Milestones

FCBMRDD dietician **Berni Thurn** gave a presentation to the Central Ohio Diabetes Association's 44th annual symposium on October 11th. The presentation, titled "Diabetes Education for Persons with Developmental Disabilities," focused on techniques to help consumers make healthy food choices.

Some colorful headgear was seen at Administration on September 28th as **ARC West's** chapter of the **Red Hat Society** paid a surprise visit on Superintendent **Jed Morison**. Accompanied by Instructor **Pat Williamson**, the ladies dropped by to offer birthday greetings.

Bixby Living Skills Center had a great turnout at its Open House on October 11th. According to Director **Dave Tisdale**, the theme was "International Day" and each room was decorated to reflect a particular country. Tram rides were provided to an adjacent park courtesy of **Columbus Metro Parks**.

Jeri Gilbert, Safety Coordinator for FCBMRDD, has been appointed to the Steering Committee of the Capital Area Safety Council. Congratulations, Jeri!

A tip of the hat goes to Administration staff member **Jeff Baird** who finished the Columbus half-marathon on October 21st. Jeff not only got a lot of good exercise, he also raised funds for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

Congratulations to **Mary Martin** and **Carl Scott** for coordinating another successful blood drive on October 26th.

Congratulations to ARC North employee **Denise Waits** who was named the Agonis Club 'Female Athlete with Disabilities of the Year'. Even though Denise is blind, she excels in track, as well as basketball and softball skills.



Open House participants include: back row Justin Smith, Diana Morton and Rose Dexter; front row Melissa Whitt and Robert Rinehart.

25 years

Judith Coffey
Mark Hurney
Carol Wonders

20 years

Janet Gay
Nicholas Gulyassy
Cristine Hahn
Judy Henderson
Bernard Hickman
Patricia Jackson
Stephen Knorr
Kenneth Shanks
Rebecca Shannon
Bernadine Thurn
Thomas Wise

15 years

James Blanchard
Peggy Cotton
Anna Dickson
Sherry Gaines
Brenda McSwain
Virginia Pope
Jeanette Winstead

5 years

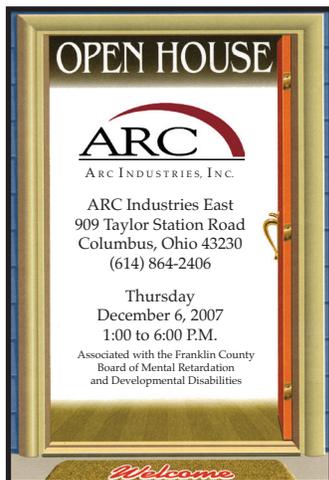
Raymond Snyder
Sandra Turner
Dorothy Yeager

Open houses set at East, West, Hague

ARC Industries East will hold an open house on Thursday, December 6th, from 1 to 6 p.m. Please call Director Clarice Pavlick at 342-5302 for details.

Hague Living Skills Center will also hold an open house on Thursday, December 6th. Guests will be welcome between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. Please call Director Annick Parker at 342-5202 for more information.

ARC Industries West will hold an open house on Thursday, December 13th, from noon to 5 p.m. Should you have any questions, please contact Director Jan Montgomery at 342-5139.



Basketball tryouts at Bixby

Tryouts for FCBMRDD's Flyers teams will be Monday November 5th, Tuesday November 6th, and Thursday November 8th. 5 regulation teams, 2 half-court teams and an individual skills team will be formed. Tryouts will take place at the Bixby Living Skills Center, 4200 Bixby Road.

Special Olympics Director Dee Hively expects increased interest this year because of improvements at the Bixby facility. New and colorful wall mats, a new scoreboard and a new floor have been added.

Good luck to all the athletes, We hope you make the team!

Dateline

The Franklin County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities

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Mildred Blumenfeld
Bruce Burns
Paul S. Coppel
Dean Fadel
Helen Ninos

Superintendent Jed W. Morison

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The following FCBMRDD staff contribute to the monthly publication and distribution of Dateline.

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Calendar

November, 2007

- 6 Election Day - please vote!
- 7 FCBMRDD Human Resources Committee meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 4:30 p.m.
- 8 Families United meeting, 4131 N. High St., 7 p.m.
- 12 Veterans' Day observed - all county facilities closed.
- 13 Franklin County Residential Services Board of Trustees meeting, 1021 Checkrein Ave., 11 a.m.
- 15 FCBMRDD Finance Committee meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 4 p.m.
- 15 FCBMRDD Board meeting, 2879 Johnstown Road, 5 p.m.
- 21 Parent League meeting, 2879 Johnstown Road, 9:30 a.m.
- 22 Thanksgiving Day - all county facilities closed.
- 23 Thanksgiving Recess - all county facilities closed.
- 26 ARC Industries Board of Trustees meeting, Holiday Inn On-the-Lane, 11:30 a.m.

"Quotable quotes"

"Courage is contagious. When a brave man takes a stand, the spines of others are often stiffened."

Information about FCBMRDD is always available on the internet at:

www.fcbmrdd.org

-- Billy Graham