

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

## Two board members calling it quits

FCBDD board members Lito Ramirez and Leah Reibel have opted not to continue service on the board.

They are ending their service due to extremely busy schedules. In addition to their volunteer service on the board, both have been highly involved in professional, community and family activities.



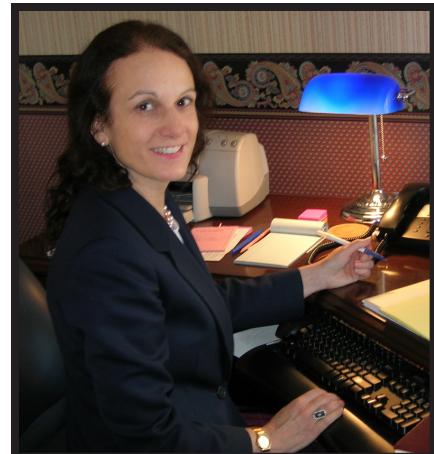
Lito Ramirez, a Dublin resident, began board service in 2009. A health care consultant, he has been very active in advocacy efforts on behalf of persons with Down Syndrome. He is the father of a 5-year old boy with Down syndrome.

During the past year, Mr. Ramirez served as Chairman of the Human Resources Committee.

Leah Reibel, an attorney in private practice in Worthington, began serving on the board in 2010. She is the mother of a son in the Worthington Public Schools' special education program.

Ms. Reibel has served on the Human Resources Committee for the past two years.

Superintendent Jed Morison summed up his reaction to the board members' departures: "Leah and



Lito have been highly dedicated board members who have provided invaluable leadership for our agency. Our community owes them its gratitude. I'm very sorry to see them go, but at the same time I can understand their reasoning."

## Community leader Garnett Steele remembered

Garnett Steele, a longtime leader in Franklin County's developmental disabilities community, died on November 23rd. She was 86.

Until her death, Garnett served as the Executive Director of the Council for Retarded Citizens (CRC), a post to which she was appointed in 1978. Before that, she had been a teacher at West Central School. She had worked as a teacher in the special education field for 17 years.

Among her many accomplishments, Garnett started Camp Breezewood, a summer camp located in Delaware County. This program allowed children with developmental disabilities to enjoy a break from their routines during the summer and experience nature.

Garnett also started a latchkey program that continues to serve Franklin County families.

"I think Garnett packed several lifetimes into one," said FCBDD Superintendent Jed Morison. "She was a great lady, and certainly made her mark as a strong supporter of people with disabilities."

Garnett is survived by her son, Randy Steele.



# New board members named

Two new members of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities have been named. They are John Bickley and Beth Savage.

The new members will succeed Lito Ramirez and Leah Reibel. Their terms are set to begin on January 26, 2012. Board members' terms last four years.

*Dateline* will provide background information on the new board members in its February issue.

## Staff members retire

Eight long-serving FCBDD staff members retired in December, bidding a fond farewell to the agency and coworkers.

The retirees are: Millie Jones, Accounting Officer, Administration; Kathy Wallen, Habilitation Specialist, Hague Living Skills Center; Alice Talley, Instructor Assistant, Northeast School; Scott Buffington, Safety Coordinator, Transportation; Dan Espinoza, Alternative Transportation Coordinator, Transportation; Phyllis Jaccaud, Assistant Training Specialist, ARC South; Homer Green, Instructor Assistant at West Central School; and Judy Snedaker, Instructor at West Central School.

Commenting on the retirements, Superintendent Jed Morison said, "We're saying goodbye to some outstanding staff members who have served our agency well. Certainly we wish them the very best."



*Maury and Millie Jones.*

Millie Jones joined FCBDD in 1979. She was responsible for receiving all revenue coming to the agency as well as processing staff mileage reimbursements.

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Millie and her husband of 27 years, Maurice Jones, have 6 children, 15 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren. She is looking forward to spending more time with her family.

At 82 Millie held the accolade for being the agency's oldest employee. She was also one of the most energetic. "I loved my work," she said. That positive feeling went both ways said her supervisor, Jennifer Schueneman. "Millie has made an outstanding contribution to the agency's fiscal operation," she said. "Millie will certainly be missed."



*Kathy Wallen*

Kathy Wallen joined FCBDD in 1988 as a Residential Specialist at the Dierker Road residential facility. After a decade of service, she switched to the Hague Living Skills Center. According to Hague Director, Annick Parker, "Kathy has displayed a kind, gentle spirit."

Kathy organized an annual "Hee Haw" film festival for participants. She also became well known for her spaghetti dinners and delicious "Kathy cake."

A resident of New Straitsville, Kathy plans to spend more time with her large

family who live in Kentucky. She will also continue to care for five dogs, four of whom live outside.

"We will miss Kathy very much," said Annick Parker. "She will always be in our hearts."



*Alice Talley*

Alice Talley started with FCBDD in 1979 after a five-year stint at the Columbus Developmental Center. She has worked as an Instructor Assistant during her entire 32-year career, mostly at Northeast School, though she did stints at both Bexley High School and Reynoldsburg as well.

Alice greatly enjoyed her work, and describes her feelings as "bittersweet." She explained that she looks forward to retirement, but "will miss the kids" and her coworkers.

Alice is particularly looking forward to spending more time with her 13 year-old grandson. "I will enjoy that," she declared.



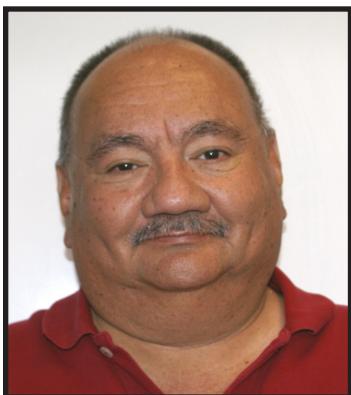
Scott Buffington

Scott Buffington of the Transportation Department began his FCBDD career in 1979. Initially he was a mechanic and then became Parts Manager. In recent years, Scott has served as Safety Coordinator in the Transportation Department. Unfortunately, he experienced some health problems in recent months.

A highlight of Scott's career was the agency's success in passing annual Highway Patrol inspections of the bus fleet. "We used to have a cookout to celebrate a successful inspection," he recalled.

Scott's hobbies include organic gardening and raising bees. He is also a car racing buff, and for years, drove a race car competitively on weekends. Appropriately enough, Scott customized the car to look like a mini-school bus.

"Scott was a fixture in the vehicle maintenance department," said Transportation Director Paul Chenderlin. "His experience and ability will definitely be missed."



Dan Espinoza

Another late December retiree from FCBDD's Transportation Department is Dan Espinoza. He began employment at the agency in September, 2000. After serving as a flex bus driver for five years, Dan was promoted to Alternative Transportation Coordinator, a post he held for 11 years.

Dan's short-term plans are to take some short trips with his wife. Down the road, he hopes to travel to sunnier climes to find an "active retirement community we would move to," he said.

Asked for his parting thoughts, Dan simply replied, "Best wishes to everyone!"

Transportation Director Paul Chenderlin commented, "Dan was much admired for his hard work. There will never be another Dan."

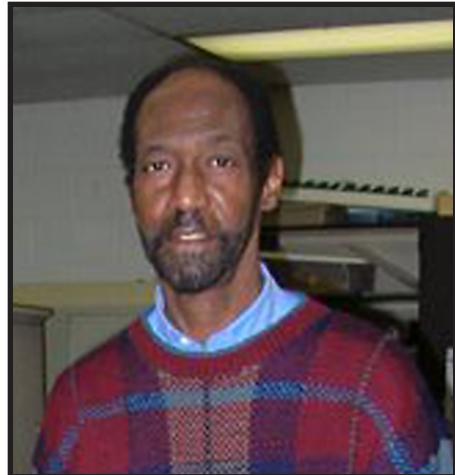


Phyllis Jaccaud

Phyllis Jaccaud has served as an Assistant Training Specialist at ARC Industries South since 1996. During her 15-year tenure, Phyllis contributed to the agency's services in a variety of ways.

Among the accomplishments of which she is most proud are: developing lifelong relationships with many consumers; teaching some consumers to tell time; teaching a course on sign language; and creating a game ("Body Bingo"), that helps teach personal hygiene.

Phyllis is looking forward to traveling, downsizing and moving to the country.



Homer Green

Homer Green, an Instructor Assistant at West Central School, worked 30 years with FCBDD. He has experience working with all ages of students, and most recently has been working in Room 156 with Dale Pugh, Teacher and Kathy Ahlers, Instructor Assistant. Homer has worked on the Combined Charities and Operation Feed committees. He is certified in delegated nursing and van driving. He has provided behavior support throughout his career with no injuries. Homer is married to Virginia Green and they have recently moved to Pickerington. He is looking forward to "Sleeping in, and taking it easy for a while."

Judy Snedaker has worked for over 30 years in the developmental disabilities field. She worked fourteen years with the Scioto County Board and then moved to Columbus and joined FCBDD in 1990. Judy was a classroom teacher with FCBDD for five years and then took the vocational position at West Central School.

Judy was married for 19 years to Ed Snedaker, who passed away in 2010. She has a daughter, son and two grandchildren. Judy plans to spend more time with her family and would like to travel. Judy is thankful she stumbled on to FCBDD when she moved to Columbus. "It's been wonderful and the years have flown by," she said.

# A stroke of luck?

by Martin Kerscher

I looked at the lunch offerings in the patients' dining room at Mt. Carmel's Inpatient Rehabilitation Center -- where they have been helping people recover from a variety of illnesses since 1987 -- and pondered two questions:

A fish sandwich or grilled cheese? And, what the heck am I doing here?

The grilled cheese turned out to be tasty, but my presence in the Rehabilitation Center makes for a more interesting tale.

Much to my surprise, I had a stroke on the morning of July 16th. As I saw it, this was not supposed to happen. At 57, I was too young. Moreover, I had been feeling great, going to the doctor regularly, and doing quite a bit of exercise (including running the Capital City 1/2 Marathon in May). And I was a lifelong nonsmoker.

But as I learned firsthand, a stroke isn't necessarily predictable, and it can happen in an instant. According to the American Heart Association, about 700,000 Americans suffer strokes each year. Common warning signs include problems with speech, tingling or any numbness in the body, memory difficulties, severe headaches and problems with vision.

In this case, I simply began feeling dizzy and disoriented while at home, then lost my footing and took a tumble. Making matters worse, the fall apparently caused a large subdural hematoma that was to require emergency surgery.

Luckily, a Mifflin Township ambulance responded quickly, and within a short time, I was in a well-staffed operating room at Mt. Carmel East Hospital. I should mention that the surgeon who saved my life was Dr. Kelly Kielm.

Ten days later, I moved to the Rehabilitation Center at Mt. Carmel West. Shortly after arriving there, I looked into a mirror for the first time since my surgery and noticed that the left half of my head had been completely shaved. I thought I resembled an extra in a late-night horror movie, but my loving wife, Maribel, assured me otherwise.

A highlight of my stay was going outside with members of my family for a daily walk. Technically I was being pushed in a wheelchair rather than walking, but I was walking in spirit. We often stopped briefly in a small garden area where some old statues of the Blessed Virgin Mary and various saints stood. I'm pretty sure I recognized one of the statues as Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, which seemed appropriate.

My two-week stay at the Center ended on August 9th. I am pleased to say that, with the excellent help of the physicians, therapists, and nursing staff, I was able to meet all my treatment goals. After discharge, I went on to enroll in a ten-week outpatient therapy program at the Martha Morehouse Medical Plaza at Ohio State. This program also proved to be immensely helpful.

I would not opt to have a stroke if given the choice. But I do feel that in many ways, my experience was a positive one. Certainly it helped me better appreciate the many good things in my life, especially my family and devoted friends. Also, I feel lucky to be alive and extremely grateful to the many caring people who reached out during this trying time.



## The green spot

-- by Cindy Wilcox

For the first time, FCBDD's Transportation Department has purchased a propane powered school bus. This purchase was made possible through a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy, Clean Cities Program, administered by Clean Fuels Ohio. The grant covered the additional cost of a propane bus.

A Bluebird Vision model, the bus is in its early test phase in the Transportation Department, having

been on the road since early October. The bus, numbered 179, is powered by a GM Vortec 8.1 liter engine.

Propane is a safe, alternative fuel that is nontoxic, colorless, and odorless. It emits fewer greenhouse gas emissions than gasoline or diesel and is not harmful to the soil or water. Because propane is delivered through a sealed system, it helps protect our environment. In addition to providing low emissions, the propane-powered bus offers reduced maintenance costs

and immediate fuel cost savings based on current prices.

Propane has been used as a commercial motor fuel for more than 80 years and has a long history as a safe, clean and reliable alternative fuel choice. The Transportation Department continues to strive to be the best green fleet that it can be.

# Good For You

## Notable Achievements in the FCBDD community



OACBD Executive Director, Dan Ohler congratulates Patrick Rafter.

**Patrick Rafter**, Chief Executive Officer of Creative Housing, Inc. since its creation in 1992, was the recipient of the 2011 *Partners In Excellence* award presented by the Ohio Association of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities recently. Pat was recognized for building the organization into a nationally recognized leader in providing accessible housing. Creative currently has a total of 491 housing units, including 157 apartment units, 104 duplex units, and 230 single-family homes. Congratulations Pat, on this well-deserved honor!

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The **Red Hat Ladies** of ARC Industries West have gone to the dogs! Recently the ladies visited the CHA Animal Shelter at 3765 Corporate Drive, where they have been rescuing lost dogs and cats since 1975. The ladies donated \$60 worth of pet food and supplies that they had raised through recycling aluminum cans. The ladies are continuing their fundraising efforts and ask that you support them if you "can."

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A strong supporter of developmental disabilities services is retiring from his post soon. **Mike Curtin**, Associate Publisher of the *Columbus Dispatch*, will be leaving the newspaper after many years. Best of luck, Mike!

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**Loretta "Cookie" Dews**, a service recipient at the Bixby Living skills Center, was presented a special honor recently by the Union Grove Baptist Church. Cookie received an honorary membership from Pastor Henry L. Johnson III. Cookie's sisters, **Lillian Shank** and **Kay Davis** are lifelong members and take Cookie to church frequently. Congratulations, Cookie!

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A tip of the hat goes to *Columbus Dispatch* reporter **Rita Price** for her package of articles regarding Down Syndrome on December 4th. The articles were well read and appreciated in the FCBDD community.

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## Career Milestones

**35 years**  
**Sheila Sparks**

**25 years**  
**Laura Billingham**  
**Deborah Lawson**

**20 years**  
**Bennie Hill**  
**Annick Parker**

**15 years**  
**Jessica Siebold**  
**Janice Tartell**

**10 years**  
**Eric Kinney**

**5 years**  
**Virginia Abbott**  
**Jack Akin**  
**Patsy Gayle**  
**Dana Johnson**  
**Renee Poling**  
**Sarah Thiel**  
**Darren Thompson**



**Pam Sonagere** of the Human Resources Department took the lead in developing a visual aid for staff and visitors to FCBDD's Administration Building in December. She created a poster bearing pictures and names of Administration staff. It may be seen in the mailroom, which is located just off the center corridor. Thanks Pam, for a job well done!

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## Tune in for closing news

For information concerning emergency closings of FCBDD facilities, please listen to the following after 5:30 and 6:30 a.m.:

### Radio AM

WBNS (1460)  
WMNI (920)  
WOSU (820)  
WTVN (610)

### Radio FM

WCOL (92.3)  
WCVO (104.9)  
WNCI (97.9)  
WSNY (Sunny 95)  
QFM (96)

### Television

WCMH (4)  
WSYX (6)  
WBNS (10)  
WOSU (34)

## Dateline

The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Helen Ninos, President  
Dean Fadel, Vice President  
Jean Williams, Secretary  
Linda Craig  
Lito Ramirez  
Leah Reibel  
Renee Stein

Superintendent Jed W. Morison

**The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities does not discriminate in employment or services on the basis of race, color, creed, sex, national origin, or handicap.**

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

Jed W. Morison	Carl Scott	Martin Kerscher
Michael Davis	Amy Maginnis	Jennifer Cunningham

News releases, story ideas, and suggestions should be sent to Martin Kerscher at:

2879 Johnstown Road  
Columbus, Ohio 43219  
(614) 475-6440 FAX 342-5001

Information about the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities

is always available on the internet at:

**[www.fcbdd.org](http://www.fcbdd.org)**

## Calendar

### January, 2012

- 2 New Year's celebrated -- all county facilities closed.  
**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**
- 2 Gator Bowl: Ohio State Buckeyes vs. Florida Gators, Jacksonville, Florida, 1 p.m. **GO BUCKS!**
- 3 FCBDD early childhood, schools, and adult programs resume.
- 10 Franklin County Residential Services Board of Trustees meeting, 11 a.m. Please call 844-3800 for location.
- 16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day observed -- all county facilities closed.
- 17 Benjamin Franklin's birthday
- 18 Family Support (formerly Parent League), 2879 Johnstown Rd., 9:30 a.m.
- 21 "For the Fun of It" bowling tournament, Columbus Square Bowling Palace, Rte. 161 and Cleveland Ave., 1:30 - 4:30 p.m. Please call 342-5960 for details.
- 23 ARC Industries Board of Trustees meeting, Fawcett Center, 11:30 a.m.
- 26 FCBDD Finance and Human Resources Committees meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 4 p.m.
- 26 FCBDD Annual Organizational Board meeting followed by regular meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 5 p.m.

## "Quotables quote"

"Do not squander time,  
for that is the stuff life is made of."

- *Benjamin Franklin*