

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

## Special Olympics gathering celebrates athletes, salutes Jed Morison

Wally Weber, a 61-year-old Special Olympian who joined the Flyers two years ago, was a newcomer to the annual sports banquet. It didn't take him long to decide that he'll be back.

"This is my first time here, but it won't be my last," Weber said with a smile. "I love it."

More than 300 athletes and coaches attended the outdoor event, which spreads across the parking lot of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities offices on Johnstown Road. Athletes and their supporters share a meal, some laughs and hang out together in a carnival-like setting.

Ryan Phillips, director of Special Olympics, Community Recreation and Aquatics at FCBDD, pays tribute to all athletes who want to be recognized. "It's a chance to step into the spotlight," said Megan Bender, Special Olympics specialist and social media manager for the Flyers.



The "Jed heads" drew big laughs.

This year's gathering included some surprise recognition – in the form of T-shirts and giant "Jed head" photos -- for longtime FCBDD Superintendent/CEO Jed Morison, who is retiring at the end of the year. A former director of Ohio Special Olympics, he has always championed the program. "I had no idea, no clue that was coming," Morison said. "I got a kick out of it. A great event, as always."



Special Olympics staff member Tim Brock visits with athlete Wally Weber.



Special Olympics staff member Megan Bender is all smiles with athlete Donald Custer.

## Guardianship Service Board needs help fulfilling holiday wishes



**Gifts can be purchased online and delivered directly to the GSB office.**

**Donors also can email [guardianshipserviceboard@franklincountyohio.gov](mailto:guardianshipserviceboard@franklincountyohio.gov) to coordinate a drop off.**

**For information and links to the lists, go to: <https://www.guardian.franklincountyohio.gov/post/2023-qsb-holiday-wishlist-gift-drive>**



The Franklin County Guardianship Service Board (GSB) is seeking support for its 6<sup>th</sup> annual Holiday Wish List Gift Drive, an effort to ensure that all clients receive at least one gift during the holiday season.

The GSB serves as the guardian of last resort to roughly 500 people. Most receive just \$35 to \$50 a month in discretionary spending and use that for hygiene products, clothing, snacks or entertainment.

Without the gift drive, many would not have any presents to unwrap.

Staff created a wish list that includes both commonly requested and specific items "that will bring a smile to our clients' faces."

The GSB serves people with intellectual disabilities, cognitive impairments, mental impairments, dual diagnoses, and those who are medically fragile.

# Goodwill Art Studio & Gallery settles into new Whitehall site

With three times more space, a storefront location and lots of elbow room for artists, the Goodwill Columbus Art Studio & Gallery is thriving in its new home in Whitehall.

"We're a lot more accessible to the community here," said Ed Schultz, art studio and gallery manager. "More people can see us, and they can stop by. A few weeks ago we tried a sidewalk sale; we've also started holding what we call open galleries."

The studio and gallery had long been tucked into a space at Goodwill Columbus headquarters on Edgehill Road in the Grandview area. With the sale of that building last year, Goodwill's administrative offices moved to the Grange Insurance building on S. High Street and officials have focused on expanding the geographic footprint of programs.

Early this year, the art studio and gallery celebrated its opening at 50 Robinwood Ave. in Whitehall, just off E. Broad Street.



**Volunteers and shoppers are welcome to visit the new studio.**



**Jane Taylor shows off some of her work.**

The program is open to adults with all types of disabilities, providing a place for them to express themselves, to grow, and to sell their art. Goodwill also welcomes volunteers and patrons of the arts.

Jeff Meadows, a Goodwill participant and artist who often paints pets and wildlife, once sold a painting to one of former President Obama's staff members during a visit. "I have a lot of art," Meadows said with a smile.

Charlotte McGraw said she wasn't keen on the move at first. But now the new studio feels like home, with larger working spaces and capacity for more artists. "It's family here," said McGraw, a prolific artist who has a mural on display at the Columbus-based nonprofit We Amplify Voices. She also has helped to provide art programming at the Ohio Reformatory for Women in Marysville.

"When one person is down, we help lift each other up," McGraw said of the studio participants and staff. "I come here five days a week. I'd come seven if I could."

***The next open gallery at Goodwill is set for 4 to 6 p.m. Nov. 30 at the studio, 50 Robinwood Ave. To learn more, go to [goodwillcolumbus.org](http://goodwillcolumbus.org)***

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## Voters with disabilities urged to plan ahead

Curbside voting, assistance marking a ballot and accessible voting equipment – including audio or Braille ballots – are among the options available to Franklin County voters with disabilities. Disability advocates say planning ahead is key to ensuring a smooth experience.

"It's really, really important for individuals to plan their vote as much as possible," said Suzanne Musleh, legal advocacy director at Disability Rights Ohio.

Though many people with disabilities may already have voted by mail, those who haven't yet cast ballots or who intend to vote on Nov. 7 still have time to look into any needed accommodations.

Recent changes to Ohio election laws require voters to show unexpired photo identification, mandate that mail-in ballots arrive within four days of Election Day, and allow only one ballot drop box per county.

Voters who are physically unable to enter polling locations can vote curbside, but there has been confusion about that option due to a lack of signage and awareness, Musleh said. She encouraged voters to double-check their polling locations, which can change. "People should feel welcome to contact Disability Rights Ohio with any voting issues they may encounter. We're always happy to help."

***For information about accessible voting in Ohio, go to <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/voters-with-disabilities/>***

***To reach Disability Rights Ohio, call 614-466-7264***

***DRO's Election Day voter hotline is at 1-800-282-9181***



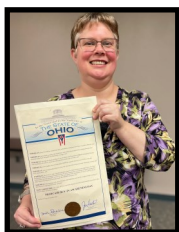
## Good For You

*Notable achievements in the FCBDD community*

It was great to see our Early Childhood Education programs, students and gardens featured during the annual Local Matters Harvest Ball. We've been proudly partnering with Local Matters, a nonprofit that focuses on food access, education and advocacy, since it launched 15 years ago.



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Christine Brown, a self-advocate who led the push to change state law so that workers with disabilities won't lose Medicaid coverage if they work past 65, recently celebrated the success with a proclamation from Gov. Mike DeWine. He deemed Oct. 23, 2023, Medicaid Buy-In Awareness Day. Way to go, Christine!

\*\*\*\*\*

Rachel Fadel, daughter of former FCBDD board member Dean Fadel, recently narrated a great video from the Ohio Treasurer's office that explains how STABLE accounts can help people with disabilities save and invest their money without losing important benefits. Thanks, Rachel!

Watch here: <https://tinyurl.com/nhk6927c>

## Career Milestones

### 30 Years

Pam Creadon  
Zac Kendall

### 20 Years

Patty Aellig

### 15 Years

Ryan Phillips  
Margaret Snyder

### 10 Years

Tony Cooper  
Troy Shaffer

### 5 Years

Emily Luli



Thanks to all who helped lead trainings and provide great information during professional development day (Oct. 13) when early education and school programs were closed.

## Kathy Ahlers marks her last 'first day' of school

After more than 43 years of service, Kathy Ahlers is retiring from the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

"Kathy has been an awesome instructor assistant," FCBDD Superintendent/CEO Jed Morison said. "She's done so much in the classroom, and is such a strong supporter of students – and also of our Special Olympics program."



In 1980, Kathy inquired about volunteering with FCBDD and was asked if she'd like a job. She started at the former Southeast School, and her son Christopher graduated from there in 1991. "I just want to thank everyone," she said. "I have been very blessed to have met so many amazing people over the years and have made lasting friendships. I loved working with the students and hoped I made a difference!"

Kathy plans to continue to work at OSU, travel, spend time with family and friends, pursue photography, golf, "and delve into all those crafts I thought I had time to do."

We wish her all the best.

## Advocates host new disability-focused podcast

Central Ohio advocates Christine Brown and Kyle Pigman have launched a new podcast to showcase and discuss issues affecting the lives of people with disabilities. *Disability 24/7* is available on YouTube, Spotify, Facebook and Instagram.

"It's important for the disability community to be informed," Pigman said. "And this isn't just for Ohio – these topics are national, too."

During the introductory episode, Brown explained that the forum will wholly reflect the disability perspective. "This podcast is by people with disabilities, for people with disabilities, and we talk about disability issues," she said.

Topics will vary, such as urging support of the proposed SSI Savings Penalty Elimination Act to discussing challenges with voting, employment and transportation.

"We will have fun moments in our podcast, too," Pigman said. "There are lots of podcasts, but ours will be unique."





## PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED

The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities will hold a public hearing at 3 p.m. Dec. 4 to seek comments on the board's Annual Action/Strategic plan.

Attendees also can offer input on federal funding provided through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

The hearing will take place in person at FCBDD administrative offices, 2879 Johnstown Rd. The public also can participate online via Zoom.

To connect to the hearing by phone, please call 1-929-205-6099. The Zoom meeting ID is 488 125 2353 and the passcode is fcbdd2020.

## Columbus Zoo offers communication board for visitors with limited speech

The Columbus Zoo and Aquarium recently debuted a three-page "communication board" that allows visitors to gesture to images unique to the zoo location.

Officials said the Ohio State University and Columbus Speech & Hearing partnered on the project, which is part of a slate of accessibility options available at the zoo. The boards can be downloaded to a device, printed prior to the visit, or picked up in the zoo's guest relations office.

The zoo also offers sensory maps, accessible routes, an adult changing station, wheelchair and scooter rentals, KultureCity sensory bags, and complimentary admission for a caregiver assisting a visitor with a disability.



To learn more about inclusion initiatives at the zoo, go to <https://www.columbuszoo.org/accessibility>

## Dateline

The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities

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**Marie Crawford**, Vice President  
**William W. Wilkins**, Secretary  
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Superintendent/CEO **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 disability.*

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

**Carl Scott**   **Amy Magginis**   **Rita Price**  
**Jennifer Cunningham**   **Carla Maynard**

**News releases, story ideas, and suggestions should be sent to:**

Rita Price, Communications Coordinator  
2879 Johnstown Road  
Columbus, Ohio 43219  
(614) 342-5161   FAX (614) 342-5001  
e-mail: [rita.price@fcbdd.org](mailto:rita.price@fcbdd.org)

Information about the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities is always available on the internet at:

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



## Calendar

### November, 2023

- 7 Election Day
- 10 Veteran's Day Observed - all county facilities closed.
- 15 Family Support meeting, via Zoom, 10:00 a.m.  
Meeting is open to all family members.  
**FCBDD Family Support Link:**  
<https://bit.ly/3JvZSUJ>
- 16 Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities Board meeting at Noon (12:00 p.m.), 2879 Johnstown Road, Columbus, Ohio, via Zoom for the public. Please contact Amy Magginis at 614-342-5950 for details or click on the following link to connect:  
**FCBDD Board Meeting Link:**  
<https://bit.ly/3JvZSUJ>
- 16 FCBDD Early Childhood Education and the Mid-Ohio Food Collective Produce Drive Through from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the ECEFC Bus Lane (accessed via Marilyn Lane). For more details, contact Sarah Gillilan at 614-342-5803.
- 23 Thanksgiving Day - all county facilities closed.
- 24 Thanksgiving Recess - Early Childhood and school classes and offices of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities closed.
- 29,30,12/1 Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) Annual Convention at the Hilton Columbus (Easton) 3900 Chagrin Drive, Columbus. For details call (614) 431-0616.

## Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities Community Survey and Needs Assessment

Periodically, the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities assesses community needs and services provided by the agency. Individuals who are served, families, staff, service providers, volunteers, advocates, collaborative agencies, and the public are encouraged to take a few minutes to complete and respond to this survey. Your response will assist the Board in its efforts to improve services and better meet needs. ***Please complete the survey and return to Superintendent's Office FCBDD, 2879 Johnstown Road, Columbus, Ohio 43219, by January 1st.***

### 1. Please check as appropriate. (You may check more than one.)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Receiving FCBDD Services<br><input type="checkbox"/> Individual Not Receiving FCBDD Services<br><input type="checkbox"/> Parent/Guardian/Family Member of Individual Receiving FCBDD Services<br><input type="checkbox"/> Parent/Guardian/Family Member of Individual Not Receiving FCBDD Services<br><input type="checkbox"/> Staff of FCBDD<br><input type="checkbox"/> Board Member<br><input type="checkbox"/> Staff Member of Collaborative Agency<br><input type="checkbox"/> Parent of Child Enrolled in Local School District | <input type="checkbox"/> News Media Professional<br><input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer<br><input type="checkbox"/> Community Member Not Receiving FCBDD Services<br><input type="checkbox"/> Advocate<br><input type="checkbox"/> Staff Member of Service Provider/Contract Agency<br><input type="checkbox"/> Staff of Franklin County School District<br><input type="checkbox"/> Elected Official<br><input type="checkbox"/> Member of Business Community<br><input type="checkbox"/> State Official<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please List: _____) |
|---|---|

### 2. Please check which services (if any) of the following you or your family member are receiving .

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Early Childhood Education Services<br><input type="checkbox"/> School Services<br><input type="checkbox"/> Adult Services<br><input type="checkbox"/> Therapies<br><input type="checkbox"/> Psychology Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Family Resources / Respite<br><input type="checkbox"/> Residential / Supported Living Services<br><input type="checkbox"/> Service Coordination Services<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please List: _____) |
|--|--|

### 3. Please provide your satisfaction rating for the following categories by circling your choice.

FCBDD Services	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Not Satisfied	Not Applicable
Early Childhood/Home Based	1	2	3	N/A
Schools	1	2	3	N/A
Transportation	1	2	3	N/A
Special Olympics / Recreation	1	2	3	N/A
Service Coordination	1	2	3	N/A
Other (Please List: _____)	1	2	3	N/A

Services Provided by Contract w/FCBDD	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Not Satisfied	Not Applicable
ARC Industries Adult Services	1	2	3	N/A
ARC Industries Employment Services	1	2	3	N/A
Family Resources	1	2	3	N/A
Nisonger Early Childhood	1	2	3	N/A
Nisonger Dental	1	2	3	N/A
Nisonger Dual Diagnosis	1	2	3	N/A
Nationwide Children's Hospital	1	2	3	N/A
Childhood League Early Childhood	1	2	3	N/A
Easter Seals Early Childhood	1	2	3	N/A

(over)

Services Provided by Contract w/FCBDD	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Not Satisfied	Not Applicable
Dahlberg Early Childhood	1	2	3	N/A
Goodwill / SAGE Senior Services	1	2	3	N/A
Goodwill / Young Adult Services	1	2	3	N/A
Goodwill / Work and Community Services	1	2	3	N/A
Epilepsy Foundation	1	2	3	N/A
Creative Housing	1	2	3	N/A
Supported Living Services	1	2	3	N/A
Other (Please List: _____)	1	2	3	N/A

**4. Please provide your opinion of the following statements by circling your choice:**

	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	N/A
Overall, FCBDD is providing quality services to the community.	1	2	3	N/A
FCBDD tax dollars are being spent wisely.	1	2	3	N/A
Parents/Family Members of FCBDD participants are involved and supported.	1	2	3	N/A
FCBDD collaborates well with other community organizations.	1	2	3	N/A
Generally, FCBDD meets the needs of individuals in our community who have developmental disabilities.	1	2	3	N/A
Participants have adequate choice in services offered.	1	2	3	N/A
FCBDD staff treat participants, family members and public at large with courtesy and with respect:	Participants Family Public	1 2 2	3 3 3	N/A N/A N/A
FCBDD communicates well. ('NewsBits,' 'Dateline,' Annual Report, Social Media etc.)	1	2	3	N/A
FCBDD prevention services, including early intervention, and public awareness are provided adequately.	1	2	3	N/A
FCBDD supports efforts of individuals to advocate for themselves.	1	2	3	N/A
FCBDD supports 'employment first' efforts.	1	2	3	N/A
FCBDD has done a good job supporting individuals during the COVID-19 Pandemic.	1	2	3	N/A

**5. Please respond to the following questions, if applicable:**

- a. What are the strengths of FCBDD? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- b. How can FCBDD improve? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- c. If you or a family are not currently receiving FCBDD services, but anticipate need in the future, please indicate the service you will need and anticipated date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**6. If you would like more information regarding FCBDD or follow-up to questions, please indicate what you would like, and include your name, address and phone number: \_\_\_\_\_**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ If you do not currently receive the FCBDD newsletter - 'Dateline' or 'NewsBits', but would like to receive it, please check the box and include email address to receive electronically:

\_\_\_\_\_

*~ Thank you for taking time to offer your opinion ~*