



MAP traveling in the right direction

As MAP (Madison Advocates for Progress) prepares for its third meeting, the group has already generated a lot of conversation.

About one year ago, Madison County began participating in regional meetings for the Ohio Self-Determination Association (OSDA). Since then, a number of consumers have participated in the Regional Meetings, as well as a Voter Training Session.

On March 24, Madison County held the first ‘official’ meeting of MAP — the local chapter affiliated with OSDA. The initial meeting was a brainstorming session as those in attendance came up with ideas regarding what they want the group to accomplish.

Then, on April 7, individuals who wished to hold a leadership position in MAP explained what office they wanted to run for.

Candidates include Bryan Becker and Jay Large (President), Bridget Gray and Savannah Wilson (Vice-President), and Shaundra Sayre (Secretary). Elections will take place at the April 21 meeting.

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Putting Self-Advocacy on the Map

A Heart for Art



Michael Williams (left) loves to draw. And judging by recent events, others love his drawings as well.

On April 8, Michael received an Honorable Mention award at the prestigious ‘Art & Soul Exhibit,’ displayed at the Town and Country Fine Art Center in Kettering, Ohio (near Dayton).

Michael’s colored pencil drawing — ‘Serene’ — was just one of 40 pieces of art selected for the exhibit. According to organizers, the judges received close to 150 entries from throughout Southwest Ohio from individuals with disabilities.

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'Toying Around' on Grandfriends' Day

On April 7, Fairhaven School celebrated yet another successful Grandfriends' Day as several people attended the annual event.

As has become somewhat of a tradition, the kids and adults were treated to the musical stylings of Marc 'The Marvelous Toy' Rossio. He is pictured with Brady Cahill, who is happy to lend some singing support.



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At the meeting on April 21, individuals who are interested in the Treasurer position will be asked to speak. Then that office will be voted on the next meeting.

Also on April 21, attendees will vote on what the first MAP-sponsored event will be. The date for the yet-to-be-determined event is Saturday, May 21.

Anyone can be an 'official' member of MAP. The \$1 membership fee includes a membership card. Currently, MAP has 25-plus paid members.

The initial main goal of MAP is to assist individuals in the development of skills necessary for successful and responsible community membership. This will include learning to speak in public as well as standing up for what is important to each individual. The other goals will be determined by the group's members.

For more information about MAP, please call Jeff Gates at 740-845-2765 x14.

MAP Meetings take place every other Thursday from 4pm to 5pm at Fairhaven School. Dates of upcoming meetings are April 21, May 5, May 19. All self-advocates and supporters (parents, siblings, providers, friends) are welcome.

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Michael’s winning entry depicts exactly what the title suggests — a serene landscape. Mountains, water, cabin, and a man in a row boat are made beautifully in the drawing.

“I used to go out fishing with my grandpa,” Michael said about some of his inspiration. “It reminds me of good times.”

Michael, who works at Wendy’s, has been involved with Special Olympics golf and bowling for many years.

He said he never knows where he is going to get his inspiration.

“I just think of something and draw it,” Michael said. “I’ve been doing drawing for a long time and it’s relaxing to me.”



Watch the Birdie

It’s the time of year again to sign up for Special Olympics Golf.

**Sign-Up
Wednesday, May 4
5:30pm
Fairhaven School**

Madison County participated in Unified Golf two-person teams (one athlete and one partner). There is also the option of athletes golfing on a one-person team.

If you are interested in being a partner, know anyone who might be interested or would like more information, please contact either Special Olympics Golf Coach Keith Hatem (845-2765) or Recreation Coordinator Lincoln Comer (852-7052).

Circus Fun

Fairhaven’s Noah Cunningham (left) and Eric Stedding ‘clown around’ with a new friend on a visit to the Shrine Circus in March.



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Developmental Disabilities**

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Madison County Board of DD

Monthly Board Updates

by *Betsy Dodds*

- The Madison County Board of DD's Regular Monthly Board meeting was held Thursday, March 17, 2011 at the Administrative Office. Board members attending were Tonya Keaton, Blaine Brockman, Julie Brand, Mary Hopkins, Diane Miller-Ryan and Beverly Headings.
- The Board approved the 2011-2012 Program Calendars for the Administrative Office, Fairhaven School and the Adult/Transportation Program.
- The Board accepted an agreement with Union County Board of DD on the Bridges to Transition project. A student/parent night has been scheduled for Tuesday, April 12.
- An update was given to Board members on the Central Office renovation located in the previous MATCO building. This building will house the Administrative Office, Organization Services and Family Support Services staffs. Move-in is planned for early May.
- The 2011 Annual Action Plan was approved by the Board.
- The Board was informed that the OACBDD's Spring Conference will be May 19 and 20 at the Polaris Hilton in Columbus.
- The next Regular Monthly Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 21, 2011 at 4:00 p.m. at the Administrative Office.

Students learn about a 'Bridge' to their future

On Tuesday evening April 12, several members of the Fairhaven Class at London High School — along with their family members — learned about the new Bridges Transition Program.

The program is designed for the student to get a summer work experience, complete with earning money for their hard work. The Bridges Program involves collaboration with several agencies including the Ohio Association of County Boards, Madison and Union County Boards, Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC), and MATCO Services, Inc. This program allows us to access funds through RSC that equates to \$3.00 for every dollar the County Board designates and will enable us to provide paid, supervised work experiences as well as education in the area of work adjustment skills to students.

"We are very excited to be able to offer this service to our students," said MCBDD's John LaCivita. "Transition planning and work exploration will help students and families make the journey from school to adult hood and the world of work a positive venture."

The program will be a six-week, 20-hour-per-week work experience where the students will receive minimum wage pay. MATCO Services will provide job development, job coaching, and front line supervision for the yet-to-be-determined jobs.

Jeanette Murray, the Bridges Coordinator for Union County was on hand for the meeting and will be conducting the assessments leading up to the placement.

The students will also learn how to fill out applications, interviewing, and other skills pertaining to dealing with people.

