



## Celebrating Bill Chesser

### Saying Goodbye to a Good Friend

Bill Chesser was a good man.

That was the overwhelming response when the sad news of his death began to circulate around London — his home for his entire life.

Bill passed away on June 6, leaving a legacy within the Madison County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

The former Dorothy Allison Lifetime Achievement Award Winner was hired by current MCBDD Superintendent Jim Canney on August 16, 1988 and was employed by the County Board (except for a brief three-month break following his ‘retirement’ in January 2002) until the day of his passing.

“Bill has been a friend of mine since I started in August 1976,” Jim said, as he fondly remembered his time with Bill.

He was instrumental in starting the highly-successful Madison County Ride Program. Bill set an example in working with people with disabilities, which his family followed. His wife Liz is retiring June 30, 2011 as a vehicle driver, and their son John is currently the MCBDD vehicle mechanic.

Bill’s affiliation with the MCBDD started much sooner than his hiring in 1988. Board minutes as far back as 1973 commend Bill for helping to take care of buses used by Fairhaven children.

A true friend — Bill Chesser will be missed by many.

## **Torch Run To Send Off Special Olympians**

Join us as we send the Madison County Special Olympians off to the State Games as the traditional Ceremonial Law Enforcement Torch Run makes its way through London on its way to Columbus. The torch runners will stop at Cowling Park around noon on Friday, June 24, and then continue on to Ohio Stadium. The public is invited to send off Madison County’s Special Olympians.

A list of those athletes representing Madison County is on Page Two.



## Heading to State Games

Madison County Special Olympics has selected 28 athletes and Unified partners to represent the organization at the 2011 Special Olympics Ohio State Summer Games, to be held June 24-26 on the Ohio State University campus. The athletes are affiliated with the Madison County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

Those selected are (the sport listed, followed by the participants): BOCCE — Brian Farris, Keith Farris, Harold Wilson, John Bunn, Dale Jones, and Jeff Horn, UNIFIED VOLLEYBALL — Paul Hiles, Shawn Stewart, Megan Long, Dakota Little, Bryan Thompson, Lincoln Comer, Mike Long, Dustin Pruitt, Alexis Evans, and Libby Johnson, and TRACK & FIELD — Jay Large, Willie Artis, Mike Ellis, Shawn Engle, Dominique Gonzalez, Rebecca Bell, Savannah Wilson, Marlyn Zeeck, Shaundra Sayre, Bridgett Gray, Nick Dummitt, and Tyler Casey.

These athletes will compete in the 42<sup>nd</sup> annual Special Olympics Ohio State Summer Games, a year-around training and competition program for the children and adults with disabilities. The event will feature competition for more than 2,600 athletes from across Ohio. The program will include competition in 11 sports, as well as recreational clinics, “tent town,” a Columbus Clippers game, a Columbus Crew game and the amazing Opening Ceremonies, which will be held at the ‘Shoe.’

Special Olympics Ohio serves more than 17,000 citizens with disabilities. It also has an event calendar that includes seven state-level championships and more than 125 local and area events in 23 Special Olympics fields.

### PLAY BALL!!

Its time to sign up for Tigers Special Olympics Softball. The Tigers have a rich recent history of having success on the softball diamond.

**Sign Up:**



**Thursday,  
June 23, 2011  
5:30pm  
Fairhaven  
Gym**

If an athlete can't attend the meeting, please contact Lincoln at 740-852-7052 to be added to the roster.

### Ellis is top Wii Bowler

Mike Ellis won a bowling tournament without even throwing a bowling ball.

How could he do that, you ask.

Well, the answer is simple — he captured the first place prize in the recent Wii Bowling Tournament, which was sponsored by the MCBDD Recreation Program.

Mike beat out 13 other extremely tough opponents to win the title.



## Another Fairhaven Class Bids Farewell

On Monday June 6, 21 Fairhaven Pre-School students graduated in a ceremony held at the school.

Following the traditional Pomp and Circumstances Processional, the graduates offered a rousing rendition of 'Chicka Chicka Boom Boom,' much to the delight of the audience.

Following congratulatory remarks by MCBDD Superintendent Jim Canney, the graduates received their diplomas from Canney and MCBDD Board President Tonya Keaton.

This year's graduates included: Madison Adkins, Dalton Boysel, Braden Cahill, Hunter Canney, Kaden Carr, Kiersten Dolby, Alayna Fisher, Ezekiel Gibson, Ryeann Gray, Malakai Hamm, Andrew Heisler, Angel Henry, Kristin Kuebler, Matthew McComas, Aubrey Miller, Tyce Portman, Makayla Powers, Adin Shepherd, Tyler Smith, James West, and Brennan White.



Aubrey Miller dances at Graduation

## An Open Letter to the Madison County Board of Developmental Disabilities ...

Where have the all years gone? As I look forward to my future and retirement from the MCBDD I want each person that I have worked with to know how much you have meant to me.

- \* Each person on my caseload has been a unique individual. I hope I provided real assistance to each of you and your family. I hope you know my recommendations came from a place of caring for each one of you. I hope I was a dependable and caring influence in your life.
- \* To my MCBDD co-workers, you all have meant more to me than you will ever know. You are more than co-workers to me; you are my friends and family. I will truly miss you all — hopefully you will call me for lunch from time to time. You all have my eternal respect and admiration.
- \* To all the agency provider's staffs. I appreciate the job you do to serve our folks. I thank you for your efforts. It has been a pleasure working with you all over the years.



I am hopeful that our paths will cross again in the future. Until then, may God bless you along your way.

With a sincere and thankful heart:

*Ron Spencer*

**\*\* Ron Spencer, along with fellow longtime MCBDD employees Betsy Dodds and Liz Chesser, will be retiring on June 30, 2011. Ron received the Dorothy Allison Lifetime Achievement Award in March 2011 (above with his family).**

**Madison County Board of  
Developmental Disabilities**

**Superintendent**  
**Jim Canney**  
(740) 852-7050  
(740) 852-7051 FAX  
jcanney@co.madison.oh.us

**Organization Services**  
**John LaCivita, Director**  
(740) 852-7050  
jlacivita@co.madison.oh.us

**Business**  
**Susan Thompson, Director**  
(740) 852-7050  
sthompson@co.madison.oh.us

**Family Support Services**  
**Carol Ansel, Director**  
(740) 852-7050  
cansel@co.madison.oh.us

**Children Services**  
**Mike Mast, Supervisor**  
(740) 852-7052  
mmast@co.madison.oh.us

**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, May 19, 2011 at the Administrative Office. Board members attending were Tonya Keaton, Blaine Brockman, Julie Brand, Mary Hopkins, Sue Mosier and Diane Miller-Ryan.
- The Board members approved a new five-year employment contract for the Superintendent from 7/1/2011 thru 6/30/2016.
- The Board was informed that GOBA (Great Ohio Bicycle Adventure) has been in contact with our agency to use Madison County Ride to transport over 2,000 bicyclists to various locations around town while they are in London during the last part of June.
- The Board was informed that one of our Early Intervention Specialists will be retiring the end of May and the remaining E.I. Specialist will increase her hours from 35 to 40 hours per week to handle the extra work.
- An update was given to Board members on the Central Office renovation located in the previous MATCO building. The move took place May 2 and has been completed.
- The Board amended the Children Services 2011/12 calendar with the change being March 27 as a two-hour Early Release.
- The Board adopted a Resolution of the Madison County Board of DD honoring Patrick Thomas as a Board Member from 1993 to 2000.
- The next Regular Monthly Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, June 23, 2011 at 4:00 p.m. at the Administrative Office.

**Carry Home a Spaghetti Dinner**  
from West Jefferson's famous **Ann & Tony's Restaurant**  
**A MAP (Madison Advocates for Progress) Fundraising Event**



Tickets good for one dinner on either  
**July 12, July 13, or July 14, 2011**

Tickets are \$10 and include:

**Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce, Salad, Roll, and Dessert**  
**(Carry Out Only)**

For more information, or to purchase tickets,  
please contact Peggy Van Hoose (740-852-7050 x17)  
or Jeff Gates (740-852-7050 x14)

*Part of the Madison County Board of DD  
and the Ohio Self-Determination Association*

