



The Valley Views

A Newsletter of the Ohio Valley Residential Services, Inc.

It's the Season for Levies

Well, just a few short weeks until "show time"—November 3, and a vote on the operating levy for the Hamilton County Board of Developmental Disabilities (HCB/DD). It's always been an important day. So many individuals—around 8,000 today, not including their families—depend on the resources of the Board for some level of support. Unlike most large counties in the state, HCB/DD has only one operating levy. Everything rides on one day of voting. There is no luxury of layered levies which allows a governmental entity the unpleasant opportunity to not to reduce services, but to re-group and return to the voters with a modified plan. For HCB/DD, November 3 is a "make it or break it" day. The Board structures in each levy a carryover for two (2) months. So, loosing the vote would mean the Board is out of the levy resources by the end of February.



The levy provides a whopping 73% of the funding for the Board's operations. Given the fiscal condition of the state of Ohio, and its massive recent budget cutting, there is far less funding from Columbus.

One of the striking hallmarks of the Board's operations, and its drive for efficiency, is the fact that 57% of the services are provided by contract—the highest in the state. OVRS is one such agency which contracts with the Board, and there are scores of highly regarded organizations, whose services range from serving infants, to school children, recreational services, to adults in supported living, and to agencies arranging employment opportunities.

An area of astonishing growth, and therefore, a focus of service, is infants. Perhaps because of medical advances and the ability of medical services to keep infants alive, since 2004 the Board has seen an increase in this service sector of 307%, from 555 to 2,260 infants. Within this group is, of course, the mystifying increase in the number of children born with autism. Children, as we know, become adults. And so, the work of the Board in partnership with its contract agencies will not be diminishing soon.

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The Valley Views is published four times a year by the Ohio Valley Residential Services, Inc. (OVRS). Designed for OVRS families, consumers, staff, and friends, the newsletter includes articles, training opportunities, and personal stories contributed by OVRS residents, staff, and families.

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Consumer Sites & Programs
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Apartments, Faircrest, Foster
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*The Valley Views is proud to be
the second-best newsletter,
because every other newsletter
claims to be the best.*

**We make our plea to the voters in
Hamilton County—Vote for the Levy!**

Summer 2009 from the rear view mirror...



Eugene Jones beams with pride with his just reeled in catch from Lake Erie.



Alan Sims enjoys holding his slippery fish.



James Werdig does the fisherman's wait — ever ready to tug his rod and turn his reel.



Orlando 2009

A line-up of friends unperturbed by the raving monster behind them.

l to r: Wheel chairs: Debbie Day, Pat Martin, Louis Henry.

Standing: Dorothy Weathers, Danny Bang, Dale Pierce, James Gates, and George Timberlake

...continued



Two brothers — Joey and Danny Bang — at Coney



Left to right: Joey Bang, James Gates (Uh, James...James... James!) Vamp, Dale Pierce, George Timberlake.



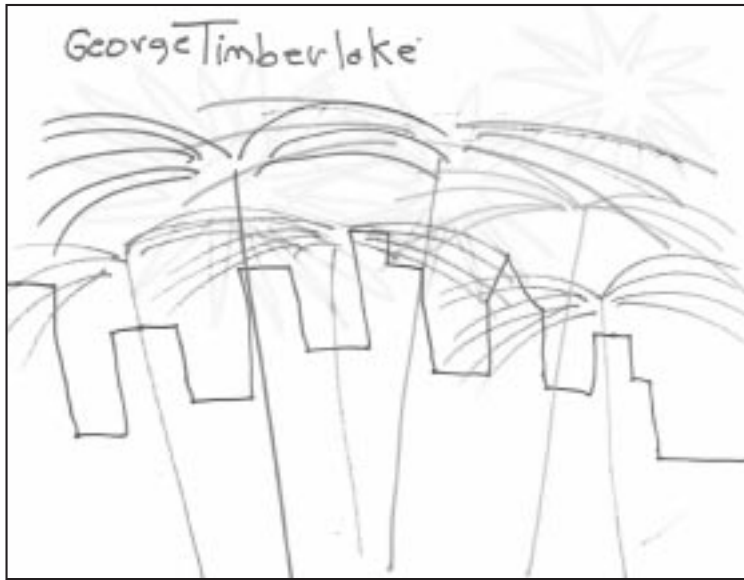
At a summer picnic, Maude Swain dresses ever so elegantly.



Trey Hoover assists Larry Phillips into Sunlight Pool.



George Timberlake and Mr. Donkey share a chuckle.



George Timberlake captures a scene from the Cincinnati Labor Day fireworks.

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Community Services Supporting
 Individuals with Developmental
 Disabilities in the Home, Community,
 and in Everyday Choices

For information about employment or housing availability, please visit www.ovrs.org

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