

JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER

JULY 2023

AMAZING THINGS ARE HAPPENING HERE!



ART IN THE PARK

If you had the chance to read last month's newsletter, you might recall the image on the left. Today, we want to share more information about what we've been working on.

Each July, the Medina County Arts Council celebrates Arts Week, advocating and supporting all forms of art in the county. This year marks their 40th anniversary and the Council partnered with the Medina County District Park to host three pop-up art classes in Carylton Ludwig Mugarage Park, Letha House Park West, and Hubbard Valley Park. In addition, Planet Joy Studio, Integrated Community Solutions, and our detention center kids created displays of wooden cutouts featuring nature-themed images such as butterflies, flowers, and ladybugs, which were showcased in the parks for the entire month of July. If you're interested in seeing our kids artwork, take a leisurely walk around the lake at Carylton Ludwig Mugarage Park. It was a fun and distinctive project for our kids to be a part of.



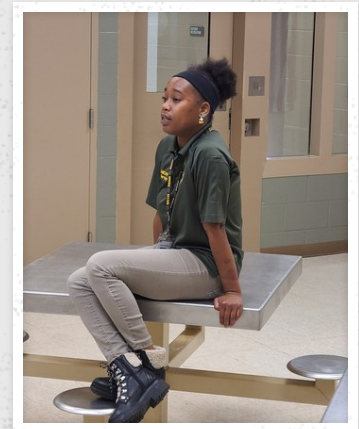
LEARNING WITH TAYLOR

Taylor Sowell, an Alternative Paths clinician, is providing Drug and Alcohol group counseling to our youth this summer. We are thrilled to have her and offer this valuable service for our kids. Please read on to learn more about Taylor and her contributions to the community.

Hello!

My name is Taylor Sowell. I am a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Clinician at Medina's County Jail. I also provide Drug counseling group therapy services at the Juvenile Detention Center and run a free Mental Health Drop-In Clinic at Hope Recovery Community every first Monday of the month. Assisting others in creating and maintaining change in their lives has been a passion of mine since I was in high school. After graduating, I went to Tri-C and earned two associate degrees (Chemical Dependency/Human Services), followed by a Bachelor's in Social Work. Recently, I became an LSW, and will begin my Master's Degree program through Akron University next month! I have been working at Alternative Paths for almost a year and a half, and have never come across a company so inclusive, efficient, resourceful, and passionate when it comes to serving its community. I am proud to be a part of such a quality team of individuals, and look forward to many more years of assisting my agency in serving individuals and families in the highest capacity possible!

-Taylor Sowell



LETTER FROM A FORMER RESIDENT

A former resident wrote letters to some of our staff before she left us several weeks ago. Here is an excerpt from one of those letters from this 17 year-old girl (edited for length).

"Dear Sgt. Vandaveer,

I wanted to thank you for everything. I know a lot of kids give their thanks but I truly mean mine. When I first met you I knew there was something about you, that you get things done. You are a very determined woman - it's one thing I look up to you for. You are very 'pushing', and I am not complaining. During workouts you would push us girls to work out to our full capacity. You believed in us more than we did. You knew what we were capable of doing and if we messed up, you would make us start all over again. It never bothered me though. I like that you held us accountable.

I will forever remember you, and will come visit. I hope you'll see me if you ever get the chance. Thank you for everything!"

Note that this young lady did stop in to visit us!

BEES & HONEY

Peggy is back again! As many of our long-time readers know, Peggy Garnes has supported the detention center for many years and has visited our kids several times. She is the president of the Ohio State Beekeepers Association and owns 140 bee hives!



This month, Peggy brought a variety of visual aids to engage our kids in the important conversation of preserving honey bees. During her presentation, she shared how to start a bee hive, care for honey bees, and the obstacles that come along with owning them. She also showed our kids the different varieties of honey and honey products she has made to expand her business. After the presentation and while escorting Peggy out of the detention center, she expressed how much she enjoys visiting our kids and how important it is to educate the younger generation on the importance of properly caring for our environment. As we spoke, I could feel how passionate Peggy felt about the information she is sharing.

Thank you, Peggy, for sharing your knowledge and kindness with us and our kids!

- Assistant Superintendent Megan Millikin

(If you would like to learn more about what you can do to help honey bees, check out the article below published by The Ohio State University.)



Pollinator Quick Guide: What You...

ohioline.osu.edu

Threats to Honey Bees Honey bee dusted with pollen. Photo by Karina Weatherby. Honey bees are key pollinators of many valuable Ohio crops, such as pumpkins, cucumbers, apples, raspberries and blueberries. Because they live together in hives, honey bees can be loaded onto trucks and transported from farm field to farm field to provide pollination services.

SUMMER SCHOOL POTTERY

Our youth often dread attending summer school, as many of them would not under normal circumstances. However, we strive to offer them a variety of opportunities during the program. In addition to providing them with the chance to earn academic credits, we also offer them creative outlets such as art projects.

One of my hobbies is pottery, so I typically lead the residents in creating clay pieces. Unfortunately, this year we didn't have access to a kiln, so I had to improvise. One of the youths suggested air-dry clay, and I thought it was worth a try. Air-dry clay doesn't require firing in a kiln, and it comes in many colors, eliminating the need for the lengthy process of painting and glazing traditional clay pieces.

The youth were thrilled to work with clay and had free reign to create whatever they desired, as long as it was appropriate. Some chose to make coil bowls and pinch pots for storing small items, while others made miniature sculptures like a basket of colorful fruits and vegetables, a dog, a snowman, a pizza, and a bowling ball and pin.

Working with clay provides a valuable opportunity for kinesthetic learning, which occurs when someone is actively moving while learning. (This is why being on a sports team can be so beneficial.) As the residents created their clay pieces, we had conversations about life skills and aspirations. I find these experiences with our young people incredibly rewarding, as it allows me to introduce them to new ideas and skills. We discussed how small steps can lead to big successes in life.

-Teacher Wendy Chaser (Medina City Schools)



DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that Millikin and Stollar meet monthly with our four sergeants to discuss issues of concern, problems, and challenges we face here in our detention center? We know, it's difficult to believe that in our perfect little building we have problems at times but we do! From left to right are Sgt. McKensi Cleckner, Sgt. Leann Vandever, Megan Millikin, Sgt. Jason Gordon, and Sgt. Shatice Dancy. Note that Millikin isn't scowling at anyone - she simply wasn't feeling so great this day!

(Also note that some of the art on the walls was painted by some of our kids as gifts to Stollar!)



CLICK HERE FOR PAST NEWSLETTER!

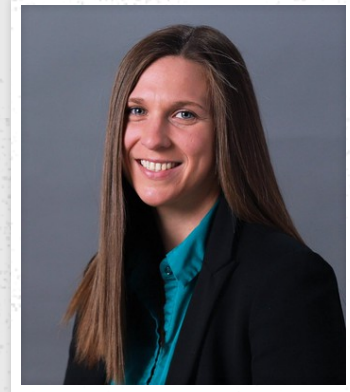
Have you missed a newsletter? We archive all of our newsletters on our website. Click the link to see previous issues!



Judge Kevin W. Dunn
Juvenile/ Probate Court



Ron Stollar
Superintendent



Megan Millikin
Assistant Superintendent

"We are making the Medina community a better place by inspiring troubled youth to become responsible productive citizens."





CONTACT US!

 Facebook

Administrative Hours

Monday - Friday

8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

 655 Independence Drive, Medi...  330-764-8408

 medinajdc.org/