

MEDINA COUNTY JUVENILE AND PROBATE COURT NEWSLETTER

JUDGE KEVIN W. DUNN AUGUST 2014

JUVENILE COURT JOINS BACK-TO-SCHOOL RALLIES AROUND MEDINA COUNTY

At the end of summer break, Medina County Juvenile and Probate Court teams up with other community agencies and organizations for the annual back-to-school rallies, providing students with new backpacks and necessary supplies for the upcoming year.

“This event is so important to us here because no child should have to start the school year without a new book bag full of new supplies due to circumstances they have no control over,” said Angela Smith of Medina County Salvation Army.

In total, 1,295 children were provided with new school supplies during the 2014 rallies between Brunswick, Buckeye, Cloverleaf,



Probation Officers Jeremy Smith and Stephanie Yockey at the Brunswick Back-to-School Rally Aug. 7.

Medina and Wadsworth.

Children and their families also got to walk around and visit with local agencies. Medina County Juvenile and Probate Court, Job and Family Services, Boy Scouts of America, 4-H, Solutions Behavioral Healthcare, Inc., local police and fire

departments and local libraries were among some of those represented.

Also in attendance at the Wadsworth rally, for the first time ever, were staff members from Radio Disney. Wadsworth Salvation Army was a Radio Disney Ultimate Field Day site this year, providing attendees with multiple activities, door prizes and music, sponsored by United Health Care.

“The Salvation Army believes that education is the way out of poverty,” said Major Debbie Grace of the Wadsworth Salvation Army. “We are committed to ensuring that students from families struggling financially start the school year confidently and with the school supplies required for them to succeed.”

SUPPLIES PROVIDED FOR THE 2014 SCHOOL YEAR

Below are the number of students from each district provided with new supplies during the annual Back-to-School Rallies:

368	98	251	242	336
Brunswick	Buckeye	Cloverleaf	Medina	Wadsworth

This is an example of the supplies included in, but not limited to, each book bag provided to students at the Medina Back-to-School Rally:



- 1 Pencil Box
- 1 Calculator
- 1 Jump Drive
- 1 Pair of Scissors
- Dry Erase Markers
- 4 Spiral Notebooks
- Index Cards
- 12 #2 Pencils
- 1 Box of Crayons
- Erasers
- 4 Folders
- 2 Glue Sticks & 1 Bottle of Glue
- 2 Composition Notebooks
- 1 Set of Colored Pencils
- 1 Package of Markers
- 1 Package of Ink Pens

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JUVENILE COURT PROGRAMMING DEPARTMENT HIRES NEW ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

The Medina County Juvenile Court Programming Department gained a new administrative assistant this month.

Maureen Klecar, a Medina County resident and Ohio University graduate, began August 11.

Klecar earned her Bachelors Degree in Public Administration and previously worked in the legal department for a Regional

Income Tax Agency.

“I think having experience working in a legal department helps me understand Court language and the process, although it is a little different for juveniles,” Klecar said. “I think I’m catching on pretty quickly.”

Klecar’s main duties as administrative assistant will be

tracking the number of juveniles involved in Juvenile Court programs, recidivism rates and reporting the number of felonies filed with Medina County Juvenile Court. Klecar will also be trained for alcohol and drug dependency screenings to see if youths who come through juvenile court are eligible for the Drug Court program.

JUDGE KEVIN DUNN SHOWCASED AT AUGUST MEDINA COUNTY SENIOR SERVICE NETWORK

Medina County Juvenile and Probate Court Judge Kevin W. Dunn was showcased at the monthly Medina County Senior Service Network breakfast August 13, 2014.

Judge Dunn spoke to representatives from nursing homes, attorneys, healthcare equipment providers, financial planners and hospital personnel about our county’s Volunteer Guardianship Program, changing laws and the upcoming “Good Deeds” program.

Judge Dunn has previously said that he has received calls from other counties requesting information specifically on the Medina County Volunteer Guardianship Program, seeking training manuals and advice for creating a successful program.

While the program, which helps incompetent, indigent wards – people incapable of managing their own affairs, either because of age or mental illness – in Medina County has been a success since its launch in 2004, Judge Dunn said there are inevitable adjustments that may have to be made due to the possibility of changing laws regarding guardianships.

The Judge also spoke to attendees about plans for a “Good Deeds” program. According to data collected by County Recorder Colleen

Swedyk, more than 30,000 pages of deeds from 1994-2014 have been identified without survivorship deeds. Judge Dunn said he would like to reach out to those people identified and provide them with information on attorneys who agree to charge a lesser amount to assist with survivorship deeds, rather than require a trip to Probate Court in the future.

Plans for training sessions between Probate Court staff and First Merit Bank employees are also in the works to increase education on policies and practices regarding guardianships and trust accounts.

Court Administrator Sharon Danko said there are already 10 First Merit Bank employees who would like to attend the first training session. The plan is to meet quarterly at 7:30 a.m. before the court and bank open.

“This training will help minimize the time we spend on the phone with each other explaining and repeating policies, procedures and best practices of the Probate Court,” Danko said.

Danko said she believes that training will begin within the next four to six weeks.