

MEDINA COUNTY JUVENILE AND PROBATE COURT NEWSLETTER

JUDGE KEVIN W. DUNN SEPTEMBER 2015

MEDINA COUNTY DRUG ABUSE COMMISSION HOSTS ANTI-DRUG AWARENESS RALLY



Law enforcement and elected officials during the MCDAC Rally on the Square September 30, 2015.

Community members gathered with the Medina County Drug Abuse Commission for Rally on the Square September 30, an event to help promote drug prevention and rehabilitation in Medina County.

In attendance were local law enforcement agencies, elected officials, drug prevention specialists, school district representatives, as well as community speakers.

One of those speakers was Stefanie Tolar Robinson, who shared her past struggles with drug and alcohol abuse. Robinson

urged attendees to recognize the drug problem in our county and its ability to affect anyone—straight-A students, the prom queen, athletes, etc. and to realize that drug use not only affects an individual, but also hurts their families and community.

During the rally, attendees participated in activities including a simulated drunk driving course. Participants wore goggles that simulated the effects of driving after doing drugs or drinking. Court Administrator Sharon Danko attempted the course, running a few stop signs and swerving off the road. (Pictured below) Meanwhile, children decorated Halloween magnets and took a peek inside the D.A.R.E. car.

Also noted during the event were the local drop box locations for unused medications located across the county. These boxes are used to help decrease the possibility of abuse or misuse of prescription medications. To date, more than seven tons of unused medications have been disposed of.

To learn more about the Medina County Drug Abuse Commission, drug-free programs or how to help prevent drug abuse, visit www.MCDAC.com.



COMMUNITY SERVICE YOUTH ASSIST DURING KITE FEST



Medina County Juvenile Court Community Service youth assist during Kite Fest September 12, 2015 painting faces and helping others with arts and crafts.



Gayle Telford of Buckeye, Cathy Lasher of Medina, Kathy Fulkerson of Brunswick and Court Administrator Sharon Danko from Juvenile Court, pictured above during Kite Fest, all serve as members of Share Cluster.

MCJDC OFFICER RECOGNIZED FOR WORK WITH LODI POLICE



Medina County Juvenile Detention Center Corrections Officer Bailey Prybylek received two Medina County Safe Communities awards this month for outstanding dedication and leadership and for interdepartmental cooperation for her work with the Lodi Police Department. Prybylek, who has been at the MCJDC since January 2014, also works part-time with Lodi PD.

“It’s refreshing to know that we have employees in our detention center who are receiving recognition in the community for their efforts outside of our facility,” MCJDC Superintendent Ron Stollar said. “We are very proud of her.”

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THE DANGERS OF DRUGGED DRIVING

Use of illegal drugs or misuse of prescription drugs can make driving a car unsafe—just like driving after drinking alcohol. Drugged driving puts not only the driver but also passengers and others who share the road at risk.

According to the 2013 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), an estimated **9.9 million people aged 12 or older reported driving under the influence of illicit* drugs** during the year prior to being surveyed.

Ohio has a zero-tolerance law for drugged driving. This means a person can face charges for driving under the influence (DUI) if there is *any* amount of drug in the blood or urine.

Since 2010, sixteen cases of operating a vehicle while under the influence of drugs or alcohol have been filed in Medina County Juvenile Court. Six of those cases were filed within the past two years.

**"Illicit" refers to use of illegal drugs, including marijuana according to federal law, and misuse of prescription drugs.*

Source: DrugAbuse.gov

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death among young people aged 16 to 19.

(Teen Drivers, 2014)

Which Drugs are Linked to Drugged Driving?

After alcohol, marijuana is the drug most often linked to drugged driving. In the 2013-2014 National Roadside Survey, 12.6 percent of drivers on weekend nights tested positive for THC. This was higher than the 8.6 percent who tested positive in 2007 (Berning, 2015).

According to a 2011 survey of middle and high school students, data showed that in the two weeks before the survey, 12th-grade students had driven after using the following substances:

Marijuana

12.4%

Alcohol

8.7%

Other Illicit
Drugs

2.4%

Source: O'Malley, 2013

Why Is Drugged Driving a Problem Among Teens and Young Adults?

Teens are more likely than older drivers to underestimate or not recognize dangerous situations. They are also more likely to speed and allow less distance between vehicles (Teen Drivers, 2014). When lack of driving experience is combined with drug use, the results can be tragic.

The effects of alcohol and specific drugs differ depending on how they act in the brain:



- **Marijuana and alcohol** can slow reaction time, impair judgment of time and distance and decrease motor coordination.
- **Cocaine or methamphetamine** can cause drivers to be aggressive and reckless when driving.
- While certain kinds of sedatives, called **benzodiazepines**, can cause dizziness and drowsiness which can lead to accidents.

There is also a significant risk for those who chose to ride with an impaired driver. According to the O'Malley & Johnston study in 2013, **20% of high-school seniors rode with a driver after marijuana use.**

Source: www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov

Develop Social Strategies to Stay Safe

- ✓ Offer to be a designated driver
- ✓ Have the designated driver take all car keys
- ✓ Avoid driving to parties where drugs and alcohol are present
- ✓ Talk to your friends about the risks of drugged driving