

# Juvenile Detention Center

==== Amazing Things Are Happening Here! ====

August 2019

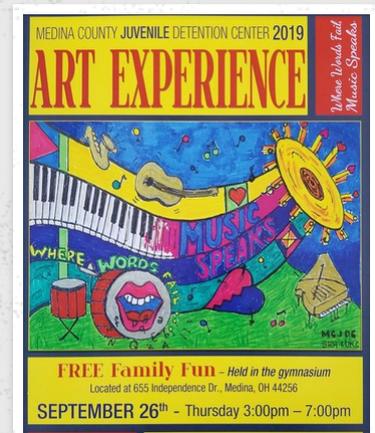
655 Independence Drive Medina, Ohio 44256

*"We, and our court, do our best to help our kids and their families get on the right track. Our philosophy is to leave no stone unturned in providing them with the resources they need to lead well adjusted, productive lives."*

*- Superintendent Ron Stollar*

## Art Experience 2019!

In case you were wondering what on earth you might be doing **Thursday, September 26th from 3:00pm – 7:00pm**, wonder no more! You will be at our 3rd annual Art Experience!! This event is free and family-friendly, and is held in our gymnasium. Art created by our youth over the past year will be on display with select pieces up for silent auction. Come and be "moved" by their art. All proceeds go to fund continued art therapy for our youth.



This year's theme is from a quote by Danish author, Hans Christian Andersen; "Where words fail, music speaks!" This theme was chosen because we began music therapy with our kids early this year and the art and music together seemed to be a natural fit. We will have live music by ORMACO, and light snacks will be provided by Sully's Irish Pub (sponsored by Medina Collision Center and Peak Auto Sales). Cool Beans Café will be providing fresh coffee, and Huntington Bank will have ice cream available. All of this for FREE!

We are continuing our partnership with The Children's Center of Medina County for the event. So what is this partnership? Some of our youth donate their art pieces to The Children's Center for their annual Art With a Heart fundraiser (November 8, at 5:30pm). Those pieces are live-auctioned, and The Children's Center returns 50% of those proceeds back to the detention center for continued art therapy while retaining 50% for the needs of the kids they serve. Talk about a win-win!! See <http://www.medinacountychildrenscenter.org/> for more information.

*Aren't you glad we helped you decide what you will be doing on September 26th??!!*



## Food for Art!

We have partnered again with Chipotle Mexican Grill (899 North Court St.) to raise funds for our Art Therapy for our youth. On Monday, September 23rd from 4:00pm – 8:00pm, 33% of the amount of your in-store order will be donated to our detention center to further fund our art efforts with our kids. Please consider enjoying Chipotle on the 23rd!!

## Alpacas Visit our Youth

Majestic Meadows is a family owned and operated alpaca farm located locally on Abbeyville road in Medina. On approximately 20 beautiful acres of land, they raise alpacas for their fiber which can be used to make all kinds of products such as sweaters, socks, blankets, and scarves. The Alpaca Boutique can also be found there where customers can shop for products made from alpacas. After spending time at their farm it was clear how beneficial the presence of the animals can be. We were so grateful to find out that they were willing to bring the alpacas to our kids! On June 29th two female alpacas spent their afternoon in our outdoor recreation area where they could be petted and adored. Our juveniles learned about the lives of the animals from birth to old age, common misconceptions between alpacas and llamas, what they eat, how they are cared for, and the products that can be made from their fiber. Autumn (pictured) was happy to be surrounded by the love as she is their most domesticated alpaca. She was rejected by her mother at birth so Majestic Meadows hand-fed and raised her. Her friendliness and warmth brought smiles to the kids' faces as they got the opportunity to pet an alpaca!





## Guardian Guidance

### Parenting Tip from Alexis!

*"Encourage your teen to have meals with the family. Eating together will help your teen make better choices about the foods they eat, promote healthy weight, and give family members time to talk with each other. In addition, a teen who eats meals with the family is more likely to get better grades and less likely to smoke, drink, or use drugs, and also less likely to get into fights, think about suicide, or engage in risky sexual activity." - Alexis Lee (Mental Health Clinician)*

## Youth Garden

As many of you know it is our philosophy to provide services in hopes to create a positive impact on our youth for their lives moving forward. Our newest endeavor to reach that goal involves vegetable gardens. The purpose of the garden is to create strong, fruitful plants, but the garden may be doing more than just that. Last year, staff and residents of the MCJDC tested an outdoor garden project with a small straw bale garden. With the success of the straw bale garden, Superintendent Stollar, Assistant Superintendent Millikin and Youth Fulfillment Coordinator Jaclyn Balliet, decided to expand the project and create four raised garden beds in the outdoor recreational area. Within the garden, the residents are growing cabbage, eggplant, tomatoes, green peppers, sweet peppers, hot peppers, kale, garlic chives, rosemary, English thyme, zucchini, squash, and parsley. Each week, residents measure the growth of the plants, take photos of the progress, and weed and water as needed. The youth are taking initiative for what needs to be done by speaking up when they believe a tomato plant needs a cage for support or if they think additional water will assist with growth.



Here is what one of our youth had to say about the garden;

*"The garden to me means growth. Every day, the plants in the garden grow and become stronger, which is nothing short of what the residents are working toward every day here."*

Our youth enjoy tending the garden but understand that they themselves will not get to enjoy eating the fruits of their labor. The detention center has partnered with the Medina County Home to donate the produce for food for their residents, with the first delivery made August 2nd. Our youth are learning valuable skills by helping with this process such as nutrition, patience and accountability. They now have something that depends on them and needs their help to grow. Most of all, we are trying to teach them how to provide for others which is an invaluable skill. We are thankful to the Medina County Home for giving this us opportunity to provide for their residents. *(Pictured above with Assistant Superintendent is Cindy Wooton receiving their first delivery.)*



### First Harvest

Left to right: Parsley, Jalapeno Pepper, Garlic Chives, Red Tomato, Kale



Millikin and Balliet tending to the garden.



### Second Harvest

Top to bottom: Kale, red peppers, Red Tomatoes, Garlic Chives, (not sure), Lavender

## Library Grant

At the beginning of this year, Monica Heath from the Medina County District Library (MCDL), applied for a grant from the Buckeye Book Award on behalf of the MCDL to obtain three copies of each of the five finalists for the 2019 Buckeye Book Award. The five books are:



1. Children of Blood and Bone by Tomi Adeyemi
2. Long Way Down by Jason Reynolds
3. Renegades by Marissa Meyer
4. The Poet X by Elizabeth Acevedo
5. Wildcard by Marie Lu

The purpose of the grant was to provide these titles to the Detention Center, and Teen Librarian Sean Rapacki would use them with our youth to create a book discussion group. In June the grant was approved and Sean delivered the books during his July visit. During his visit, Sean spoke to our youth about each book and allowed them to pick the top three books they were interested in reading. After his visit Sean made the following comments,

*"The residents were very interested to hear about the five different nominated books, and enthusiastic about voting for their top choices to read. Several of the residents were familiar with the books and their authors, and their respect for literature is admirable. One of the many wonderful things that results from a stay at the MCJDC besides giving youth a chance to turn around their lives is that almost all of the residents discover a love of reading and books."*

The youth then received one of their top three choices to read and will discuss the books during Sean's next visit. During that discussion our youth will also have the opportunity to vote on which book they believe should win the 2019 Buckeye Book Award. The Juvenile Detention Center is extremely **Thankful** for the opportunity Sean and The Medina Library has given to our youth.

## Guest Speaker Mike Pistorino

Mike is a friend of ours originally from the Bronx in NYC who comes and speaks to our kids every once in a while, and he shares quite a story. He visited us recently along with some friends of his who are all members of Bikers Against Child Abuse. Mike told our kids about the horrific sexual abuse he suffered for years as a child, and the substance addiction he



experienced that included several periods of incarceration. As he likes to say, he finally realized a long time ago that he was allergic to alcohol because every time he drank he "broke out in handcuffs"! His life was one of, "drugs, booze and violence", he said. Well, Mike straightened his life out and owns a very successful business in Cleveland. He is passionate about saving kids from abuse and poor decisions. Mike always connects with our kids as they listen to his troubled past and now, his stable life and bright future. We cannot thank him enough for his time and effort in talking with our youth. [www.mikepistorino.us](http://www.mikepistorino.us)



**Mike at work**



## Shameless Brush with Fame?

Unless you have not had electricity since 2010 you have probably at least heard of the popular TV show, Blue Bloods, on CBS. The Friday night show stars Tom Selleck as New York City's police commissioner, and Greg Jbara as Deputy Commissioner of Public Information. Why are we telling you this? Because on the Blue Bloods set, Greg (Garrett Moore is his character) has a collection of law enforcement patches on display and he has two from our detention center! Greg and Superintendent Stollar have been friends for a few years so when Greg mentioned that he collects patches Ron gave him a couple and Greg added them to his collection. Note that Ron also gave Greg a patch from his days as a police officer for the Medina Police Department, which is also on display. Greg ([www.gregoryjbara.com](http://www.gregoryjbara.com)) is a long-time supporter of law enforcement and corrections and we appreciate him. Perhaps you will see Greg's display if you happen to watch the show!



See our patches?

Blue Bloods Set

Garrett Moore aka  
Greg Jbara

## Community Involvement

On Saturday August 17th we enjoyed the warm weather and welcoming company at the Valley City Street Fair! This is the Valley City Fire Department's largest fundraiser of the year and we were happy to join in the festivities! Surrounded by vendors and community members our booth was supported and our growth as a detention facility was lauded. Many visitors were able to view pictures of the uplifting services that we provide for our youth and they had the opportunity to ask questions about the daily lives of our children. With a uniformed sergeant, Jason Gordon, present we were also able to advertise our current employment positions and express our pride in the positive environment in which we work! *(Pictured below with Sergeant Gordon is Jaclyn Balliet our Youth Fulfillment Coordinator.)*



**Click here for past newsletters!**

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

## Contact Us!

655 Independence Drive, Medina, Ohio 44256

Phone: 330-764-8408

Fax: 330-764-8412

Administrative Hours

Monday-Friday

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

[www.medinajdc.org](http://www.medinajdc.org)

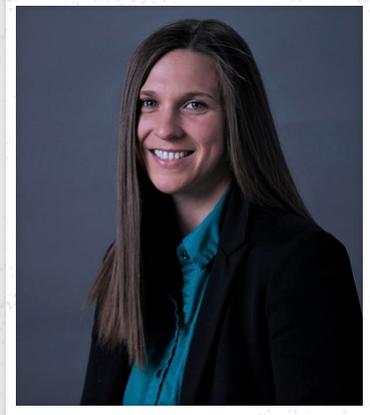




**Judge Kevin W.  
Dunn - Juvenile  
Court**



**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."*