

MEDINA COUNTY JUVENILE AND PROBATE COURT NEWSLETTER

JUDGE JOHN J. LOHN MAY 2013

MEET THE COURT NEWS WRITER AND EDITOR

Welcome to the first edition of the Medina County Juvenile and Probate Court newsletter. It's my job to keep you informed of all the Court's programs, initiatives and involvement in Medina County.

I am a 2006 graduate of Medina High School and a 2010 graduate of Kent State University with a bachelor's degree in Journalism and Mass Communication. While I have a passion for correct grammar and spelling, I have developed an interest in the courts, especially while working in Juvenile Court for the past year, making this position the best of both worlds for me.

I am eager to keep you up-to-date on our collaboration with community agencies and projects, such as the Feeding Medina County Community Garden, our volunteer programs and initiatives to reduce recidivism, as well as showcase the dedication of our "In the Spotlight" employees in the future.

For more information on the Medina County Juvenile and Probate Court or our programs, visit www.MedinaJuvenile.org

Sincerely,
Kristyn Soltis
Court News
Writer and Editor

AT-RISK YOUTH HELP FEED MEDINA COUNTY



Volunteers help plant vegetables in the Medina County Community Garden located at 901 Lafayette Road in Medina.

Six Medina County Juvenile Court Community Service youth, in matching yellow shirts yielding shovels and gloves, accompanied Community Service Supervisor Sheila Shuttera, Court Administrator Sharon Danko, and about two dozen other volunteers in planting a vegetable garden that will help Medina County residents in need.

The juveniles assisted in planting tomatoes, peppers, beans, spinach, peas, squash, cucumbers and carrots on May 18, spread across the two-acre garden on Lafayette Road donated by Medina's Click Master.

Program Director Phillip Titterington said the community garden is a newer addition to the program.

More often, Juvenile Court Community Service work involves tasks such as folding Hospice newsletters, providing social time at the senior center or

washing floors and trucks at ODOT.

"This garden is something they will continually work on over time," said Shuttera, who organized the Court's involvement with the project.



Danko added this project will allow the youth to develop both their life and gardening skills.

The Community Service workers will return on a weekly basis or as needed to help maintain the garden by watering, pulling weeds and harvesting the food.

In the future, a group of youth will also learn how to prepare the food, Titterington said.

Each of the approximately 30 plots in the community garden will produce enough vegetables for a family of four.

"They are giving back to the community," Shuttera said. "The main idea is for no kid to go hungry, so this will help others, but (the Community Service juveniles) will also get to see something they're doing grow week after week."

HUNGER IN OUR COUNTY

One in four children in Medina County do not have reliable access to food.

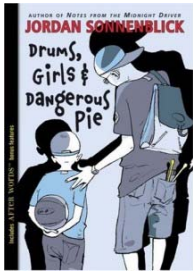


Source:
FeedingMedinaCounty.org

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TEEN AUTHOR VISITS MEDINA JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER



On the nine-year anniversary of a little boy's fatal fight with cancer that inspired his first book, teen author Jordan Sonnenblick visited the

Medina County Juvenile Detention Center (JDC) to share his story and some advice about how a person's actions or behavior can affect others, including people they may never meet.

New York native Sonnenblick had always bragged that he would write a book someday, but it wasn't until he met a young girl named Emily in his 8th grade English class that he would write his first book *Drums, Girls and Dangerous Pie*.

"I would always brag about writing a book, but I never would go through with the plan,"

Sonnenblick told the juveniles.

Sonnenblick wanted to write a book for Emily whose younger brother Matthew was in treatment for cancer. It was Matthew's effect on others, or his "ripple," that pushed Sonnenblick to begin writing.

"Matthew's ripple moved Emily," Sonnenblick said. "Emily and her mom moved me, and now I have this book."

He has written a book every year since, including the message that everybody creates a ripple that affects others around them. He then asked those in the JDC to think about their impact on others.

"I think because he believes so deeply and he has had so many people affect his life in such a positive way, (the ripple effect) is incorporated into all of his books whether it is the

main theme or subtly throughout," said Connie Sureck, Medina County Library Program Coordinator.

The Medina County Library donated 11 of Sonnenblick's witty and humorous teen books in early May to the detention center in-house library, including *Notes from a Midnight Driver*, which Sonnenblick believes may be the most relatable book for juveniles in the JDC, telling the story of a young

"Sonnenblick's books are so easy for teens to relate to, no matter what their circumstance because those characters experience the same emotions as the teens at the JDC..." "...it's important to have these kids understand that and relate so they don't feel so alone."

- Connie Sureck

man's brush with the law.

"I think that many of them responded well to him and really took what he had to say to heart, at least for that moment," Sureck said. "I can only hope that they will recall it in the future when they most need it."

COURTHOUSE WEDDINGS



Raul Cecena & Colley Bittinger

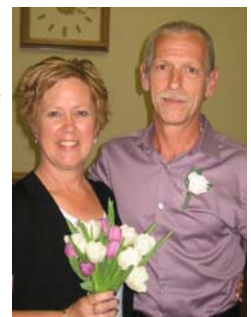
While Raul was in town from Mexico visiting his mother, he met Colley.

Raul and Colley had a larger wedding in mind when they first became engaged, but the plans changed to include a Courthouse wedding. The couples' parents, sisters and friends were in attendance, while those who couldn't make it to the ceremony viewed the nuptials via Skype on cell phones.

Cal Gilbert & Laura Bennett

Laura was working at Sunoco in Brunswick where she met Cal, a customer. Their first date was to a Christmas party.

Cal and Laura exchanged their vows with Laura's three daughters, grandson, son-in-law, parents and a best friend in attendance, while the couple's three dogs, Bailey, Champ and Bear-Bear were at home.



C Jay Swiger & Ruby Burdel

C Jay and Ruby worked for the same company in 1999 and had their first date on a Super Bowl Sunday.

After raising six children between the two, ranging from 18-40 years old, C Jay and Ruby now spend their downtime working on their yard and vegetable garden together.



Michael King & Dawn Buchanan (not pictured)

Michael and Dawn met seven years ago while working at the airport detailing planes.

Michael and his tiara-crowned bride have two children, Michael Jr. and Juliana, who were in attendance along with Michael's mother and father, Dawn's mother and grandmother.