



# ***THE PROSECUTOR***

A NEWSLETTER FROM

## **MAT HECK, JR.**

Dayton-Montgomery County Courts Building, P.O. Box 972, 301 W. Third St., Dayton, OH 45422 (937) 225-5757

Fall, 2005

### **Prosecutor "Stuffs the Bus"**

Underprivileged and neglected children in our community were the recipients of school supplies when Prosecutor Mat Heck contributed to the 'Stuff the Bus!' campaign.

The 'Stuff the Bus!' campaign collects school supplies for needy school children in the Miami Valley. The effort began in 2003 and is promoted by Montgomery County Children Services as well as two radio stations.

The Prosecutor's office has supported this effort for two years in a row and donated over 1,000 pencils and 1,200 folders—items that were purchased with money seized from drug dealers!



Pictured are Mat Heck (center) and his administrative staff, along with radio personalities from WMMX Mix107.7 and WLQT Lite99.

### **Assistant Prosecutor Serves His Country In Iraq**

On June 24, 2005, Assistant Prosecutor **JOHN CARLSON** returned from serving a 6-month tour of duty in Iraq. He is a 2d Lieutenant with the 200th RED HORSE Squadron in the Ohio Air National Guard based out of Camp Perry, Port Clinton, Ohio.



While in Iraq, he served as the Squadron Intelligence Officer and as a Convoy Commander with the 557th RED HORSE Squadron north of Baghdad at Camp Taji. When asked about his deployment he stated, "It was an experience that I will never forget and I hope by me going over there, my children will never have to do the same."

We're glad John is back, safe and sound, and are so proud of him for his courage and commitment to our country. John is pictured here with Mr. Heck and First Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Debra B. Armanini.

## **MAT HECK, JR. ELECTED TO NATIONAL DISTRICT ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION POST**

In July, 2005, Prosecuting Attorney Mat Heck, Jr. was unanimously elected as President-Elect of the National District Attorneys Association ("NDAA"). He will serve as president of the organization in 2006-2007. Heck has been an active member of the NDAA for over thirty years.

The NDAA Executive Director, Thomas Charron, said that Heck "exemplifies what every prosecutor strives to be. . . . Mat will follow a long line of NDAA presidents devoted to enhancing the role of prosecutors in America."

Heck's father, Mathias H. Heck, served as an NDAA Board member. Mat Heck, Jr., considers his election to be the "honor of a lifetime."

Heck has also served (in the year 2000) as president of the state association that represents Ohio's prosecutors — the Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association.

Heck said "I feel a responsibility as a public servant to help formulate legislation and establish policies and procedures to aid prosecutors in their role as the peoples' attorneys." Even after his term as NDAA president, he plans to remain active in this endeavor.

## **NEW LEADERSHIP AT PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE**

On January 5, 2005, John A. Cumming was appointed as Chief of the Prosecutor's Civil Division. Mr. Cumming earned his BS in Business Administration from Bowling Green State University in 1970, and earned his law degree in 1973 from The Ohio State University School of Law. He joined the Prosecutor's Office in 1973, served as a magistrate from 1976 to 1980, engaged in private practice from 1980 to 2001 and rejoined the prosecutor's office in 2001. His vast and varied knowledge and experience "make him a perfect choice for this position," said Heck.



On July 1, 2005, Virginia Platt-Gehres was appointed as Supervising Attorney of the Criminal Non-Support Unit. Ms. Platt-Gehres joined the Prosecutor's office in 1994. She earned her law degree at the University of Dayton School of Law in 1978 and her undergraduate degree at Thomas More College. She has spent her entire tenure in the office pursuing delinquent child support. Her dedication and commitment to the office, along with her many years of experience, will allow her to perform well in this position.



On July 12, 2005, Julie A. Bruns was appointed as Chief of the Juvenile Division. Ms. Bruns joined the Prosecutor's office in 1996 after earning her B.S., cum laude, from Miami University, Oxford, Ohio in 1993, and her law degree from the University of Dayton School of Law in 1996. She has served in numerous divisions in the Prosecutor's Office, but is most noted for her work in the Juvenile Division. Prosecutor Heck said, "Julie's knowledge, experience and dedication to protecting the rights of victims, as well as holding offenders accountable for their actions, make her an excellent choice for this position."



On September 1, 2005, James M. Martinson, a long-time Diversion Officer, was appointed to the position of Diversion Division Director. Mr. Martinson earned a Bachelor's degree in English from Wright State University in 1974. He joined the Prosecutor's Office in May, 1986, as a Diversion officer. Previously, he served the Ohio Department of Youth Services as a Juvenile Parole Officer from 1978 to 1986. "Jim's knowledge and dedication to the Diversion program, serving crime victims, holding offenders accountable, as well as reducing the burden on the criminal justice system, make him an excel-



## **WELCOME ADDITIONS TO THE PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE!**

### Lawyers hired since our last newsletter:

CARMILLE AKANDE, a U.D. Law graduate, is assigned to our Juvenile Division.

AMY ANAYA-SMITH, a U.D. Law graduate, is assigned to our Child Protection Unit ("CPU").

ANGELA BUCCALO, a University of Cincinnati School of Law graduate, is assigned to our Civil Division.

MARGARET "MAGGIE" CARPER was re-hired and is assigned to the Criminal Division.

COLETTE CARR, a Capital University Law graduate, is assigned to our DTAC Unit.

ANDREW "ANDY" FRENCH, was re-hired and is assigned to the Criminal Division.

CHRISTOPHER GREEN, schooled at the University of Pittsburgh, is assigned to CPU.

CHRISTOPHER HERMAN, a University of Akron graduate, is assigned to the Juvenile Division.

MARK KELLER, a U.D. Law graduate, is assigned to CPU.

STEVEN "STEVE" KNIPPEN, a Cleveland-Marshall graduate, is assigned to CPU.

ANN LEISTNER, schooled at The Ohio State University, is assigned to our Juvenile Division.

JON C. MARSHALL, a U.D. Law graduate, is assigned to our Appellate Division.

ERIC MICHENER, from the University of Virginia, is assigned to the Juvenile Division.

SARAH RAMSEY, a New England School of Law graduate, is assigned to CPU.

JOSH SCHIERLOH, a U.D. Law graduate, is assigned to our Juvenile Division.

SCOTT SHUMAKER, a graduate of The Ohio State University, is assigned to CPU.

KIRSTEN STROINIGG, from the University of Kentucky, is assigned to our Appellate Division.

NOLAN THOMAS, a U.D. Law graduate, is assigned to our Civil Division.

### Support Staff hired since our last newsletter:

JENNIFER BRAZELTON is a legal secretary assigned to our Juvenile Division.

BARBARA DODD is the new main office switchboard operator.

CHRISTY JERGENS is a legal secretary assigned to the Criminal Division.

### PROSECUTOR'S VICTIM/WITNESS DIVISION TURNS 30!

On August 1, 1975, the Victim/Witness Division of the Montgomery County Prosecutor's Office began operations. Under then-Prosecutor Lee Falke, the Victim/Witness Division was the second such program in the state of Ohio, and the first to provide a 24-hour crisis telephone line for victims of sexual assault.

When Mat Heck, Jr. took office in 1992, he recognized the importance of expanding the role of the Victim/Witness Division. Services still include a 24-hour crisis telephone line, but also outreach services in homicide and sexual assault cases; the conducting of a support group for survivors of homicide; the provision of advocacy services in every kind of felony case, from the time of the crime through the court process, even during the offender's incarceration and after his/her release; the addition of specialized advocates for cases involving juvenile offenders, and in child abuse cases.

Mat Heck, Jr. said "I am proud to have continued and expanded the services offered to victims and witnesses of crime. The criminal justice process can be daunting to those of us involved every day, but to a victim or a witness, who has had no other involvement with police or in the court system, the assistance of a victim advocate is invaluable."

The Prosecutor is published as a public service by the Montgomery County Prosecutor's Office. For questions or comments about articles appearing in The Prosecutor, or to recommend topics you'd like to see, contact: Mr. Greg Flannagan at 937-225-5610 or e-mail [flannagang@mcoho.org](mailto:flannagang@mcoho.org).

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**MATHIAS H. HECK, JR.**  
Montgomery County Prosecuting Attorney  
P.O. Box 972 301 W. Third St.  
Dayton, OH 45422