



The Prosecutor

newsletter from
Mat Heck, Jr.
Prosecuting Attorney



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Spring 2013

Prosecutor Heck Addresses Northmont Rotary Club



L to R: Montgomery County Prosecutor Mat Heck, Jr, Northmont Rotary President Attorney Jim Treherne, Northmont Rotary Member Dr. Michael Barrow

Members of the Northmont Rotary had the opportunity to hear from Prosecutor Mat Heck, Jr. on February 5, 2013 at their meeting at the Good Samaritan North Education Center. Prosecutor Heck gave a brief overview of the various divisions and responsibilities of his office and answered questions.

Prosecutor Heck also explained the purpose and procedures of the Diversion Division, a program for first-time non-violent felony offenders. To complete Diversion, the defendant must admit guilt and make full restitution to the victim. Participants are only approved for diversion with the consent of both the victim and the police agency involved in the investigation. If the offender is successful, the charges against him/her are dismissed.

Mr. Heck commented, "It's always a pleasure to get out and talk with members of the community and explain some of the functions of my office. While the Criminal Division handles the cases most citizens see on the news or read about in the papers, my office has many additional duties and services we provide to the residents of Montgomery County."

Did you know?

The Prosecutor's office frequently gives talks to various groups, including civic organizations, senior centers and schools. Topics include violence prevention, bullying, internet safety, sexting, dating violence, elder fraud and abuse prevention, financial crimes, consumer fraud, and general criminal justice system information. If you are interested in scheduling a talk to your group or organization, contact Mr. Greg Flannagan, Public Information Officer, at 937-225-5610 or e-mail info@mcpo.com.

PROSECUTOR ATTENDS GROUNDBREAKING FOR NEW CARE HOUSE

On March 27, 2013 Prosecutor Heck participated in the groundbreaking for a new CARE House.

Prosecutor Heck, one of the founding partners of CARE House, our Children's Advocacy Center, commented, "When CARE House opened its doors in 1999, the idea of a team approach to investigating and prosecuting child abuse and neglect was in its infancy. Now, more than a decade later, we can see the impact and advantages of a multidisciplinary team approach to dealing with child abuse. All partners, agencies and professionals, working together as a team, insures an efficient and sensitive experience for the victim, as well as holding the offender accountable."

The other partners of CARE House are: Dayton's Children's, the Dayton Police Department, Montgomery County Jobs and Family Services—Division of Children Services, and the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office.

Since 1999, thousands of child victims of abuse and neglect have been served by CARE House.

The current CARE House, located at 741 Valley Street, is no longer efficiently accommodating the children and families that come through its door on a daily basis. Built well over 100 years ago, the building has very steep stairs connecting the two floors and is not large enough to provide all the services that can be offered.

The new CARE House will be a bright, child-friendly and non-threatening state-of-the-art facility. It will double the square footage of the current facility and all of the services will be located on one floor. The new facility will have soundproof interview and observation rooms. Additionally, it will have a multipurpose room for group therapy and support groups, as well as space for community education and outreach.

Heck added, "Without the support of the many folks who have donated to this great project, it would not be possible. I want to thank not only those who contributed to the new building fund, but also the campaign committee members who assisted in the fundraising effort"



L to R: Jerry McLaughlin, Dayton Children's; John Fabélo, Lorenz & Williams; Steve Risner, American Trademark Construction Services; Prosecutor Mat Heck, Jr.; Bear Monita, Lorenz & Williams; Edd McGatha, Dayton Children's



L to R: Rob Streck, Montgomery County Sheriff's Office Chief Deputy; Gayle Bullard, Director, Jobs and Family Services; Deb Feldman, Dayton Children's President and CEO; Prosecutor Mat Heck, Jr.; Libby Nicholson, Director, CARE House; Richard Biehl, Chief, Dayton Police Department

MICHELLE L. GRODNER PROMOTED TO SUPERVISING ATTORNEY CHILD PROTECTION UNIT



On March 11, 2013, Michelle L. Grodner was promoted to Supervising Attorney of the Child Protection Unit. The Child Protection Unit, a part of the Montgomery County Prosecuting Attorney's Juvenile Division, intervenes to protect, and ensure the safety of abused and neglected children. Whenever law enforcement removes a child from a dangerous environment, the Child Protection Unit is involved.

Ms. Grodner received her law degree from the University of Toledo College of Law in 1998. Michelle worked as a probation officer for the Juvenile Court in Clark County, Ohio before going to law school. After she became an attorney, she served as a guardian ad litem in the Office of the Chicago, Cook County, Illinois Public Guardian, prior to joining our office in December 2005. Since Ms. Grodner joined the prosecutor's office, she has been assigned to the Child Protection Unit, the Intake and Grand Jury Division, and in February 2009 she was promoted to be a Criminal Docket Attorney.

Prosecutor Heck commented, "Michelle has been an excellent attorney in all the divisions she has served in this office. Her experience, knowledge and dedication to help protect children make her an excellent choice for this position."

ASSISTANT PROSECUTOR RECEIVES COMMUNITY AWARD



L to R: Burgess Gow, Oregon Historic District Society Trustee; Assistant Prosecutor Jon Marshall, Amelia O'Dowd, President of the Oregon Historic District Society, Deb Armanini, First Assistant Prosecutor

Members of the Oregon Historic District Society, which was organized in 1973 to help make neighborhood life secure and comfortable, presented a plaque to Montgomery County Assistant Prosecutor Jon Marshall for his work in a recent criminal case.

The district was plagued with several burglaries over the summer of 2012. After the defendant was arrested, the burglaries stopped. Assistant Prosecutor Marshall advocated a high bond being set on the defendant while the case was pending due to the nature and circumstances of the crimes. In the end, the defendant was convicted and received a 5 year prison sentence, and 3 years probation; a sentence the residents were extremely satisfied with.

Mr. Gow commented, "Jon's work in the case was nothing short of superb. Through the case, Jon was in constant communication with the victim and other members of the district. While the case is probably just a drop in the bucket for Jon, he had a large impact to the district's safety."

Congratulations, Jon!

Office Staff Updates

Please join us in welcoming the following new members of our staff who were hired to replace attorneys and support staff who have left our office:

| DATE | NAME | POSITION AND ASSIGNMENT |
|------------|-------------------|---|
| • 8/13/12 | Sean Patrick | Assistant Prosecutor, Grand Jury/Intake |
| • 8/27/12 | Candice Beach | Legal Secretary, Case Management |
| • 9/17/12 | Kiersten Farmer | Legal Secretary, Juvenile Division |
| • 9/24/12 | Justin Sheridan | Assistant Prosecutor, Child Protection Unit |
| • 11/19/12 | Tinisha Jones | Legal Secretary, Case Management |
| • 1/2/13 | Franklin Gehres | Assistant Prosecutor, Juvenile Division |
| • 1/9/13 | Matthew Crawford | Assistant Prosecutor, Child Protection Unit |
| • 1/28/13 | Tiffany Allen | Assistant Prosecutor, Child Protection Unit |
| • 1/31/13 | Abigail Garcia | Legal Secretary, Case Management |
| • 2/4/13 | Elizabeth Adams | Secretary, Case Management |
| • 2/19/13 | Amber Labs | Legal Secretary, Appellate Division |
| • 2/19/13 | April Campbell | Assistant Prosecutor, Appellate Division |
| • 3/18/13 | Aimee Mitchell | Secretary, Administration |
| • 3/25/13 | Christopher Cloud | Assistant Prosecutor, Child Protection Unit |
| • 4/22/13 | Eric Buchakjian | Assistant Prosecutor, Grand Jury/Intake |

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