

In The Spotlight with: Medina County Sheriff Tom Miller

By Kate Feeks

Medina County Sheriff Tom Miller, will be on the show *Law Talk* with host John Celebrezze to discuss the scope of the heroin problem in Medina County along with guest Judge James L. Kimbler of the Medina County Common Pleas Court. This show will run throughout the month of August on Wadsworth Cable (WCTV) public access Channel 15, Brunswick Area Television (BAT) public access Channel 21, and Armstrong cable access Channel 37 in Medina County along with Clear Picture Channels 21 & 22 in Wooster and Massillon.

Medina County Sheriff, Tom Miller, is a graduate of Parma High School. After serving in the navy he went to Cleveland State University where he received a B. A. in Sociology in 1974. While attending Cleveland State, Sheriff Miller met his future wife, Laurie. They were married in 1973 and he was hired as a patrolman in Brunswick in 1974.

While working in Brunswick the Sheriff was promoted to sergeant and later to lieutenant. During his tenure there he was hired by the Brunswick City School District as a part-time Severe Behavior Handicap (SBH) teacher at the high school, and later served two years as the Crisis Prevention Specialist for grades K-12. Miller earned his Master of Science in Urban Studies while working in Brunswick.

Sheriff Miller was hired in January of 1997 by the Medina County Sheriff's Department as the jail administrator. He was later promoted to chief deputy in 1999. He began his first term as sheriff in 2012. The Sheriff's other work experiences include 12 years in Healthcare Security as Director of Protective Services for the now closed St. Luke's Medical Center of Cleveland, and the MetroHealth Medical Center.

Recently the Sheriff visited Greene County, Ohio to learn more about a program offered to adult offenders who have been sentenced through the Greene County Common Pleas Court, Xenia Municipal Court, or Fairborn Municipal Court. Eligible offenders must have substance abuse issues.

Sheriff Miller supports Judge Kimbler's idea to bring in more intensive treatment into our county jail. "What we would like to do has to be agreed upon by the Judge, as well as the individual, they (offenders) have to volunteer for it and follow the program. Obviously, there is potential for them to be more successful by staying in the program. The difference of what we are suggesting versus what is going on in Greene County, is we are willing to begin treatment for those that are awaiting trial" Miller said.

The Greene Leaf Therapeutic Community Program has been in operation since 2002, and serves as the only residential substance abuse program within a jail facility in Ohio. This program is a six month residential alcohol and drug treatment program that uses cognitive behavioral therapy to provide intensive substance abuse treatment.

Treatment given in the program includes: AA/NA meetings, life skills classes, case management services, community service outings, and group and individual counseling. "The real focus in helping people recover from drug and alcohol addiction needs to be in the ongoing treatment that they must engage in over an extended period of time" Miller explained. "By working with the Judge we hope to help the individual succeed in the program as well as keeping any information provided protected while awaiting trial".

To learn more about the heroin issue watch Medina County Sheriff Tom Miller and Judge James L. Kimber on *Law Talk* with host John Celebrezze throughout the month of August.