

## From The Lyndhurst Municipal Court

May 2011

Judge Mary Kaye Bozza and the **Lyndhurst** Municipal Court Staff are proud to announce....at long last...our lower level courtroom described as the Lyndhurst Municipal Court Annex is in full operation. This renovation project created additional space for the Court which has been in the planning for several years. It is now, a **welcomed reality**.

The Court Annex officially opened the week of March 14<sup>th</sup> with pre-trials and change of plea hearings. Thus far, Judge Bozza has conducted Lyndhurst, Mayfield Heights, Highland Heights and Richmond Heights pre-trials and bench trials with each city's respective prosecutor. Magistrate Obert has conducted domestic violence and assault temporary protection order hearings via internet conferencing with Mayfield Heights and Highland Heights' jails. Magistrate Resnick held civil dockets on Thursdays regarding Regional Income Tax hearings and pre-trials. Judge Bozza presided over two criminal Jury Trials on March 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup> and April 27<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup>. Juries are able to view evidence on an eighty inch screen of modern technology.

At the conclusion of both Jury Trials, jurors remarked that the new courtroom was "well planned with attention to detail" and described it as "beautiful, efficient, reverent and comfortable". Jury service was an "interesting, educational, inspiring and positive experience". Most of the jurors had no previous jury service and did not know what to expect. They were pleased to find that their experiences at the Lyndhurst Municipal Court were rewarding educational opportunities.

In addition to the Jury Courtroom, the lower level Annex has a Clerk's office which can accommodate filings and payments, a staff restroom, two probation offices, a conference room for prosecutor pre-trial conferences and a dual purpose staff kitchen/jury deliberation room with a private restroom, and a lobby with public restrooms.

This additional lower level courtroom provides an opportunity for contested criminal/traffic cases to be litigated separate from arraignments. Its purpose compliments the Judge's Mission Statement:

"As Judge of the Lyndhurst Municipal Court it has been and continues to be, my mission to be a visible example of hard work and dedication through education, rehabilitation and adjudication, thus creating a greater public service to the citizens served by the Court."

The dedication plaque located in the lobby of the lower level annex summarizes Judge Bozza's spirit: "Coraggio vivere con passione"... Courage to live with passion!

Judge Mary Kaye Bozza continues to offer educational opportunities to the students in our local schools. In May, we welcome Erin and Emily, seniors at Mayfield High School, who are completing their senior projects at the Lyndhurst Municipal Court. These students spend the month of May at the Court shadowing the Judge and staff. They experience arraignments, hearings, trials and sentencings. They will learn about traffic laws and misdemeanor cases that arise in the jurisdiction such as theft, assaults, domestic violence, operating a vehicle under the influence, underage drinking, and driving under suspension. As the schedule permits, the Judge and staff spend time educating and answering questions as they arise based upon the cases heard in the Court.

As the Judge reflects upon past senior project students, Alex from Mayfield comes to mind. He recently graduated from Eastern Michigan University and is beginning his law education this fall at Case Western Reserve University.

The Judge was a guest speaker at the Highland Heights DARE graduations held at Millridge and St. Paschal Baylon Elementary Schools this past March and at Lander Road Elementary School on May 12<sup>th</sup>. She was a guest speaker for the Hillcrest Rotary Club's Annual Career Technical Recognition Dinner on April 26<sup>th</sup>. Also, she will educate seniors at the Masons civic group meeting this coming July 26<sup>th</sup>.

Our March 11<sup>th</sup> Women's Make the Right Choice Program was a success in spite of the snow storm we experienced that morning. Our Men's Program took place on

April 15<sup>th</sup> with almost 100 people in attendance. Our next program for the Women will be held on August 19, 2011 and our next Men's program is on September 16, 2011.

Lastly, this is the time of year for prom and graduation parties. The Court inevitably experiences an increase of underage alcohol parties in the parents' homes. The potential criminal as well as civil liability for the parent and/or homeowner is significant. Please take notice... **The parents who host...lose the most.** Have a safe summer!