

# KANE COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER



## A Note from the Superintendent

Evidence-based practices, including diverting lower risk kids away from detention, is something we at the Kane County Juvenile Justice Center all believe in. Acknowledging positive behavior, avoiding room confinement and focusing on the cognitive development of our kids is at the core of the work we do. I believe in this approach, but while I understand it cognitively, at times I cannot help but feel disappointment and frustration when our Youth Counselors are attacked and injured by the same kids we are all trying so hard to help. We teach the kids that their feelings are not right or wrong, as emotions are the result of their perception. Therefore, we do not judge how they feel; rather, we try to teach them coping skills in order to avoid reacting emotionally. Not reacting emotionally after being struck, spit on or threatened is not easy for anyone, yet that is exactly what we ask of our Youth Counselors. Working in juvenile detention requires a unique set of skills and abilities. We all understand the risks involved in our profession, yet we find working with kids rewarding and genuinely care about the well-being and development of the kids we work with. Unfortunately, unlike police officers, fire fighters and other public service careers, Youth Counselors and detention employees are often underappreciated and under acknowledged. Only those of us who work in the field truly understand its challenges. I am proud of everything we have accomplished at the Juvenile Justice Center and none of that is possible without our Youth Counselors. When faced with adversity, they put their feelings aside for the benefit of the kids and community we serve. To those who work in detention, and especially the Youth Counselors of the Kane County Juvenile Justice Center, thank you for the work you do, you are appreciated.

*Mike Davis*

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## Meet Supervisor Crystal Zynda



I was born and raised in Naperville, Illinois, and am the youngest of three children. I graduated from Northern Illinois University in 2012, where I received my degree in Psychology and Sociology. I spent the first two years of my career working as a Child Welfare Specialist in Rockford, Illinois, for a social services agency. I started working for Kane County in the summer of 2014, where I began as a Youth Counselor at the Juvenile Justice Center. I soon realized my passion for working in a detention environment and eventually became a Senior Youth Counselor. In May of 2018, I received a promotion to Supervisor and I have greatly enjoyed learning my new position. When I am not working, you can find me completing projects on my house, reading, trying new recipes, watching movies, going to concerts, spending time with family and being outdoors as much as possible. I also enjoy watching sports, with my favorites being football and hockey. I am an animal lover and hope to adopt a dog in the near future! I truly enjoy working with the juvenile population and I look forward to many more years working for Kane County.

## Garden Club

### TASTE TEST

The JJC Health Classes will begin conducting Taste Tests as a part of the Garden Curriculum!!!

Taste tests will be conducted in the Health/CBT classes the first Monday of every month.



These taste tests will include:

- Comparing commercially grown produce with locally grown
- Introducing new and different produce from local farmer's markets
- Testing smoothie recipes using locally grown produce
- Introducing new recipes from locally grown, or our very own JJC garden!!!

### ILLINOIS HARVEST OF THE MONTH



#### **The JJC has joined the H.O.M.!**

What is H.O.M.?

H.O.M. is a program developed by Seven Generations to help introduce local food sources and produce to youth in Illinois.

What does this mean for JJC?

Residents and staff will be able to sample the highlighted fruit or vegetable from local sources in a recipe prepared by the kitchen staff.

When did this happen?

The sampling will occur every third Friday of the month. The first sample at the JJC came Friday, July 19, when the kitchen staff prepared a cucumber salsa for tasting.

What else?

Residents will help create the announcements for the upcoming H.O.M. recipes, fill out critiques on the recipes, and be offered a copy of any of the recipes tried at the JJC for use at home!





# Garden



# Murals



*Town House Books*  
**GIVING TUESDAY**  
**20% OF SALES WILL BE DONATED**

**JUVENILE JUSTICE  
CENTER BOOK CLUB**

**Tues, Sept 3rd, 9 am–5 pm**

Town House Books & Cafe 105 North 2nd Avenue  
St. Charles, Illinois 60174  
Book Store: (630) 584-8600 | Café: (630) 584-8603



## Bee Keeper



On June 25, 2019, Chris Saad, professional bee keeper and owner/operator of Honey Trails, a Local Honey Farm, came to the JJC to speak about bee keeping. Saad explained the differences in the types of honey bees, their jobs, how to care for the bees and the hives, and many other interesting aspects of bee keeping. Saad also showed some of his bee keeping equipment used for checking the hives and collecting the honey. The students asked questions like how much honey is produced, why do they use smoke on the bees, and about whether or not he's been stung. Mr. Saad and his wife have been in business in the area for more than 15 years and sell their honey and products at local Farmers' Markets.



**Kane County ROE**  
@KaneCountyROE

Follow

The view from on top of our building is pretty neat! Thanks for the shot, @Morris\_Phil. We recently bought a weather station for the Juvenile Justice Center.



12:57 PM - 27 Jun 2019

1 Retweet 5 Likes



1 5

JJC School Weather Station: The Kane County JJC School Program now has its very own weather station. The Kane County ROE purchased the device with grant money in July and installed the physical station on the roof of the ROE building, where it is gathering data that the JJC School teachers can access and use for science, math or other lessons. Students can also access the program that shows the data and weather conditions on classroom student iPads. The station also has a live webcam that shows the current weather conditions at the ROE location. Check it out for yourself at <https://weather.kaneroe.org>. The addition of weather station adds an exciting source of information and should be a valuable resource for the Kane County JJC students and teachers.

Congratulations to our newest Safe Crisis Management (SCM) trainers!



Wesley Davis, Senior Youth Counselor  
Jared Weiser, Senior Youth Counselor  
Stephanie Sauriol, Supervisor

The SCM Instructor Certification Training Program is a rigorous, five-day learning experience where participants learn prevention, intervention and after-action strategies that are the core of SCM. Participants are exposed to a variety of supportive information and concepts central to providing instruction in SCM.

## Meet JJC Teacher Jimmy Pawola

I was born in Chicago and grew up in Fox Lake, Illinois. I am the oldest of 2 children. I attended Grant High School, where I participated on the football, wrestling, and track teams. I graduated from Aurora University in 2011. While at A.U., I majored in History, Secondary Education, football, and living the dream. I started my teaching and coaching career with West Aurora School District before coming to the JJC in 2014. My wife, Nicole, and I just celebrated our 1-year anniversary in June. We have two spoiled dogs named Louie and Riley. They love to dig holes in my back yard. In my free time, I enjoy wood working, fishing, cooking, going to concerts, and long walks on the beach. My intention at the JJC is to help our students gain the necessary educational and life skills to become successful adults.



## JJC Words to the Wise – From a JJC resident

I never thought I would be saying bye.

I've been coming here for so long – I thought I'll never be back.

Laminate this so newcomers can see.

One more day before I go to IDJJ.

Yeah, not a big deal, but a big deal.

I promised myself I'll never go to prison, look where that got me.

Or look where I got myself.

I have been in here 16 times.

Been here for my birthday, Christmas, New Years.

I thank this place as much as I hated it or unappreciated this place.

It kept me focused, sane even.

I guess it's not all a consequence – but it is.

I hope that everybody knows that this is only temporary.

Heat of the moment action gets you in a heat of the moment place.

Use time here wisely.

Take your time here. Basketball is a beast.

Don't count the days, make the days count.

If you need to talk – in my words vent – there is always someone here you can talk to.

Staff and residents – they can all relate.

Be cool in here. Get mad – take a five.

Eat a cookie – yummy in my tummy.

Really though, you've made a mistake, learn from it.

If you care about your life and in the long run – your future, don't come back.

You can grow from this obstacle.

I want to be a pediatrician, I won't let this place or places define me or take me away from that.

Y'all can do it.

I pray. You should too.

Talk to someone if you need to. We are here for you.



## Meet Receptionist Tania Viramontes



I am a Chicago native, who moved into the cornfields nineteen years ago. I am the daughter of immigrants from Jalisco, Mexico. I am the second oldest with two sisters and a brother. In my previous work, I was a Home School Liaison for DeKalb School District. Now I have the amazing privilege of being the remarkable receptionist at the JJC for the past eight years. This August, I will be married for twenty-five years. We started a family in our late teens, early twenties. We are proud parents of two daughters, Natalie 29, Ixtel 25, and a son, Claudio 22. My kids would describe me as a fun, loving, kind, bossy, and sarcastic mother who knows how to cook. I WAS an empty nester, for a whole 6 months, before my kids decided to move back in due to their lack of cooking skills. I enjoy spoiling my two wonderful granddaughters, Sophia 9, and Maya who will be 3 in September. In my free time, I enjoy cooking various traditional Mexican-American dishes. I raise 2 roosters, 9 chickens, and eleven baby chicks; let's hope the raccoons don't get 'em... again. I also have a Great Pyrenees who just turned a year old. I love cruising in my husband's custom-built '79 Ford Pickup Truck. If I have any spare time, I watch or nap through Hallmark Movies, anything Christmas-themed is my absolute favorite.



On July 17, 2019, in advance of Youth Counselor/Probation Officer Appreciation Week, the JJC Supervisors and Administration cooked out for our Youth Counselors. Following the festivities, the JJC residents were also treated to a cookout. Many of the vegetables from our garden were utilized and the kids seemed to appreciate the deviation from the everyday menu.







Feed My Starving Children MobilePack came back to the Juvenile Justice Center on June 4, 2019. Thank you to the residents and staff for making this another successful event. 72 boxes (15,552 meals) have shipped to Uganda through their partner, LeSEA Global Feed the Hungry.

# THANK YOU!



Kate Mills

## BARBERS



Lola Mancilla

## PASTOR STEVE

Steve has been visiting the kids at the JJC twice weekly for more than 20 years. The kids look forward to his visits and we admire his passion for working with our youth.



## SECURITY SYSTEM UPGRADE

The JJC recently completed a much-needed security system upgrade. This will allow us to remain PREA compliant and continue providing our kids and Youth Counselors the safest possible environment. Thank you to Chief Judge Boles and the Kane County Board for making it possible and to the Kane County Information Technology Department for assisting in the installation.