

Today's weather



HIGH: 85  
LOW: 67

Sunrise: 6:55  
Sunset: 7:59

# THE GAZETTE

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**\$2.50**

MEDINA

## Recovery Farm does well



SARA CRAWFORD / GAZETTE

Tiffany Shelton of the Medina County Alcohol Drug Addiction and Mental Health Board feeds one of the two goats at Medina's Recovery Farm on Thursday.

**Sara Crawford**  
The Gazette

MEDINA — After six months of work, Medina's Recovery Farm transformed from acres of land and buildings that needed repair into a working farm with a large garden, goats, chickens and recovery housing for 12 men who have substance-abuse disorders.

In December, Medina County Park District entered a 10-year lease agreement with Cathy's House, creating a partnership at the Brown-Trump Homestead between the MCPD, Cathy's House and Hope Recovery Community.

The Brown-Trump Homestead, 4092 Medina Road, consists of a Victorian

home, two other houses and approximately 17 acres of farmland.

The property was once owned by prominent antiques dealers Edson Brown and Ross Trump, who wished for the property to be preserved as a working farm for cultural, educational and aesthetic purposes.

To preserve the land, the two created a conservation easement that is now held by the Western Reserve Land Conservancy. After both men died, a committee was appointed by the estate to select an organization that could fulfill Brown and Trump's wish.

MCPD Director Nate Eppink spent about a year working with local nonprofits to create the Brown-Trump

Homestead, which will combine the efforts of at least five nonprofits and the MCPD.

"All of the gentlemen that live on this property do all their service hours, which is a requirement for our program, here on the farm," Cathy's House Executive Director Jon Robinson said. "Hope Recovery Community runs that portion of it."

Robinson said the men are responsible for taking care of the 12 chickens, working in the large vegetable garden, helping repair the other buildings and more to keep the Brown-Trump Homestead a running farm.

See **FARM**, A4





SARA CRAWFORD / GAZETTE

A chicken coop sits next to one of the houses with 12 chickens, 11 hens and a rooster, which the men in recovery housing take care of.

## FARM

From A1

As vegetables grow in the garden, the majority of the produce is donated directly to Feeding Medina County and distributed to the community. As of Thursday, Robinson said more 300 pounds of food has been donated to Feeding Medina County.

In addition, MCPD will be working with the Medina County Historical Society to provide display space in the front house, which was built in 1874, once renovations are completed.

“The guys being supported is number one for us,” Robinson said. “If we don’t have that, if we don’t have community and a relationship with them, we’re failing.”

Joe Howes, a resident coor-

dinator for Cathy’s House, remembered first stepping onto the property and seeing nothing compared to what is there now just months later.

Howes first moved into Cathy’s House in July 2022, later connecting with people at Hope Recovery Community. He said that Cathy’s House has given him support throughout the past year, helping him find resources and giving him answers.

When the Recovery Farm first started, Howes had the opportunity to move to the property and become the house manager, being a resource for the other men living at the house.

Over several months, Howes helped by rebuilding chicken coops, putting up fencing, sowing the garden and taking care of

the animals.

“It’s definitely something bigger than myself that I’m glad to be a part of,” Howes said.

On Thursday afternoon, Robinson took people from the Community Health Equity office at the Cleveland Clinic on a tour of the grounds, showing them the different elements of the farm.

Christy Rickbrodt with Community Health Equity said that the office does yearly sponsorships, sponsoring Cathy’s House over the past two years.

“Last year, we were able to sponsor Cathy’s House, and we were able to provide 60 residents the first three weeks of rent so that they could find employment and connect to providers in the community,” she said. “This year, we pro-

vided funding for the garden so that we can get the garden started.”

Serving in the Medina County community for a number of years, Rickbrodt said that Robinson, along with his wife — Stefanie, of Hope Recovery Community — have done an incredible job sharing more information about recovery and people living in recovery.

Rickbrodt believes that the community has begun to embrace people in recovery, supporting and taking care of one another.

“It’s wonderful to see stigma being reduced, people being embraced and everyone just coming together and supporting each other as a community,” she said.

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