



VOLUME I, ISSUE I

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## IN THE CENTER

### News from Community Corrections

#### The Numbers:

- **1,010,171:** number of specimens screened for illicit drugs at community corrections centers since July 1, 2003
- **85.2%:** percentage of those screens that were clean
- **1,115:** number of Intermediate Sanction Level III/IV participants that received their GED since July 1, 2003

#### COLLABORATION CORNER: THINKING POSITIVE AT THE WORCESTER JUVENILE RESOURCE CENTER

At the Worcester Juvenile Resource Center (WJRC) rewards are an important part of programming. The participants at the WJRC earn stars for positive participation in each group they attend.

On a weekly basis, the stars each participant earns contribute to an individual incentive and a group incentive. If, as a group, the participants earn 80% of the total possible number of stars, they can earn group rewards such as a pizza or ice

cream party or a special breakfast.

Once a month, Probation Officer **Steve Germain**, from the **Worcester Juvenile Probation Department**, comes to the WJRC to cook breakfast for groups that have earned their stars. The breakfasts are a reward to participants for a job well done. The participants really look forward to "Breakfast with Mr. Germain!"

Submitted by Karen Benson



Worcester Juvenile Court Probation Officer Steve Germain prepares breakfast for a group of juvenile probationers at the Worcester Juvenile Resource Center.

#### FROM SALEM TO CEMETERIES-COMMUNITY SERVICE WORKS

In January the Trial Court Community Service Program received the Community Partnership Award for outstanding work in the community from the **Salem Parks and Recreation Commission**. Crews raked leaves, cleaned beaches, shoveled snow and assisted in setting up for special events. Director Doug Bollen said, "Contributions from the community

service program not only assist the park and recreation department but enhances the quality of life in Salem."

Submitted by Lisa Hickey



Assistant Court Services Coordinator Jonathan Palermo, Parks and Recreation Commissioner Robert McCarthy, Assistant Court Services Coordinator John Corrao, and Mayor Kim Driscoll's Chief Aide Jason Silva

The nineteen acre **Mt. Vernon Cemetery** in West Boylston is the final resting place of some sixty graves that were moved prior to the 1897 construction of the Wachusett Reservoir. When Cemetery Superintendant Kevin McKee sought help restoring the cemetery's flat grave markers buried in dirt and grass, he turned to the Trial Court Community Service Program for help. After all, he had turned to them before. Last year when storms ravaged Worcester County, community service crews were instrumental in clearing debris from the cemetery.

This past fall Court Services Coordinator **Luis Melendez** led community service participants armed with shovels and digging

bars through the cemetery in a search for buried grave markers. Participants raised 983 stone markers, each weighing more than 100 pounds. Melendez and his staff worked with participants to restore the markers by lifting them out of their holes, partially filling the holes with stone dust, tamping down the dust, leveling the dust and then placing each marker back into the hole.

According to Melendez, family members visiting the cemetery stopped to thank program participants for restoring markers that memorialized their loved ones. The Trustees of the Mount Vernon Cemetery were extremely grateful for the work done by the Trial Court Community Service Program and know that they can count on them to support the cemetery and the Town of West Boylston in the future.

Submitted by Lisa Hickey

## MASSACHUSETTS TRIAL COURT OFFICE OF COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

Stephen V. Price, Executive Director  
Pat Horne, Deputy Director  
Patty Campatelli, Statewide Program Supervisor-Community Corrections Centers  
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### IN THE CENTER

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**ABOUT:** Pursuant to Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 211F, the Massachusetts Trial Court, Office of Community Corrections (OCC), is charged with implementing intermediate sanctions through the development of community corrections programs. Among the programs developed by the OCC are the Trial Court Community Service Program and the state's 21 Community Corrections Centers. The Community Service Program administers community service as a sanction, or in lieu of fees, for probation departments across the state. Community Corrections Centers facilitate intensive supervision by delivering a combination of sanctions and services via Intermediate Sanction Level (ISL) III/IV. ISL III/IV combine services such as: substance abuse treatment, education, job development, life skills and vocational training with sanctions such as: drug testing, community service, electronic monitoring and day reporting. Community Corrections Centers provide an alternative to incarceration for offenders on probation, parole, or in the custody of the sheriff, Department of Correction or Department of Youth Services thereby reserving prison space for the most dangerous offenders.

## THANKS: JUDGES IN THE CENTER

Every year judges across the state take time out of their demanding schedules to visit community corrections centers. These visits allow staff the opportunity to interface with judges directly and share the challenges and successes in substance abuse treatment and cognitive behavioral therapy. Therefore, we thank judges that have taken the opportunity to visit the center recently and recognize them here.

In February 2011 the Honorable **C. Jeffrey Kinder** visited the Springfield CCC.

In July 2011 the Honorable **John A. Agostini** visited the Pittsfield CCC.

In May 2011 the Honorable **Paul C. Dawley** and his colleagues: Honorable **Mary L. Amrhein**, Honorable **Robert G. Harbour**, and Honorable **James J. McGovern**, toured the Brockton CCC.

In August 2011 the Honorable **Daniel A. Ford** visited the Pittsfield CCC.

In October 2011 the Honorable **Lawrence E. McCormick** attended an open house at the Boston CCC/WRC.

In January 2012 the Honorable **David Weingarten** toured the Boston CCC/WRC.

In February 2012 the Honorable **Frances McIntyre** toured the Boston CCC/WRC.

In 2011 the Honorable **Andrew L. Mandell** and his colleague Honorable **Mark E. Noonan** made regular appearances at quarterly working group meetings for the Fitchburg CCC.

## ACHIEVERS: TAUNTON PROBATIONER SEES STRUCTURE AS BUILDING BLOCK TO SUCCESS

A 26-year-old probationer, sentenced by the Honorable **Gilbert J. Nadeau Jr.** to Intermediate Sanction Level III at the Taunton Community Corrections Center in May 2011 recently made the transition to standard supervision after 249 days. He met with Program Manager, **Scott Gomes**, to discuss what he learned at the center and his plans for the future.

According to Gomes, the probationer stated that the structure of the program helped him to regain purpose. "It was probably the best thing that happened to me, the program helped me a lot." Attending on a daily basis reminded the probationer of a time before his substance abuse when he held a job, was earning money, and felt proud of himself.

The probationer said he now has a better understanding of his addiction and understands how it took his focus away from work and family, and put him into situations that were life threatening.

The probationer referenced two occasions



where he narrowly avoided serious injury from another person as a result of his use of marijuana, cocaine, and Percocet. He stated, "I never want to go back to that life." The probationer commented that he has a greater appreciation for his potential to have success in recovery.

Gomes reports that the probationer plans to return to work with a local contractor who will give him the opportunity to work

doing something he enjoys: remodeling homes. The probationer told Gomes that he has no contact with friends from his troubled past. Instead, he has connected with individuals in the Narcotics Anonymous Fellowship, his family, and some old friends. The probationer said that his old friends share his love for auto mechanics and customizing all-terrain vehicles, all of which are hobbies he intends to spend his free time pursuing.

Taunton CCC staff are very proud of the probationer and what he accomplished with the support of Probation Officer **Janice Murphy O'Berg** of the **Taunton District Court**. According to staff, he has shown growth during his time in the Center. They say his actions are now in-step with his words and it appears that he is leaving the program with confidence in his ability to succeed. Gomes says staff has had that confidence in the probationer since he arrived at the Center.

*Submitted by Scott Gomes*