In November the Essex County Sheriff’s Department (ECSD) relocated the Lynn Community Corrections Center (CCC) from the Lynn Armory at 38 South Common Street to a new site at 100 Willow Street, Lynn.

The new location is in a historic building that was originally constructed as a post office in the 1890s. When the post office closed, it was used as the Marine Corps Reserve Training center for several years. Later, the building was abandoned. In the 1980’s the City of Lynn applied for a special purpose grant to assist in rehabilitating the building for use as a multiservice center for Lynn’s homeless population.

In its new location at 100 Willow Street the Lynn CCC will join the Lynn Emergency Shelter, which provides shelter and support services to homeless individuals and families in the Greater Lynn area, Healthy Streets Outreach program which is an HIV/AIDS and overdose prevention program and My Brother’s Table, a local soup kitchen.

During the weekend of November 29-30 the ECSD led a collaborative effort among staff from the Office of the Commissioner of Probation, Office of Community Corrections and Massachusetts Parole to ensure that the CCC would be fully operational by the target date of Monday, December 1st. Among those whose work made the transition go smoothly were Jim Lander and staff of the ECSD, Jim Toomey and Jeff Ryan of Probation, Tim Barry of Parole, Lisa Hickey and staff of the Trial Court Community Service Program. 

With 4,042 square feet, the new Lynn CCC provides four classrooms, seven offices and a lunchroom. It is accessible to people with disabilities. It features updated information technology and electrical service, energy-efficient lighting, and fresh paint. There is parking available on site and the center is conveniently located near public transportation.

“A new site was needed and this move makes fiscal sense. The rent and utilities will be significantly less than the costs incurred at our previous location,” said Sheriff Frank Cousins.

Maurice Pratt and Yardley Theolien contributed to this story.
UPDATE: RETIRING

After nearly 30 years in public service John “Jack” Quinn announced, in November, his retirement from the position of Regional Program Manager at the Office of Community Corrections. As a 16 year veteran of the OCC, Quinn forged relationships with judges, probation officers, sheriff’s departments, treatment providers and the bar in the development of CCCs in Essex, Middlesex and Worcester Counties. Early in his tenure, Quinn worked with the Massachusetts Sentencing Commission in the conduct of a study of sentencing practices in the Worcester District Court. A vital member of the New England Council on Crime and Delinquency, Quinn served as a former president, was instrumental in the planning and development of annual conferences, and recently received the organization’s Angelo R. Musto Award for outstanding contribution. Quinn leveraged his relationships and experience at NECCD to develop training opportunities for the OCC/probation on issues such as Drug Abuse Recognition, Adult Secondary Education, DPH medication assisted substance abuse treatment, Division of Career Services job development, and MassHealth. Quinn also brought his previous career as an attorney to bear for the OCC/probation, serving as an administrative attorney in vetting probationer eligibility for sentence to community corrections. A graduate of Providence College and Suffolk University Law School, Quinn was as a dispatcher at the Registry of Motor Vehicles and an employment counselor in the Division of Employment Security before serving nearly eight years as a probation officer in the Middlesex Superior Court. Quinn also practiced criminal defense before joining the OCC in May 1998. As he launches into a retirement filled with friends and family, including three grandchildren, the OCC offers heartfelt thanks to “Mr. 211F”.

COLLABORATION CORNER: SHARING WARMTH IN WINTER IN WORCESTER COUNTY

Winter is coming. It’s the stark reality of living in Worcester County in December. But thanks to the efforts of the Worcester County Sheriff’s Department and Probation Officers In Charge (POIC) at the Fitchburg and Worcester Community Corrections Centers (CCC), those in need, including participants, will be warmer and safer this year. Over the last two months, the CCCs spearheaded a coat drive aimed at providing coats to needy families in Worcester County. Central to the coat drive’s success were POIC’s Lynn Clifford, Eneida Alverado, and Marty Wallace, along with Mark Leary, Matt Beaudet and Fran Pisegna of the sheriff’s department. This month, the coats were distributed to community based organizations, many of which provide services to participants at the two centers. According to Jennifer Cruickshank, Community Health Connections Director, “The coats will keep hundreds of families warm during these harsh winter months”. Coats were also delivered to Veteran’s Inc., St. John’s Food Pantry, Hope Center, Catholic Charities and the Boy’s and Girl’s Club… just to name a few! Center participants not only benefited from receiving winter coats, but also participated in the distribution of the coats as part of community service. According to one participant, “I was very happy that I was able to help out in the coat drive. I took my time helping out sorting the coats, pants, and boots. I didn’t mind. Honestly, I felt like I had to do it, for the reason that I haven’t helped out in my community in a long time. All I have been doing for the past few years was harming my community…selling drugs, trashing my neighborhood, bullying people, and thinking I’m a tough person. Helping out in the coat drive opened my eyes realizing that I am a good person, but was directing my time to nothing valuable. I will have to learn to adapt to positive changes. I will look for places to volunteer to give back to my or your community. It was my pleasure to give back my community”. Lynn Clifford, Matt Beaudet and Kevin Kearney contributed to this story.