



# COMMON GROUND

APRIL 2019 ISSUE



The central artwork is a complex, surreal collage. It features a large, green, realistic eye floating in a cloudy sky at the top center. Below the eye is a green, leafy tree. To the left of the tree is a framed painting of a white, abstract, human-like figure. To the right is a framed painting of a colorful jellyfish. The background is a deep blue, starry space. At the bottom, there is a purple, abstract, tree-like structure. To the left of this structure is a small, arched window with a lit candle. To the right is a framed painting of a blue, abstract, human-like figure. The entire collage is composed of various elements, including a small globe, a small eye, and a small figure, all arranged in a way that suggests a narrative or a journey.

## HOUSE OF CORRECTION AUGMENTED REALITY ART PROGRAM





# Sheriff's Statement



Art in its many forms, can be thought provoking, mentally stimulating and even cathartic for artist and viewer alike. The process from conception to completion often brings with it a sense of pride and accomplishment that is derived from the realization of a plan and the exercise of creativity itself.

Here at the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department, we believe that art is all of these things and more, with the power to change lives and transform communities. For some time now, art has been utilized as an instrument of rehabilitation through programming that has included a comprehensive teaching of various mediums like watercolors, pencil and ink, tempera and other mixed media; a concentration in pastels; and other forms, all of which have been featured in several publications produced by the Department. With each of our art programs, we have found that, in addition to the obvious recreational benefits, participants are learning a host of new and helpful life skills that can be employed long after their reentry back into society, included among which are: focus, patience, introspection, determination and many others.

To this end, we are proud to introduce our newest arts-focused endeavor in collaboration with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), the "House of Correction Augmented Reality Program," a month-long project-based class that brings together students from MIT and women in Department care and custody to learn about art, augmented reality and working as a team. You can read about this and more in the pages ahead.

-Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins

## COMMON GROUND NEWSLETTER

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Read about Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins' trip to the Murphy and Grew Schools to "Get Caught Reading" and remind students that "If They Made It...So Can I."



## AROUND SUFFOLK COUNTY

The SCSD Honor Guard kicks off the Shamrock Shootout, Sheriff Tompkins participates in the "Black and Blue" forum, Northeastern University's Police Department Youth Police Academy visits the Suffolk County Jail, and more.

# PARTNER OF THE MONTH

## Jennifer Wolter

Community Corrections Response Coordinator  
RESPOND, Inc



This month, the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department (SCSD) is proud to introduce a new feature in the Common Ground newsletter that will highlight the outside agencies and organizations that work with us to help improve the lives and increase opportunities for the men and women remanded to our care and custody by the courts. Our new "Partner of the Month," series will highlight these collaborations between our organizations and shed light on some of the ways in which we are preparing people to reenter their communities better prepared to provide for themselves and their families.

This month, we shine the spotlight on our partner from RESPOND, Inc. Jennifer Wolter is the Community Corrections Response Coordinator of RESPOND, Inc., and runs the S.A.F.E.R. Program (Survivors of Abuse Feeling Empowered for Re-entry) here at Suffolk County House of Correction (SCHOC).

Several years ago, in 2015, RESPOND, Inc. was contracted to provide weekly Domestic Violence classes for sentenced and detained women at the HOC. The program then expanded to include individual counseling, especially as release dates were approaching. Considering that 77-90% of incarcerated women in the U.S. report extensive abuse, RESPOND and the SCSD applied for VOCA (Victims Of Crime Act) funding to expand its service delivery. Ms. Wolter states, "With the launch of SAFER in July,

we continued to provide the eight-week class, added a support group, and also provide more opportunity for individual counseling, safety planning, court accompaniment, and referrals for anyone in the SCHOC. While focusing mainly on the women's program, we have also worked with individuals from the men's program as well. We've taken referrals from caseworkers, mental health and medical teams, and coordinate with them to satisfy the needs of inmates and detainees here. We look forward to strengthening the inter-departmental relationships to provide survivors as much as possible while here in custody. Upon release, all survivors can continue to work with our agency, utilize our 24-hour hotline, and receive referrals for other needs they may have."

In addition to supporting survivors, the SAFER program aims to educate more of our community about what domestic violence is, the warning signs, cycle of abuse, risk factors and safety, and how to build healthy boundaries, among other topics.

**To learn more about RESPOND Inc.  
and its services please visit:  
[www.respondinc.org](http://www.respondinc.org)  
or call their 24-hour hotline at  
(617) 623.5900.**





## Augmented Reality Art Program: A Visionary Collaboration Between Department, MIT

The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department (SCSD) has teamed up with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) to create a unique program that brings students from the school together with women in Department care and custody for the purpose of creating artwork on an epic scale.

Titled the "House of Correction Augmented Reality Program," this new endeavor introduces elements of STEM education to participants who are tasked with the design and painting of a two-story mural that features components of augmented reality.

Supported by Suffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins and Superintendent of the House of Correction and Chief of Staff Yolanda Smith and established by The Educational Justice Institute (TEJI) Co-director Carole Cafferty, SCSD Director of Women's Programming Christina Ruccio and SCSD Teaching Artist Peggy Rambach, the program offers the perfect marriage between the arts, education and inspiration that can lead to personal change.

"I am a great believer in the arts as a means to provide a positive outlet for creativity and expression, not just for inmates and detainees, but for everyone," said Sheriff Tompkins. "But, within the context of incarceration, art can also be a powerful tool through which participants can learn discipline, focus and self-control – tremendously valuable skills that will be useful as they continue their rehabilitation and, ultimately, reentry into society."

Under the tutelage of Sarah Brown, Director of Design for MIT Music and Theater Art and the supervision of Sam Hunter Magee, Manager of MIT Student Arts Programs, women previously enrolled in the Department's Pastel Painting classes stood shoulder-to-shoulder with MIT







students each day for the program’s nearly month-long duration working on the mural as artists and equals with a singular mission. According to the two groups of participants, it was an experience that left a profound impact on each.

“We definitely got to form relationships with [the women at the House of Correction] and hear their stories and aspirations,” said Sherry, one of the students from MIT, recounting her time in a blog about the project. “I never thought this project would be so meaningful to the inmates until I talked to them and saw how much they put into it.”

“One of the biggest lessons I learned [was] to focus on the present, not the future,” she continued. “A lot of the inmates know that they’ll be in jail for a while, but when we were painting, they could focus on the present.”

Allison, one of the women incarcerated at the House of Correction who is working on the project, connected the metaphorical dots between her fellow participants, the mural and one of its sunnier elements.

“I think it just explains how everybody in this room is feeling,” Allison said during an interview about the program. “Sometimes we feel hopeless and as we look at

the picture we feel hope. I was actually happy to be able to get up and know that I have something to do all day long.”

In addition to its ability to provide class credits as an official course for MIT participants and recreation for the incarcerated women in the program, Director Ruccio believes that there is a deeper, more critical benefit to be had.

“Participating in this program meant showing up on time, finishing something, working with diverse populations, and struggling with a project and figuring out the solution,” Ruccio said. “I think that this [program] teaches some valuable life skills that a lot of our women need to have.”

The House of Correction Augmented Reality Program is an ongoing collaborative effort between the Department and a collection of divisions under the MIT umbrella that includes: Music and Theater Arts, The Borderline Mural Project, The Educational Justice Institute (TEJI), and Arts at MIT.

A replica of the mural, complete with elements of augmented reality, was recently unveiled on the campus of MIT.

# SHERIFF TOMPKINS GETS CAUGHT READING, INSPIRING AT LOCAL SCHOOLS



Suffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins visited the Richard J. Murphy School in Dorchester to take part in the school's "Get Caught Reading" program. Joined in participation by a group that included Boston Fire Department Commissioner Joseph Finn, Boston City Councilor Althea Garrison, former City Councilor Rob Consalvo, members of the Boston Police Department, several members of the armed forces, Boston Red Sox mascot Wally the Green Monster and others, Sheriff Tompkins read to a classroom filled with eager, thoughtful 5th graders. The book that Sheriff Tompkins read to the class, "A Boy And A Jaguar," came from Author Alan Rabinowitz.

Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins also went to the Henry Grew Elementary School in Hyde Park as a participant in the "They Made It...So Can I," 5th Grade Speakers Series. Sheriff

Tompkins talked to the class about his life's experiences growing up, his time in higher education as a student at Boston College and the many turns he took along the road that he traveled on the way to becoming the Sheriff of Suffolk County, among other topics. The "They Made It...So Can I" program has hosted many other amazing speakers, including: Doctors, Lawyers, Psychologists, Musicians, Magicians, Entrepreneurs, Chefs, Educators, Social Workers, Police Officers, FBI special agents, US Marshalls, Presidents, Athletes, Engineers, Bankers and more with the intention of creating "timeless memories of success stories through diverse speaker presentations so that 5th graders will carry the seeds of empowerment to middle school and beyond, always believing if 'They Made It...So Can I.'"

## SHERIFF TOMPKINS, ADL TEAM UP FOR DISCUSSIONS ABOUT INCARCERATION, REHABILITATION

Earlier in the year, Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins once again welcomed members of the Anti-Defamation League New England Region's Glass Leadership Institute to the Suffolk County House of Correction for a discussion about programming and services, incarceration, and a host of other topics. The Anti-Defamation League's Glass Leadership Institute (GLI) is "a nationally recognized leadership development program designed to give a select group of young professionals an up-close and personal view into the nation's premier civil rights and human relations organization. This ten-month program serves as a comprehensive introduction to ADL and a chance to become part of an impressive circle of young professionals in the New England region. ADL's Glass Leadership Institute is made up of a dynamic group of people between the ages of 25 and 45, and members come from an array of professional backgrounds including law, medicine, education, marketing, technology, sales, politics, real estate, nonprofit, and human relations sectors."



More recently, Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins was the guest speaker for the New England Chapter of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) and Chabad of Boston's "Crime and Consequence" program. The classes, led by ADL New England's Regional Director Robert Trestan and Director of Chabad of Boston Rabbi Yosef Zaklos, have been designed to explore the history of Jewish wisdom when it comes to criminal convictions, sentencing, crime prevention, and rehabilitation. Previous presenters have included Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court Chief Justice Ralph Gants and former U.S. Attorney for the District of Massachusetts Carmen Ortiz. To learn more about Crime and Consequence, visit: [www.newengland.adl.org](http://www.newengland.adl.org).



# AROUND SUFFOLK COUNTY

## HONOR GUARD KICKS OFF SHAMROCK SHOOTOUT

The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department Honor Guard helped to kick off the 2019 Shamrock Shootout in West Roxbury. Started in 2008 by Dave Tracey, Mark Sanders and the Department's own Michael O'Brien, the Shamrock Shootout is a 650+ player tournament that stretches nearly 1/3 miles along Temple Street and includes music, food and other activities. The tournament is FREE with registration and all players receive a free shirt, stick and lunch.



## SHERIFF TOMPKINS JOINS PANEL FOR "BLACK AND BLUE" FORUM

Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins joined Dr. Lorenzo Boyd, Associate Professor of Criminal Justice At The University of New Haven and Dr. Richard O'Bryant, Director of the John D. O'Bryant African-American Institute at Northeastern University in welcoming Author and CNN News contributor Matthew Horace to the stage to talk about his book, "The Black and the Blue: A Cop reveals the Crimes, Racism and Injustice in America's Law Enforcement." The event was part of the Boston My Brothers Keepers Initiative, John D. O'Bryant African American Institute at Northeastern University and the Justice Resource Institute and featured a question and answer session with the panelists.



## NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY'S YOUTH POLICE ACADEMY VISITS SUFFOLK COUNTY JAIL

Members of the Northeastern University Police Department Youth Police Academy visited the Suffolk County Jail for a tour as part of their learning experience with the academy. Led by the Department's Deputy Stephen Fiste, the tour made stops in Booking, the Chapel, a holding cell, a detainee housing unit, a recreation deck and other key points before returning to External Affairs where participants learned about contraband. Young people who are interested in signing up for the Northeastern University Youth Police Academy can visit: [bit.ly/nupdyouthacademy](http://bit.ly/nupdyouthacademy) or contact Rachel Jolliffe via email at: [r.jolliffe@northeastern.edu](mailto:r.jolliffe@northeastern.edu) or by calling (617) 373-3940.



## SHERIFF TOMPKINS TAKES PART IN UMASS BREAKFAST

Sheriff Tompkins joined University of Massachusetts (UMass) Boston Interim Chancellor Katherine Newman and a host of other public servants, community activists, residents and faculty for UMass' Annual Community Breakfast featuring the Robert H. Quinn and Chancellor's Awards. Honoring Thelma Burns, a legendary community advocate and Boston Police Department Community Services Officer Cynthia Beckford-Brewington with the Robert H. Quinn Award for Outstanding Community Leadership and the Chancellor's Award for Longstanding Community Commitment and Service, respectively, the breakfast provided a powerful opportunity for reflection about the meaning of community service and mutual admiration between the people in the room who do the work every day, the panelists.





SUFFOLK COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

# 2019 SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM



**JULY 8, 2019-  
AUGUST 23, 2019**



## APPLY NOW

This program will invite twenty participants to the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department to learn more about careers in law enforcement. Participants will work 21 hours a week on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, from 8am-4pm beginning July 8, 2019 and will be compensated at a rate of \$12 an hour.

## SUMMER ENRICHMENT

The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department Summer Enrichment Program targets incoming 11th and 12th graders and provides them with the opportunity to intern at Suffolk County Jail, the House of Correction, Chelsea Training Facility and Civil Process.

## REQUIREMENTS

- Must be entering either the 11th or 12th grade
- Must be resident of Boston, Chelsea, Winthrop or Revere
- Interest in Law Enforcement or Criminal Justice
- Proper form of Identification (Student ID, Passport, Mass ID or Driver's License)
- Active Checking or Savings Account
- Updated Physical Form From Doctor

## APPLICATION DEADLINE

Friday, April 19, 2019  
APPLY TODAY:  
[WWW.SCSDMA.ORG](http://WWW.SCSDMA.ORG)

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