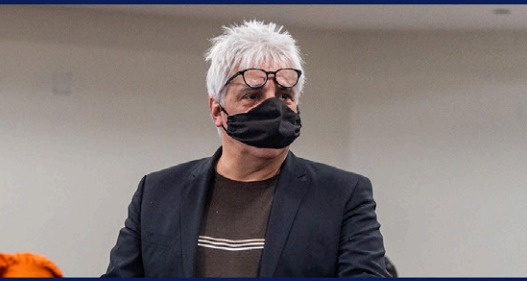




COMMON GROUND

APRIL 2022 ISSUE



NEW ENGLAND CULINARY ARTS TRAINING (NECAT) OFFERS TRAINING, SUPPORT AND EMPLOYMENT

SHERIFF'S MESSAGE

APRIL 2022



Greetings,

In this issue of the Common Ground Newsletter, we showcase the special relationship between the Department and one of its special community partners, New England Culinary Arts Training, otherwise known as “NECAT.” Using the most recent graduation of the newest collaborative program between our two agencies as the springboard, this issue delves into the skills-based training that participants are receiving to prepare them for future employment in the culinary arts profession, post-release.

Additionally, we sit down with our Assistant Deputy Superintendent in charge of the Department’s external beautification and maintenance program for specially classified non-violent offenders, the Community Works Program (CWP). We also take a look “Around Suffolk County” to talk about our Special Sheriff’s triumphant turn in the Latino Law Enforcement Group of Boston (LLEGO) inaugural bowling tournament for Women’s History Month; my participation in some “St. Patrick’s Month” activities; and more.

I hope that you’ll enjoy reading about these and other topics in this edition, and I look forward to bringing you more insight and information about the form and functions of the Department in the issues to come.

-Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins

COMMON GROUND NEWSLETTER

ABIEZER AYUSO - SPECIAL SHERIFF
PETER VANDELET - EDITOR
CLAIRE LEBLANC - EDITOR
DAVID HILL - PHOTOGRAPHER
VONEL LAMOUR - DESIGNER

SHERIFF STEVEN W. TOMPKINS

OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

PHONE .617-704-6688

VISIT US ONLINE
WWW.SCSOMA.ORG

CONNECT WITH US

f t i y
#WEARESCSD

INDEX



SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT HOLDS 2ND NECAT GRADUATION

The Suffolk County Sheriff’s Department recently held a graduation for the second cycle of a new program offered by the Department in collaboration with New England Culinary Arts Training.

NECAT: AN INSIDE LOOK

The connection between the SCSO and NECAT was established nearly a decade ago, with the culmination of the relationship visible in the current culinary arts program. Read about the planting of the first seeds for this most recent collaboration.

SCSD EMPLOYEE PROFILE: ADS HEATHER MCNEIL

The Common Ground profiles Assistant Deputy Superintendent Heather McNeil and discusses the Community Works Program that she oversees, in addition to several other roles and responsibilities she’s held with the Department.

AROUND SUFFOLK COUNTY

In this issue, we feature Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins’ participation in St. Patrick’s Day activities; Special Sheriff Abe Ayuso’s triumphant turn at the LLEGO Bowling Tournament for Women’s History Month; and the Department’s appearance at Excel Academy Charter School’s Summer Opportunities Fair.

CULINARY ARTS COLLABORATION CELEBRATES SECOND CYCLE WITH GRADUATION



The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department, in partnership with New England Culinary Arts Training (NECAT), held a graduation for the participants in the second cycle of a new culinary arts program at the Suffolk County House of Correction. The twelve-week program is tailored for students who want to enter the local food and restaurant industry following their release. Including this most recent graduating class, a total of 14 participants have successfully completed the training since the collaboration began back in July of 2021.

Each program cycle consists of a six-week lecture-style course and six-weeks of hands-on training. Students meet four days a week for three-and-a-half hours each, and during this time, students learn the basics of cooking, including everything from how to prepare soup, to more challenging dishes like chicken pot pie, baja shrimp tacos, lentil dishes and more.

While students are taught the necessary skills to be successful in the kitchen, they also have the privilege of being able to eat the food that they prepare. An individual's success in the program is measured by a written exam and a capstone event in which the graduates prepare a six-course meal, including two desserts, which are then judged by a panel using a number of different assessment criteria.

With Department staff members assisting on a weekly basis, including Supervisor of Social Services JoAnn White and Workforce Development Manager Maia Porter, program



participants were able to receive honest feedback, and Captain David Hernandez, who oversees the kitchen, was an indispensable part of the program's successful operation.

NECAT and the Sheriff's Department share a common goal of expanding employment opportunities for returning citizens while helping the individual to gain dignity and stability associated with working a meaningful job. Program graduates receive the resources necessary to move forward, including a ServSafe certificate and monetary stipend. The partnership provides re-entry support services to graduates following their release to ensure the returning citizens can support themselves and their families.

At the ceremony, Chef and Course Instructor Chris Faison reminded the graduating class that, "Life is a recipe; you try the recipe over and over again. If it doesn't work the first time, you don't throw it away; you re-write the recipe until you get it right."

"The Sheriff's Department has been involved with NECAT for quite some time," said Suffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins. "And, I believe it is an extraordinary program, as it helps people to improve their station in life. Graduating from this program gives each of you an opportunity to start over, allowing you to move forward and be successful"



DEPARTMENT, NECAT FIND RECIPE FOR SUCCESS WITH WINNING COLLABORATION

The current collaboration between the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department and New England Culinary Arts Training (NECAT) has roots that sprang from a seed that was planted nearly a decade ago, when Founder and Chairman Maarten Hemsley first invited Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins to tour the organization's facility and witness one of its Culinary Arts Showcases.

Sheriff Tompkins would return to attend several more showcases over the years before serving as the keynote speaker for NECAT's graduation in 2019. Along the way, a partnership was formed between the organizations, as NECAT took in some of the Department's culinary arts program graduates, post-release, with the goal of increasing both the skillset and odds of finding sustainable, career employment for returning citizens.

Not long after the aforementioned keynote address, both organizations began the current "inside-out" collaboration – through a grant from Commonwealth Corporation funded to NECAT – in which specially classified in-custody participants of the Department's Culinary Arts Program would be able to go, accompanied by Department officers, across the street to NECAT for culinary arts training and to be ServSafe certified. Department staff worked closely with NECAT's Executive Director Josephine Cuzzi, Chef Chris Faison, Student Services Director Elise Brandwein and others in the organization to complete the details required to establish the new program.

And, despite the necessary alteration in planning caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, which temporarily halted the full-fledged "outside" portion of the program, it has now completed its first two cycles – with accompanying graduations – at the House of Correction, with a third cycle currently underway.

In the inaugural class, ten participants enrolled in the twelve week course, which included six weeks of academics and six weeks of practical training, in classes that each ran three-and-a-half hours long, for four days a week. From that first class, eight of the ten men graduated, with four still incarcerated and one currently employed, and three currently utilizing NECAT's career counseling component.

NECAT coordinates its Career Services Training with an Employer Advisory Council – a group that is committed to hiring and supporting NECAT graduates, paying competitive wages and is interested in contributing to its program's design and delivery. The Council's indispensable input ensures that students are trained and prepared with the skills most valued by top employers. The program's second cycle graduated six out of eleven enrollees, with two participants who were released during the pause in programming during the pandemic set to enroll directly with NECAT later this month. The recently-commenced third cycle currently has a class of twelve participants.

To learn more about Department programming, visit: www.scsdma.org or to learn more about NECAT, visit: www.ne-cat.org.



EMPLOYEE PROFILE

HEATHER MCNEIL

ASSISTANT DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT

Assistant Deputy Superintendent Heather McNeil has been with the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department for 28 years. Her career started as a Deputy Sheriff at Deer Island Prison and evolved over time to include the following roles: non-uniform employee within the Human Resource Division, Deputy Sheriff at the House of Corrections, and Public Relations Officer.

In McNeil's current role as the Community Works Program (CWP) Assistant Deputy Superintendent, she is responsible for creating opportunities and maintaining relationships with community partners that allow participants to apply their knowledge in carpentry, custodial maintenance, painting and landscaping as a means of community restitution. CWP helps inmates gain work experience and build upon valuable skills learned through vocational and job training that can remove common barriers returning citizens may face when reentering society. The goal of CWP is to make the population more attractive to employers and increase employment opportunities for individuals transitioning back into society. Through this program, the Department can make Suffolk County a safer place to live by teaching employment and life skills to the incarcerated population.

Under the constant supervision of Deputy Sheriffs, who also provide on-site training to participants, CWP crews work on assignments that include: cleaning vacant lots, beautifying roadway intersections, painting street lamps, boarding and securing abandoned homes, shoveling walkways in winter for senior citizen housing, and maintaining county properties. In pre-COVID-19 pandemic times, the CWP was running seven contracts throughout Suffolk County and was responsible for approximately twenty-five inmates, or four crews of participants.

Inmates volunteer for CWP and must meet strict classification standards to be selected for the program. Many of the assignments are made through requests to the Department for assistance from municipal governments, non-profits and various divisions within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.



McNeil graduated from Northeastern University with a degree in Law and Criminal Justice and always knew she wanted to enter law enforcement. McNeil enjoys working alongside fellow officers and helping individuals within the CWP program and members of the community. McNeil is looking forward to bringing back a number of CWP contacts that were paused due to the outbreak of COVID-19, including non-profit contracts such as the Chelsea Soldiers Home, various food banks, public schools, and memorials throughout Suffolk County.





DEPARTMENT SHOWS SUPPORT FOR AUTISM AWARENESS

The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department distributed special patches designed with the symbol for Autism awareness among custody and non-custody staff as a reminder that April is Autism Awareness Month. Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) – which includes Asperger's Disorder and Pervasive Developmental Disorder – is a complex, lifelong developmental condition that typically appears during early childhood and can impact a person's social skills, communication, relationships, and self-regulation. The Department began incorporating Autism awareness into its training for veteran officers in the Correction Officer Training Academy's in-service training several years ago in collaboration with the Boston Police Department.

AROUND SUFFOLK COUNTY

SCSD VISITS EXCEL ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL FOR SUMMER OPPORTUNITY FAIR

The Suffolk County Sheriff's Office recently attended the Excel Academy Charter School's Summer Opportunities Fair to talk about the Sheriff's Office's Summer Enrichment Program. The Summer Enrichment Program (SEP), which was created and launched in 2014 by Suffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins, is a seven-week paid internship that gives young people the opportunity to learn about the multitude of law enforcement and criminal justice agencies in and around Suffolk County with the purpose of strengthening both their focus on future employment within the field and their relationships with its professionals. During the program, participants engage in job shadowing, weekly presentations by members of law enforcement, roundtable discussions, law enforcement-related field trips, and educational tours. For more information about the SEP, visit: www.scsdma.org/SEP2022.



SPECIAL SHERIFF BOWLS OVER COMPETITION IN LLEGO'S WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH TOURNAMENT

Not only did Special Sheriff Abe Ayuso take part in the Latino Law Enforcement Group of Boston's (LLEGO) inaugural charity bowling tournament for Women's History Month, his team, "The Phantom Strikers," took home the win! The team generously donated their \$1,000 prize to MAWLE (Massachusetts Association of Women in Law Enforcement), but they're holding onto all of the bragging rights until tournament time next year. LLEGO's mission is to unite the knowledge and experience of Latino law enforcement officers to promote diversity in law enforcement by furthering partnerships with the community through recruitment, education, and trust. To learn more, visit: www.latinolawenforcementgroup.org.



SHERIFF TOMPKINS TAKES PART IN ST. PATRICK'S DAY MONTH ACTIVITIES

Suffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins participated in a number of St. Patrick's Day events held across Suffolk County, returning to in-person celebration after pausing for the pandemic. Sheriff Tompkins joined supporters of the Edgerly Family South Boston Boys & Girls Club at the Annual St. Patrick's Day Luncheon at the Omni Boston Hotel at the Seaport in South Boston. Attendees and presenters included Mayor Michelle Wu, State Senator Nick Collins, State Representative David Biele, City Councilor Michael Flaherty, Boston City Councilor Ed Flynn, Ruthzee Louijeune, Boston City Councilor At-Large, former Suffolk County District Attorney Dan Conley, Former City Councilors John Tobin and Bill Linehan, and many others, who gathered to help support the mission of the Boys and Girls Club. Sheriff Tompkins also took part in Senator Sal DiDomenico's Annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner in Charlestown, where he took the stage with other elected officials to deliver jokes and remarks, and he attended Senator Mike Rush's Annual St. Patrick's Day Breakfast in West Roxbury to close out the month of celebration.





THE SUFFOLK COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM 2022

JULY 6, 2022 - AUGUST 19, 2022
8AM - 4PM

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 6, 2022 and will be compensated at a rate of \$14.25 an hour.

SUMMER ENRICHMENT

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

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Monday, April 25th, 2022

Interns will participate in either Remote, Hybrid or In-Person activities. TBA

Contact

NADIA LOVINSKY

617-704-6656 | NLovinsky@scsdma.org

200 Nashua Street • Boston, MA

www.scsdma.org/SEP2022

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 Saving Account
- Updated Physical Form

**SCAN FOR
APPLICATION**

