



SUFFOLK COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

COMMON GROUND

JULY 2022 ISSUE

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JULY 2022

Greetings,

In this month's newsletter, we bring you a special issue featuring members of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department who took part in a variety of different sporting activities for charity, causes and competition.

While we are, as always, focused on the safe care and custody of the people remanded to our facilities by the courts, and the public safety of those living, working and visiting Suffolk County, we wanted to highlight another side of the people who carry out this important, serious work as they engaged in competitive recreation for both fun and in the service of a number of different worthy causes.

In our special sports-themed issue, we feature one of our Lieutenants, a holder of 15 gold medals from various different wrestling and strength-based competitions; members of our custody and non-custody staff who took to the ice to play hockey for charity in the BFit Heroes Cup; our General Counsel's 100-mile cycle for Best Buddies of Massachusetts; Department officers who helped to maintain the safety and security of participants and patrons of the U.S. Open in Brookline; the SCSD officers who took part in the Special Olympics of Massachusetts' Cruiser Convoy that helped to kick-off the Annual Summer Games at the Harvard Athletic Complex and the team of incarcerated individuals who participate in our Community Works Program who helped to set up the staging for the event; and much 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

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WELCOME, CORRECTION OFFICER TRAINING ACADEMY CLASS 22-02

Read and gain special access to photos from the graduation of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department's Correction Officer Training Academy Class 22-02.



MEET LIEUTENANT BLOOM: SCSD'S GOLD-WINNING GRAPPLER

Read about Lieutenant Bloom and his gold medal-winning participation in power sports competitions across the globe.



SUFFOLK COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT SPORTS ILLUSTRATED

Learn about the various sporting events members of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department have participated in or assisted with throughout the month of June, including The BFit Heroes Cup, U.S. Open, Best Buddies Challenge at Hyannis Port, and the Massachusetts Special Olympics.

SUFFOLK COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT BRINGS 29 NEW OFFICERS ONLINE AT GRADUATION OF TRAINING ACADEMY CLASS

The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department recently swore-in twenty-eight correctional officers and one Sheriff's Investigative Division member following their graduation from the Department's Correction Officer Training Academy (COTA).

Members of COTA Class 22-02 gathered for a graduation ceremony held at Casa Lucia in Revere, MA. Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins presided over the ceremony, accompanied by Special Sheriff Abiezer Ayuso, Superintendents William Sweeney and John McLaughlin, members of the Command Staff, and the training academy. Graduates were joined by family and friends, and individuals who could not attend the ceremony were able to observe the proceedings on the Department's Facebook Live broadcast.

In April, members of COTA Class 22-02 began a rigorous academy consisting of an intense core of practical and academic training that included; ethics and professionalism, suicide prevention, the use of force continuum, firearm safety and handling, inmate education and programming, contraband control, courtroom testimony, CORI and inmate rights and responsibilities, fire safety, CPR, harassment and discrimination prevention, cross-gender supervision, report writing, and more.

"This is not an easy job," stated Sheriff Tompkins. "You are coming into an occupation where you will have jurisdiction over other people's lives. You will have guardianship over the individuals who have been remanded to our care. This is a job you must take very seriously. The way that adults and individuals are cared for while they are with us could have a significant impact on how they care for their families, friends, and communities when they leave us."

Before taking the Correction Officer's Oath, Sheriff Tompkins reminded the graduates that it is their responsibility to better the lives of those remanded to our care and custody.

"We do not stand as judge and jury. Our job is to help individuals through our programs, through our diligence, through our compassion and concern, and to elevate their station in life for when they leave us."

The following graduates from COTA Class 22-02 have been assigned to the Suffolk County Jail, Laurent Achille, Petry Alonzo, Daniel Antoine, Many Brandao, Miguel Caban Jr., Jose Carcamo, James Casale, Landry Cruz, Travoy Defreitas, Thaila-Alani Duch, Tariq Epps, Guy Francois, Saloua Gava, Jisela Gonzalez, Channreaksmeay Hai, Thomas McNair III, Bernard Nolen, Emaru Pena-Nova, Edward Ramos, Alyson Reid, Jamaul Reid, Aramis Rivera, Marianny Rodriguez, Thiana Thomas, Kenol Turenne, Nicholas Virgulto, Dominique White, and Joseph Youssef; with Cathrina Jorge assigned to the Sheriff's Investigative Division (SID).

Officer Jisela Gonzalez addressed the group, saying, "This graduating class is made up of twenty-nine different characters. We have twenty-nine different ways of thinking and twenty-nine different backgrounds that we come from, and yet, we all came together as one to make today possible. As you can imagine, achieving this was



no easy task. It took time to learn to agree and disagree and to learn that we need one another. My wish for the class is that no one takes their title of Officer lightly and that we all stay true to the values and teachings the training staff instilled in us."

Receiving special recognition for outstanding performance during the academy was Miguel Caban, Jr. who won the Academic Award for posting a Grade Point Average of 94.1%; Tariq Epps was awarded the Defensive Tactics Award for exceptional performance during defensive tactic training; Emaru Pena-Nova received the Unit Citation Award for outstanding leadership, motivational mentoring and demonstrated professional ethics; James Casale who received both the Physical Fitness Award for outstanding performance in physical training and the Drill Instructor's Award for his leadership, motivation, esprit de corps and attention to detail.

Congratulations to COTA Class 22-02 and welcome to the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department.



To view photos from COTA 2202 Graduation, click here:

www.SCSDMA.org/Cota2202



MEET LIEUTENANT BLOOM:

SCSD's Gold-Winning Grappler



In his work life, Richard Bloom is an accomplished corrections professional who has risen steadily through the ranks of his occupation, moving from his starting position as a Jail Officer – or JO1 – to his current status as a Lieutenant over the course of his fourteen-plus year career with the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department. Along the way, Lieutenant Bloom also added the mantles of Fire Safety/Environmental Health & Safety Officer and Sheriff's Emergency Response Team (S.E.R.T.) officer to his resume.

Academically, Lieutenant Bloom has been no less impressive, achieving not only his bachelor's degree in criminal justice prior to joining the Department, but obtaining his master's in criminal justice in between his shifts on the job.

As remarkable as those achievements might appear to some, however, Lt. Bloom has easily surpassed all of the above in a completely different area, or more accurately, a different arena.

In addition to his work at the Department and in the classroom, Lt. Bloom has logged significant time inside "the squared circle" where the ancient art of Greco-Roman wrestling is practiced.

Introduced to wrestling in middle school as part of an after school program, Bloom developed an immediate love for the sport. And, just as he would later do in college and at work, he not only succeeded, he excelled, incorporating power lifting and other strength-based challenges into his competitive repertoire.

"I started wrestling in middle school in 1996, but didn't start competing until high school in 1998," Lt. Bloom recalled. "I joined the wrestling team in my sophomore year of high school and qualified for the state tournament, where I placed both my junior and senior years, along with winning two sectional titles."

Lt. Bloom would continue wrestling in college, where he was a New England Futures Champion, and finished eighth in all-time in career takedowns for Roger Williams University. He also competed both nationally and internationally, winning the National Beach Wrestling Championships and placing twice at the National Open, along with several other national-level competitions.

Following an injury to his shoulder in 2002, it would be more than a decade, and just under seven years on the job, before Lt. Bloom made it back to the ring, citing "love of the sport" and being in self-described "poor shape" as the main draws to return to action. Discovering a series of competitions geared towards public safety while watching a segment on ESPN about the World Police & Fire Games, Bloom researched other similar contests and began an intense training regimen to prepare for them.

"I dislocated my shoulder and completely tore my labrum while wrestling in college in 2002, and it has always given me problems," Bloom said. "While training for the World Police & Fire Games, I hurt my shoulder more, but didn't know the extent of my injury until I returned to the US. I found out I had torn my labrum more, completely tore my bicep tendon and rotator cuff, and had a partial tear in another tendon."

Undeterred, Lt. Bloom pressed on, refusing to let his injuries interfere with his passion for competition.

"It was very hard competing injured, but I had put in all the time training and was really looking forward to traveling to China," he continued. "So, I pushed through the pain. After surgery, I was able to train harder, hitting some big milestones in powerlifting. I benched over double my body weight and hit a personal record on bench with 315 pounds."

Competing over an eight-year span at numerous events, which have included the Canadian-American Police & Fire Games, the First Responder Games, the World Police & Fire Games and the United States Police & Fire Championships, whether injured or healthy, Lt. Bloom's athletic achievements have been the stuff of legend.

Bloom has tallied a total of 18 medals with an amazing 15 Gold's, one Silver, and two Bronze's all while setting eight competition records.

And, while he has already won enough medals to cover most of his arms and neck – as evidenced by the accompanying photo – Lt. Bloom plans on adding a few more to his collection during his imminent return visit to the Netherlands to compete in the next World Police & Fire Games.

"I really enjoy traveling and getting to experience other cultures," Lt. Bloom said, when asked about his unrelenting drive for competition. "I've been so many places... all over New England, in Virginia, Las Vegas, Utah, New York,



New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Iowa. And, I'm looking forward to getting back to the Netherlands soon."

"Wrestling is an enormous part of my life. I've been competing off-and-on for the past twenty-plus years. The people you work with and compete against, you make strong bonds with. But, there's no better feeling than getting your hand raised at the end of a match or standing at the top of the podium."

If past is, in fact, prologue then it's a good bet that Lt. Bloom will be needing to clear some more arm space soon.



United States Police & Fire Champions

9 Gold Medals, 4 Records

2018 – Bench Press

2019 – Bench Press // Push Pull (3 Records)

2021 – Bench Press // Push Pull (Record)

Indoor Rowing 500M

Indoor Rowing 2,000M

2022 – Bench Press // Push Pull

Canadian-American Police & Fire Games

3 Gold Medals

2014 – Folkstyle Wrestling

2018 – Bench Press // Powerlifting

World Police & Fire Games

2 Gold Medals, 2 Bronze Medals, 4 Records

2019 – Bench Press (Gold) (Record)

2019 – Push Pull (Gold) (3 Records)

2019 – Greco Roman Wrestling (Bronze)

2019 – Wrist Wrestling (Bronze)

First Responder Games

1 Gold Medal, 1 Silver Medal

2021 – Bench Press (Gold) // Push Pull (Silver)

18 TOTAL MEDALS WON

15 – Gold // 1 – Silver // 2 – Bronze // 8 – Records

SCSD SPORTS ILLUSTRATED

SCSD's General Counsel Cycles 100 Miles For Best Buddies:



Best Buddies International is the world's largest nonprofit organization dedicated to ending the social, physical, and economic isolation of people with intellectual or developmental disabilities (IDD). Their programs empower the special abilities of people with IDD by helping them form meaningful friendships with their peers, secure successful jobs, live independently, improve public speaking, self-advocacy, and communication skills, and feel valued by society.

On June 2, 2022, General Counsel Allen Forbes participated in the Best Buddies Challenge from Boston to Hyannis Port to fundraise for the Best Buddy Franchise. Forbes cycled 100 miles to help further the Best Buddies mission of inclusion.

"I ride in memory of my son Harris, who brought so much love into this world. Best Buddies helps create friendship, community, and supported

employment for neurodivergent people like him. Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) are capable, resilient, and inspiring leaders," stated Allen Forbes.

For the last 15 years, Forbes has participated in the Best Buddy Ride, and over time, he has been able to build a team consisting of three riders looking to further the Best Buddies mission. This year, Team Harris was able to raise \$6,487 to help build a more inclusive world.

SCSD SPORTS ILLUSTRATED



SCSD Hockey Heroes Take To The Ice For Charity:

Members of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department participated in The BFit Heroes Cup, one of the largest first responder hockey tournaments in the world, raising over \$400,000 for charity. The tournament is run by the Boston Bruins Foundation and is geared towards police, fire, EMS (emergency medical services), and military personnel. Employees from both the Suffolk County Jail and the House of Correction contributed their own money and time to play in the tournament to raise donations for a charity of their choosing.

Employees from the Suffolk County Jail, including Sgt. James Bartlett, Dep. Rob Stark, Dep. Jessica Egan, Dep. James Antonetti, Dep. John Demore, Dep. Shawn Riggins, Sgt. Eric Hulbig, Dep. John Murphy, and Dep. Bobby Derbes, created a team accompanied by individuals from Foxboro Police Department and U.S. Army Veterans.

The Suffolk County House of Correction formed a team benefiting Parkinson's Research and included Lt. Brian Ahearn, Dep. Mary Marren, Lt. Jason Campbell, Lt. Steve Fucillo, Lt. John Hayes, Dep. Chris Kelley, Officer Derek Prather, Dep. Mike Scannell, SCSD Engineer Tony Lemieux, Dep. Dan Daley, Dep. Ed Fletcher, Dep. Gerry McManus, Dep. William Carroll, Dep. Truman Daniels, Dep. Jonathan Montagino, and Local 419 Retiree Robert Troy. They were joined by individuals from Boston Fire Department, Norfolk County Sheriff's Department, Weymouth Fire Department, and EMS.

"Win or lose, the Heroes Cup tournament was an amazing opportunity for us to assist in raising money for charity and allowed us the chance to have fun while bonding with coworkers and first responders. Everyone went out and competed hard for a good cause. I would like to thank the JOEASC Union Officials for their donation and purchasing the Jerseys that allowed us to represent the SCSD. We may not have had the greatest record in the tournament, but we had a great time playing together," stated Sgt. Hulbig.

SCSD SPORTS ILLUSTRATED

SCSD Gives Public Safety Assist To US Open:

The 122nd US Open Championship, one of golf's four major championships, was held for the fourth time at The Country Club in Brookline, Massachusetts from June 16th to June 19th. The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department assisted other law enforcement agencies in maintaining the safety of players, attendees, and the general public. Four SCSD officers worked a motorcycle detail, called the Immediate Threat Strike Force, assisting in patrol and responding to immediate threats to golfers and spectators. Officers included Deputy Shawn O'Brien, Deputy Mary Marren, Captain Steve Miller, and Major Walter Vasile. Other correctional officers assisted in regular police details, including traffic.



"It was a great experience working in conjunction with other departments for such a large-scale event. Brookline Police Department Deputy Superintendent Paul Cullinane and Motor Officer Chris Crapo ensured all officers were on the same page when assisting with details. We worked cohesively among some of the best motorcycle teams, including Brookline Police Department, Boston Police Department, Plymouth County Sheriff's Department, and Norfolk County Sheriff's Department," stated Major Vasile.

SCSD Officers Participate In Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run/Cruiser Convoy. CWP Assists With Event Setup:

As a part of the opening ceremony for the Special Olympics of Massachusetts, law enforcement officers from across the state converged on the Harvard Athletic Complex with over 150 cruisers, motorcycles, and specialty police vehicles to help spread awareness and support for Special Olympics. This year, two Department cruisers driven by Deputies Kenney Sheehan and Ricky Kielczweski joined the convoy.

"I take pride and I'm honored to assist in this event. As the liaison and member of the Department's Honor Guard, we have posted the colors during the opening ceremonies for approximately eight years prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, and we have assisted in the Cruiser Convoy for the last three years. The look in the kids' eyes when they see over two-hundred cruisers with lights and sirens blaring is both fulfilling and rewarding. This year was the best turnout, as over two-hundred cruisers participated, and it gave us an opportunity to connect and meet other law enforcement professionals," stated Deputy Sheehan.

This year, members of Officer Frank Burgess' family participated in the Special Olympics, and Deputy Sheehan was given the opportunity to present a swimming medal to Burgess' son, and watch as Burgess' daughter competed for gold. "After Burgess' service to the Department for

29-years, it is special to support the Burgess family," he stated.

In addition to the SCSD officers, members of the

Department's Community Works Program also lent their talents to help the Special Olympics. The Community Works Program (CWP) was on hand at Harvard University Stadium in Allston to help set up for the weekend's event. CWP, which is made up of volunteers from the Department's in-custody population who must meet strict classification standards to be selected for the program, helps participants to gain work experience and build upon valuable skills learned through vocational and job training that can help to remove the barriers to employment that they often face upon their return to society.



More than 1,000 athletes competed for gold at the Special Olympics Massachusetts' summer games in Track & Field, Power Lifting, Swimming, Tennis, and Volleyball.



SHERIFF STEVEN W. TOMPKINS &
THE SUFFOLK COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

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