



COMMON GROUND

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2024 ISSUE

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SHERIFF'S MESSAGE

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2024

Greetings,

Welcome to another edition of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department Common Ground Newsletter.

In this issue, we proudly highlight the critical contributions of the SCSD K-9 Division, whose dedication plays a vital role in ensuring the safety and security of everyone under our care and custody.

We also showcase the impressive presentations from NECAT students during their recent capstone project event. Their culinary skills and creativity were on full display, delighting attendees with delicious dishes and showcasing their remarkable talent.

Additionally, this edition explores the religious services offered within our Department, emphasizing the support and opportunities provided to those we serve.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to the U.S. Armed Forces veterans who have courageously served our country. Furthermore, we celebrate the accomplishments of our recent award recipients: Superintendent Sweeney, honored as Jail Administrator of the Year by the Massachusetts Sheriff's Association (MSA), and Sergeant Amie Le, recognized as Deputy Sheriff of the Year. We also commend Sergeant Tyler Peters for receiving the Outstanding Collaboration Award and Sergeant Amie Lee for her Investigative Achievement Award at the U.S. Attorney's Law Enforcement Public Service Awards. These outstanding individuals exemplify dignity, resilience, and professionalism in creating safer communities and environments for all.

Lastly, don't miss our "Around Suffolk County" section, where we showcase highlights from recent community events. These include the Special Olympics Massachusetts (SOMA) Annual Flag Football and Cheerleading Tournament, BarkTober Fest, Open Streets Boston, our annual turkey giveaway to Suffolk County families, and the Kroc Center Thanksgiving Senior Luncheon. These gatherings captured the spirit and engagement of our vibrant community.

I hope that you'll enjoy reading these and other stories in this issue, and I look forward to bringing you more insight and information about the form and functions of the Department in the editions to come.

~Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins

COMMON GROUND NEWSLETTER

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SCSD RECOGNIZES OFFICERS OF THE MONTH

CONGRATULATIONS



**HOC Deputy
Riggins**



**Jail Officer
D'Amico**



**HOC Officer
A'Hearn**



**Jail Officer
Mendes**

TO OUR SUFFOLK COUNTY JAIL AND HOC OFFICERS OF THE MONTH FROM
OCTOBER TO NOVEMBER 2024

In recognition of outstanding dedication and service, the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department is honoring four exceptional officers whose dedication, professionalism, and teamwork have made a profound impact on the safety and integrity of the Department.

For October, Jail Officer Daniel D'Amico and House of Correction Deputy Shawn Riggins earned the prestigious title of Officers of the Month. Superintendent Jose Mojica praised Officer D'Amico for his commitment and growth, saying:

"Officer D'Amico's dedication not only fosters a safer environment for detainees and staff alike but also promotes an atmosphere of respect and accountability."

D'Amico's effective communication skills and consistent diligence have been cornerstones of his contributions to the Department's mission.

Equally, Deputy Riggins is celebrated not only for his skill but also for his collaborative spirit.

Known for his work with the Sheriff's Investigative Division (SID) and the Gang Intelligence Unit (GIU), Riggins has made significant contributions to the Department's safety efforts.

Superintendent William Sweeney commended him stating: "Through listening to inmate phone calls and gathering information, Riggins has led searches resulting in the discovery of drugs and weapons, making the institution safer."

Riggins values teamwork, noting: "When we work together and

share information, we're all on the same page, helping detainees and inmates do their time safely and go home."

In November, the honors went to Jail Officer Augustinho Mendes and HOC Officer Christopher A'Hearn, both of whom exemplify professionalism and positive energy in their roles.

Superintendent Mojica commended Officer Mendes for his strong communication skills and unwavering work ethic, stating:

"His dedication to professionalism has set an example for his fellow officers."

Mendes's commitment and steadfast approach to any task set before him demonstrates his reliability and focus on excellence.

Officer A'Hearn was recognized by Superintendent Sweeney for his hard work ethic and positive nature, which shine through in every shift. Known for his willingness to teach new cadets and lend a hand whenever needed, A'Hearn stands out as a team player with an eagerness to learn and share knowledge.

"He solves problems for officers and inmates and always brings an upbeat personality to the Department," said Superintendent Sweeney.

With heartfelt congratulations, the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department tips its hat to Officers D'Amico, Riggins, Mendes and A'Hearn. Their collective dedication and excellence set a high standard, creating a safer and more supportive environment within the Department and the community it serves.



THE VITAL ROLE OF SCSD'S K-9 DIVISION

At the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department, the K-9 Unit is essential for facility safety, contraband detection, and supporting nearby counties.

“Our dogs are trained to detect what might go unnoticed by the human eye,” says K-9 Sgt. Zach Miller. “They help by targeting specific areas, allowing our officers to respond accurately.”

The team patrols high-traffic areas to reduce contraband risk. Shifts are carefully rotated to keep dogs sharp – the K-9 Division includes six exceptional and hardworking dogs, each paired with a dedicated handler. Sergeant Miller and his Labrador, Jack, who specializes in narcotics detection and article search at Suffolk County Jail. Over at the Suffolk County House of Correction, Deputy Billy Jackson is paired with his Belgian Malinois, Ekho, and Daniel Fitzgibbons paired with his Belgian Malinois, Kano – both, focusing on narcotics and explosives detection. The K-9 Division is led by Lieutenant Corey Lewis, who is paired with Stuka; Deputy Richie Tran, paired with Hanzo; and Sergeant Mike Carbonneau, paired with Odin. Each brings diverse skills to the team, which is critical to overall safety.

“It's a lifelong learning experience,” Sgt. Miller said. “You're always learning about your dog, pushing their limits, and making sure weaknesses don't stay weaknesses.”



For K-9 dogs, training starts at a young age, with a rigorous six-month program with the Boston Police K-9 Training Academy, covering obedience, tracking, and article searches. Monthly training with Boston Police helps to maintain skills and court credibility.

“I am proud of seeing Jack work,” Miller reflects. “From where we started to now, he knows what he's doing, and we fully trust each other.”



Sgt. Fitzgibbons also emphasized the importance of daily care, explaining,

“We give them fresh water and food all the time. If we take care of them, like checking their teeth, and paws and keeping them clean – It helps to build that bond and trust with the dog.”

Beyond their law enforcement duties, the K-9 Unit also engages in community demonstrations.

“We love doing demonstrations for kids on behalf of the Department,” Jackson says. “The community needs to know we’re friendly and approachable – This job is beautiful and impactful—not just in corrections but also in the lives of the people around us.”

Through their training and dedication, the SCSD K-9 Division stands as a bea-

con of protection, both in corrections and within the broader community.

“There is a lot to be learned, as far as the human perspective, we have to learn how to build that bond with the dog,” Sgt. Fitzgibbon noted. He continued, “It’s not just about teaching commands; it’s about building a bond and learning to trust your dog. They know what they’re doing after weeks of training, but as handlers, we need to understand what they’re trying to tell us.”

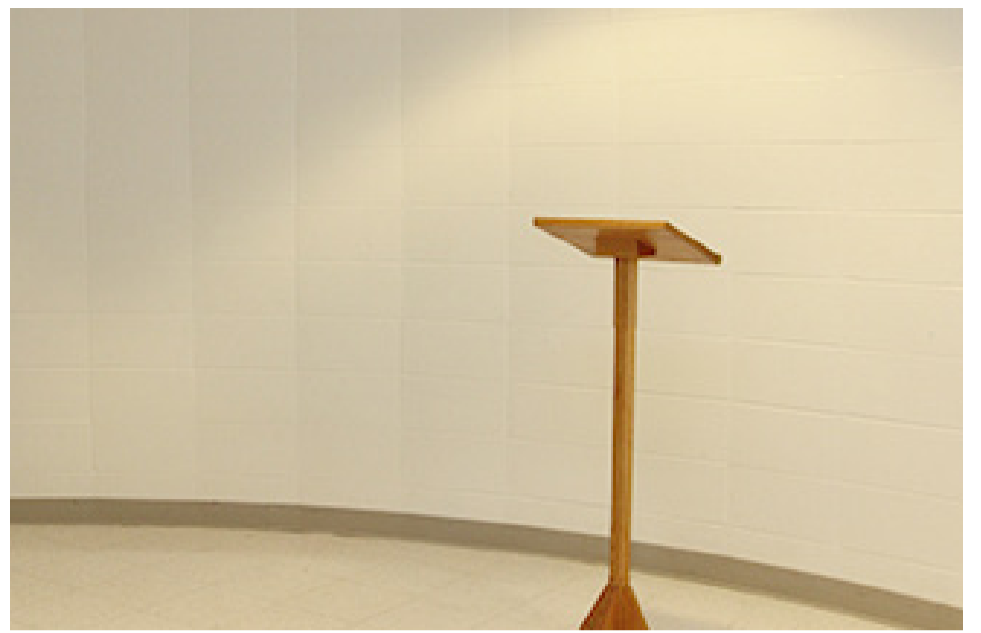
As our SCSD handlers and four-legged officers walk side by side, they carry a message that resonates throughout the community: that protection, loyalty and teamwork are values that can transcend words. Each time they head out on patrol, respond to a call, or engage with a curious crowd, they reaffirm the purpose that brought them to this role.

Handlers build deep connections with their dogs through training and daily care. Deputy Jackson, paired with Ekho, who is skilled in explosives detection and narcotics, spent months mastering various scents.

“It took me and my guy around three more months to complete training because we focused on about thirty-eight different odors, explosives, firearms, and ballistics,” said Deputy Jackson.



SCSD PROVIDES DIVERSE ARRAY OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES FOR INCARCERATED POPULATION



“We have not created the heavens and the earth and everything in between except for a purpose. And the Hour is certain to come, so forgive graciously.” (Quran 15:85)

“And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.” (21st Century King James Bible, Ephesians 4:31-32)

If forgiveness is a virtue, then let us all be graciously virtuous. For the religious services providers at the Suffolk County Sheriff’s Department, this is the cornerstone of their mission: to offer our men and women who have suffered – and correspondingly provoked suffering – with repentance and purpose.

Recognizing the essential role of spirituality in rehabilitation and personal transformation, SCSD supports an array of religious services catering to its incarcerated population’s diverse faiths. Detainees self-identified as Catholic, Protestant, Muslim, Jewish, and Armenian Orthodox Christian can find solace within the Department’s religious services, alongside those of over twenty authorized religious groups such as Jehovah’s Witness, Peace Assembly of God, Beth-

el Baptist Church, Jubilee Christian Church, and many more.

Among these numerous services, the SCSD mosque has become a pillar of healing for Muslim and non-Muslim inmates alike who seek connection, guidance, and self-fulfillment. The Suffolk County House of Correction mosque serves not only as a place of worship but also as a supportive space where individuals can engage in reflection and find strength in faith.

At the heart of the SCSD’s Muslim community is Imam Abdulqadir Farah, a dedicated leader and spiritual mentor who conducts prayer groups, bestows personal counseling, and guides any willing participant on a path of progression. With open arms, he welcomes everyone with equal gratitude for their commitment to bettering themselves and to listening to the teachings of Islam.

“So we have attendees who are non-Muslim in my class, because ultimately what people want is to have religion in their life; to have spiritual guidance in their life. I work with, Muslims, Christians, Catholics, Jews, and even secular members that just appreciate the practice. Literally everyone,” explained Imam Farah.

Since he joined the Department in 2022, Imam Farah has shared the wisdom of the Quran with extraordinary success. On the matter, he expressed the most rewarding aspect of providing Islamic services to detainees as being “the fact that so many members that I’ve taught here were released and never came back. I know several people who were inspired enough by our services to continue connecting with me at the mosque.” He continued, “That’s the thing that drives me every day. If I could change one person’s mindset of themselves that they could become somebody of inspiration to their community, and that no person in the world can deprive them of their self-worth, then I have done my job.”

When asked what makes his teaching specifically impactful to the people he delivers it to, he explained that “in Islam, discipline is holy. It’s something that we practice in every part of our lives, from our prayers to our actions.” This instilled sense of rejection of immoral behavior, human dignity, and kindness unto others is the thread that weaves all Abrahamic religions and other world faiths, making Imam Farah’s instruction of the moral code profoundly transcendent to participants of all beliefs.



For residents looking for spiritual guidance more attuned to their incoming religious beliefs, the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department also offers plentiful programming for those under the Christian sects. Integral to this diverse range of support are two remarkable leaders: Pastor Dana Gonsal, who provides Protestant services, and Sister Therese McDonough, who volunteers her Catholic mentorship. Both bring consideration and experience when helping remanded residents through their journeys of self-reflection and inner peace.

Pastor Gonsal has dedicated over 18 years to the Department, beginning as a volunteer to Mrs. Pat O'Neill, the former head of Religious and Educational Services. When asked about the catalyst that motivated his vocation, he shared, "I struggled with homelessness and drugs, but now I watch how God has changed my life. I feel called to this work, and I've been inspired by seeing other people's lives change too."

Throughout the week, Pastor Gonsal conducts his teachings in the units through Bible studies and group prayer sessions. Beyond Saturday services, he also makes the extra effort to visit individuals serving time in segregation. Having witnessed firsthand the calming effect of prayer

on detainees, he shared that "it's powerful to see guys who don't get along join a circle of prayer," oftentimes from rival gang groups.

This sense of unity surpasses inmate conflict reduction within the Department's walls by transforming perspectives and fostering understanding. Pastor Gonsal integrates personal counseling into his work by encouraging detainees to reconnect with family and develop a sense of purpose. He noted, "Our presence here often has a larger impact than we realize."

Sister Therese's presence over the last nine years has had an astounding impact on the Catholic community in need of hope and understanding at the Suffolk County Jail. Her journey began after being introduced to the Prison Ministry through a social worker. Reflecting on her early days, she shared: "I was so moved... you're so vulnerable and lost and afraid. I was just so grateful to work with these gentlemen."

Sister Therese's approach to Catholicism extends beyond the chapel. After the challenges of COVID-19, Sister Therese returned to the Department, realizing the importance of meeting people in the units when spreading the word of the Gospel. She brings rosaries, Bibles,

and cards for spiritual development during her morning recreation time visits to residents, greeting each unit with a warm "Good morning, everybody." Sister Therese finds these encounters enriching, often learning as much from the detainees as they learn from her by offering safe listening spaces to hear their distress.

"I see a lot of guilt in their sincere self," she noted. In response, she offers this message of compassion: "Wherever you are, whatever you do, let there be in your heart a space for others to be; so that, unafraid, they may experience themselves as loved and so be healed."

Through the dedication of spiritual leaders like Sister Therese, Pastor Gonsal, Imam Farah, Imam Emad Ezzat, and all other religious volunteers, spirituality services within the Department have become more than a formality – they offer a profound sense of connection and unity. Coupled with the discipline of prayer and moral code as a means to nurture confidence, the faith-based leaders of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department are instilling hope, empowerment, and direction in all individuals under our care. To support the Department's religious programming in upholding its mission of forgiveness, contact Cedric Rucker, the Director of Social Services, at crucker@scsdma.org or Assistant Deputy Superintendent, Carlos Goulart, at cgoulart@scsdma.org.



NECAT: THE RECIPE FOR TRANSFORMATION



NECAT Class Capstone Presentation

From simmering ambitions to well-done morale, the recent New England Culinary Arts Training (NECAT) program graduates at the Suffolk County House of Correction prove that a little seasoning — and a lot of discipline — can turn lives around. At their recent capstone cooking competition, NECAT's newest chefs showed off the skills and confidence they've cultivated over this 14-week course. On the menu: lamb & fig tartlets, warm roasted butternut squash, and cooked-to-perfection career-readiness with a dash of reinvigorated motivation.

The mission of this collaborative program between the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department and NECAT is simple: Their staff of highly-trained chefs equips students experiencing social and professional barriers with the culinary expertise, emotional development, and employability to conquer both the kitchen and the job market. As part of the program, participants hone their techniques in knife skills, seasoning, baking, and plating. But the lessons go beyond cooking. By the time they complete the course, students have mastered resume building and job hunting — essential practic-

es for life on both sides of the kitchen. Lisette Williams, NECAT's Director of Career Services, explained:

“What you put into this program is what you get out of it, ten times over. You see people transform in a short amount of time, and they are leaving this program with more than just culinary skills. Attention to detail, time management, teamwork, and problem-solving — those are all qualities that they can take with them, whether they choose to work in the culinary industry or another field.”

Within the Suffolk County House of Correction, Lead Culinary Instructor Chef Chris Faison spearheads the immersive teaching practicum for students out of the training kitchen. Chef Faison leads his instruction exactly how he would at any hierarchical kitchen brigade, commanding the same level of respect and maturity out of his cohort.





When asked about the value of the NECAT program to the House of Correction students, Chef Faison added: “One of the reasons that I love culinary is because it’s modeled off of the military brigade system, where there is a captain that runs instruction, assuming order and discipline. And that’s why this program is so successful in teaching the rules of respect, boundaries, and a hard work ethic. We don’t just teach you how to get a job; we teach you how to keep it.”

Through NECAT, each participant graduates with a sense of accomplishment and new-found confidence that equips them for industry success upon reentry. In the latest showcase of culinary prowess, graduates faced off in a friendly cooking competition, each teaming up to bring their twist to the table. The aspiring chefs strategized, seasoned, and sautéed their way to a presentation of plates to be judged and enjoyed by SCSD staff.



Congratulations to the cycle 10 NECAT class for all your achievements! The capstone event was the cherry on top of this decorated, rigorous curriculum... but now the real work begins. As the cycle 10 class will continue on exercising their culinary expertise, Chef Faison and his NECAT crew are readying to issue in the next NECAT cohort of cycle 11.



If you’d like to learn more about NECAT’s mission or if you know someone who may benefit from its tutelage, visit ne-cat.org or contact Lisette Williams.

MSA HONORS LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CORRECTIONS PROFESSIONALS AT ANNUAL CEREMONY



The Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association (MSA) proudly celebrated the outstanding achievements and unwavering commitment of law enforcement and corrections professionals at the 2024 Law Enforcement & Corrections Awards Ceremony on Tuesday, November 19, 2024. The event, held at The Great Hall in the Massachusetts State House, honored recipients in 10 award categories for their exceptional dedication and service, with two members of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department receiving honors.

The awards ceremony highlighted stories of heroism, commitment, and innovation within the law enforcement and corrections communities across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

"Today, we have the privilege of shining a well-deserved spotlight on remarkable individuals whose hard work, creativity, and passion for public safety make a real difference in the lives of those they serve," said Hampden County Sheriff Nicholas Cocchi, President of the Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association. "These award recipients embody the very best of what we do, and their sto-

ries of leadership and compassion inspire us all."

"This ceremony is a testament to the courage and commitment of the men and women who serve our communities every day," said Sheriff Tompkins. "Their hard work and dedication to public safety and to the people of the Commonwealth is greatly appreciated and deeply inspiring to others who do this work. We are proud to honor their achievements and to stand beside them in this recognition."

One of the two SCSD awardees was House of Correction Superintendent William Sweeney, who received the prestigious Jail Administrator of the Year award. A seasoned veteran of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Office, Superintendent Sweeney was honored for his life-long dedication to public safety.

"For me, through longevity, I've been fortunate enough to receive a number of different positions and responsibilities," shared Superintendent Sweeney. "Never in my wildest dreams did I imagine at 18 years old leading such an incredible organization and working with such

great people. At times, the work can be difficult, but the friendships I've made have made it all worthwhile. It's just been an amazing journey and I'm truly grateful."

Honored with an MSA Deputy Sheriff of the Year Award, Sergeant Amie Le, was also recognized for her exemplary service. Sergeant Le's commitment to excellence, her professionalism in the face of adversity, and her unwavering service to public safety embody the very spirit of the law enforcement community.

Along with the other 2024 MSA Award recipients, the ceremony served to highlight the every-day sacrifices and triumphs that make these professionals the backbone of public safety across Massachusetts.



SCSD STAFF HONORED AT U.S. ATTORNEY'S LAW ENFORCEMENT PUBLIC SERVICE AWARDS



On October 24, 2024, the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department was honored at the 2024 United States Attorney's Office District of Massachusetts Law Enforcement Public Service Awards. The event, which recognizes the contributions of law enforcement officers and community leaders in federal cases, celebrated those who played pivotal roles in advancing justice and public safety.

Each year, Assistant U.S. Attorneys nominate individuals whose work has had a significant impact on federal prosecutions, and this year, members of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department were among the honorees.

The awards ceremony, attended by over 100 federal, state, and local law enforcement personnel, commended achievements in leadership, collaboration, investigative excellence, and community engagement. Among the honored recipients were Sergeant Tyler Peters and Sergeant Amie Lee, both of whom were celebrated for their exceptional work in 2023.

Sergeant Tyler Peters received the Outstanding Collaboration Award for his critical role in the "Street Sweeper" operation, which targeted criminal street gangs operating between Lynn and Chelsea. His dedication to coordinating between federal agencies, local detectives, and prosecutors was instrumental in the success of the investigation.

"Receiving this recognition was a great honor for my efforts and the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department's commitment to our law enforcement partners," said Sgt. Peters.

"It reassured me that my hard work and perseverance were acknowledged and appreciated." He also emphasized the importance of teamwork, noting, "Collaborative efforts allow for better resource allocation and more effective strategies, leading to a bigger impact on public safety."

Reflecting on the experience, Sgt. Peters added, "The most rewarding part was learning from diverse perspectives and building strong relationships with officers from other agencies. Achieving common goals through teamwork was immensely satisfying."

Sergeant Amie Le was awarded the Investigative Achievement Award for her pivotal role in dismantling a major methamphetamine distribution network during Operation "Midas Touch."



"This award reinforces the importance of and my commitment to the DEA's mission of reducing illicit drugs in our communities," noted Sgt. Le. "I'm delighted to know that another fellow Suffolk County officer is receiving recognition for his exceptional work in reducing illegal firearms and narcotics off our streets."

Sgt. Le's reflection on the collaborative nature of the operation highlighted the teamwork required to bring down the drug network.

"Given the target's erratic behaviors, we needed a ton of manpower to conduct surveillance and to be on standby in the event that law enforcement responses were required." She continued, "I remember being in the middle of a family dinner one night and getting a call from another investigator. He briefed me on what was happening and I was out the door within minutes to head to the scene. As I was en route, I was notified that officers from four other agencies were also en route to assist. If we didn't have the support from our fellow officers in different agencies, we wouldn't have been able to achieve our desired results – the arrests of the leaders of the organizations, which led to the dismantling of the entire operation."

The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department is proud to celebrate these outstanding officers, whose achievements underscore the power of collaboration and the dedication of those who serve and protect the public.



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

Celebrate and Appreciate Our

VETERANS

Veterans Day, observed annually on November 11th, honors the courage and sacrifice of U.S. military veterans who have served in times of war and peace. At the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department, this day takes on special significance as we recognize the veterans among our ranks who bring their skills, leadership, and dedication to public service every day. This year, the Department passed out tokens of appreciation by way of decorated winter hats to reinforce our collective respect and gratitude for their continued contributions to the safety and well-being of our community.

"On Veterans Day, we pay homage to the extraordinary dedication of those who have joined the armed forces. Here at the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department, we're privileged to work alongside veterans who continue to take on security and care with an unwavering commitment to the people of Suffolk County. Their leadership inspires us all, and we are deeply grateful for their service, both in uniform and here at home."

~ Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins

NOVEMBER 11, 2024

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Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins &
The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department

Wish Everyone a

Happy



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AROUND SUFFOLK COUNTY

SCSD K-9 DIVISION STEALS THE SHOW AT BARKTOBER FESTIVAL

On October 19th, Suffolk County Sheriff's Department staff members brought excitement to the Barktober Festival at Revere's Susan B. Anthony Field. SCSD's K-9 unit showcased their impressive skills in demos, including article searching and training tactics, captivating the crowd while highlighting the essential role of these four-legged officers in law enforcement. At the same time, staff members handed out the department's iconic Junior Deputy Badges to children and furry friends, many dressed in spooky Halloween costumes. The event left a lasting impression, building awareness and community pride around the incredible capabilities of SCSD's K-9 team.



SCSD HELPS WRAP OPEN STREETS BOSTON 2024

SCSD helped to close the 2024 Open Streets Boston season in Allston/Brighton on October 20th, where the team shared public safety resources and department swag gifts with the passing families that visited their booth. The lively atmosphere of Brighton Avenue was full of local vendors, food trucks, and live music, giving residents a taste of Suffolk County's local businesses. The market simultaneously provided a perfect opportunity for community members to get to know their officers while supporting Allston's ventures. Until next year, Open Streets Boston!

TRUNK-OR-TREAT: HALLOWEEN FUN FOR THE FAMILY

To round off the month of October, SCSD attended multiple spooktacular trunk-or-treats! Prepped with decorated Department vans and costumes galore, our staff passed out candy, coloring books, Junior Deputy badges, and other safety swag to the children of Suffolk. At the Fourth Annual Joint-PTO Trunk-or-Treat event on October 25th at the Gorman Fort Banks and Arthur T. Cummings Schools, the parking lots were transformed into a Halloween haven for the 800 trick-or-treating attendees. By October 27th, our staff was back on the scene at the City of Revere Parks and Recreation's annual Fright Night, ready to impress at the frightening festivity. Beyond providing a safe space for families to enjoy the holiday tradition, SCSD's presence at trunk-or-treat served as another trust-building exercise.



TIS' THE SEASON OF FOOTBALL: SUPPORTING SOMA AT GILLETE STADIUM

One, two, set, hut! Officers from the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department joined forces with the Boston Police Department to support Special Olympics Massachusetts (SOMA) at their annual Flag Football and Cheerleading Tournament at Gillette Stadium. The day kicked off with the Law Enforcement Torch Run's High-Five Tunnel, where athletes received an enthusiastic welcome, followed by an inspiring Opening Ceremony Reception. Our officers cheered on the action at the Optum Field Lounge and wrapped up the day by celebrating the athletes' achievements during the Awards Presentation. Events like these showcase the strong bond between local law enforcement and SOMA's mission to empower individuals with special needs. Learn more at www.MassTorchRun.org.



TURKEYS-TO-GO: THANKSGIVING CHARITY GIVEAWAY

The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department welcomed families to the House of Correction to distribute forty turkeys, trimmings, and a few extras, all free of charge for the perfect Thanksgiving dinner. Suffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins took part in the giveaway, which was organized and delivered by members of the Department's Richard P. Pacitti Reentry and Transitional Center for the fourth year and counting!



THANKSGIVING "SUPER SENSATIONAL" SENIOR LUNCHEON

Members of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department teamed up with the Boston Police Department this year to spread holiday cheer at the Salvation Army Ray & Joan Kroc Corps Community Center in Roxbury. At the 2024 Annual Senior Thanksgiving Luncheon, officers had the privilege of serving Thanksgiving meals to the Kroc Center's lively and "super sensational" senior community. The day was filled with felicity and gratitude, embodying the spirit of the season. Captain Shakai Drigo of the Kroc Center shared his heartfelt admiration for our local law enforcement officers, explaining that the continued charity of Suffolk's agencies has positively shifted his perspective on the police force: "It's such a reassurance to know that they are here to protect our community members and our seniors."

The SCSD is indebted to the Kroc Center for inviting us to share in this meaningful tradition and to our colleagues at BPD for joining forces to make the day truly special.



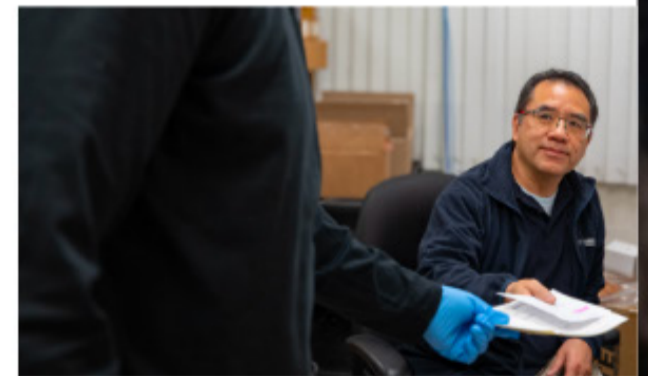
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Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins



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