Director’s Message

As you know, the Department is experiencing staffing shortages at several facilities. We have taken many steps recently to remedy this situation.

As these changes occur, our correctional officers are looking forward to a $2,016 salary increase in January. Only the General Assembly is empowered to enact such a salary increase, and while this increase represents a significant improvement, I will continue to seek increases for all security staff.

The Department is now targeting facilities that have the highest vacancy rates, especially the top five, where those vacancies require immediate action. At Augusta Correctional Center, the Department is offering $8,000 signing bonuses for Correction Officer Seniors who voluntary transfer and agree to stay there for three years.

The Department has doubled referral bonuses at the five facilities with the greatest need, from $500 to $1,000.

Recruitment and retention officers are now in place in four locations – Augusta, Greensville, Sussex I and Sussex II – working to ensure that our staffing levels increase and remain stable.

At selected facilities, the Department is adding new field training officers to promote excellence and reduce the strain on the Academy for Staff Development.

Human Resources has revamped its tracking system, its monitoring of hires, and its efforts to respond to staffing needs.

In addition to its traditional recruitment efforts, the Department now utilizes billboards, and, for the first time, television advertisements, to attract new hires.

Our staff continues to work days, nights and weekends to meet new recruits and bring them aboard. Our employees are what makes us great, and I thank each of you for what you do. This is a challenging profession; every day, we help people to be better, and we strengthen long-term public safety in the Commonwealth. Together we will work through the challenges we face, and turn them into opportunities for progress.

Harold Clarke

Governor Northam Visits Greensville Correctional Center

Governor Ralph Northam visited Greensville Correctional Center July 30 taking the opportunity to praise Correctional Officers and thank them for their efforts to help offenders. “We are all human. We all make mistakes and that’s why I appreciate what you are doing to help these individuals because they need help and I think a lot of them want...

Agency Initiates Program for Opioid Addicted Offenders

Doing its part to help tackle the opioid crisis, the Virginia Department of Corrections has launched a medically assisted drug treatment pilot program to help offenders and probationers with a history of substance abuse disorder, specifically those with opioid dependence.
Governor Ralph Northam visited Greensville Correctional Center July 30 taking the opportunity to praise Correctional Officers and thank them for their efforts to help offenders.

“We are all human. We all make mistakes and that’s why I appreciate what you are doing to help these individuals because they need help and I think a lot of them want help.”

Governor Northam praised the entire VA-DOC staff whose collective efforts have helped Virginia maintain the lowest recidivism rate in the nation for two consecutive years, and the Governor took the opportunity to remind the Correctional Officers that they will soon see a significant pay raise.

“We want to be able to recruit talented folks and also retain them,” Governor Northam said. “I know salaries are important.”

Effective January 10, 2019, Officers will receive a $2,016 increase in annual salary. Also, effective June 10, 2019, officers will receive an additional two-percent increase.

Governor Northam praised the efforts off Director Clarke in leading the Department to more effective reentry efforts and a cultural shift that promotes long-lasting public safety.

Other funding allows Virginia to further its public safety efforts by hiring more Probation and Parole Officers, Governor Northam said.

The Governor spoke with offenders, many of whom will soon return to their communities and later toured Greensville’s wood-working classroom. He praised the students for taking advantage of the Department’s numerous programs and encouraged them. He also praised the staff who make the programs successful.

“I looked at some of the areas in HVAC technicians, electricians, plumbers, wood workers...all of these positions are very much in demand,” Governor Northam said. “To be able to train these individuals and allow them to be prepared when they finish here is very commendable.”
Virginia Department of Corrections Initiates Pilot Program for Opioid Addicted Offenders

Doing its part to help tackle the opioid crisis, the Virginia Department of Corrections has launched a medically assisted drug treatment pilot program to help offenders and probationers with a history of substance abuse disorder, specifically those with opioid dependence. VADOC’s Medication Assisted Treatment Reentry Initiative (MATRI) is designed to provide pre-release treatment and post-release referral, treatment and support for opioid-addicted offenders. The program is the result of Virginia’s participation in the National Governors Association (NGA) learning lab in 2017, which offered participating states an opportunity to consider evidence-based options for filling treatment gaps among offender populations.

“When offenders come into the system addicted to opioids, it is our responsibility to do all we can to help them return to society free from that addiction,” said VADOC Director Harold Clarke. “Virginia’s participation in the NGA learning lab allowed our team to learn from other state correctional agencies where medication assisted treatment has already proven to be highly successful and we are pleased to introduce this program in our institutions.”

MATRI utilizes the drug naltrexone. This FDA approved non-narcotic medication blocks receptors in the brain, preventing the euphoric effects of opioids and reducing cravings for the drugs. Naltrexone is administered immediately before release from a correctional facility and it remains effective for 28 days. To be eligible for the injected naltrexone, participants must have completed the in-custody intensive substance abuse treatment programming. They must also be transitioning to one of the three target reentry locations – Norfolk City, Richmond City and Tazewell/Buchanan County. These areas were selected based on data collected that measured opioid use among offenders in Virginia.

“We’ve seen how opioid addiction hurts our communities and we’ve witnessed its effects on many of the offenders in our care,” said VADOC Chief of Corrections Operations A. David Robinson. “The MATRI program allows our agency to address opioid addiction in offenders head-on and hopefully end their opioid dependency and get them started on the path to full recovery.”

Upon release, the participants are required to transition into an outpatient substance abuse treatment program provided by a local Community Service Board (CSB) that employs a multi-faceted approach to treatment including the use of medication, counseling and wrap-around services.

“It is critical that MATRI participants receive CSB-provided outpatient treatment for a continuum of care as they reenter the community and learn to practice healthy substance-free lifestyles,” added Scott Richeson, VADOC Deputy Director of Programs, Education and Reentry. “Support and treatment are essential during the reentry phase as participants will face challenges and temptations and must stay motivated and focused on recovery. Research shows that the highest incidence of relapse and overdose is during the first several weeks after release.”

MATRI participants will be identified and selected from Intensive Therapeutic Communities in five pilot sites. The five sites include two prisons – Indian Creek Correctional Center and Virginia Correctional Center for Women – and three Community Corrections Alternative Programs (CCAP) – Cold Springs Detention & Diversion Center, Appalachian Detention and Diversion Center, and Chesterfield Women’s Detention and Diversion Center. The Department has entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with Alkermes, the manufacturer of Vivitrol, an injectable form of naltrexone. Alkermes has agreed to provide the first 100 dosages free of charge.
The Virginia Department of Labor and Industry’s Virginia Occupational Safety and Health (VOSH) program and the Virginia Department of Corrections (VADOC) have entered into a strategic partnership to create a first in the nation VADOC Challenge program to recognize safety and health excellence at correctional facilities around the Commonwealth. A signing ceremony was held on August 16, 2018.

VADOC Challenge is designed to encourage and recognize correctional facilities that voluntarily implement highly effective safety and health management systems to benefit Corrections’ workers and reduce or eliminate injuries, illnesses and fatalities at VADOC sites in Virginia.

Three stages of participation in VADOC Challenge are provided:

Stage I – Assess, Learn and Develop
This is the VADOC Challenge stage in which participants are introduced to the basic VPP elements that are necessary to launch the development and implementation of an effective safety and health management system.

Stage II – Implement, Track, and Control
This is the VADOC Challenge stage in which the basic actions and outcomes of Stage I have been completed and the sites are beginning to implement more thorough safety and health management system processes.

Stage III – Reassess, Monitor, and Improve
This is the VADOC Challenge stage in which the participant site’s safety and health management system has been fully implemented and the site is continuing to assess its effectiveness and improving its performance where necessary.

Results
VADOC correctional facilities that participate in VADOC Challenge will substantially improve safety and health protections for its workers through cooperative efforts to reduce injuries, illnesses and fatal accidents. VADOC Challenge sites will implement safety and health management systems which have consistently demonstrated decreased bottom line costs associated with dramatically reduced injury and illness rates and improved productivity and employee morale and retention.

Benefits
Benefits are provided commensurate with the stage of participation in VADOC Challenge. Participants that achieve Stage III will be ready to apply to Virginia STAR, the highest level of recognition awarded by the Commonwealth of Virginia for excellence in occupational safety and health.

VADOC currently has two medium security correctional facilities that have been recognized as Virginia STAR work sites: Lunenburg Correctional Center in Victoria, VA, originally certified on March 1, 2002; and Augusta Correctional Center in Craigsville, VA, originally certified on January 24, 2006; the only correctional facilities in the country to be so honored.
Deputy Director for Administration Cookie Scott served as the keynote speaker for the 2018 Agribusiness Conference held July 12, 2018, at the Buckingham Cattle Association Headquarters. Deputy Director Scott discussed the highlights of VADOC’s strategic plan as well as recent agency accomplishments. The agribusiness team extended a heartfelt thanks to the retiring Deputy Director Scott, wishing her happiness in her next stage of life. The conference focused on training and compliance related to the Food Safety Modernization Act. Attendees also had discussions concerning departmental initiatives, and future plans for agribusiness.

**Awards Enliven 2018 Agribusiness Conference**

Submitted by John “Kenny” Raiford

Coffeewood Farm Manager, Ben DeBoer:  “Progressive Farmer”

State Farm Milk Plant Manager, Kevin Kennedy  “Agribusiness All Star”

Deerfield Agribusiness Manager Wes Blythe: “Agribusiness Manager of the Year”

From left: Agribusiness Operations Director Kenny Raiford, Coffeewood Farm Manager, Ben DeBoer, Deputy Director, Administration Cookie Scott and Assistant Agribusiness Director Frank Baber

From left: Kenny Raiford, State Farm Milk Plant Manager Kevin Kennedy, Cookie Scott, and State Farm Agribusiness Manager Hunter Moyer

From left: Kenny Raiford, Deerfield Agribusiness Manager Wes Blythe and Cookie Scott
Continued - Awards Given at Agribusiness Conference

Buckingham Agribusiness Manager
Mark Davis:
William Hart Gillette Award

Augusta Agribusiness Team:
Brian Rountree Beef Production Award
(given by Virginia Tech)

Bland Correctional Farm: Best Forage Production
(given by Virginia Tech)

From left: Agribusiness Operations Director Kenny Raiford, Buckingham Agribusiness Manager Mark Davis, Deputy Director Administration Cookie Scott and Assistant Agribusiness Director Frank Baber
The Gillette Award recognizes excellence in institutional agribusiness.

From left, Virginia Tech representative Tracy Redifer representing Virginia Tech, Augusta’s Norris Campbell, Augusta Farm Manager Wyatt Sours, Cookie Scott, Augusta’s Roger Robertson and Assistant Agribusiness Director Frank Baber

This Brian Rountree Beef Production Award and the Best Forage Production are determined and given by the Virginia- Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine at Virginia Tech.

VADOC partners with the college for research purposes. Students are given the opportunity to gain hands-on experience, and VADOC benefits by using the data to improve management practices.
Pass the Popcorn! Sussex II Develops a Very “Pop” -ular Recruitment and Retention Method

As part of its ongoing recruitment and retention efforts, Sussex II State Prison has developed a perk that has proven surprisingly popular. Popular as in popcorn.

“Popcorn Wednesdays,” as they are known, allow shifts to join together, talk a bit, and most of all, enjoy that warm, fluffy, can’t-get-too-much goodness of one of America’s favorite snacks.

Shown is Lt. Luis Rodriguez, left, serving up some popcorn to a visiting officer. Sussex II has worked to promote a rival initiative to “Popcorn Wednesday” that focuses on breakfast cereal.

“We appreciate our officers for their dedication and hard work, and “Popcorn Wednesdays” are one way we are working to remind them of that fact,” said Lt. Rodriguez.
On July 25, the Victim Services Unit (VSU) welcomed its newest staff member to the team, Morgan Corpe. Ms. Corpe is a Regional Victim Advocate, Sr. serving VSU’s modified Northern Region to include the following localities: Alexandria, Arlington, Caroline, Culpeper, Essex, Fairfax, Fredericksburg, Greene, Hanover, King George, Lancaster, Loudoun, Madison, Prince William, Northumberland, Orange, Richmond County, Spotsylvania, Stafford, and Westmoreland.

She will assist probation offices, facilities, local victim witness programs, and community stakeholders to meet the needs of crime victims in the following areas of correctional based victim services: notification, classification, discipline, programs and services, security, reentry, supervision, release planning and work release.

The Victim Services Unit divided the state into five modified regions for the VSU team (East, North, Central, West, and Southwest) in 2017.

A special thank you to Farmville P&P, Fredericksburg P&P, Lynchburg P&P, Abingdon P&P, the Eastern Regional Office, Caroline Correctional Unit, and Culpeper P&P for their willingness to continue to partner and provide support to VSU staff.

Ms. Corpe has both a Victim Advocacy background from Ohio as well as a Corrections background here in Virginia. She has worked in mental health, case management, and re-entry while with VADOC and was instrumental in the implementation of the BARK dog handling and apprenticeship program at Haynesville Correctional Center. She is also a Dialogue Practitioner Coach for the Middle Peninsula Dialogue Circle. She received her Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology from Bowling Green State University and her Master’s Degree in Forensic Psychology from Marymount University.

Ms. Corpe completes the Victim Services Unit’s diverse group of individuals providing a vast knowledge base and the very best information and services to crime victims in Virginia. Please welcome our newest team member!
Q&A with Fairfax Chief, Tracy Lavely, Recent Recipient of the Probation Executive of the Year Award

Congratulations on your recent award! Please tell us about the beginnings of your career.

I moved to Virginia in 1983 when my husband transferred to the Army base located in Ft. Myer, Virginia. I found work in various law firms in Washington, D.C. and at the D.C. Court of Appeals. After a few years, I became tired of the commute and the work. I found the work to be boring and I wanted something more meaningful. One day I saw an employment ad in my local newspaper for a Probation and Parole position in the county where I resided. I met the requirements of the position and the job sounded interesting and challenging so I applied. I interviewed for the job and two months later, I found myself working as a Probation and Parole Officer and haven’t looked back since.

Please share some of your most valuable lessons learned since being a Chief Probation Officer:

I was promoted a little more than eight years ago and I have learned several lessons along the way. They are: always share your vision with staff and explain the why; always hire and promote people who will help you get to where you want to go; always make the hard decisions that you know are the right decisions; always work boldly; and always keep moving forward - never become complacent.

Discuss some high points in your career. What keeps you coming back?

This is a difficult question to answer because every day is different. Some days are great and wonderful and some days are stressful and long. Most days are great and wonderful because of the people I work with and the people we are responsible for helping to be better. I am lucky to have such great people working for me. This is what keeps me coming back. Probation work has evolved over the years and thank goodness for that. I come back because the work we do today is so different than when I first started. It is much more meaningful and purposeful and we are making a difference in people’s lives.

What is the most important quality or qualities a P&P officer can promote in a returning citizen?

I was in Las Vegas with my husband a few years back and he pointed out this wooden sign hanging on a wall in a gift shop. It read «Whatever Your Past, You Have a Future». I loved that. I bought the sign and it is hanging on my wall in my waiting room. To me, this is what I want my staff to think about when working with our population. Probation Officers should assist our clients to always look to the future. They need to work with clients to help them get to where they want to be. PO's should always be working to help clients better themselves, to make better decisions and to assist in developing goals for their future.

What makes VADOC such a high achieving correctional entity?

I believe we have excellent leadership that has been working hard and paving the way for success for the State of Virginia. We have achievable Vision and Mission statements. There has been a paradigm shift and our culture is changing as a result. But I wouldn’t say it was just one single thing that has made the VADOC a high achieving department, it is several concepts and everyone...
working together toward a common goal that has made VADOC number one across the nation. The Integrated Model for Re-entry was established and distributed across the state to the VA-DOC employees in an effort to explain and teach what the research says will work for better outcomes. I would say it is working.

What might I tell a person who is considering a career in the VADOC?

Working with people has to be one of the most important and rewarding jobs a person can do, in my opinion. What we do is so important, we are helping people to make better decisions to be successful not just during probation, but beyond. If they are successful, than their families and children will be successful as well. So, if someone is looking at a career in the VADOC, they first have to believe people can change and be change agents. They also have to believe in our mission and know why it is important. If they can do that, then the VADOC would be an excellent career.

Tracy Lavely, third from left, the Chief Probation & Parole Officer for District 29-Fairfax, received the Sam Houston State University Probation Executive of the Year Award during the National Association of Probation Executives (NAPE) reception. This award is the Association’s oldest and highest honor. From left are Former NAPE President and Associate Director of the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency Marcus Hodges, VADOC Regional Administrator for Community Jermiah Fitz, Ms. Lavely and current NAPE President Director of the Tarrant County Community Supervision and Corrections Department in Fort Worth, Texas, Leighton Iles.

To enhance the Suffolk Probation and Parole District’s new Healing Environment Initiative, Partnering to Become One, on August 7, 2018, the following staff participated in the 2018 Suffolk National Out: Probation and Parole Officer (PPO) Tyrone Carter; PPO Malika Shack; PPO Patrick Carroll; PPO Lisa DeVane; PPO John Knecht; PPO Lisa Clinton; PPO Caitlin Hankins; PPO Shenita Tirado; PPO Rosalie Yarborough; Deputy Chief Probation Officer (DCPO) Doris Franklin; DCPO Shaleta Norfleet; and Chief Probation Officer Erma Torrance.

Participants attended an orientation session for the event judges prior to the National Night Out Kick Off at 5 p.m. in the Council Conference Room at City Hall. The Kick-Off Ceremony took place at 5:30 p.m. in the Suffolk Council Chamber with remarks by the Mayor, and representatives of the Suffolk Police Department, Suffolk Fire and Rescue, the Suffolk Sheriff’s Office, the Suffolk Commonwealth’s Attorney, and the Western Tidewater Regional Jail. During the opening ceremony Suffolk Probation and Parole was acknowledged for their collaboration.
Green Rock Correctional Center recently held a family reunification event that allowed offenders to spend time with their families.

With the support of community partners, the offenders were able to provide book bags and school supplies for their children. The offenders and their families were also given access to useful community resources. About one half-dozen vendors attended. The institution and National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice also provided school supplies to six local schools.

Submitted by Sahib Brown
Web-based Substance Abuse Program Offered to Low Level Offenders
Submitted by Jewel Bellamy

In October 2016, the VADOC was awarded a Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant through the Department of Criminal Justice Services to address the growing number of substance abusing offenders at Level I facilities. Low security facilities provide numerous work opportunities such as textile factory, farming, and barbering in addition to road camp work. Since the offenders are productive throughout the day with employment, it is challenging for them to attend programming. Therefore, the web-based substance abuse program (WBSAP) was an exciting opportunity to offer independent programming to a population in need of services.

The program consists of 32 mandatory modules and 32 supplemental modules on a computer-based substance abuse program called Therapeutic Education Systems. Topics covered include drug refusal techniques, decision-making skills, social recreational counseling and identifying and managing triggers for risky drug use. The program has one cognitive counselor, Jewel Bellamy, who facilitates weekly process groups, manages program enrollment, and offers individual sessions as needed.

The program has 23 participants and 1 program aide at all times, and typically takes 3 months to complete. To date, 114 offenders have completed the program. The program tracks random monthly drug screens, institutional infractions and program participation and completion. Offender Randall Grayson serves as the program aide mentions, “I learned skills since entering the WBSAP and have learned to take responsibility and be willing to do extra work to get the job done,” Grayson said.

The Research, Policy, and Planning Unit is evaluating the program for continuation and replication potential.
St. Brides Cognitive Community Revitalization: August 13, 2018 – August 15, 2018

Submitted by Joshua Coleman

The Cognitive Community Program has been alive and well for the past seven years at St. Brides Correctional Center. From August 14 to 18, St. Brides Cognitive Community underwent a biannual revitalization lead by Eastern Regional Cognitive Community Program Manager Jessica Lee and Eastern Region Re-entry Specialist Carolyn LeCroy. The tandem duo, with the support of SBCC’s Cognitive Community Staff, worked with a group of men who had 12 months or less to serve on their sentence to complete the revitalization process.

During Revitalization, regional staff (Cognitive Program Manager/Reentry Specialist) led the training to give the facility staff an opportunity to observe. Day one began with an overview of the history of reentry for the Virginia Department of Corrections. We then discuss the value of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and review Thinking Reports. Each program participant was required to complete a Thinking Report prior to coming into day two. Also on day one of the training they established a new structure board specifically for the revitalization training. The purpose of this is to allow community members an opportunity to step up into the roles and display leadership.

On day two of the training, they began with a strong AMD Meeting. Although the structure board is literally one-day old, it is amazing to see individuals push outside their comfort zone to learn their new roles. Following AMD, they discussed their experiences writing Thinking Reports and had a community member share their report with the training community. This created an opportunity to affirm and also see the value of community. Day two ended with a strong PMD Meeting followed by additional homework assignments.

Day three began with a motivating AMD Meeting, followed by an activity looking at challenges and strengths of men leaving prison. Prior to the end of the day, training participants experienced role play opportunities where they are able to receive feedback from community members.

The purpose of a community is to offer support, encouragement, constructive feedback, structure and resources. This remains true for communities in our society as well as the Intensive Reentry Cognitive Communities.

The Cognitive Approach in the cognitive community programs, allows men an opportunity to learn to pay attention to the way they think, knowing that thinking drives behavior. When a man learns how to respond to situations, rather than merely react, outcomes are more productive and fewer regrets are created. To develop a strong awareness of one’s thought process and create a level of emotional maturity, is key to successful living.

Special thanks to Eastern Regional Cognitive Community Program Manager Jessica Lee, Re-entry Specialist Carolyn LeCroy, St. Brides Executive Staff, Re-entry Unit Manager Clark Carpino, Cognitive Community Staff, Re-entry Probation and Parole Officers in attendance, and guest speaker Paul Taylor.
A Life-Changing Internship? Taylor’s Transformation from a Biology Major to IT Geek

Summer intern Taylor Sanderford is now considering a new career path after her summer experience with the Virginia Department of Corrections’ CTSU. Ms. Sanderford, a rising junior and biology major at Randolph-Macon College, offered and informative, entertaining summary presentation suggesting that she had quite a transformative experience at Atmore. Her presentation, “Taylor’s Transformation from a Biology Major to IT Geek,” presented the highlights (re-printed below) of her experience.

1. Organizational structure and balance around new development and current operations.
2. Prioritization and queuing up work to deliver continuous value for the business partners.
3. Ms. Sanderford supported the Pink Panther Project and the law library switch-over projects for Offender Technology. Ms. Sanderford also worked with the CTSU Strategic Plan Team to support development of the next CTSU Strategic Plan.
4. Ms. Sanderford supported the Administration and Operation team and the VirginiaCORIS team with digitizing a number of physical assets.
5. As part of her internship, Ms. Sanderford also visited the following facilities: Central Virginia Correctional Unit 13, Baskerville Correctional Center, and Greensville Correctional Center and Charlottesville Probation and Parole.
6. In addition, Ms. Sanderford also read through and summarized learnings from The Phoenix Project, one of the bestselling books utilized in top IT programs for Technology Management.

Ms. Sanderford worked with the following CTSU Teams - Offender Technology, Administration & Operations, and VirginiaCORIS. Ms. Sanderford concluded her assignment with her final internship presentation to CIO Mr. Rick Davis and his direct reports.

Throughout the course of her internship, CIO Rick Davis and Offender Technology Manager Kartik Yadav tried their best - directly, indirectly, humorously, with subtle fashion etc., even providing Ms. Sanderford an option to name the next IT Project, to convince this new rising leader to switch to IT and to truly unlock all her potential.

From left, Offender Technology Manager Kartik Yadav, Taylor Sanderford and Chief Information Officer Rick Davis
Extraordinary Contribution Recognized

CTSU’s Karikey Yadav received recognition as an extraordinary contributor recently for his work to improve correctional education efforts.

Three of VADOC’s top educators praised his efforts to improve information technology staff performance, prioritize school needs, troubleshoot problems and pilot “online” testing and instruction programs.

Mr. Yadav also played a significant role in explaining, justifying and obtaining approval at the highest levels with VITA, allowing the education efforts to make significant progress.


“Kartik has done all of this in his focused and affable manner, ever professional, and is truly appreciated for his contributions to making our Education programs a success.”
District 1 Leaders Model the Way
Submitted by Tynoshia Richardson

Recently, Chief Stephen Holmes, Sr. and Deputy Chief Karen Wilson of the Richmond City Probation and Parole Office assisted one of the Gang Unit staff members with conducting routine home visits. Chief Holmes and Deputy Chief Wilson verified the offenders’ residences. In addition, they engaged in constructive dialogue with both offenders and members of the community during home visits.

By conducting the home visits, they gained additional insight of the job duties of their District 1 Probation and Parole Officers as well as their Surveillance Officers. Chief Holmes and Deputy Chief Wilson exemplify leadership and serve as morale boosters and great team players. Chief Holmes and Deputy Chief Wilson completed the home visits due to the staff member winning a COMPAS Booster game here in the district office.

The probation officer that won the game was awarded the opportunity of having their home visits completed by their immediate supervisor.
In Case You Missed It: VADOC on IDOC, Social Media and more!

On YouTube:
Almost Home Cafe and New Beginnings Restaurant

Almost Home Cafe, New Beginnings Restaurant and Fresh Start Bakery provide a true hands-on training experience for women in the Culinary Arts program at CVCU #13. Hear personal stories of how the program restores hope and opens doors. To learn more click here.

Tweets to Repeat:
Cornhole anyone? CTE students at St. Brides CC (boards) & Greensville CC (bags) built custom sets for @GovernorVA Ralph & First Lady Pamela Northam, pictured here with Asst. Supt. for CTE Programs Cleon Ross II, Instructor Charles Haskett (SBCC) and Instructor Jamie Morgan (GCC).

Probation Officer Elizabeth McClure of District 17-Abingdon rallied her co-workers to donate more than $200 worth of school supplies to Watauga Elementary School in Washington County. PO McClure is challenging other District 17 sub-offices to support local schools.

Skype-like service will provide a new way for Virginia prison inmates and families to communicate: A Skype-like service for prison inmates across the state is being developed by a telephone company and a non-profit organization that helps Virginia prison inmates and their families maintain contact.

Putting 'their best foot forward,' offender work crew takes care of Capitol grounds: Fresh cut grass, raked leaves. A crew seen driving in a little truck around the Virginia Capitol takes care of everything that greets visitors and state workers alike.

Virginia offering corrections officers 8K to move to understaffed prison: Virginia’s prison system will offer bonuses to correctional officers willing to transfer to a state prison with high turnover and staff vacancy rates.

Catch VADOC in the News!

Sessoms named FOP Director: VADOC Probation and Parole Officer Vonda K. Sessoms was recently sworn in as the first African-American female Director of the Robert A. Hill, Sr. Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #56 (City of Franklin/Southampton County, VA) on July 27 in Richmond.

How the VADOC has Reduced Recidivism Using the Cognitive Community Model: For the past two years, the Virginia Department of Corrections (VADOC) recorded the lowest rate of offender recidivism among 45 states that produce three-year recidivism rates for felons at 23.4 and 22.4 percent.

Virginia native, Hall of Famer Allen Iverson attends final game of basketball league built to reduce crime in Richmond: Twin 6-year-olds Ja-vion and Savion Nicholson dribbled a basketball with both hands when a deep voice behind them requested it. “Kick it,” said Allen Iverson.

Virginia, to officers: Move to understaffed prison, get $8K: Virginia’s prison system will offer bonuses to correctional officers willing to transfer to a state prison with high turnover and staff vacancy rates.