

AROUND CORRECTIONS

Official Newsletter of the
Virginia Department of Corrections



Winter 2016

Editor-in-Chief Lisa E. Kinney

Editor Win Sisson

Director's Message



The Virginia General Assembly is currently in the middle of this year's legislative session, just past the crossover period when bills move between the House and the Senate. Looking only at the five legislative initiatives the Department forwarded – four focusing on SIU and one focused on a mental health issue – one would have thought this would be a rather uneventful and quiet session. However, as a result of other measures introduced by entities outside the Department, we have found ourselves embroiled in controversy and having to spend a lot of energy attempting to educate legislators and others on the issues presented by such measures.

We have spent considerable time providing information related to an execution bill referred to as the “default to electrocution bill” that would allow for electrocution to be used to carry out a court ordered execution when the Department doesn't have the drugs necessary for a lethal injection. Current Virginia law allows for both lethal injection and electrocution, but the choice is the offender's. If the offender doesn't choose, the default method is lethal injection.

We have also spent considerable time addressing a Virginia Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) bill introduced by Sen. Surovell. The Department prevailed in a lawsuit last year in the Virginia Supreme Court when Mr. Surovell sued the Department for not

releasing documents to him regarding the capital punishment process.

Another major item we have addressed involved a measure to give the Board of Corrections authority over certain Department operations. That measure died in the Senate and did not cross over to the House.

I am told by others who have been around the Virginia legislative process longer than I have that the Governor's introduced budget is the most generous budget for the Department that anyone can remember. The Governor's budget provides resources to the Department for hiring correctional officers and for mental health and treatment positions in the community, and it reinforces the work we've been doing the last several years. So far, the Governor's proposals are being supported in both the House and Senate, but it's not over until all the signatures appear on the final budget.

I want to recognize the Department's legislative team, led by Elisabeth Thornton, which has shepherded the legislative initiatives introduced by the Department and educated legislators as it pertains to other bills being introduced. Ms. Thornton's team includes Marie Vargo, Rose Durban, and others who have stepped up to help as needed, including wardens, superintendents, chiefs, probation officers, HQ staff, and others who have been called upon to provide information and to educate local officials.

We also owe a sincere thank-you to Governor Terry McAuliffe and Secretary Brian Moran for their support. The proposed budget will help ensure that you can continue to do an amazing job of making the Commonwealth a safer place to live and work.

Harold Clarke

Virginia's Restrictive Housing Reforms Highlighted by the U.S. Department of Justice



Virginia's efforts to help inmates in the state's highest security prisons move out of long term restrictive housing have been recognized by the U.S. Department of Justice. In a recently released report, Virginia is recognized for a huge drop in the number of offenders in restrictive housing over a five-year period.

The U.S. Department of Justice's “Report and Recommendations Concerning the Use of Restrictive Housing” highlights the Virginia Department of Corrections' (VADOC) Administrative Segregation Step-Down Program at Red Onion State Prison and Wallens Ridge State Prison, one of only five states' programs lauded in the report.

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Emergent Leaders Institute Off to a Roaring Start



The Emergent Leaders Institute (ELi), a Director's Initiative to foster agency leaders, got off to a roaring start on February 1. ELi utilizes interactive and self-directed trainings to inspire, broaden, and engage the Department's developing leaders. ELi is a 24-month program with progressive check points.

“The institute will have the capacity to position our agency to be more successful than it has ever been. The focus of the Emergent Leaders Institute will be on the mid-level leaders throughout the Department of Corrections,” said Director Harold Clarke.

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General Assembly 2016 Session



The Virginia General Assembly 2016 regular session convened in Richmond on January 13.

As always, the Department is tracking and responding to legislation affecting public safety.

One of the most important things the General Assembly does is maintain a balanced budget. This year legislators will craft a new biennial budget.

The deadline to introduce bills was January 22 and crossover occurred on February 17.

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Virginia's Restrictive Housing Reforms Highlighted by the U.S. Department of Justice

Few Offenders Remain in Restrictive Housing in Virginia Prisons

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The U.S. Department of Justice's "Report and Recommendations Concerning the Use of Restrictive Housing" highlights the Virginia Department of Corrections' (VADOC) Administrative Segregation Step-Down Program at Red Onion State Prison and Wallens Ridge State Prison, one of only five states' programs lauded in the report. The Administrative Segregation Step-Down Program addresses offenders assigned to Security Level S, which is defined as long term restrictive housing.

In October of 2011, the VADOC initiated reforms at the state's highest-security prisons to change the culture and motivate positive change. As a result, the Administrative Segregation Step-Down Program was created, giving high-risk offenders the opportunity to work their way out of restrictive housing and into the general prison population.

When the Step-Down program began in 2011, 511 Virginia Department of Corrections offenders were housed in long term administrative segregation, whether for their protection or the protection of others. All but 84 of the original 511 offenders have completed the program and transitioned to general population housing. Only 15 of the program completers have returned to Security Level S. There are more than 30,000 offenders in Virginia's prisons.

The restrictive housing report was commissioned in July of 2015 when President Barack Obama asked Attorney General Loretta Lynch to conduct a review of what he described as "the overuse of solitary confinement across America prisons." Its purpose was to help develop strategies for reducing the use of restrictive housing.

Since the reforms, Virginia has witnessed a 72 percent reduction in the number of men housed in long term restrictive housing. At Red Onion State Prison, measuring from 2011 through 2015, incident reports are down 65 percent, inmate grievances have fallen 71 percent and informal complaints have been reduced by 76 percent. A school was built for the

first time at Red Onion State Prison, opening on July 26, 2013. In 2015, 260 Red Onion offenders were enrolled in school.

In referencing VADOC's Step-Down Program, the Justice Department (DOJ) states, "The Department focused on risk reduction strategies, enhancing inmates' motivation to change problematic behavior combined with programming to provide new skills. The program includes cognitive behavioral journaling, the use of therapeutic modules, and security chairs to allow inmates to come out of their cells and join small groups for programming, and increasing performance expectations and additional privileges at each level."

Offenders who would once have been restricted to their cells for the majority of each day are given the opportunity to work their way out of their cells and join small groups for programming. Performance expectations increase at each level of the Step-Down Program and additional privileges can be earned.

In describing Virginia's implementation of the Step-Down Program, the DOJ report states, "The warden, his executive team, and all staff completed training to acquire effective communication and strategies to motivate change. The Department also created new positions of Cognitive [sic] Treatment Officers, uniformed staff who escort and supervise inmates, who are also trained to provide programming to motivate and support positive change."

The Segregation Step-Down Program was also nationally recognized in 2013, receiving the State Transformation in Action (STAR) Award from the Council of State Government's Southern Legislative Conference.

VADOC is working to implement key elements of the Administrative Segregation Step-Down Program statewide for offenders at lower security facilities who are placed into restrictive housing for short periods of time, giving these offenders an opportunity to participate in activities like cognitive behavioral journaling before they return to the general prison population. Applying the program statewide is intended to prevent offenders them from escalating to longer term, higher security restrictive housing.



The Virginia Department of Corrections has been recognized for its efforts to reduce the use of restrictive housing in its highest security facilities including Red Onion State Prison, above.

In 2013, the Segregation Step-Down Program received the STAR Award from the Council of State Government's Southern Legislative Conference, left.

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"Successful organizations recognize that there are leaders at all levels in their organizations," Director Clarke added. "It is important to recognize mid-level leaders, and to provide them with the necessary skills and the tools that can help them lead their organizations successfully."

The ELi curriculum consists of courses at the Academy for Staff Development (ASD), e-learning courses from the National Institute of Corrections (NIC), webinar presentations from upper management, TED talks and readings primarily from the Director's Reading List. Each participant is also assigned a sponsor from whom they can receive guidance throughout the program.

The detailed program curriculum, sponsor information, and other updates can be found on iDOC under the Director's Initiatives on the ELi tab. Also on the ELi tab, participants will find a link to the VADOC-NIC website where they can access the required NIC e-learning courses. Detailed instruction on how to set-up a NIC account and enroll in courses can be found on the ELi tab and the VADOC-NIC website. TED talks may also be accessed from the ELi tab. Sergeants are welcome to utilize facility and ASD libraries to complete the required reading, and some reading materials will be provided.

As the Director says, leadership is not a spectator sport. This is your challenge - be engaged, find your voice, lead ethically, and innovate.

Employees using their agency accounts can view the ELi page by clicking [here](#).



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For more information about the Virginia General Assembly, [click here](#).

VADOC proposals would:

- Add protection for sworn Special Investigative Unit (SIU) positions, especially when exercising duties outside designated facilities or offices
- Define retired SIU agents as able to carry concealed weapons
- Expand line of duty benefits for SIU agents
- Allow retiring SIU agents to purchase service weapons for a nominal amount
- Expand VADOC CORIS to allow interface with the Supreme Court of Virginia
- Allow licensed professional counselors to provide reports during commitment hearings for offenders with mental health issues



George Washington Equestrian Monument on the Capitol Grounds (picture from www.vacapitol.org)

Governor Proclaims February as Career and Technical Education Month

Governor's Proclamation

2/1/2016

WHEREAS, economic and technological changes in our society are rapidly reflected in the structure and nature of today's workplace, thereby placing new and additional responsibilities on our educational system; and

WHEREAS, Career and Technical Education provides students with a career pathway for post-secondary education and workplace readiness, and is the foundation of a strong, well-educated workforce, which fosters productivity in business and industry and contributes to Virginia's leadership in the international marketplace; and

WHEREAS, Career and Technical Education gives students experience in practical, and meaningful applications of basic skills such as reading, writing, and mathematics, thereby improving the quality of their education; and

WHEREAS, Career and Technical Education offers individuals lifelong opportunities to learn new skills that provide them with more career choices, expanded earning potential, and greater job satisfaction; and

WHEREAS, the cooperative and ever-increasing efforts between career and technical educators, administrators, and representatives of business and industry stimulate the growth and vitality of our Commonwealth's economy by preparing students for careers in high-demand, high-wage, and highly technologically-skilled areas in a global economy; and

WHEREAS, this year's theme, Opportunities for Career Success, demonstrates the crucial role that career and technical education plays in readying our students for successful careers;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Terence R. McAuliffe, do hereby recognize February 2016 as **CA-REER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION MONTH** in our **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.



VADOC CTE Programs

Auto Body ASE
 Auto Tech & Service ASE
 Barbering
 Building Maintenance
 Building Trades
 Business Software Applications
 Canine Handling
 Carpentry
 Commercial Foods
 Communication Arts & Design
 Computer Literacy
 Computer Systems Technology
 Construction Surveying
 Consumer Electronics
 Cosmetology
 Custodial Maintenance
 Drafting/CAD
 Electricity
 Floor Covering
 Graphic Communications & Print Production
 Horticulture: Greenhouse/Nursery
 Horticulture: Landscaping/Design
 HVAC/Refrigeration
 Industrial Maintenance Mechanics
 Introduction to Computers
 Masonry
 Optical Technology
 Painting/Drywall
 Pipefitting
 Plumbing
 Roofing/Siding
 Sheet Metal
 Small Engine Repair
 Upholstery
 Water/Waste Water Treatment
 Welding

First Lady Dorothy McAuliffe Visits Detainees on the Job in Franklin

On February 12, Virginia's First Lady Dorothy McAuliffe visited the Cover 3 Foundation (C3F) facility in Franklin and watched as detainees from Southampton Detention Center packed meals for childcare programs in southeastern Virginia.

SDC Assistant Superintendent Early Turner and Senior Probation Officer Wynndolyn Copeland attended as the First Lady toured the C3F facility, which provides more than 1,500 meals each week for children across Hampton Roads and in the counties of Greenville and Sussex.

The detainees enjoy working alongside the C3F founder and Franklin

native Greg Scott, a former NFL player who played with the Washington Redskins in 2002.

One detainee said, "I love working at Cover 3 because it provides me with an opportunity to give back to the community."

To visit the C3F website, click [here](#).



From left to right: Cover 3's Kevin Scott and Greg Scott, Share our Strength Program's Eddie Oliver, SDC Senior Probation Officer Wynndolyn Copeland, First Lady Dorothy McAuliffe, SDC Assistant Superintendent Early Turner.



Detainees from Southampton Detention Center prepare and package food for distribution.

Polar Plungers Look to Retain Top Honor

On February 6 in Virginia Beach, VADOC's Team TRUE BLUE sought to retain the Polar Plunge Law Enforcement Challenge Award. To receive this award, a law enforcement agency must have the most plungers. The Department's team won the award last year by virtue of its 103 plungers.

If TRUE BLUE wins this year, it will be TRUE BLUE's sixth consecutive award.

Team "TRUE BLUE" consists of staff, family of staff, and friends of staff who come together to show support of the Department of Corrections and the Department's involvement in the Law Enforcement Torch Run, which benefits Special Olympics of Virginia.

This year's Polar Plunge Festival in Virginia Beach featured a new location between 31st and 34th Streets, Virginia Beach. Plungers were encouraged to "earn" the right to plunge by raising \$100 or more. In addition to chilly dips in the ocean, the event featured a brand new 8K Run/Walk and a 1 Mile Dash & Splash.

This event also presents a unique opportunity for Corrections staff.

In June, Senior Vice President of Special Olympics of Virginia Roy Zeidman presented the Law Enforcement Challenge Award for Polar Plunge 2015 to ASD's Captain Jim Shantz, who also serves as one of the team captains on the Polar Plunge team "TRUE BLUE."

If you missed the Virginia Beach event or want to go again, plunges are also being held in Richmond and Radford.

The Richmond Plunge:

RVA aka- "Richmond, Virginia Plunge" Feb. 27 at the shops on Willow Lawn

- 12 p.m. Plunge registration opens
- 2 p.m. Registration closes. Red Carpet Costume Contest begins; awards announced
- 2:20 p.m. Plunge safety briefing
- 2:30 p.m. The Plunge!
- 4 p.m. Festival ends

The contact person is Lt. Wayne Beagle, Event Team Captain, at harold.beagle@vadoc.virginia.gov

The Radford Plunge:

(Also know as the New River Plunge) will be held on Feb. 27 at Bisset Park in Radford

The contact person is Captain Jim Shantz, available at jim.shantz@vadoc.virginia.gov. For more information, on any of the three events: www.polarplunge.com



At top: Team TRUE BLUE's participants at Virginia Beach in 2016.

Directly above: Norfolk Probation and Parole Penguins raised \$6341.01 for Special Olympics. Back row left to right: SPO Ginette Gelardi, MH Specialist Patrick Carroll, Debbie Winoski, PO Donna Baker, SPO Valerie Towns, and Darrell Hopkins. Sitting are Melodie Rodgers and Joshua Coleman. Also participating were PO Jennifer Matthews and Jimmy Entas.

Wendy Hobbs Recognized for Community Contributions



The Goochland County Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) recently honored VADOC's Wendy Hobbs as a role model and an inspiration to others. Ms. Hobbs, VADOC's Regional Administrator for Institutions in the Central Region, is the youngest warden in VADOC history and the first black warden at the Virginia Correctional Center for Women. The Goochland NAACP honored her during its annual Freedom Fund banquet this fall, and in December, she was also recognized by Governor Terry McAuliffe and the Department for her contributions to the community at large and especially its youth. She is flanked by Director Harold Clarke, left, and Offender Discipline Manager Karen Stapleton.

Coffeewood Practices Collaborative Drill



UVA/Culpeper Hospital & Coffeewood Correctional Center conducted a "table top escape drill" on December 10 at the hospital. UVA/CRH Chief of Security McCoy gave the CWCC staff a tour of their facility. The group then discussed how they could work together to ensure the safety and security for the local community and all staff involved.

Augusta Commends Gabe Roach



On Thursday, January 14, Gabe Roach was in A-2 pod at Augusta Correctional Center to perform maintenance. Mr. Roach noticed an offender in obvious distress. Mr. Roach responded quickly to aid the offender and defuse a potentially dangerous situation. Mr. Roach's keen observation and appropriate response are commendable. Pictured from left are: Assistant Warden Darrell Miller, Gabe Roach, and Superintendent Frank Jolly.



Inaugural Session of Visiting Lecture Series at ASD: Homicide Hunter Joe Kenda



(pictured from www.investigationdiscovery.com)

The Virginia Department of Corrections kicked off its Visiting Lecture Series at the Academy for Staff Development on January 6 by entertaining Joe Kenda, a former detective with the Colorado Springs Police Department.

He is better known for hosting the Investigation Discovery television show *Homicide Hunter*.

As he does on his show, he regaled his VADOC audience with interesting accounts of his career as a detective during which he solved hundreds of murders.

Pictures, counter clockwise starting at left, Mr. Kenda as depicted in ID Channel promotional materials; Mr. Kenda with Chief of Corrections Operations David Robinson and Director Harold Clarke; Mr. Kenda with VADOC's Information Security Officer Cherrey Wallace; at right, Mr. Kenda speaks.



Homicide Hunter, Joe Kenda

Boushall Middle Visits Headquarters

For the past several years, Richmond City middle school students have made an annual visit to VADOC's Headquarters to learn about career opportunities.

On February 4, students from T. C. Boushall Middle School heard from HR's Angie Jones, below. Middle row, bottom: CTSU's Atron Thorne. Far row, top: HR Director Joseph Walters; far row second from top; HR's Barry Elgert. In the lower right are the organizers of Boushall's visit; from left: Christi Munford-Thomas; Angie Jones; Carolyn Fowlkes; and Berry Watson.



Family Reunification in Petersburg



On January 27, returning citizens and their families attended a family reunification event in Petersburg.

The Petersburg/Dinwiddie Re-Entry and Reunification Program organized by Probation and Parole District 7 offered a wealth of information on how to successfully transition back into the community. Petersburg's Chief of Probation and Parole Ron Revish and Probation Officer Faye Knight organized the event which featured a panel of five stakeholders who shared information and offered to help returning citizens in various ways:

- Virginia State University representatives discussed available educational opportunities including how to use grants to further one's education.
- Enroll Virginia offered aid in obtaining affordable health care.
- AFWVETS assured veterans that they could help them obtain their rightful benefits.
- Goodwill representatives reminded attendees that they can come free of charge to use computers, receive help with job seeking, and get proper clothing for a job interview.
- An owner of a power washing company offered employment to anyone interested in obtaining work.

Ms. Knight challenged the attendees, "Dare to reach out your hand into the darkness, to pull another hand into the light."



Former Offender Delivers Inspiration to St. Brides Correctional Center's Returning Citizens



Lisa Kratz Thomas
(photo: www.lisakratzthomas.com)

On December 9, Lisa Kratz Thomas, author and motivational speaker, gave an encouraging and informative presentation on reentry to the returning citizens in Pre-Cognitive and Cognitive Community at St. Brides Correctional Center. A former offender, Ms. Thomas, who battled cocaine and alcohol addiction before turning her life around, uses her story to inspire others to successful reentry. On the left, the screen behind her depicts two books she has authored, "This Is Your Life – Not a Dress Rehearsal, Rising above the myths of addiction," and "Overcoming Obstacles of Re-Entry."



The Garden: Deerfield Correctional Center's Healing Environment

Submitted by James Beale

At Deerfield Correctional Center, we refer to our Healing Environment as "The Garden," because our initiative has grown. We have watched our staff grow by accepting more responsibilities, by rising to opportunities, and by focusing strongly on cultivating our workforce.

The Chinese Bamboo Tree - In the Far East, there is a tree called the Chinese bamboo tree. This remarkable tree is different from most trees in that it doesn't grow in the usual fashion. While most trees grow steadily over a period of years, the Chinese bamboo tree doesn't break through the ground for its first four years. Then, in its fifth year, an amazing thing happens – the tree begins to grow at an astonishing rate. In fact, in a period of just five weeks a Chinese bamboo tree can grow to a height of 90 feet.

Well, we are convinced that life often works in a similar way. We can work for weeks, months, even years on developing the Healing Environment and have no visible signs of progress. Then suddenly, things take off. Our efforts pay off handsomely, exceeding our best hopes.

"The Garden" at Deerfield Correctional Center has many sections, purposes and growing seasons. The third quarter of 2015 has been exciting and rewarding in many ways.

The Healing Garden

(Adaptation from Kate Miller and The Amish Country Cookbook "Vegetable Garden")

Kathy Walker, Unit Manager, presented this in the June Leadership Team Meeting at Deerfield and shared this with Cookie Scott and Lisa Kinney during their recent visit from the Healing Environment Council.

- There is no Garden without five rows of Peas (P's). So we plant many rows of Patience, Promptness, Preparation, Perseverance, and Purity of Heart.
- Then plant three rows of Squash, and we Squash gossip; Squash criticism; and Squash indifference.
- Then plant five rows of Lettuce (Let us)- Let-us be faithful to duty; Let-us be unselfish; Let-us be loyal; Let-us be true to obligations, and Let-us care about one another.
- No Garden is complete without some Turnips (Turn ups). So we Turn-up for meetings; Turn-up with a smile; Turn-up with good ideas, and Turn-up with determination to make everything count for something good and worthwhile.

We add a little Fertilizer - Words without deeds, grow a Garden full of weeds...

Deerfield Correctional Center would like to introduce "Quest"



Continued on next page

What Others are Doing:

The VADOC Intranet Healing Environment Page

Each VADOC facility embraces the Healing Environment in its own unique way.

To see how the different Probation and Parole districts and correctional facilities have applied Healing Environment concepts, visit the [Healing Environment page](#) on the DOC Intranet. From the main page, on the left side, click Department Initiatives and then, in the drop down box, Healing Environment and find news and video.



Continued from Previous Page: The Garden: Deerfield Correctional Center's Healing Environment

into our Healing Environment Initiative. "Quest" is represented by a character (pictured at the lower right with bamboo trees) which was introduced into our Healing Environment Initiative. Quest is one who represents our team as we **Seek, Explore** and **Discover**.

First Quest's mission becomes our mission. As we first **Seek**. We read and learn. We search for someone or something we may need along the way. We must make the effort to achieve something great within our Garden. Our Team teaches us what we must learn. What plants are the most productive? When is the optimum time for planting and for harvesting? When is the time of rest for the land? How can we tell what the plants need? What do we want our Garden to look like after we've carefully planted and cultivated it?

We would then **Explore** or observe, we would study something in a careful way to learn more about it; talk together, and consider something in a thoughtful and detailed way. Dialogue helps us to be heard as we explore the richness of the soil where our plants grow. As the workers move, follow, oppose, and at times serve as bystanders, we begin to weed out troubles along the way to strengthen and prepare our best thoughts and ideas in what is a healthy, productive Garden.

Finally, within the Garden we hope to **Discover**. We hope to become aware of something for the first time, to reveal something hidden in each of us. We hope to find a strength each of us can present to the team. As we reveal and share these strengths, it helps our Garden to grow.

Although we cannot control the weather or storms that come our way, the Gardner of our plants has kept watch to ensure strong roots and support are in place for each of us. Through our work the Garden perseveres and continues to grow.

Comments from members of our Management Team:

"In my position, I actually put the Healing concept into action. In working with staff and/or offenders there are times when I have to cultivate, weed, feed, and water them to strengthen their roots of growth, compassion, understanding and trust. I do this by setting examples such as training staff and setting consequences for offenders while at the same time being a good listener and mentor. A Healing Environment requires respect from both staff and offenders and I truly believe that as our Gardens

continue to mature that our harvest will be very rewarding."

"Our homework was to provide some suggestions as to what we need to do to ensure better performance with our Garden throughout our entire complex. My suggestion is that we develop a truly anonymous survey of our staff. Doing so might provide us with a truer picture of what our entire staff is really feeling and provide some great input regarding procedures and other functions that we can use to improve our entire facility."

"At DWWC: all staff received an email copy of DFCC's 'The Garden.' The offenders created a Healing Garden poster which was hung in the staff break area. For Labor Day, the offenders were allowed to play their music on the rec yard over the weekend. They really enjoyed it! For several months now, an inspirational message has been read over the intercom after the 11:30 a.m. count."

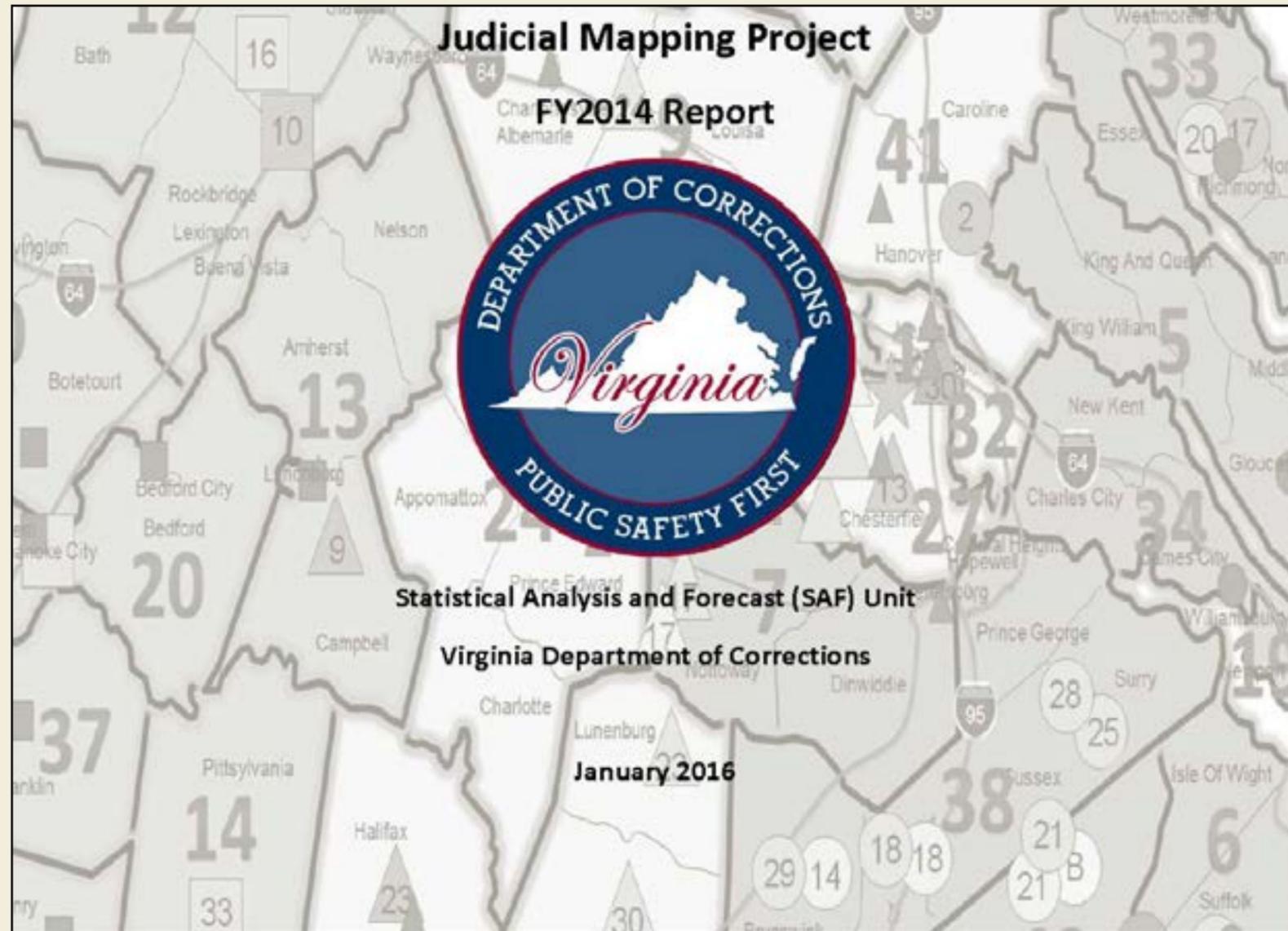
"Deerfield Complex appears to be meeting its Healing Environment initiative in that we are actively fostering the growing of our staff. Staff members are provided the opportunities to learn and grow through education, coaching, cross-training and allowed to do their job which provides them the skills and knowledge to promote either within or at other facilities. Staff members are encouraged to provide input and ideas in daily operations which help us move forward while providing meaningful programs to offenders."

"I see the Garden as a well planted, well cared for crop which will have a great harvest. I have seen the seed planted through the hiring of staff - all cared for, cultivated and well groomed. I have seen many like the Chinese Bamboo tree; not breaking the ground for about four or five years more or less. They then advance through the ranks, Sergeants, Lieutenants, and Captains or equivalent in less than two years which is a very good thing. Plants are rewarded that remain in the Garden faithful to duty, loyal and obligated to the gardener, and who care about the other plants be they staff or others under their care and help them grow also."

Our Healing Garden was full on October 7 & 8, 2015. All our staff celebrated - from recent retirements to new recruits. We celebrated our Strike Force Team, our FTO's, and Employee of the Year. We challenged each other to make a difference in the world through the Combined Virginia Campaign.



Judicial Mapping Project Offers a Wealth of Information About the Offender Population



For basic information about new court commitments, one need only turn to the recently released Judicial Mapping Project FY2014 Report.

The report serves up lots of interesting data, some predictable and some perhaps surprising.

For instance, in FY2014 the top ten localities with new court commitments (NCCs) are, as one might expect, also places with major population concentrations:

1. Norfolk
2. Richmond City
3. Virginia Beach
4. Chesapeake
5. Fairfax
6. Henrico
7. Chesterfield
8. Prince William
9. Portsmouth
10. Newport News

Less obvious are localities with the highest NCCs per percentage of population. In FY2014, the top ten localities for NCCs per 10,000 had lots of representation from the southwest:

1. Bristol
2. Fredericksburg
3. Martinsville
4. Lee
5. Danville
6. Pulaski
7. Tazewell
8. Russell
9. Wise
10. Buchanan

Which locality had the most state-responsible confinements in FY2014?

Norfolk – 2,871

But which locality has the most per 10,000 population?

Bristol - 176.46 per 10,000

Norfolk ranked sixth behind Bristol, Martinsville, Danville, Portsmouth, and Southampton.

The Judicial Mapping project offers data on: new court commitments, confined populations, releases, probation and parole district populations, crimes, and expected lengths of stay. The Judicial Mapping Project is available online by clicking [here](#).

Christmas Means Giving: VADOC Staff and Offenders Brighten the Season for Local Communities



Appalachian Detention Center's returning citizens gave \$528 to the annual CVC campaign.



On December 17, Unit Manager Tim Back (AKA: Santa Claus), center, visited Craigsville Elementary, bringing breakfast and candy canes.



Baskerville Correctional Center "adopted" 11 children for Christmas through Mecklenburg County Social Services. Above are some of the gifts they gave.



P&P District 14 Danville held a Christmas Food Drive led by Cassandra Stone, Mark Davis and Frances Booker. Employees donated a bounty of foods.



P&P District 18 Norton's Dickenson County Team purchased gifts for a child from the Department of Social Services' Angel Tree program.



P&P District 40 Fincastle donated 175 pounds of food to the Manna Mission Ministries of Roanoke.



For Christmas, Keen Mountain Correctional Center staff sponsored six children and two elderly special needs adults via Buchanan County Social Services.

Christmas Means Giving And More Giving



Harrisonburg Men's Detention Center staff contributed to Toys for Tots.



Lunenburg Correctional Center joined in with the Salvation Army to make several children happy during the Christmas holiday.



Marion Correctional Treatment Center's Honor Guard participated in a local holiday parade.



HQ's Health Services shared a joyful message!



Pocahontas State Correctional Center staff held the 8th Annual PSCC/AVBES Partners in Education Christmas Celebration.



Sussex II State Prison employees helped to put smiles on the faces of 20 children by taking part in the 2015 Angel Tree Project.



HQ, River North, Nottoway Make Extra Holiday Efforts

Headquarters, at left, put together more than 100 winter care packages for Housing Families First of Richmond.

River North Correctional Center (RNCC), at bottom, partnered with Galax Fire Department for a record-breaking effort in its annual coat and toy drive. RNCC received numerous coats and toys to give to VFW #7266 in Independence for their annual Angel Tree drive. As the fire truck made its way down the street during an annual Christmas parade in Galax on December 5, people put toys and coats on the fire truck.

Independence Fire Chief Gary Hash stated this was the most new coats they have ever received. RNCC decided to get involved with the coat drive this year because Assistant Warden Kanode expressed such an interest in the coat drive project.

Nottoway Correctional Center, at right, adopted a family of five through Nottoway Social Services and donated non-food items such as cleaning/paper supplies that families cannot use the SNAP card to purchase. Counselors Charlene Randolph and Danielle Webster, lower right, coordinated this worthwhile effort.



Nottoway Correctional Center staff adopted a family of five through Nottoway Social Services.



Nottoway Correctional Center Counselors Charlene Randolph and Danielle Webster coordinated the fac-



River North Correctional Center partnered with Galax Fire Department in their annual coat and toy drive.





Catch VADOC in the News!

Please note: Due to recent restrictions by VITA, some of the links may not be available between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday to Friday



Fetch a Cure Pixie's Pen Pals: A recent episode of Virginia Currents focused on second chances delivered to VADOC offenders by canine programs that promote teamwork, caring and problem solving skills.



On The Farm/On The Road: Students at the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine have a long-standing relationship with their No. 1 client, the Virginia Department of Corrections, and it yields valuable teaching opportunities, according to TRACKS magazine.



Regional Jail, DMV Help Inmates Receive ID Cards: A program established by the Virginia Department of Corrections in 2012 is helping jailed offenders obtain identification cards and make a crucial first step on their way to a successful reentry.



With Program, Inmates Rehabilitate Unruly Canines: The Danville Register and Bee recently visited Green Rock Correctional Center's BARK program which facilitates local canine rescue and adoption efforts.



Cost of Inmate Calls In Virginia Drastically Reduced: Governor Terry McAuliffe says inmates in Virginia's prison system now pay some of the lowest phone call rates in the country. Check out a report by WCAV 19 CBS in Charlottesville.



Artist Brightens Lives of Inmates in Chesterfield: Time spent at Unit 13 in Chesterfield County is time well spent for Elaine Bankston, a local artist who utilizes her talent to help offenders discover their own abilities.



Virginia Says It Lacks Lethal Injection Drugs for Upcoming Execution: The Virginia Department of Corrections says it currently lacks enough of the first of three drugs it needed to put to death the killer of Richmond's Harvey family.



Lending a Hand in Lynchburg: B.B. Shavers has 19 years of prison and three years of probation behind him now. 'If you get a chance to get out, the last thing you want to do is go back,' he says. He credits VADOC P&P efforts as important to his success. Read about it in the Lynchburg News & Advance.



Do you have a story idea for the newsletter (or IDOC)? Please contact Win Sisson at george.sisson@vadoc.virginia.gov or call (804) 887-8072.