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**CORRECTIONS BUDGET APPROVED;
STATE STILL WITHOUT
FY 2009-10 BUDGET**

Governor Jennifer M. Granholm has signed the Corrections budget bill, along with several other department budgets for fiscal year (FY) 2009-10. A \$38 million cut to correctional facilities funding in the Corrections budget was vetoed by the Governor, who cited safety concerns as the primary factor.

The Governor remains concerned about the depth of cuts in areas vital to Michigan’s future and safety. She has said that she will review each bill and veto items that threaten the health, welfare, or safety of Michigan’s citizens.

While all of the budget bills have been passed by both houses of the Legislature, the Senate is still holding six bills in their chamber, concerned that Governor Granholm may use her line-item veto power to eliminate unpopular cuts and force revenue enhancements to fund those programs. Those bills include General Government; State Police; Energy, Labor, and Economic Growth; Human Services; Community Health; and Higher Education.

While the Corrections budget has been passed, the entire FY 2009-10 budget must be passed to avoid the possibility of another government shutdown. Only 12 days remain for lawmakers and the Governor to find common ground.

**TRAINING REMAINS AN INTEGRAL PART
OF SUCCESS IN CORRECTIONS**

The Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) boasts one of the best training programs in the nation. Each year staff receive new employee training, annual update training, voluntary training to upgrade skills, and specialized training that supports new and changing programming.

Staff benefit from this training in a variety of ways. Whether saving a life or influencing an offender to succeed, training creates the atmosphere for a professional and well-skilled workforce. These well-trained staff are the result of dedicated training professionals who take the time to deliver the best training possible. There are 39 Human Resource Developers and more than 300 training staff throughout the MDOC who are entrusted to deliver training in

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TRAINING (Continued from page 1)

everything from advanced tactical firearms to Collaborative Case Management. Each of these programs is important to the overall operation of the Department.

At the recent annual Institutional Training Officer's (ITO) meeting, nearly 50 training staff discussed another year of training programs and initiatives. Each of these individuals is responsible for the delivery of quality programming with integrity and pride in the job they do. They help make it possible for each employee in the MDOC to accomplish their job each day.

Sometimes an employee's training extends beyond the MDOC and into the community or even their own home. In nearly every **F.Y.I.**, there has been an article describing the courageous efforts of an employee to save a life or lend a helping hand. The skills applied in these situations are

often acquired through MDOC training. Qualified and competent training staff helped make the difference.

As budgets have been cut, the Department's trainers have had to become more adaptable. Utilization of computer-based training, regional delivery of training, and consortium-based training where several agencies share the cost of training have all been implemented in recent years.



While the face of training may be changing, the philosophy of delivering valuable and high quality programming to the employees has not. Next time you apply something you learned from one of the MDOC's training staff, remember where it came from and how important it is to continue investing in this valuable resource.

HONOR GUARD TO HOLD ANNUAL FUND-RAISER



The Michigan Department of Corrections Honor Guard is holding its annual fund-raising dinner and silent auction on Friday, December 4, 2009 from 6 p.m. to Midnight at MSU's Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center in East Lansing, MI. The cost is \$20 per person and includes dinner, cash bar, and a chance to bid on some awesome silent auction items during the banquet.

The dinner and awards banquet celebrates the unit's accomplishments over the past year and raises money for the Honor Guard Fund. This fund supports unit operations and provides donations for fallen correctional staff at the state and national level.

Awards will be given to unit members who have gone above the call to duty during the past year. Retired members will also be recog-

nized for their contributions to the unit, while new members will be introduced and accepted into the Honor Guard family.

The banquet is open to anyone who supports the Honor Guard. Current and retired members are especially encouraged to attend this annual reunion of sorts.

Because of generous donations from supporting organizations, the Honor Guard was able to lower the per-guest price this year to \$20, a 40% reduction in price from last year!!

Please contact Kathy Keiffer at 517-335-1407 or keiffekj@michigan.gov for more information about this premier event. You can also visit the **MDOC Honor Guard** Facebook page for more information about the event.



RE-ENTRY ROUNDTABLE SAFER NEIGHBORHOODS & BETTER CITIZENS

The Michigan Prisoner ReEntry Initiative is constantly evolving. As more services and programming come online, the Michigan Department of Corrections and our state and community partners continue to share the successes of the program. *Re-Entry Roundtable* is a continuing column that provides news, facts, and program successes about the new way of doing business in the MDOC.

The Michigan Prisoner ReEntry Initiative (MPRI) continues to evolve as it expands to become the best correctional re-entry model in the United States.

When the initiative was unveiled in 2004, the focus was on the over 48,000 male prisoners in Michigan's prison system. Evaluators reviewed programming throughout the department, to determine what evidence-based programs led to the intended outcome for MPRI - creation of safer neighborhoods and better citizens.

During the program evaluations, re-entry specialists found that women in the prison system had a totally different set of needs that had to be met for successful re-entry into society. Specialists began developing and implementing programming specifically for female offenders.

Today, that programming is delivered primarily at the Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility (WHV), the only correctional facility in the state to have both Phase I and Phase II of MPRI.

Phase one of MPRI is a phase that focuses on "Getting Ready." Prisoners are offered programming that includes educational and vocational enhancements, drug and alcohol abuse prevention programming, and cognitive programming that gives prisoners the opportunity to think before they act.

Phase II is the "Going Home" phase. This phase ensures that the prisoner has all of the skills, tools, necessary documents, and community support services to re-enter society.

Adequate residential placement, a job or job search efforts, and continued necessary programming especially in the areas of drug and alcohol prevention and cognitive development and control are essential components of the re-entry process.



WHV programming now addresses various criminogenic needs throughout the period of incarceration and in preparation for release into the community. One need that is targeted is substance abuse, for which both Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) as well as Outpatient Treatment is offered. In addition,

employees are trained to deliver a variety of Family Wellness programs that address relationship and family dynamics. Another example of newly approved programming is the Moving On program which will be implemented in the next few months. Moving

On is a gender-responsive cognitive-based program that covers a wide range of life issues. Finally, while in the In-reach phase, offenders are given a pre-release class, as well as being offered family focus groups and employment workshops.

With new programming being tested and implemented in the near future, female prisoners will have an even greater chance at successful re-integration into the community.





“BEING IN THE KNOW”

BY ROSANNE LELAND

“Being in the know” means being an informed consumer. It also means avoiding being taken advantage of by learning about the many consumer scams out there. The following are just a few questions and concerns to ponder. How frequently are you harassed by credit card predators or by telemarketers? How many of us are flooded with junk mail almost daily at home, or interrupted by telemarketers just as we sit down to dinner? Have you ever made a large purchase, and then upon second thought realized you didn’t need and/or didn’t want the purchase? Much more frequently we are hearing about the need to protect our identity.



Listed below is some valuable information and beneficial resources that are available at no cost that can help protect you and make life easier:

- One way to reduce telemarketing calls is by registering your phone number on the Federal Trade Commission’s National Do Not Call Registry (www.donotcall.gov or 1-888-382-1222).
- To reduce or eliminate junk mail call, the Consumer Credit Reporting Industry “Opt in and Opt Out” toll free at 1-888-567-8688. Calling this number will remove your address from telemarketers’ mailing lists.
- Take the time you need when making a purchase. Don’t fall victim to the sales pitches

that offer bargains or discounts if you sign right away. However, if you have a change of mind - for whatever reason - be informed that Michigan law provides you three business days to void the transaction.

- One of the foremost actions that can help to protect identity is not giving personal information over the telephone or internet. Most legitimate businesses will not ask for your social security number over the telephone or internet. If you must conduct business over the telephone, it is best for you to initiate the call.
- The Office of the Attorney General has very valuable “consumer alerts.” To review any of these alerts, visit the Office of the Attorney General website at www.michigan.gov/ag, under AG-Hot Links click on “Consumer Alerts.”

Other resources include the DOC Work/Life web page at www.michigan.gov/corrections, click on “Human Resources,” then click on “Work/Life Services,” and the Employee Service Program at www.michigan.gov/esp.

“Being in the Know” has provided important information and helpful resources for consumers. *Stay tuned* for a second work/life article on additional consumer awareness such as: estate planning, trusts and wills, real estate concerns, landlord/tenant matters, business matters and more.

MICHIGAN FACILITIES STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION

Standish Maximum Correctional Facility has not yet been ruled out as a detention facility for foreign detainees. Several local governments in the Standish area support bringing Gitmo detainees to the facility because of the economic benefit. Pennsylvania is still considering six proposals including one from the Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC). The MDOC proposal could include housing prisoners in Muskegon, Standish, and/or Kincheloe. According to news reports, Michigan’s proposal is the only one that has the flexibility to accept the 1,500 prisoners Pennsylvania needs to house.



PAROLE/PROBATION OFFICERS HELP NAB ALLEGED ROBBERY SUSPECTS



When Sgt. Robert Haig of the Detroit Police Department's Armed Robbery Unit wanted to find the alleged armed robber of a Detroit Family Dollar store, he turned to the Michigan Department of Corrections probation and parole office.

Haig sent surveillance pictures out to all of his contacts and probation/parole offices in Detroit. MDOC Probation Officer Tiffany Weatherbee called Haig back, informing him that she believed the guy in the surveillance photo was a probationer under her supervision.

A photo lineup including the probationer was shown to the victims, who positively identified him as the suspected robber. Detroit Police secured an arrest warrant and arrested the probationer on October 7, 2009.

D/Sgt. Haig thanked MDOC's parole/probation offices for the great job they do and offered special thanks to Tiffany Weatherbee for her efforts in providing key information leading to the arrest.

In another incident, Detroit Police were looking for a suspect in three robberies at the Bank of

America ATM. D/Sgt. Haig was contacted by Parole/Probation Officer Aleta DeMeester from the Lawton Office. She had received the surveillance pictures of the suspect and thought the tattoo on the suspect's right hand was "Cut" for cut throat. DeMeester works gang intelligence and has familiarity with different tattoos.

Her information was shared with all contacts. On September 13, 2009 officers from the 12th Precinct arrested a suspect. He was initially arrested for carrying a concealed weapon and violation of the controlled substance act. Officers noticed he had the word "Cut" tattooed on his right hand and "Throat" on his left. He also was wearing a pinkie ring on his right hand which was consistent with the surveillance photos.

He was arrested for the listed charges. The suspect was interrogated and confessed to all three ATM robberies, along with robberies of a Payless Shoe Store and Liberty Dollar Store. In all, five warrants were issued and the suspect is in jail awaiting sentencing.

NEW AGENTS QUICKLY LEARN THE JOB

The Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) has seen a recent influx of new parole and probation officers (field agents). In FY 2009-10, the MDOC expects have funding to hire another 172 parole/probation officers and add over 2,000 GPS tethers. Many of the new field agents are experiencing field operations for the first time, transitioning over from jobs inside correctional facilities. The new officers will learn their normal duties and roles, but many will also be assigned specialized caseloads including GPS, gender specific, and sex offender cases.





MICHIGAN WARDEN TAKES A POSITION IN MAINE



Patricia Barnhart, who has been the acting Warden at Thumb Correctional Facility in Lapeer, is taking a Warden's job in the state of Maine. Barnhart will take over a high security all-male correctional facility in early December, becoming the first woman to oversee a men's prison in Maine. Warden Barnhart has over 20 years experience in corrections and is seen as a progressive leader who works with both employees and offenders to create a safe and operationally sound correctional facility.

ENERGY SAVING TIPS CAN SAVE \$\$

For those interested in making simple adjustments in your home to be more "green," here are a few simple ways you can reduce energy costs in your home.

Autumn is here in Michigan. This is good news for home owners as the mild temperatures of the fall season allow for reduced energy costs. As the weather gets cooler, air conditioning prices decrease. On the warmer days in early fall, use blinds or, better yet, solar shields (found at a local hardware store or online) to block out sun and cool your house. Fans can also help you to feel more comfortable at a less expensive price. Opening windows during the cooler evenings & mornings will also help keep your home comfortable without air conditioning.



As the days get cooler, other different measures can be taken to keep the warmth inside. Keep windows facing south unshielded to let warm sunlight in, but cover windows facing north to trap the warmth. Weather stripping can be used to block cool autumn drafts and is readily available in hardware stores or online.



Because Michigan weather is often unpredictable, adjust your own comfort by layering clothes and checking the weather forecast often, rather than relying on heat or air conditioning. However, when temperatures are extreme and air conditioning or heat must be used, you can still reduce energy use by blocking off air vents in rooms that are not in use and turn down the furnace or turning off the air conditioning when no one is in the home.

Changing your furnace filter monthly and getting an annual inspection also enhances efficiency and helps avoid costly repairs in the future. More efficient furnace operation will result in energy savings as well. If you have an older furnace that is not designated as a high-efficient model, you may want to consider the cost of replacement vs. the cost of continued operation of a less efficient furnace. The annualized cost savings may be enough to pay for the new furnace in the long run.

These are just a few ways to help make your home more energy efficient this season and through the winter months. A little effort now may create big savings later.



A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

BY JOHN C. CORDELL



What do you do when life gets dark? I'm not talking about actual loss of sunlight, although we have been losing the battle to darkness for a few months now. I'm talking about the darkness within yourself. How do you return to the bright light of our inner self so all of those things we, as humans, suppress within life's shadow remain fearful of the light?

Humans are very remarkable creatures. We are adaptable and cunning, manipulative and ruthless. We are compassionate and gentle, caring and forgiving. We possess an amazing array of qualities that could, in a matter of moments, utterly destroy or steadfastly protect virtually anything on this planet. Those who slip into darkness find themselves capable of unspeakable acts. But, basking in the bright light of life's grand stage, we see people perform caring and sensitive acts that would melt the Grinch's heart.

It's what's inside each of us that draws us toward the light or into the darkness of the human experiment. But it is also our interactions with our external environment and other living things that influence the depth our shadow casts on the world around us. Mounting stress, job losses, a world that seems to get faster - and more dangerous - each day, relationship issues, interpersonal disconnections; these things all seem to conspire against us to dim life's light.

Conversely, seeing an old friend, an unexpected bouquet of flowers, coming home to a clean house or a home cooked meal, or helping someone in need may recharge the batteries of life's light. Those external interactions influence our moods, thoughts, and behaviors.

Still, when the darkness begins to creep in and your shadow stretches to cover everything you care for, how do you make the bright light shine again? For each of us the answer is likely to be a little different. Some people turn to their deity. Others turn to each other. Some people find solitude refreshing. Still others experience the return of that bright light through their children or grandchildren.

Maybe you are one of those cognitive restructuring, "Thinking for a Change," people who can identify their thoughts and feelings, determine a better way to think and feel about life and consciously change the way you think, feel, and behave. If so, great!

Maybe comedy, music, reading, meditation, a vacation, volunteering, a fun movie, friends, and relatives (sometimes), help you step away from the darkness in your life. We all have different ways to combat the dark forces within us that create doubt, anxiety, fear and failure.

Times like these test each of us in different ways and we all react differently. But to continue the human experiment, we have to acknowledge the darkness that begins to filter into our inner being and act to change how we perceive life. Don't wait. Recharge the batteries and turn on the light.

F.Y.I. IS ABOUT YOU AND FOR YOU

F.Y.I. is written with you in mind. We do our best to get as many of the articles and interest stories in as we can, but we can't fit them all. That doesn't mean we don't want to keep hearing about them. Keep sending us those great "feel good" stories and life victories that you experience. We'll keep doing our best to get them into the **F.Y.I.** Thanks for all of the support. - JC



MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD A WELL DESERVED HONOR



Carolyn Nelson has received the Michigan Department of Corrections Meritorious Service Award for her continued work with the development and updating of the Department's Document Access System (DAS). Carolyn has worked tirelessly to input documents on the system while also delivering training throughout the state on how to format, enter data, and properly access DAS.

A key to successful completion of the DAS data entry was facility operating procedures. Carolyn worked with facilities to overcome obstacles and coordinate training that allowed facilities to meet the goal. Carolyn's dedication, professionalism, and integrity has provided the MDOC with an invaluable resource for all staff.

SRF OFFICER EARNS CITIZENSHIP AWARD

On December 14, 2008, Officer Jerry Zajac of Saginaw Correctional Facility was traveling to work when he saw a Jeep rolled over along the side of the road. A female passenger was trapped in the Jeep and her husband was trying to get her out. Unable to free her and seeing that she was bleeding from a head injury, Zajac used his shirt to help stop the bleeding while helping calm her husband until emergency personnel arrived.

Zajac demonstrated professionalism and integrity, while using his MDOC training to respond appropriately to the emergency situation. His actions demonstrated a sincere concern for the needs of others and were a positive representation for all Department employees.

PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE



GIVE LOCAL

MICHIGAN HARVEST GATHERING BEGINS

Michigan Harvest Gathering is The Food Bank Council of Michigan's annual campaign to raise food and funds to support Michigan's food banks and feed hungry families.

Why Give?

The need is great and resources at state food banks are being stretched to the limit. It's estimated that demand for emergency food assistance is up, on average, 30% over last year. In an "average" year, one in ten people in Michigan turn to a food bank for assis-

tance...this year, it's much higher. Of those needing food, 34% are children and 8% are senior citizens...both of whom are the most vulnerable groups in our state. Every dollar makes a difference and every dollar helps secure five meals for someone in our state who is hungry.

Do your part today by donating non-perishable food items being collected at your worksite October 14 through 28 or visit www.feedmichigan.org for other ways to donate.

