



Contents:

Officers of the Year1

ICAC Agents Are Valuable Resource.....4

People Make the Difference.....6

SAI Cleans Up River Trail.....7

K-9 Units Search Pugsley Correctional Facility7

Reentry Roundtable8

DEPARTMENT NAMES MCGAFFIGAN, SHARP AS OFFICERS OF THE YEAR

For the first time in the history of the award, the Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) has two Officers of the Year. **Officer Robert McGaffigan** of the Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility and **Investigator David Sharp** of the Absconder Recovery Unit have been selected as the 2012 Officers of the Year.

On February 22, 2012, the Michigan Correctional Officers' Training Council (MCOTC) interviewed the five finalists, which also included Officer James Ball from Oaks Correctional Facility, Officer James Kotowicz from Ionia Correctional Facility and Officer Dana Richards from Pugsley Correctional Facility. After the interviews, the council deliberated for some time before deciding to select McGaffigan and Sharp.



L to R: Investigator Sharp, Officer Kotowicz, Officer McGaffigan, Officer Richards, and Officer Ball.

In their own words, each finalist described the honor of being selected and what it means to them:

Officer James Ball - Oaks Correctional Facility



"My selection as facility officer of the year and then as a finalist has been a surprise. I thought 'why me?' when any of the officers I work with could be in my place right now. My fellow officers and all of the staff at Oaks Correctional Facility are a pleasure to work with and I am proud to be their representative."

OFFICER OF THE YEAR (Continued on page 2)



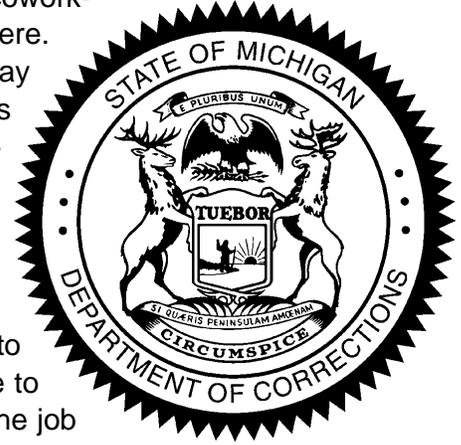
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**OFFICER OF THE YEAR** (Continued from page 1)**Officer James (Jim) Kotowicz - Ionia Correctional Facility**

"It is an honor to have been chosen as the officer of the year for Ionia Correctional Facility. I hope I do a good job of representing my coworkers because we share such a team atmosphere there. With the great job we do at our facility and the way we handle ourselves, we should all share this honor. I would like to thank my coworkers for having chosen me and for all of their support."

**Officer Dana Richards - Pugsley Correctional Facility**

"I believe this is a great opportunity and honor to represent my facility and the Department. It's nice to know that coworkers and supervisors recognize the job I have done throughout my career. I am deeply honored to have the privilege to represent all of our employees in this capacity."

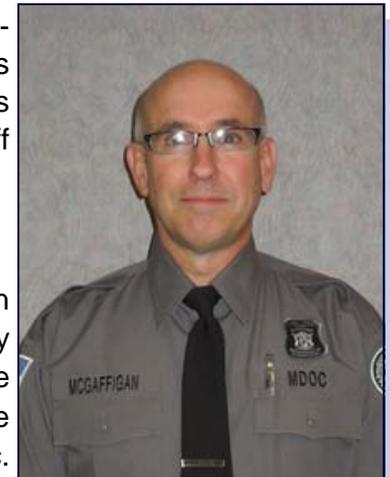
**Officer of the Year Robert McGaffigan - Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility**

"It is an honor to be chosen as the Officer of the Year for the Michigan Department of Corrections. To represent my facility and the entire Department is a tremendous achievement. It feels great to be here with the other finalists who are such positive representatives for the MDOC. I want to thank the staff at Brooks for allowing me to represent our facility in such an honorable way."

Biography:

Officer McGaffigan started his career at the Huron Valley Men's Facility in November 1995, and transferred to Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility (LRF) in October 2004. He is knowledgeable, professional and embodies the integrity and leadership skills necessary for the job. He serves as a role model for others and communicates well with prisoners, staff and the public. Officer McGaffigan was a driving force in implementing new segregation checklists and inventory forms that facilitate the more efficient operation of the unit. When a prison in the complex closed, McGaffigan stepped up to assist new officers in learning their new assignments and making them feel welcome. His positive attitude and assistance bolstered their morale, making the transition easier.

Personally, Officer McGaffigan is involved in Special Olympics Michigan, and coaching athletes in basketball and poly-hockey. He has also "adopted" disadvantaged youth during the holidays, ensuring they have clothing, coats, and gifts to open.

**OFFICER OF THE YEAR** (Continued on page 3)

*OFFICER OF THE YEAR (Continued from page 2)***Officer of the Year David Sharp - Absconder Recovery Unit**

"It is an honor and a privilege to be chosen as the Department's Officer of the Year. I am proud to represent the Department and all of the staff who work hard each day. I don't believe that I have done any more or any less than the other ARU investigators who are out there making a difference each day. We all work hard at our jobs every day and I was simply fortunate to be the investigator chosen to represent our unit. I would like to thank them and all of the people who support us so we can do our best each day."

**Biography:**

Investigator David Sharp of the Department's Absconder Recovery Unit (ARU) has worked for the Department since 1997, starting as an officer in Jackson's Central Complex. He has also held positions of sergeant and corrections transportation officer during his career. In March 2011, Investigator Sharp was the first ARU member to join the United State Marshals Service (USMS) Task Force for Michigan's Western District. The task force focuses on fugitive recovery. In November 2011, Investigator Sharp was injured while apprehending a parole absconder. Instead of taking the next several months off to recuperate, Sharp continued to administratively work his caseload, completing background investigations and telephone interviews, then providing tips to the task force who affected the arrests on his behalf. He takes great pride in doing his job, and no injury that limited his mobility was going to limit his ability to do his job.

Investigator Sharp has been an active member in his community since high school. He spent 18 years as a volunteer firefighter, serving on three fire departments during that time. When he wasn't fighting fires, he was coaching youth football. He has coached on several different levels, from 4th and 5th grade up through high school. He currently referees football games as an MHSAA football referee.

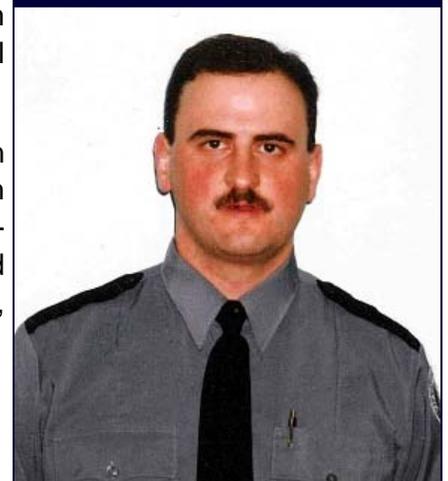
MCOTC members selecting the awardees this year included Warden Sherry Burt (Michigan Department of Corrections), Kay Lennerth (Community-at-Large), Timothy Eklin (Academic Community - 4 year colleges), Fran Wresinski (Department of Technology, Management and Budget), MCO Vice-President Andy Potter (State Corrections Officers), and Jeremy Stephens (State Personnel Director).

**FORMER
CORRECTIONS OFFICER
IS MSP TROOPER
OF THE YEAR**

In an interesting side note, Michigan State Police (MSP) Trooper Bradley Stimac was recently recognized as MSP's Trooper of the Year for 2012. Stimac was Officer of the Year for Kinross Correctional Facility in 1998 prior to transferring to the Michigan State Police. He currently works at MSP's Houghton Lake post.

While with the MDOC, Stimac was an active member of the ERT and was the on-shift trainer for SCBA. He worked out of class as sergeant for six weeks. Stimac was an excellent role model for staff and prisoners alike. He did an excellent job accepting and carrying out any assigned tasks in a professional and responsible manner with a great attitude.

It sounds like those qualities and his tremendous work ethic have served him well as a Trooper too. Congratulations to Trooper of the Year Bradley Stimac (pictured below in his MDOC uniform).





ICAC AGENTS PROVIDE VALUABLE TECHNICAL GUIDANCE TO THOSE IN THE FIELD

The Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) plays a unique role on one of Michigan's most fascinating and valuable law enforcement task forces. Field Agents Rob Gallagher (Lansing), Danelle Pigott (Midland), Lenny Atar (Livonia), and Charles Christenson (Grand Rapids) serve on the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) task force.



ICAC task force member and MDOC Field Agent Rob Gallagher serves other field agents who are trying to solve cyber-violations by offenders, including new criminal behavior and crimes against children.

The task force serves under the direction of the Michigan State Police Data Evidence Unit and is currently comprised of 76 law enforcement personnel from about 20 local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies who collaborate to solve a wide variety of data-related crimes. The task force also works closely with the federal South East Michigan Crimes Against Children task force in the metro Detroit area.

F.Y.I. recently spent a day with Field Agent Rob Gallagher that was both insightful and frightening. It was a day that would make any parent want to confiscate from their children any and all technology that is Internet capable. The day also provided a glimpse at how valuable a resource the ICAC task force and the Data Evidence Unit can be for field agents who only have a cursory knowledge of the technologies their offenders are using.

ICAC task force agents' duties include training field agents on how to use *Field Search* software (it quickly finds evidence such as Internet histories, images, multimedia files and results from text searches and easily populates a report of the findings), and supporting field agents who believe an offender may be using technology to violate their parole/probation guidelines.

On the day **F.Y.I.** was with Agent Gallagher, he

retrieved two computers from an agent in Washtenaw County who said the offender may have downloaded illegal images of children. Gallagher will process both of the hard drives on those computers to determine if any evidence of a violation or of a new criminal offense is stored on the computers.

From cell phones and smart phones to gaming console, computers, e-readers and tablets, offenders are finding creative ways to share, store, and hide data they don't want agents to find. However, using task force resources, virtually no data is unrecoverable.

Agent Gallagher demonstrated how he mines a computer hard drive for both visible and hidden data. He also showed **F.Y.I.** some of the ways offenders attempt to hide data on computers, gaming consoles, and cellular phones. Encryption, passwords, and other protections are only roadblocks to the motivated task force members. If someone is hiding pornographic photos of children, the task force will use every available technology to find them, develop a criminal case and forward the evidence for prosecution.

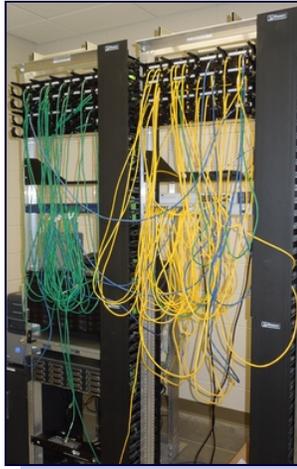
Advances in smart phone technology make them a valuable tool that offenders use for illegal data storage. Some phones can store thousands of pornographic images. They can also be used to store drug contacts, debts, and even hits on other people. They can store videos that will help solve crimes or substantiate alleged violations. Smart phones also capture an offenders location through GPS technology. ICAC task force staff use all the information to substantiate violations or new criminal activity.

ICAC (Continued on page 5)



ICAC (Continued from page 4)

Tablets, e-readers, and other portable devices that connect to the Internet are quickly becoming a tool offenders use to violate their conditions of parole/probation or to commit new crimes. That means that ICAC task force members must become very familiar with their operation and the ways data can be stored and hidden within them.



Since becoming part of the ICAC task force, Gallagher and the other agents have spent at least two months intensely training in computer forensics and other technology-based investigations. Their training allows them to assist field agents who are in need. Gallagher says that he and the other ICAC task force members are valuable resources in the fight against data-related crime. He appreciates that others are there to assist him when he needs answers. The collaborative effort is invaluable.

A bird's nest of wires and cables attached to networking hardware assists ICAC agents who are solving cybercrimes.

Gallagher provided some tips for field agents dealing with the wealth of technologies available to offenders:

- Use the ICAC task force as a resource. If you aren't sure about something, call them or e-mail them and get answers. They can help.
- Go with your instincts. If you think an offender is hiding technology or using it in violation, keep digging. If your shovel won't go deep enough, the task force has the electronic equivalent of backhoes, excavators and deep drilling equipment that will help find hidden data.
- Do some research on your own. You have to understand the technologies they are using to give you the edge. That means keeping up-to-date on smart phones, e-readers, tablets and computers.

- Don't stereotype. Anyone could be hiding anything on any device.
- Learn more about social networking and buy/sell Web sites like Facebook, MySpace, Fubar, Craig's List and Back Page. These are where offenders surf for their next illegal connection or violation.
- The ICAC task force can help with out-of-state apprehensions through its collaborative relationship with the U.S. Marshals Service. Let an ICAC task force agent know if you have an out-of-state lead.

To contact the ICAC task force about a parolee or probationer violation or new criminal activity, call (517) 241-1572 or e-mail Field Agent Gallagher at gallagherr1@michigan.gov.

To report a cyber crime tip or to get information on protecting children from cyber crime, visit the ICAC Web site at:

<http://www.michiganicac.com>



Agent Gallagher works in the Data Evidence Unit offices within the Michigan State Police. He shares the office with a collaborative team of full- and part-time ICAC task force members who investigate criminal behavior and parole and probation violations. His office is filled with computers, cell phones, and other Internet capable devices that are used to find evidence.

Agent Gallagher would like to thank Lisa Gettys, Greg Straub, and Alice Jones for the opportunity to serve on the ICAC task force. Their support opens up access to the resources field agents need to supervise offenders effectively. F.Y.I. would like to thank Agent Gallagher and the MSP Data Evidence Unit for the all-access pass to this vital area of investigation. It was a fascinating look at criminal behavior in the digital age.



CLARKLAKE POLAR PLUNGE A HUGE SUCCESS!

On a sunny and windy Saturday, February 18, 2012, the Clarklake Beach and Boat Club hosted the 7th Annual Law Enforcement Torch Run Polar Plunge at Clarklake. While there was no ice, the water was still frigid and the event was still a huge success!

Over 170 brave souls took the plunge, raising over \$37,000 for Special Olympics Michigan. Team RGC (Charles Egeler Reception and Guidance Center) took home the trophy for most funds raised with \$7,825. Staff from all the Jackson area correctional facilities as well as other law enforcement personnel from throughout Jackson County participated.

Awards for Best Costume, Best Splash -Male Plunger, Best Splash - Female Plunger and Youngest Plunger were awarded by the judges who included Deputy Director Thomas Finco, Deputy Director Randall Treacher, Inspector Kevin Lindsey (RGC) and Captain Carl Car-money from Jackson County Sheriff's Department.

Photo at left below includes: Charmaine Wilson and Rebekah Bemister (Hawaiian shirt) from RGC. Photo below includes Jackson complex ERT members Steve Wendry (next to the prisoner), Jeffery Reasoner (holding the flag), Jacob Lafave (behind Wendry),



Konita Luma, Harold Boorman (scowling at center) and a WLNS News 6 reporter in prisoner attire.

Photo at right in-cludes Jon Clark (beard) and other unidentified team members.



PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

MDOC EMPLOYEE RESCUES ACCIDENT VICTIM

On February 13, 2012, Central Michigan Correctional Facility Building Trades Instructor Roger Slavik was at home when he heard information on his emergency radio frequency scanner that there had been a crash between a car and a train very near his home. Realizing it could be some time before EMS arrived, he immediately responded to offer assistance.

When he arrived, he saw that the car had collided with the train and landed in a nearby river. The train's conductor was in the icy river struggling to hold the victim's head above water. Roger jumped into the water and the two rescuers managed to get the man out of the water and onto the river bank prior to the arrival of EMS.

The 23-year-old man was airlifted to a nearby hospital and was expected to fully recover from his injuries.





SAI TRAINEES BEAUTIFY LANSING'S RIVER TRAIL



SAI Corporal Brian Samon oversees the cleanup effort. Trainees cleared away several truck-loads of brush, trash and other debris last week.

People using Lansing's River Trail this year will enjoy a cleaner view. Trainees from the Department's Special Alternative Incarceration (SAI) program, under the watchful eye of SAI corporals, are clearing away brush and debris from the river bank. The work is a collaborative effort between the city of Lansing and the Michigan Department of Corrections.

MDOC Director Daniel H. Heyns, who is a big supporter of the River Trail, appreciates the cleanup effort but also cites safety concerns. "The brush is more than an eyesore to such a beautiful resource, it's a place for criminals to hide and prey on River Trail users."



Heyns approached Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero last summer about the cleanup project and the two agreed it would be beneficial. SAI work crews started last week and will continue cleaning the river banks through the downtown corridor for the next few weeks as the weather permits.

At Right: *Thick brush and debris blocks the view of work crews on the river bank.*

K-9 UNITS SEARCH PUGSLEY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

Eleven canine units and their police officer handlers from five counties, two cities, and one tribal police office conducted a comprehensive "illegal substance" search of the Pugsley Correctional Facility. The search is a culmination of an ongoing partnership between the Grand Traverse County Sheriff's Department and the Pugsley Correctional Facility.

The search led to the confiscation of illegal substances that were hidden from staff. Pugsley, a level I minimum security

prison currently houses approximately 1,347 prison inmates in Kingsley, MI just south of Traverse City. Recent policy changes have

encouraged sharing of resources between state and local agencies. The successful search clearly demonstrated the collaborative effort between all involved in keeping our prisons and communities safe.

Agencies involved in the search included the Michigan Department of Corrections, Grand Traverse County Sheriff's Department, Manistee County Sheriff's Department, Kalkaska County Sheriff's Department, Benzie County Sheriff's Department, Wexford County Sheriff's

Department, Traverse City Police Department, city of Cadillac Police Department and the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Department of Public Safety.





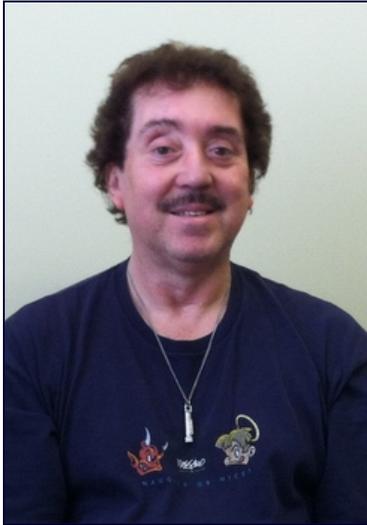
REENTRY ROUNDTABLE

Reentry Roundtable is a continuing column that provides news, facts, and program successes within the prisoner reentry program.

Prisoner Reentry Kick Starts Parolee to Success

Michael discharged off parole on January 6, 2012 and made a promise to himself that he would never go back to prison. Michael attributes his success to hard work, the support of the Prisoner Reentry staff and always having a positive attitude.

Michael knew if he could just get a “kick start” upon his arrival home, everything else would fall into place. While incarcerated, he heard about the Prisoner Reentry services that would be available to him once he returned home. He knew this is what he needed to re-start his life in a positive direction. He knew it wouldn't be easy and he wasn't looking for a handout, only a way to get back on his feet after being released from prison.



Michael recently discharged off parole and says being negative never solves anything.

Prisoner Reentry assisted Michael with housing, helped him in obtaining a state identification, a birth certificate and eventually his driver's license. Michael also received weekly bus passes from his Parole Agent Rob Buchanan. These are the items that would give Michael his “kick start.”

Michael is currently working two jobs. He is employed as a custodian at the apartment building where he resides that is responsible for cleaning, painting and repairing the units before new tenants move in. He has been working at this job for over a year now. Michael also works for another apartment complex on an on-call basis.

In addition to working two jobs, Michael is a volunteer for Senior Services of Van Buren County. Michael is part of a volunteer team that packs and distributes food boxes to the elderly. He also gives rides to seniors that need transportation to attend appointments and to shop.

Michael has an extremely positive attitude. He understands that not everything will go his way and when it doesn't, he maintains the smile on his face and a cool, calm demeanor. He always looks for the good in every situation and when he hears others taking a negative approach to life, he will intervene and try to make them see the positive and explains to them that being negative “never solves anything.”

Michael is also looking to reach out to current returning citizens. He wants to share with them his story on how he reached the success he did and to let them know that if he can do it, anyone can. Michael is always keeping his ears open for job leads so he can pass on the information to other returning citizens. Michael has the mentality that someone helped him get to the point where he is at today, so he feels that he is obligated to help the next person out.

The article was submitted by Berrien County Prisoner Reentry Community Coordinator Todd Berger.