

# Corrections Connection

A scenic view of a lake with a wooden fence in the foreground and a forest with autumn foliage in the background. The fence is made of dark, weathered logs. The lake is calm with some ripples. The forest in the background is dense with trees showing vibrant yellow and orange autumn colors, interspersed with evergreen trees. The sky is overcast and grey.

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**Corrections Connection** is a publication of the Office of Public Information and Communications. Story ideas, feedback and comments can be submitted to Joelle Craddy at [CraddyJ@michigan.gov](mailto:CraddyJ@michigan.gov) Like MDOC on [Facebook](#) or follow us on [Twitter](#).

The image on the cover was taken in Oscoda by Kendra Burton, Records Office Supervisor at Saginaw Correctional Facility. For the chance to have your photo featured on the cover of the newsletter, email a high-resolution version of the image and a description of where it was taken to Joelle Craddy at [CraddyJ@michigan.gov](mailto:CraddyJ@michigan.gov).



# With Great HONOR

## MDOC employees change the lives of veterans through giving, volunteering with Honor Flight

What was meant to be both a gift and an opportunity to give, became a life-changing experience for Baraga Correctional Facility Officer Chuck Nagele. Accompanying a Vietnam War veteran to memorials in Washington, D.C. as a volunteer guardian for Honor Flight – a program that honors veterans transporting them to Washington, D.C. to reflect at their memorials, was a goal for Officer Nagele. A veteran of the U.S. Air Force himself, Officer Nagele said it is so important to show gratitude to those who have served, especially those who may not have experienced that when they came home,

like many Vietnam War veterans.

In 2019, his goal to participate in Honor Flight came to fruition with the help of his fiancé who landed him a spot as a volunteer guardian for two Vietnam War veterans.

“I wanted to watch them get off a plane and get the heroes’ welcome they should have received decades ago,” he said.

Officer Nagele is among MDOC several employees who have volunteered to serve as guardians for Honor Flight, or supported the organization through donating. All those involved said giving and serving as a guardian is a transformative experience for both the volunteer and the veteran gifted with the trip.

In honor of Veterans Day this year, the department’s Employee Engagement Fund donated \$600 to Honor Flight, with \$200 going to each of the three Michigan hubs. Department facilities and work sites also continue to give to the program through fundraisers.

### ***Giving Back***

Honor Flight is a national nonprofit with

**Committed to Protect, Dedicated to Success**



Pictured above and lower right: A World War II veteran who was accompanied by Corrections Officer Ray Closson on an Honor Flight mission, is greeted during his Tour of Honor.

hubs across the country that bring veterans to Washington, D.C. so they can tour memorials dedicated to them and their service to our country. The selected veterans fly for free, and they either get to choose someone to go with them, or they are assigned a volunteer guardian to accompany them. Due to COVID-19 this year, Honor Flight had to cancel all its missions to Washington, D.C. for the health and safety of veterans and all involved. They are hoping to add additional trips in 2021 to give more veterans their well-deserved Tour of Honor. Scott Knauf, president of U.P. Honor Flight, the nonprofit's hub in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, said support from the MDOC started building several years ago after Alger Correctional Facility began holding fundraisers and prisoners also decided to donate. From there, other Upper Peninsula facilities began to support the organization and compete with one another in fundraising. Knauf said the generosity from MDOC facilities was huge for the organization, which is completely supported by donations. It makes a difference too, because each flight costs approximately \$102,000. "When facilities can support us, it's wonderful," he said. It's especially wonderful for veterans who get the trip of a lifetime thanks to the support and generosity from the MDOC and other donors, he said. "When you think it is just a one day trip – it really has a positive, life changing effect on these veterans," Knauf said.

***'An Incredible Opportunity'***

Ray Closson, a corrections Officer at Parnall Correctional Facility said after learning about the mission of Honor Flight, he wanted to be involved and help give veterans recognition for their service and sacrifice.

"I was excited about what an incredible opportunity this was to escort a World War II vet from Kalamazoo through most of the military monuments in Washington, D.C.," said Officer Closson. "I had uncles that served during WWII, Korea and Vietnam, that have since passed. I feel this is a way to pay tribute to their memories and to all the surviving veterans for their sacrifices for this country."

Officer Closson said the day was a whirlwind of stops and greetings from dignitaries like Bob and Elizabeth Dole, Justin Amash, and many other representatives from the state of Michigan and the nation's capital. The most somber moment was at Arlington Cemetery at the Tomb of the Unknown soldier when U.S. Army guards called out the veterans from Honor Flight, and most stood up from their wheelchairs and saluted back, he said.

"Every stop had special meaning for each military group," Officer Closson said. "It was a very special day, to see so many 80- and 90-year-old vets so alive and excited." Officer Nagele echoed that and said when he arrived at the Vietnam War memorial with the veterans he was accompanying, each one found different names on the wall of those lost and had stories to tell about them.

"It was an extremely emotional day," he said. "You





Above: Veterans in Washington, D.C. as part of the Honor Flight mission Corrections Officer Chuck Nagele served as a guardian on.

really got a sense for what they felt and what they went through, both in combat and what they experienced after they came home from listening to their stories.”

Lisa Mattson, deputy warden’s secretary at Alger Correctional Facility, made the Honor Flight trip in 2016 with her grandfather, a Korean War veteran. Her grandfather had expressed that it was the best day of his life, besides the day he married her grandmother. She said she has not served as a guardian since then, but would absolutely do it again. “To see the veterans finally get the recognition they deserve for their service to their country is priceless,” she said.

Both Closson and Nagele said giving to Honor Flight or volunteering as a guardian has even greater returns.

“Other than the days my children were born, it was one of the greatest days of my life to be able to take

two Vietnam vets as a guardian, and to hear their stories and listen to what these two amazing men had to talk about,” Officer Nagele said. “It was an amazing experience. I think anyone who does it would say they are very happy they did.” All said they would make the trip again without hesitation. And Officer Nagele had the chance to watch two Vietnam veterans receive the jubilant heroes’ welcome they deserved.

“When they got off the plane in Escanaba, it may have been only a few hundred people, but it felt like a thousand,” he said. “Everyone was cheering loudly, and shaking their hands. Their kids and grandkids were running out to them. It was the culmination of an amazing and emotional day.”



[Click here](#) to check out this past Field Days Podcast episode featuring Warden Cathy Bauman and Patti Hubble, then acting RUM at Alger Correctional Facility as they talk about fundraising for U.P. Honor Flight.

**You can learn more about Honor Flight, how to donate and how to volunteer as a guardian at [honorflight.org](http://honorflight.org).**

# Applications for Futures for Frontliners Program open through Dec. 31

Michigan’s essential frontline workers may be eligible to return to school tuition-free under the Futures for Frontliners program.

It is the nation’s first program offering tuition-free college to an estimated 625,000 Michiganders who provided essential, frontline services during COVID-19 Stay Home, Stay Safe orders between April – June 2020.



Frontline workers are encouraged to visit [www.michigan.gov/Frontliners](http://www.michigan.gov/Frontliners) to explore career opportunities, a list of local community colleges and get started on their application – even if they don’t already have a high school diploma.

You can [click here](#) to watch a video about the program and you can also hear more about this program in an upcoming episode of the Field Days Podcast.

# Honoring Our Veterans

## MDOC recognizes those who have served during Veterans Week

The Michigan Department of Corrections took steps to honor veterans and active duty servicemembers through a variety of avenues in November. There are more than 1,700 veterans working for the MDOC statewide and they were recognized with special presentations at worksites across Michigan during the week of Nov. 9-13. Director Heidi Washington created Veterans Appreciation Week in 2017 to help show the department's gratitude for employees who have served in the Armed Forces. The department presented employees who are veterans with tokens of recognition for past military service and sent cards to thank them for the sacrifices they made for their country. In addition, the MDOC has recognized active duty employees when they are called to serve and is extending a helping hand to families of deployed employees. The MDOC is a Silver-Level Veteran Friendly employer and in 2017, the department received the Pro Patria Award for its efforts to support employees

serving in the National Guard and Reserves. The award is presented annually by the Department of Defense's Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) program and is the highest honor an organization can receive from the program. The department continues to actively recruit veterans for roles within the MDOC and promote education benefits available to veterans. In addition, correctional facilities, field offices and other work sites showed their appreciation for veterans through flag raising ceremonies, presentation of coins and other special recognition.

You can also [click here](#) or the image below to listen to an episode of the Field Days Podcast featuring MVAA Director Zaneta Adams.



# Service Spotlight: Region Manager Will Rogers

For Field Operations Administration Region Manager Will Rogers, military service spanned family generations. His grandfather, parents and extended family have served in the U.S. Armed Forces.

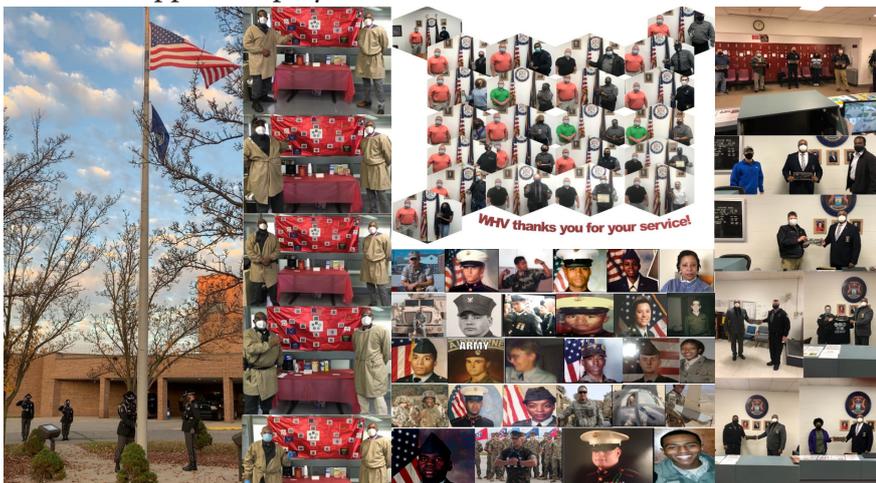
And the values his family upheld, like dedication, hard work and staying disciplined led him to the Army Reserves. "Without a doubt, when I was a soldier I was always proud of that fact and of being able to serve my country," he said. He said everyone, regardless of their race, background or political inclinations should be thankful for the sacrifices military



Above: Region Manager Will Rogers in the U.S. Army Reserves. Below: Region Manager Rogers' grandparents in 1942.



personnel have made to protect the freedoms we have today. He said he recently read a quote that stands out to him that service members "wrote a blank check made payable to the United States of America in the amount of up to and including their life." That stuck with him, and he said he feels his work for the department is an extension of the selfless service of our military members. "When you put on a uniform, no matter what uniform it is, it says you are willing to do whatever it takes to protect those you are serving," he said.





## Joining Corrections is “life changing” for new officer

What began as an avenue for providing for family has been life changing for Corrections Officer Philip Strange.



Officer Strange has family who work for, or have retired from the department, and found more than just a job when he decided to join the MDOC.

“We’re changing lives,” he said. “We’re helping prisoners and we’re trying to correct their actions and change their behavior to help them lead better lives in the future.” He said he learned a lot through the academy that changed his early perceptions of corrections. Officer Strange said there is pride in putting on the uniform each day. “It means a lot,” he said. “It’s about keeping the public safe and keeping prisoners safe, but its also about helping them lead better lives.”

## New corrections officers join MDOC

In mid-November the department welcomed the graduates of the Upper Peninsula Daniel Lesatz Officer Recruit Training Academy.

In a part virtual graduation ceremony, 31 new officers were welcomed to the Michigan Department of Corrections. Class namesake and retired Warden Daniel Lesatz addressed the class, which remained masked and socially distanced, while their families and friends tuned in to watch the ceremony on Facebook Live.

During the graduation ceremony, recruits and administrators who had served in the Armed Forces were recognized for their dedication to our country.

Class namesake, Daniel Lesatz, also discussed his military background and how it helped him during his career.

We are proud to serve alongside these brave veterans, and all our outstanding new officers.

We’d also like to congratulate the class award winners:

- Josephine B. McCallum Award - Officer Cassandra Lipponen
- Jack L. Budd Award - Officer Philip Strange
- Academic Achievement Award - Officer Lucas Berger

Recruits will now complete on-the-job training at their assigned facilities.



**Is there something you’d like to see in a future edition of the Corrections Connection?**

**Contact Joelle Craddy at [CraddyJ@michigan.gov](mailto:CraddyJ@michigan.gov)**

## Remembering Agent Verlynda Winston and Officer Terry Boatman, Jr.

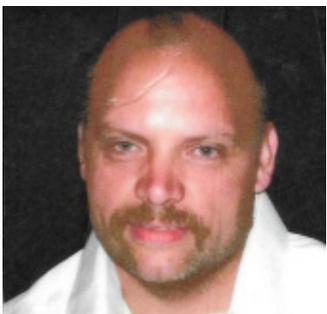
Lincoln Park Parole Agent Verlynda Winston sadly lost her life in November in an early morning accident when she was struck by another vehicle.



Verlynda began her career with the MDOC in 1996 as a corrections officer at Western Wayne Correctional Facility. She promoted to sergeant in 2001 and then moved to FOA in 2003 as a parole/probation agent in Region II.

In 2007, she transferred to Detroit Reentry Center and three years ago, she was a guest on the Field Days podcast, where she talked about her involvement with the WRAP program at that facility. You can listen to her interview [here](#).

She began working at the Lincoln Park Parole Office in June.



Lakeland Correctional Facility Corrections Officer Terry Boatman, Jr. lost also his battle with a long-term illness in early November. Funeral services took place Nov. 12. Memori-

al contributions are suggested to the Epilepsy Foundation.

Our thoughts and prayers are with their coworkers and family in this difficult time.

Please know that help is always available through the department's Wellness Unit by contacting 833-DCBWELL (833-322-9355) or [mdoc-wellness@michigan.gov](mailto:mdoc-wellness@michigan.gov).

## Emergency Management Section Leaders Earn Awards for Work

Emergency Management Section Manager Brent Travelbee and Emergency Management Specialist Todd Bechler were awarded the "Coin of Excellence" and recognized by the Michigan National Guard Joint Chief of Staff for mission planning, development and coordination of COVID-19 mass testing of staff and offenders. With their help, more than 2,200 MDOC employees were able to complete voluntary COVID-19 testing coordinated with the Michigan National Guard. They have also played a key role in coordinating with the National Guard on required testing at facilities under the Department of Health and Human Services emergency public health order.



# CORRECTIONS OFFENDER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

## COMS Trust and Financial Services Module Implementation

The COMS Project Team has been hard at work for many months working on the COMS Trust and Financial Services module. The new module was successfully implemented on October 5! Work began on this portion of the COMS Project in the spring of 2020. The COMS Project team worked alongside the MDOC Trust CFA and CBC teams, facility staff, MDOC's application vendors, and our COMS software vendor ("ATG") to implement the new module and prepare staff to use the new system.

This implementation marks the third user application implemented since 2019. The COMS Food Service module was implemented in October 2019 and the COMS Healthcare module was implemented in January 2020. Next up are the COMS Meal Tracking module, then Field Operations, Parole Board, and CFA. If you work in Meal Tracking, Field Operations, Parole Board, or CFA, please visit the COMS Project website for further updates. To visit the website, go to <https://stateofmichigan.sharepoint.com/teams/insidemdoc/work/COMS>.

# Save the Date!

## Employee Recreation Day 2021 Tentatively Scheduled

- Friday, June 11, 2021 in Lansing
- Friday, September 24, 2021 in Brimley

Stay tuned for more details

## HAVE YOU HEARD?

Check out these other great episodes of the Field Days Podcast

- After a seven-month hiatus, the Field Days podcast returns from a new, virtual studio. Director Heidi Washington discusses COVID-19, the hard work and incredible dedication MDOC staff have shown throughout the pandemic, and what staff can expect going forward.
- On this episode, the MDOC's Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Carmen McIntyre Leon discusses the dangers of synthetic cannabinoids. She shares the danger and unpredictability of these drugs and how MDOC staff are working to keep it out of prisons.



**FIELD DAYS**  
PODCAST

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# Detroit Reentry Center Closure Update

Preparations for the closure of Detroit Reentry Center are ongoing since the announcement to staff on Sept. 22 that the facility would close in January 2021.



The closure comes amid a declining offender population and improvements to programs and reentry services statewide.

The department began working immediately on bumping chains and transfer options. We aim to give as many employees as possible the opportunity to fill open positions throughout the MDOC. All options

are being considered to minimize the impact on staff. Voluntary placement forms were sent out Oct. 21 for MCO-represented employees and those forms were due back Oct. 30. The facility employs 220, and many employees are currently re-assigned to other facilities to help with staffing needs due to COVID-19.

Planning continues on operational changes including the movement of dialysis and prisoners needing treatment to Woodland Center Correctional Facility, movement of Michigan State Industries to Parnall Correctional Facility and alternative placement for WRAP program participants.

We are appreciative for all of the hard work that has been done by employees at this facility over the past eight years and we look forward to as many of those employees as possible continuing their career with the department. There are no immediate plans for how the site itself will be used going forward.

For employees that will be affected by the closure, you can send any questions you may have to

[AskMDOC@michigan.gov](mailto:AskMDOC@michigan.gov).

## New Mail Procedures in Place to Combat Contraband

The MDOC in October instituted changes to the way prisoner mail is processed and handled in order to further reduce the introduction of contraband into correctional facilities.

All prisoner mail that does not require special handling, including the envelope and its contents, will be photocopied and these photocopies will be delivered to the recipient prisoner in a separate envelope. Original copies of mail items will not be delivered.

“The safety and well-being of all those at our correctional facilities is of critical importance, that is why we are taking these steps to help combat the introduction of dangerous contraband,” Director Heidi Washington said. “MDOC staff do an outstanding job every day thoroughly searching mail and working hard to make sure contraband, like controlled substances, do not make it behind our gates. With a recent increase in attempts to conceal contraband in the mail, it was necessary for the department to institute these measures as an added protection.”

The department’s mailrooms have seen attempts

to smuggle drugs in through the mail increase this year, especially since the suspension of in-person visiting during the pandemic. Taking these steps to photocopy incoming mail will help reduce the potential for contraband introduction, particularly the potential for prisoners to access drugs that senders might attempt to deliver through the mail. At least 10 other states, including Ohio, Indiana, and Nebraska, already have similar procedures in place regarding prisoner mail. Photocopies will be in black and white.

Items that will be photocopied include letters, envelopes, greeting cards, photographs, drawings or artwork, or other documents included in the personal mail.

Items sent in via JPay — including greeting cards, photographs, and other drawings and artwork—will continue to be accessible in color via JPay tablets. Photocopies of mail will continue to be reviewed to ensure the content adheres to requirements laid out in the MDOC’s mail policy.

More information on the MDOC’s new mail requirements is available [here](#).

# MDOC Continues Progress on Video Visitation and Online Scheduling Pilot

The MDOC’s Video Visitation Pilot has continued to make progress, bringing on new sites for video visitation. Video visiting is now fully operational at Parnall Correctional Facility, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility, Chippewa Correctional Facility, Women’s Huron Valley Correctional Facility and at Duane Waters Health Center/ RGC’s C-Unit.



These sites have an important role in helping the MDOC learn how to effectively operate and manage video visitation and the lessons learned will be applied to future activities. Looking toward the future, the chart below has been updated to share new information including launch dates so far. Lakeland Correctional Facility has been added to the bottom of the chart as an additional Pilot Facility.

### Why haven’t the dates been updated for ICF and MTU?

The addition of video visitation services requires the pilot vendors to secure more bandwidth. Bandwidth is the amount of information the system can transmit. Right now, at ICF and MTU the vendor circuit providing them with bandwidth needs

to be upgraded by an Internet Service Provider to allow video visitation to function. Every effort is being made to get the circuit upgraded as quickly as possible. Separate from the bandwidth, these MTU and ICF have also experienced an uptick in the number of COVID-19 cases which is limiting prisoner movement. What this means is that the dates on the chart above will remain as TBD for these two sites until more progress is made.

### As a reminder to those sites that are live, here are the basic steps that an approved visitor should follow:

Step 1: The Approved Visitor should navigate to the GTL Visitor Web site: <https://midoc.gtlvisitme.com/app>

Step 2: The Approved Visitor will need to create an account on the GTL Visitor Web Site and request to visit the prisoner at SMT, JCF, or DWH/RGC C-Unit.

Step 3: Once approved on the GTL site, the Approved Visitor will then be able to request a scheduled video visit for prisoners at SMT, JCF, or DWH/RGC C-Unit.

Length of video visits: 20 minutes (with 10 minutes between).

Cost of video visits: The cost of a scheduled twenty (20) minute video visit is \$3.20. The video visit must be paid for in advance by the person scheduling the visit.

Scheduling window: Video Visits may be scheduled no less than 72 hours in advance of the scheduled visit and not after 48 hours.

The department will also be sharing additional updates and information on video visiting [here](#).

MDOC Pilot Facility	Pilot Vendor	Installation Start Date	When can online scheduling begin?	First Video Visits
Parnall Correctional Facility (SMT)	GTL	9/28/2020	10/9/2020	10/12/2020
G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility (JCF)	GTL	10/5/2020	10/13/2020	10/16/2020
Duane Waters Health Center (DWH)	GTL	10/5/2020	10/16/2020	10/19/2020
Ionia Correctional Facility (ICF)	GTL	10/12/2020	TBD	TBD
Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility (MTU)	GTL	10/12/2020	TBD	TBD
Chippewa Correctional Facility (URF)	GTL	10/19/2020	10/26/2020	10/29/2020
Women’s Huron Valley Correctional Facility (WHV)	ATG	10/23/2020	11/9/2020	11/12/2020
Lakeland Correctional Facility (LCF)	GTL	TBD	TBD	TBD

TBD = To Be Determined

# Saginaw Warden Tom Winn Retires

Saginaw Correctional Facility Warden Tom Winn retired from the MDOC on Oct. 30 after 27 years of service to the department.



Warden Winn rose through the ranks and held a number of roles during his career with the department including lieutenant at Mid-Michigan Correctional Facility, inspector at St. Louis Correctional Facility

and deputy warden at Standish Correctional Facility, before being named warden at Saginaw in 2014.

He also played a critical role in launching the designated Veterans Unit at Saginaw. In addition to his service to the MDOC, he completed 28 years of honorable service to the U.S. Army Reserves, Army National Guard and U.S. Air Force.

# Parole Board Chair Mike Eagen Retires

Parole Board Chairman Mike Eagen retired Oct. 30 following nearly a decade with the MDOC. He joined the Parole Board in 2011 and has served as the board's chairperson since 2014.



Prior to joining the MDOC, he spent 26 years of his career in Eaton County, starting as an assistant prosecuting attorney and later promoting to chief assistant prosecuting attorney - a role he served in for 16 years.

Under his leadership, the Parole Board has helped establish a parole approval rate that is currently at an all-time high, while continuing to put an emphasis on maintaining public safety. The board has also played a role in the department reaching its lowest recorded recidivism rate at 26.7 percent, and has recently worked hard to expedite the parole process for eligible prisoners during COVID-19.

# Brian Shipman Named Chair of Parole Board, Adrienne Van Langevelde Named Newest Parole Board Member

Brian Shipman has been named the Parole Board's new chairperson by Director Heidi Washington. He has worked for the MDOC for 31 years and began serving on the Parole Board in 2015.



He began his career as a corrections officer at G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility and went on to hold positions as assistant resident unit supervisor, parole agent, and the department's first

institutional parole agent. He also worked as a parole revocation unit manager, and Parole Board manager. In addition, Adrienne Van Langevelde has been named the newest member of the Parole Board. She joins the department December 1 and replaces former Parole Board Chair Mike Eagen, who retired

October 30. She will serve the remainder of his term through April 2021 as a member of the Board. Parole



Board member Brian Shipman was named chairperson of the board succeeding Mike Eagen after his retirement.

Adrienne has served as a senior assistant prosecuting attorney for Eaton County for the last 10 years and has also worked as an assistant prosecuting attorney for Mecosta County. She has training in trauma-informed response and is a graduate of Michigan State University's College of Law, where she has also served as a Mock Trial coach for students. Congratulations to Brian Shipman and Adrienne Van Langvelde.

# Oakland County Probation Agent Represents Michigan in Miss USA Competition

Oakland County Probation Agent Chanel Johnson has had an eventful year.



In addition to confronting the challenges of COVID-19, Agent Johnson, who was crowned Miss Michigan USA last year, competed in the Miss USA pageant in early November.

While Miss Mississippi landed the crown, Agent Johnson walked away with another title - the longest reigning Miss Michigan in the pageant's history.

With the events delayed due to COVID-19, Agent Johnson will keep the crown until the next Miss Michigan pageant in May 2021.

The competition was about more than ball gowns and contestants also needed successfully address questions on national and global issues. Johnson said her final question in the Miss Michigan pageant centered on freedom of speech.

She said she has appreciated all the support from her colleagues at the MDOC. You can also hear from Agent Johnson on a past episode of the [Field Days Podcast here](#).

## Thank You to Staff for Hard Work and Efforts on Changes for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Prisoners

Over the last eight months, facility staff across the state have done an exceptional job helping the department build on its efforts to identify, provide accommodations for and effectively communicate with deaf and hard of hearing prisoners.

The department made a number of significant changes in line with the settlement in the McBride case, which involved deaf and hard of hearing prisoners, and related to a new policy directive on this issue.

This has involved a tremendous amount of work, and combined with the challenges of COVID-19, it has required even greater effort. Everyone involved has tirelessly pressed forward to allow the department to make significant strides and meet the terms of the settlement over the course of several months.

This work has involved:

- Changing practices and processes to allow more offenders to be identified as deaf or hard of hearing and receive accommodations. The number of offenders identified as deaf or hard of hearing and receiving accommodations has now almost tripled.
- Moving from housing deaf and hard of hearing prisoners in 8 designated facilities to making

accommodations for these prisoners to be housed in any facility.

- Medical staff conducted four audits of offender historical audiology visits, manually entered data on accommodations into multiple systems and conducted numerous consultations to update accommodations.
- The Training Division created a new training module and conducted more than 1,000 training sessions.
- Worksite ADA coordinators conducted at least 850 offender assessments and facilities have reviewed all Operating Procedures and issued new ones to assist staff when needed.

This was no simple feat, and it is an achievement we can be proud of as everyone prepares to show settlement monitors the amazing progress that has been made during this challenging time. Due to COVID-19, staff, vendors and contractors have all had to make significant adjustments to allow for new testing protocols, new transportation needs and other measures, and have continued to do an amazing job.

# Corrections Quiz

## September Quiz Recap

How many pounds of food were donated by facility and field office gardens in 2019?

Who was the first warden of Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility?

Send your answer to Joelle Craddy at [CraddyJ@michigan.gov](mailto:CraddyJ@michigan.gov). The first person to answer correctly will receive a congratulatory shout out and the answer and winner will be published in the next edition of the newsletter.

**Answer: Ken McKee**

Congratulations to **Randy Coyne**, Record Supervisor at Alger Correctional Facility, and runner up **Andy Dyer**, Assistant Deputy Warden at St. Louis Correctional Facility, for being the first to answer the September Corrections Quiz! Great Job!

## “Michigan Strong” Shirts Available Through MDOC Employee Store

## Engagement Fund Update

Just in time for fall, the Employee Store is now offering the “Michigan Strong” design on long sleeve T-shirts, crew neck sweatshirts, and hooded sweatshirts. T-shirts and other items that can be customized with the new “Michigan Strong” logo also remain available.

EPIC staff worked with Employee Store operator CVSD Busy Bees to create and offer the T-shirts, which are available to MDOC employees, retirees, and their families. The sweatshirts and shirts come in many colors and make great gifts for friends and family. They can also be customized with the department seal

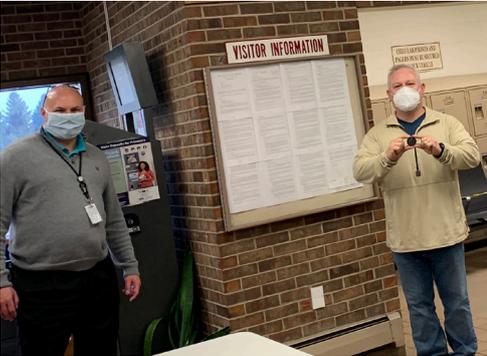
The Employee Engagement 501(c)(7) non-profit organization was established in 2017 to support MDOC employees. This organization continues to explore ways to engage employees throughout the Department. The Employee Engagement Committee coordinates Employee Recreation Day events in both the lower and upper peninsulas, providing an opportunity for staff from across the state to gather and enjoy a day of fun filled activities. The organization raises money through raffles, Dogs of the MDOC annual calendar sales, and from Busy Bee’s, the department’s on-line store, which provides for the purchase of MDOC apparel and accessories. This organization has provided opportunities for families to stay at the Great Wolf Lodge at discounted rates, and to purchase Detroit Piston’s tickets at a discounted rate as well. A portion of the proceeds raised through these various events are allocated to employees and their families who have experienced tragedy or loss. To date, the Employee Engagement organization has donated over \$7,350 to Corrections families.



or facility/ worksite names. For more information, or if you need assistance, please contact Cheryl Groves at [GrovesC@michigan.gov](mailto:GrovesC@michigan.gov).

# SNAPSHOTS

A look at life around the MDOC



G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility Warden Noah Nagy recently presented Absconder Recovery Unit Lt. Charles Levens with a Warden's Coin to thank him for his dedication and hard work. Lt. Levens and the team worked tirelessly and showed great dedication in their efforts to help their colleagues at facilities experiencing staffing challenges due to COVID-19, as well as assisting at the department's designated COVID positive units. Lt. Levens was most recently assigned to JCF and now returns to his position with ARU.



Kent County Probation Agent Rob Howard, a Grand Valley State University alum, appeared on a radio show for the university's College of Community and Public Service to talk about his education, career and the importance of criminal justice work. You can listen to his full interview on [WGVU Public Radio here](#).

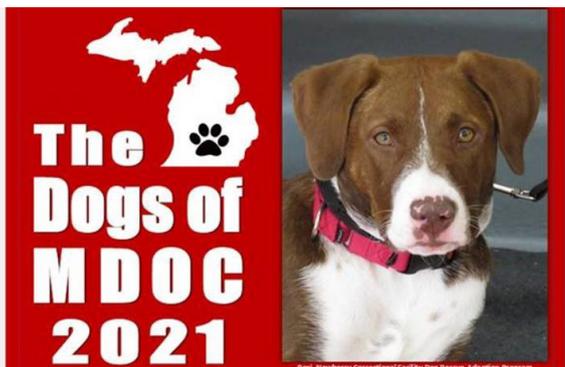


Recruits in the Daniel Lesatz Academy class in Lansing are working hard to prepare for their new careers with the department, and are shown here participating in PT. The 139 recruits in the Lower Peninsula class started their training on Oct. 5 with socially-distanced classroom or virtual learning and other measures in place to help protect their health.

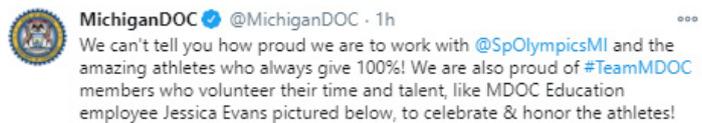
## Dogs of MDOC Calendar Available for Pre-Order

The Dogs of MDOC 2021 Calendar is available for pre-order now and showcases many adorable dogs in training programs around the MDOC.

It is available at the special price of \$8 each (\$2 less than previous years). Pre-order yours now by emailing EPIC Specialist Brittany Prescott at [Prescottb1@michigan.gov](mailto:Prescottb1@michigan.gov).



## Seen on Twitter...



To see more, follow the MDOC on [Twitter](#).

# April/May New Hires

Baldwin, Deshall	Licensed Practical Nurse, Detroit Reentry Center
Barden, Melissa	Registered Nurse, Carson City Correctional Facility
Batho, Memory	Dental Aide, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Bolm, Samantha	X-Ray Technician, Marquette Branch Prison
Brown, Jennifer	Licensed Practical Nurse, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Burton, Robert	Corrections Officer, Kinross Correctional Facility
Buskirk, Nicole	Registered Nurse, Carson City Correctional Facility
Cox, Cory	Pharmacy Assistant, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Demers, Crystal	Corrections Officer, Alger Correctional Facility
Duncan, Lakiera	Resident Care Aide, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Ferrara Mercedes	Registered Nurse, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Glenn-Okeke, Amanda	Registered Nurse, Lakeland Correctional Facility
Harrington, Danielle	Resident Care Aide, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Huber, Kristina	Psychologist, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Hunt, Sonja	Cook, Ionia Correctional Facility
Jones, Carrie	Registered Nurse, Cooper Street Correctional Facility
Ladouce, Jacob	Corrections Officer, Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility
Lantis, Jacob	Corrections Officer, Parnall Correctional Facility
Legleitner, Scott	Corrections Qualified Mental Health Professional, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Macinnis, Scott	Psychologist, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Mcgowan, Deanne	Corrections Qualified Mental Health Professional, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Meddaugh, Marina	Resident Care Aide, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Mills, Kimberly	Licensed Practical Nurse, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Newcomb, Barbara	Resident Care Aide, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Ortega, Sophia	Resident Care Aide, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Page, Rhiana	Resident Care Aide, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Reddy, Mallu	Registered Nurse manager, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Risner, Michael	Corrections Officer, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Sanders, Bre'onna	Corrections Qualified Mental Health Professional, Muskegon Correctional Facility
Sawdy, Kelsey	Licensed Practical Nurse, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Smith, Eric	Cook, Michigan Reformatory
Smith, Lisa	Resident Care Aide, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Steadman, Diane	Registered Nurse, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Steele, Sydney	Secretary, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Stricklin, Brian	Registered Nurse, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Thornton, Esther	Resident Care Aide, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Turner, Lakeisha	Resident Care Aide, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Wilds, Elizabeth	Resident Care Aide, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Wyse, Rebecca	Registered Nurse, Cooper Street Correctional Facility
Zama, Rachael	Registered Nurse, Detroit Reentry Center

# April/May Retirements

Ade, Kimberly	Field Agent, Field Operations Administration
Andrews, Michael	Corrections Program Coordinator, Charles E. Egeler Reception & Guidance Center
Arkesteyn, David	Community Health Services Manager, Muskegon Correctional Facility
Armstrong, David	Corrections Officer, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Avery, Richard	Corrections Officer, St. Louis Correctional Facility
Beggs, Charles	Storekeeper Supervisor, Baraga Correctional Facility
Bennett, Clarence	Storekeeper, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Boerema, Randy	Corrections Officer, Oaks Correctional Facility
Bonnee, William	Corrections Officer, Kinross Correctional Facility
Brandt, John	Corrections Officer, Ionia Correctional Facility
Brege, Carla	Secretary, Field Operations Administration
Brown, Marilyn	Psychologist, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Brown-Brandon, Cascelia	Departmental Specialist, Corrections Central Office
Budnik, Theodore	Storekeeper, Saginaw Correctional Facility
Chadwell, Amy	Assistant Resident Unit Supervisor, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Cochrane, Derek	Building Trades Crew Leader, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Conn, Timothy	Corrections Officer, Parnall Correctional Facility
Curtis, Gary	Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Dollar, Mary	General Office Assistant, Marquette Branch Prison
Eardley, William	Field Agent, Field Operations Administration
Esch, Leon	Maintenance Mechanic, Michigan Reformatory
Fair, David	Corrections Officer, Newberry Correctional Facility
Fredericks, Daniel	Parole and Probation Manager, Field Operations Administration
Galarowic, Jerri	Departmental Technician, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Garcia, Cynthia	Storekeeper, Charles E. Egeler Reception & Guidance Center
Gheller, Giancarlo	Corrections Officer, Baraga Correctional Facility
Godlewski, Brian	Corrections Officer, Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility
Greenspan, Michael	Corrections Officer, St. Louis Correctional Facility
Hall, David	Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Hampton, Timothy	Corrections Officer, Parnall Correctional Facility
Harrison, Steven	Storekeeper, Charles E. Egeler Reception & Guidance Center
Hodge, Stacey	Dental Aide, Charles E. Egeler Reception & Guidance Center
Hull, Candace	Corrections Program Coordinator, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Hull, Lynn	General Office Assistant, St. Louis Correctional Facility
Jackson, Essie	Field Agent, Field Operations Administration
Jegla, John	Corrections Officer, Cooper Street Correctional Facility
Johnston, Robert	Corrections Transportation Officer, Kinross Correctional Facility
Jorgensen, Eric	Field Services Assistant, Field Operations Administration
Keehn, Steven	Corrections Officer, Thumb Correctional Facility
Keough, Robert	Corrections Officer, Carson City Correctional Facility
Kerttu, Richard	Corrections Officer, Baraga Correctional Facility
Kindel, Rodney	Corrections Officer, Michigan Reformatory
Kingsley, Gregory	Corrections Officer, Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility
Kosinski, R	State Administrative Manager, Corrections Central Office
Kowatch, Timothy	Corrections Officer, Ionia Correctional Facility
Ladoux, Arlene	Departmental Technician, Muskegon Correctional Facility
Lamb, Colby	Corrections Officer, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Love, Ladd	Corrections Transportation Officer, Charles E. Egeler Reception & Guidance Center
Matowski, Denise	State Administrative Manager, Corrections Central Office
McNamara, Diane	Dental Aide, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility

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# April/May Retirements

Miller, Edward	Corrections Officer, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Miller, Rex	Librarian, Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility
Moore, Gerald	Corrections Officer, Marquette Branch Prison
Morey, Timothy	Corrections Officer, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Myotte, William	Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Nichols, Daniel	Corrections Officer, Muskegon Correctional Facility
Nickerson, Colleen	Field Agent, Detroit Reentry Center
Oja, Matthew	Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Okoren, Michael	Corrections Officer, Oaks Correctional Facility
Paksi, Scott	Corrections Officer, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Patino, Rene	Corrections Officer, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Peiffer, Joseph	Corrections Officer, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Perry, Rochelle	Field Agent, Field Operations Administration
Putman, Clarence	Corrections Officer, Detroit Reentry Center
Pyle, Jennifer	Corrections Transportation Officer, Lakeland Correctional Facility
Raymor, Brenda	Registered Nurse, Michigan Reformatory
Rice, Shelly	Corrections Officer, Charles E. Egeler Reception & Guidance Center
Salo, Thomas	Assistant Resident Unit Supervisor, Alger Correctional Facility
Schafer, Dale	Corrections Officer, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Schnell, George	Corrections Officer, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Seay, Jimmie	Corrections Officer, Charles E. Egeler Reception & Guidance Center
Shepherd, Gordon	Corrections Officer, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Slabaugh, Mary	Registered Nurse, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Smith, Carl	Corrections Officer, Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility
Smith, Eric	Departmental Specialist, Oaks Correctional Facility
Smith, Michael	Trades Instructor, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Smith, Penny	Departmental Supervisor, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Smoker, Mildred	Corrections Officer, Lakeland Correctional Facility
Spence, Bryan	Storekeeper, Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility
Spisak, Mark	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Sullivan, Larona	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Trudell, Chris	State Administrative Manager, Corrections Central Office
Viglianco, David	Corrections Officer, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Watkins, Melvin	Corrections Medical Officer, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Wegmann, Richard	Corrections Officer, Detroit Reentry Center
Wilks, Jeffery	Corrections Officer, Muskegon Correctional Facility
Willoughby, Pamela	Field Agent, Field Operations Administration