



Contents:

Honor Guard to March in Coast Guard Festival .....2

All MDOC Employees to Receive Email Account ...3

Lt. Governor Attends GED Graduation .....3

Open Enrollment Starts August 6.....4

COPS Day Coming to Ionia Free Fair.....4

Blood Challenge.....4

People Make the Difference.....5

Reentry Roundtable .....6

DNR AND MDOC COLLABORATE TO ENHANCE RECREATION EXPERIENCE

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources celebrated the opening of its two new, deluxe rental cabins at Holly Recreation Area with a dedication ceremony on June 20 at the recreation area. The cabins were built in about 30 days by prisoners at Saginaw Correctional Facility's Prison Build Program. After the prisoners built the cabins in modular sections, the pieces were trucked to Holly and assembled.



"The new cabins are the result of an ongoing partnership between the DNR and the Michigan Department of Corrections' Prison Build Program which offers inmates the opportunity to learn building trade skills that can assist them in their reintegration into society," said Ron Olson, chief of the DNR's Parks and Recreation Division. "Along with the new model cabins at Holly, 17 camper cabins within the state parks also are available for the enjoyment of our visitors as a result of the combined resources of our two agencies over the years."

Director Heyns said the project allows prisoners to learn a valuable skill. "We want to ensure these building trades are in our rehabilitation model," Heyns said from the front deck of one of the two cabins. "They need to learn real job skills and that's what we're doing here."

The family-friendly cabins with private access to Wildwood Lake offer two bedrooms, a kitchen and living area and a bathroom. The roomier cabins, which are the first modern cabins in the parks with indoor plumbing, are more spacious than the traditional camper cabin rental units, can accommo-



L to R: Director Dan Heyns and DNR Parks Chief Ron Olson



F.Y.I. is a publication of the Michigan Department of Corrections, Office of Public Information and Communications. Please submit articles through your supervisor to John Cordell at cordellj@michigan.gov



## DELUXE CABINS (Continued from page 1)

date six to eight adults in 448-square feet of living space and offer a 32-foot-long front porch to maximize views and water access.



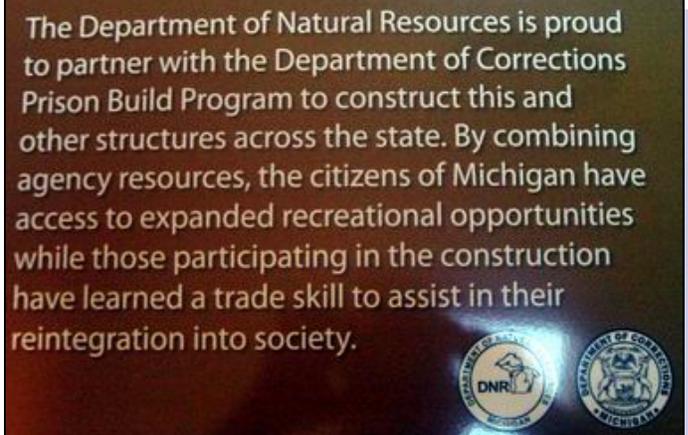
Olson stated that the site's existing infrastructure and scenic backdrop were the primary reasons why Holly Recreation Area was selected as the initial location for the new model of cabin. "Historically this location has been underutilized, and we were able to take advantage of existing site utilities," Olson said.

The Recreation Area's 8,000 acres of woodlands and open fields are located in Oakland County less than an hour's drive from the Detroit metropolitan area. "The area offers the feeling of 'being up north' without making the drive there," said Holly's supervisor Shawn Speaker. "In addition to a beach, boating and fishing opportunities which are just steps from the front doors of the cabins, there is also an adjacent trail that links many other recreational opportunities," Speaker said. "We're looking forward to our visitors being able to enjoy these new amenities in a beautiful setting."

The cabins rent for \$100 per night on Fridays



and Saturdays and \$80 per night Sundays through Thursdays. Reservations can be made through the state's Campground Reservation System, (800) 447-2757 or on the Web at [www.midnrreservations.com](http://www.midnrreservations.com) beginning July 20. For details, call Holly Recreation Area, 248-634-8811.



*This plaque was placed on each of the cabins built through the collaborative effort of the MDOC and DNR.*

## HONOR GUARD TO MARCH IN COAST GUARD FEST PARADE

The Honor Guard will represent the Michigan Department of Corrections at this year's Coast Guard Festival in Grand Haven, MI. The unit will participate in the Meijer Grand Parade on August 4 at 11:45 a.m. With the re-opening of Muskegon Correctional Facility nearly a month away, this is a great time for the Honor Guard to represent the Department in the Coast Guard Festival. If you are attending the festival, the Honor Guard would love to hear your enthusiastic support along the parade route. See if you can make them smile as they march by.





## ALL MDOC EMPLOYEES TO RECEIVE EMAIL ACCOUNTS

Effective immediately, all new MDOC employees regardless of their administration or classification shall be provided a state Outlook e-mail account as part of their hiring process. Current employees without an active email account will be given an account as well.

In today's work environment, the ability for employers and employees to communicate by electronic means is essential, especially in a large organization such as the Department of Corrections. Electronic communications such as e-mails are not appropriate in all circumstances, and should not become a substitute for the in-person or voice communication between employees that is so important for team-building. However, e-mails can be faster, more efficient and help increase responsiveness to issues that require prompt attention.

In addition to being able to communicate within the Department, employees also need to be able



to rely on timely information and announcements from outside sources. Active e-mail accounts enhance employee access to important information including announcements from: the Office of Retirement Services (ORS) (pension and retirement plans), Open Enrollment (insurance information and announcements), Benefits for Life, State Employee Savings Plans (401(k) and 457), internal ListServ messages and more.

The announcement to provide all employees with this vital form of communication came in a joint memorandum from Deputy Directors Finco, Sinclair and Treacher. In today's increasingly technological workplace, this is a very sensible decision that creates a greater sense of inclusion for all Department employees.

## LT. GOVERNOR ATTENDS GED GRADUATION AT STF

Lieutenant Governor Brian Calley recently honored the General Educational Development (GED) graduates at Central Michigan Correctional Facility with sincerity and wisdom that brought dignity, encouragement and recognition to our prisoners during the 2012 annual commencement ceremony. After the ceremony, the Lieutenant Governor sat down at the keyboard to play and sing a Beatles tune to the attendees.

***Pictured from Left:*** Ed Holsworth (Chaplain), Kristine Davidson (Principal), Tony Costello (A/Education Manager), Erick Balcarcel (Deputy Warden), Ed Mize (Operations Administrator), Brian Calley, (Lt. Governor), Daniel Heyns, (Director), Michael Curley (A/Regional Prison Administrator, Northern Region), Susan Lockwood (Career and Technical Education Consultant), and Mark McCullick (Deputy Warden).



**OPEN ENROLLMENT STARTS AUGUST 6**

On August 6, the annual Insurance Open Enrollment will begin. In preparation, please review and update your preferred e-mail address through Self-Service ([www.mi.gov/selfserv](http://www.mi.gov/selfserv)) or by contacting MI HR Service Center at 1-877-766-6447, no later than Friday, July 20, 2012. This will ensure delivery of Insurance Open Enrollment materials.

Various insurance representatives will be available for questions on Tuesday, August 8th, during the morning hours in the main hall of

GVP. Additional information will be forthcoming.

The open enrollment period for State-Sponsored Group Insurance plans will be conducted from August 6 through August 31, 2012. The effective date for new enrollments and any changes will be October 14, 2012.

**IONIA FREE FAIR C.O.P.S. DAY IS JULY 25, 2012**

The 24th Annual C.O.P.S. Day is Wednesday, July 25, 2012. Corrections employees, public safety employees, police, fire, EMS, court employees, active military and retirees from any of these groups receive free admission to the hospitality center where they can purchase a "ride-all-day" wristband for \$12 dollars. A valid department/badge I.D. is required to enter and receive the discounted wristband, which is good until the midway closes. The hospitality center is open from noon to 8:00 p.m. and the midway is open from 1 p.m. until 11:30 p.m. according to the Ionia Free Fair Schedule.



C.O.P.S. Day is sponsored in part by the Michigan Corrections Organization, Michigan One Community Credit Union, and the employees of Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility, Carson City Correctional Facility, Ionia Correctional Facility, Michigan Reformatory and Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility.

**STATE OF MICHIGAN BLOOD CHALLENGE CONTINUES**

The American Red Cross is in desperate need of donations, and to assist in collection of blood and blood products, the State of Michigan Employee Blood Challenge continues through September 7, 2012. A blood donation you make will most likely help save the life of a stranger. However, it could also turn out to save a friend or a relative.

Visit the Blood Challenge website at [http://www.michigan.gov/mdcs/0,1607,7-147-22854\\_24290\\_24417-237582--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mdcs/0,1607,7-147-22854_24290_24417-237582--,00.html) for inspiring donor and recipient stories.



If you have benefited from blood donations or found it rewarding to donate, share your story to inspire others. Email your story to [MCSC-WOW-WorkingOnWellness@michigan.gov](mailto:MCSC-WOW-WorkingOnWellness@michigan.gov).

Be a Michigan role model. Be a blood donor today!



## ERT ACTIVATED TO HELP WITH SEARCH AND RESCUE EFFORT

On June 27, 2012, Chippewa Tribal Fire Chief Fred Cantu and Isabella Emergency Services Director Mark Griffis contacted St. Louis Correctional Facility Warden Steve Rivard to request permission to use a Michigan Department of Corrections Emergency Response Team (ERT) to assist with the search for a missing four-year-old child from the Mt. Pleasant area. The child had been missing for several days and the ERT team would be utilized to enhance and speed the search.

Warden Rivard contacted Correctional Facilities Administrator Ed Mize and Emergency Services Manager Brent Travelbee and received permission to use ERT for the search. On June 28, ERT Commander Scott Bentley organized a team of 18 ERT Members from Saint Louis, Central Michigan, and Saginaw correctional facilities to conduct their search. Two Chippewa Tribal Police Officers assisted the team.

For over five hours, ERT searched very dense and thick brush in over 90°F weather. Although the search found nothing, there was outstanding cooperation between several local and state emergency services. Unfortunately, the missing child was the victim of foul play and those responsible are facing felony criminal charges.



PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

## METRO AREA CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES PLAN REGIONAL FAMILY PICNIC

There are big plans for a big family picnic in late August and all area MDOC staff are invited to join in the fun! This gathering has become an enjoyable family-friendly event that includes more than just food and friends.



Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility, Macomb Correctional Facility, Woodland Correctional Facility and Ryan Correctional Facility will be sponsoring their annual Regional Family Picnic at Lower Huron Metro Park, 17845 Savage Road, Belleville, MI 48111 on Saturday, August 25, 2012. They need volunteers for setup. For more information on the picnic, or to help set up or clean up, please contact your facility contact. They are: M. Smith (WHV), S. George (RRF), A. Chappell (RRF), D. Monday (WCC), T. Tucker (WHV), A. Singleton (MRF), L. Evans (WCC), V. Moses (RRF), L. Phillips (WHV) or E. Graham (WHV) for more information.





## **REENTRY ROUNDTABLE**

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

### **Second Chance Employment Enterprises Featuring Eaglevision Ministries Dream Land**

Eaglevision Ministries (EVM) is the employment assistance provider for the Capital Area Prisoner Reentry Program (CAPR). Eaglevision runs a daily Career Club that is attended by an average of 20 Prisoner Reentry participants. As participants were having a difficult time finding employment on their own, the Eaglevision staff and the Prisoner Reentry participants came up with the idea of starting their own business to provide real life work experience and income for Prisoner Reentry participants referred to Eaglevision.

Second Chance Employment Enterprises was born out of the EVM Capital Area Prisoner Reentry daily career club. The participants complained about having difficulty getting jobs because of their ex-offender status. Second Chance Employment provides ex-offenders with transitional employment. So far, EVM has started three businesses under Second Chance: Dream Works Detailing, Dream Cones, Deli and most recently Dream Land was started.

EVM was contacted by the Ingham County Land Bank to do lawn care for vacant properties in Ingham County that were returned to the county due to foreclosure or tax liens. The Land Bank reached out to EVM after hearing about some of

the great work they were doing with the population of parolees they serve. Employees for Dream Land were hired from the EVM CAPR program. Equipment was purchased and EVM Dream Land is off and running. Dream Land is currently doing lawn care for about 140 properties and making a difference in how the local neighborhoods look.

Ingham County Treasurer, Eric Schertzing recently paid a visit to the EVM Career Club to offer his thanks to those workers for the quality and consistency of their work and also to encourage them to continue to "Dream big". Mr. Schertzing also shared with those participants that because their work has been so good, they

will likely be given other projects involving the houses such as cleaning them out and readying them for auction. EVM already had registered the DBA Dream Cleaning so they are ready to do the residential cleaning. Congrats to Eaglevision Ministries and the hard workers of Dream Land and Second Chance Employment for capitalizing on this fantastic opportunity to improve neighborhoods and forward their idea of entrepreneurship.

*This article was submitted by Derrick Jones, Capital Area Prisoner Reentry Community Coordinator*



# **Prisoner Reentry**

