

# Corrections Connection



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# In this issue:

<u>A day for family</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Green prison</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>Field Days podcast</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>Giving back</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>Cybersecurity</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>REAL ID</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>In their own words</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>Women earn braille certification</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>One Day with God</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>Out of Darkness Walk</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>K-9 training</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>Special Olympics fundraiser</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>SECC</u>	<u>11</u>
<u>All MAC Team</u>	<u>11</u>
<u>Facilities fill backpacks</u>	<u>11</u>
<u>Community run</u>	<u>11</u>
<u>Michigan Education Trust</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>ERT commander honored</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>Saginaw Correctional Facility visits</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>Tribute to Tennessee employee</u>	<u>13</u>
<u>Employee Rec Day</u>	<u>13</u>
<u>With Thanks</u>	<u>14</u>
<u>The Extra Mile</u>	<u>15</u>
<u>Corrections Quiz</u>	<u>16</u>
<u>Snapshots</u>	<u>17</u>
<u>Corrections in the news</u>	<u>17</u>
<u>Seen on social media</u>	<u>17</u>
<u>New hires</u>	<u>18</u>
<u>Retirements</u>	<u>19</u>



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

The image on the cover was taken by Ray Closson, a corrections officer at Parnall 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 Holly Kramer at [KramerH@michigan.gov](mailto:KramerH@michigan.gov).

**Committed to Protect, Dedicated to Success**





## Department provides new resources to support recruits and their families

**I**t's Sunday afternoon and Sabrina Leland is sitting with her family on the eve of the first day of Officer Recruit Training.

In the coming weeks, she'll learn about prisoner management, emergency medical care and supervision strategies like Collaborative Case Management.

But on this particular day, her family will have the opportunity to learn more about the department she is about to join.

"It's something I've been working toward for quite awhile," she said of joining the MDOC. "Just making it in is all I've been looking forward to."

The department's family orientation is among the new resources being offered to corrections officer recruits and their families to help support them as they launch their careers with the department. The MDOC began offering a family orientation day in early 2018 to help keep those closest to new officers informed about the training process, the role of corrections officers and resources that are available to them.

The response has been overwhelmingly positive. There is no requirement to attend family orientation day, but many recruits and their families choose to do so.

"It was something we'd never done before," said Chris Schweikert, New Employee Training Supervisor for the department. "The first time, I had no idea how many people would show and I had over 100 people. The numbers keep growing with every class."

During the orientation, MDOC staff provide recruits and their families with information on support for veterans of the Armed Forces, assistance available through the new Employee Wellness Unit





Pictured: Chris Schweikert takes photos of recruits in the Denise Allsberry Academy Class to be shared in the class Facebook group and during the graduation ceremony.

and benefits offered through a career in state government. Leland's husband, Pete Leland, said he was also interested in hearing more about what a job in corrections is like. "It's a good opportunity for family to see what their family members are going through," he said. While family orientation is held prior to the start of the academy for Lansing-area recruits, it is held at the close of the academy for Upper Peninsula recruits. Training staff found that more Upper Peninsula families were able to attend when the orientation was held right before graduation and had a better

response. Family orientation also serves as a valuable opportunity for officer's family members to learn about the resources available to them. "Family orientation is important to this department," said Employee Wellness Unit Manager Lynn Gorski, who provided a presentation to families on the department's new Employee Wellness Unit. "It is important not just because we value our employees, but also because we recognize the dedication and sacrifices made by family as well when their loved one is entering this career field."

Monica Fears was already familiar with what it's like to have a family member in corrections when her son joined the department. Her husband also works for the MDOC at Carson City Correctional Facility. She said she enjoyed the family

orientation.

"You learn more," Fears said. Family don't know everything that goes on within corrections because a lot of officers don't come home and tell them about their day. This is kind of nice because you get an idea of what to expect." But family orientation day isn't the only way recruits' relatives are being brought into the fold of the corrections family.

Schweikert and other training staff also create and maintain a Facebook page for each academy class. Family members are invited to follow the page so they can see regular updates and photos from the training academy.

Schweikert said it's wonderful to see family members of new officers, especially their children, express excitement and pride over seeing them succeed in the academy.

"Family is being able to see what's going on," Schweikert said. "Sometimes they are away from their family the entire week, so it helps bring them closer to their family."

In addition, the department worked with the Lansing Convention and Visitor's Bureau to add a page to their site that includes area attractions and family-friendly events that recruits in the Lansing-area academy could attend when they've wrapped up their studies for the day.

As she closed her remarks, Gorski asked new recruits to turn to their loved ones and thank them for their support, which will be important as they move forward with their new role as a corrections officer.

"This career is about family," Darrick Alvarez, the MDOC's Recruitment Military Veteran Analyst told recruits and their family members. "It is a great career. There are lots of opportunities for you to do great things here."



Pictured: Director Heidi Washington addresses recruits in the Denise Allsberry Officer Recruit Training Academy. Allsberry was among the first female corrections officers in Michigan and retired as Assistant Deputy Director of the Office of Parole and Probation Services.



# St. Louis Correctional Facility named Michigan's first 'green' prison

St. Louis Correctional Facility is expected to become Michigan's first green prison following energy performance improvements and other steps to enhance sustainability.

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer announced the initiative earlier this month as part of new efforts to lead by example on environmental sustainability across

state government.

"I have directed Departments to implement more sustainable practices in state buildings and reduce energy usage where possible," Whitmer said.

"These steps are a win-win for the environment and taxpayers. By improving our government's environmental footprint while lowering energy

costs we're able to prove that sustainable practices can and will work across our state from rural, forested locations to downtown Detroit."

The MDOC is releasing a new request for proposals for solar panels and energy performance improvements at the mid-Michigan facility.

The MDOC has already implemented sustainability upgrades at prisons in Jackson, Ionia and Kincheloe, resulting in more than \$15 million in annual cost savings due to lower energy and water use.



## HAVE YOU HEARD?

Check out these other great episodes of the Field Days Podcast

- [Dr. Brian Lovins, a Principal for Justice System Partners and co-editor of the American Probation and Parole Association's Perspectives Journal, talks about criminal justice reform and how Michigan is ahead of the curve.](#)
- [The team hits the road for an on-site podcast at the Oakland County Job Fair, attended by more than 30 employers and recruiters interested in working with returning citizens.](#)
- [The Field Days podcast crew calls across the Mighty Mac to discuss fantastic offender success stats with Supervisor Kevin Ayotte and Community Coordinator Jason Sides.](#)



**FIELD DAYS**  
PODCAST

Listen to us on



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# Giving Back

## Parole Agent assists with annual Back 2 School Bash benefitting area students

Graham Allen comes from a family of corrections professionals.

His parents, grandparents, and other extended family worked for the Michigan Department of Corrections and spent their



Agent Graham Allen

careers helping others change their lives. That's something that made an early impression on Allen, a Jackson County parole agent who has been with the MDOC since 2002.

His family also recognized the importance of community involvement and encouraged him to seek opportunities to volunteer to help better the county he serves.

He volunteered with Habitat for Humanity and later joined the Jackson County Branch NAACP, helping to organize and promote community events.

Allen and fellow Jackson NAACP board member Joseph Beaman, a prison counselor at Lakeland Correctional Facility, are also looking for ways the Jackson County branch of the organization can help returning citizens, particularly through mentoring opportunities. One big event supported by the

Jackson County Branch NAACP that Allen has assisted with is Jackson's annual Back 2 School Bash, which provides local students with complimentary haircuts and access to bookbags full of school supplies.

The event helps students, especially those in need, get a positive start to the academic year.

During this year's event on Aug. 18, 700 backpacks stuffed with school supplies were distributed to area students and more than 1,000 meals were served to attending families.

"Every kid there walked away with a backpack," said Allen, who volunteered during the event and helped promote it. "It was a big event for the community. People came together and enjoyed each other."

The event is primarily supported through donations and community partnerships, he said. The Jackson County Parole Office also donated money from their casual days fundraiser to help bolster the Back 2 School Bash.

While he helped plan and promote last year's event, this was his first year attending to help students and families secure the school supplies they needed. "The more opportunities children have to receive the supplies they need, the better," Allen said.

To help support future Jackson Back 2 School Bash events, contact [JacksonBack2SchoolBash@gmail.com](mailto:JacksonBack2SchoolBash@gmail.com).

## MDOC employees perform well in state cybersecurity awareness campaign

Michigan Department of Corrections employees largely avoided clicking suspicious email links. That's according to a phishing email campaign conducted in June by the Department of Technology, Management and Budget to gauge the cybersecurity aptitude of state employees.

The agency sent a phishing email to all MDOC employees in mid-June to collect data on how often the message link was clicked and how often it was reported to [abuse@michigan.gov](mailto:abuse@michigan.gov).

Approximately 8.4 percent of employees who received the email clicked the link inside. There were 875 employees who reported it as suspicious.

The average click rate across state agencies was 11.5 percent and the industry average is more than 30 percent.

Please continue to report suspicious emails to [abuse@michigan.gov](mailto:abuse@michigan.gov) and do not click suspicious links.

## REAL ID may affect you, especially if you travel by air

On Oct. 1, 2020, the federally mandated REAL ID law goes into effect, and if you travel by air, this law will impact you. REAL ID is the post-9/11 federal requirement that sets higher security standards for identification. Once in effect, a REAL ID will be required to board any U.S. flight or to enter some federal facilities. A REAL ID can be a U.S. Passport or an Enhanced Driver's License – or you can turn your standard driver's license into a REAL ID at the Secretary of State's office. Learn more about the law and what documents you need to bring to get a REAL ID at [Michigan.gov/REALID](https://Michigan.gov/REALID).



# In their own words: Agents share insight on working in corrections, serving as champions for success

Each year, field agents across the country are recognized for the important role they play in the criminal justice system through Pretrial, Probation and Parole Supervision Week.

The recognition week was celebrated July 21-27 and included a variety of events at local field offices.

Field Operations Administration Deputy Director Russ Marlan spent the week visiting field offices across the state, talking to agents and thanking them for their work.

The Field Days podcast team also interviewed a number of agents about what they enjoy about their role and what drew them to a career with the MDOC.

Agents expressed that they took pride in providing guidance to offenders that helped them move their lives in a positive direction. To hear more from agents interviewed, [click here](#).



“You have to be open to change. I did the pilot for Carey Guides, then came Motivational Interviewing. They all go together. I feel like I’m a life coach now because I’m allowing others to brainstorm and teaching them to brainstorm and teaching them to be creative thinkers and not just giving them the answer.”

*Ann Marie Parker, Greenfield District Probation Agent*

“The most rewarding thing for our role is being able to give the community that sense of security, knowing that we are diligently working to do just what our department is named for — to correct the behavior of individuals who have made poor decisions ... it’s putting individuals in line to have resources that can help them become better individuals for the communities they are going back to.”

*Fatrenna Graham, Court Services Unit Probation Agent*



“I get to have a bigger impact on the offender, at least from my perspective. I get to be a little more involved with sending them to programming if they need the programming, trying to encourage them, and trying to get them out of the mindset that they are stuck where they are at.”

*Tom Hungerford, Chrysler District Probation Agent*

“When you’re able to make a difference and show them that there is hope — you can get a job or you can still have the same lifestyle as those of us who have not committed crimes and they get to see that and reap the benefits, it makes you feel like you’re doing a great job.”

*Jasmine Bowlson, Chrysler District Probation Agent*







“(We’re) trying to help people better their lives. We’re watching people’s lives change, helping people out, referring them to different agencies and watching them improve their lives.”

*Dana Darby, Court Services Unit Probation Agent*

“Just being able to communicate and relate to what they are going through and seeing the other side of it, if they don’t complete what they are supposed to complete what can happen and trying to steer them away from that and toward success. We’re here for their success.”

*Joe Knickerbocker, Greenfield District Probation Agent*



“For me, the most rewarding thing is when you get a phone call, or when you are giving someone their discharge papers and they thank you and are so appreciative of all the work you’ve done for them to help them get to where they are now.”

*Tiara Warren, Greenfield District Probation Agent*

“One of our main goals is to see the offenders successfully complete, but I like the interaction between community members and with police and helping the public. We’re making sure we’re keeping the public safe.”

*Jeb Miller, St. Joseph County Parole Agent*



“I find it rewarding to be able to guide and help and encourage them to reach their goals. I really enjoy just watching them achieve that.”

*Melinda Albert, St. Joseph County Probation Agent*

“A lot of people have never had any support system at all, so when they come in, giving them that, the tools and seeing the confidence come out of being supervised is the best part.”

*Stacy Griffin, St. Joseph County Probation Agent*





## Four prisoners are the first to be certified transcribers in Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility Braille Program

Four students in the Braille program at Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility have become the first to be named Unified English Braille Certified Transcribers.

The certification was awarded after the women

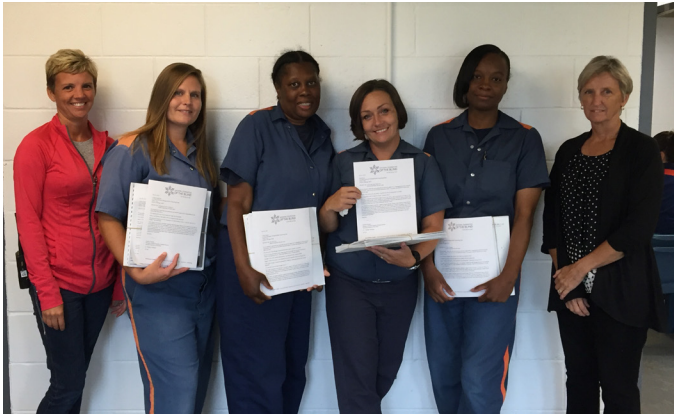
submitted manuscripts to the National Library of Congress, which reviewed them for accuracy.

Another 14 students in the program have submitted manuscripts.

The Braille program at the facility is expected to eventually include as many as 45 female prisoners. This tremendous success speaks volumes to the time and dedication the students put toward group and independent study, made possible with the support of Michigan Braille Transcribing Fund and WHV staff members.

The Michigan Braille Transcribing Fund also already operates a production site at G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility in Jackson.

[Click here to learn more about the braille program at Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility.](#)



## G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility hosts One Day with God camp

G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility hosted a One Day with God Camp, facilitated by Forgiven Ministries, in late July.

Volunteers for the organization did a phenomenal job with the event, were well organized and provided a great opportunity for incarcerated fathers. They provide two days of activities, the first day was strictly for the fathers to work with the volunteers on becoming better fathers as well as men. The second day was for fathers and their children, giving them an opportunity to spend quality time with each other while the volunteers assisted with the experience.

The first day of activities included 28 fathers along with 26 volunteers from Forgiven Ministries. The fathers participated in workshops that offered tools, insight and words of encouragement. It served as a reminder that they can still be positive, active members in the lives of their children. They were able to write a letter of encouragement to their child, make a picture frame for their child, and fill a backpack for their child to take home with them that also contained a quilt and several encouraging items.

The second day included more than 80 volunteers from Forgiven Ministries that reunited 27 incarcerated fathers with 30 children.

They experienced a full day of fun, games, crafts, entertainment, praise and worship. They were provided lunch, including birthday cake for the missed birthdays, enjoyed a daddy/daughter dance and a father/son walk and received the backpack full of gifts from their fathers.

Everyone seemed to enjoy the time they were able to spend with each other. There was a lot of laughter, good conversations, fun and even tears during this event. Fathers and their children left with great memories and smiles on their faces for the enriching time they were able to spend together.

*Submitted by Leta Wilson-Mask, Corrections Program Coordinator at G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility*



# Walk to save lives and bring hope to those affected by suicide

We all know someone whose life has been affected by suicide.

Nearly 800,000 people die by suicide in the world each year, which is roughly one death every 40 seconds.

What can you do to help?

Join the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and participate in a local walk to help raise needed funds for suicide prevention.

To find a walk near you, please [click here](#).

At the bottom of the [home page](#), click on 'Out of the Darkness Walk Events,' then 'AFSP Walks,' which gives you three options: Community Walks, Campus Walks, and Overnight Walks.

If you click on Community Walks, and then FIND A WALK, there is a list of Upcoming Events in Michigan.

Events include:

Ishpeming — 9/7/19

Traverse City — 9/14/19

Grand Rapids — 9/15/19

Lansing — 9/21/19

Kalamazoo/Portage — 9/22/19

Lambertville — 9/22/19

Detroit — 9/28/19

Spring Arbor — 9/29/19

Brownstown — 10/13/19

We hope you will consider walking in an upcoming event to raise money to support this very important cause.

Together we can change the conversation about mental health and put a stop to this tragic loss of life. As a reminder, the MDOC Employee Wellness Unit is here to assist you in your time of need.

You can reach the Employee Wellness Unit at [mdoc-wellness@michigan.gov](mailto:mdoc-wellness@michigan.gov) or at 517-335-0570.

You can also call the Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 800-273-8255, Safe Call Now at 206-459-3020, or the Employee Service Program at 800-521-1377 or by visiting [www.michigan.gov/esp](http://www.michigan.gov/esp).



## St. Louis Correctional Facility employee helps law enforcement K-9 teams train

St. Louis Correctional Facility Warden's Secretary Christy Cotter provided local law enforcement agencies with access to her 20 acres of private property for K-9 tracking and water training.

K-9 teams from the Saginaw Chippewa Police Department, City of Midland Police Department and Saginaw Police Department, participated in the training.

With access to two ponds and a large wood area, the teams were able to spend the afternoon effectively completing tracking, article searches and water apprehensions.



Each K-9 goes through regular training including obedience, agility, tracking, and water training. Two of the dogs have never been able to water train because of the lack of a location. Cotter said she would welcome the K-9 team back anytime.

*Submitted by Becky Carl, St. Louis Correctional Facility Administrative Assistant*

## Special Olympics MI fundraiser held in Jackson

Uniformed law enforcement officers, including corrections staff, will help raise money for Special Olympics Michigan through the annual Tip-A-Cop fundraiser.

Officers will serve food and accept donations at Applebees locations in a number of cities including Jackson, Ionia, Marquette, Muskegon, Mount Pleasant and Sault Ste. Marie from 4-8 p.m. on Aug. 28.

In addition, 20 percent of proceeds from meal sales during that time period will go toward the fundraiser.



## State Employees Charitable Campaign begins Sept. 9

The State Employees Charitable Campaign begins on September 9 and will run through October 11.

The campaign provides State of Michigan employees with the most efficient and consistent pathway possible for charitable giving — payroll deduction. Employees can contribute to more than 1,000 charities which support the communities in which they live and work.

The Michigan Department of Corrections raised \$80,308 through payroll deduction donations during the 2018 campaign.

The State Employees Charitable Campaign was created in 1987 to

combine all charitable appeals and giving drives into one annual event.

For more information on charities and making a donation, visit [misecc.org](http://misecc.org).



## St. Louis and Central Michigan Correctional Facilities provide students with backpacks, supplies

Staff at St. Louis and Central Michigan correctional facilities once again donated backpacks filled with supplies for students in need at various schools in Gratiot County.

There were 200 filled backpacks donated.

This year the backpack drive was in honor of Record Office Supervisor Ann Hull who passed away unexpectedly earlier this year and had been very involved in the school supplies drive. She was always proud of what the facilities accomplished together for area students.

The backpack drive was a huge success thanks to the hard work of recently retired Assistant Resident Unit Supervisor Kelly Hughes and Litigation Coordinator Mary Jo Houlden.



Pictured: (Left) Facility staff with donated backpacks, (Right) Ann Hull.

Submitted by  
Becky Carl, St.  
Louis Correctional  
Facility  
Administrative  
Assistant

## Kamrada named member of 2019 Academic All-MAC Team

Nick Kamrada, son of Michigan State Industries Administrator Chris Kamrada, has been named a member of the



2019 Baseball Academic All-MAC Team. Kamrada, who plays for Ohio, joins 78 other student athletes on the Mid-American

Conference team.

The Academic All-MAC honor is for a student-athlete who has excelled in athletics and academics. To qualify, a student-athlete must have at least a 3.20 cumulative GPA and have participated in at least 50 percent of the contests for that particular sport.

## Community Run for Special Olympics held in Jackson in Sept.

The Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run annual Jackson Community run, walk or bike will be held on Sept. 11.

Registration will begin at 11:30 a.m. at the Kit Young Center, 1185 W. Parnall Road in Jackson.

The cost to register is \$25, and includes a T-shirt.

The bike ride begins at noon, the walk starts at 12:15 p.m. and runners start at 12:30 p.m.

For more information, or to register, [click here](#).

# Information and enrollment sessions held on Michigan college savings programs

The Michigan Education Trust (MET) and Michigan Education Savings Program (MESP) are encouraging residents to learn more about saving for college by offering Information and Enrollment Sessions as well as online webinars.

You can join an Information and Enrollment Session to learn more about Michigan's 529 college savings programs. These free, drop-in sessions allow you to ask questions as well as open an account. If you are unable to join us in-person, but want to learn more about the programs, you can attend one of our free,

webinars.

If you are unable to participate in a scheduled Enrollment Session or webinar, a recorded presentation is available for viewing.

New this year: MET is offering a \$100 matching grant to State of Michigan employees as well as waiving their \$25 enrollment fee for those that open new MET contracts during this time. \* Use coupon code SOMMATCH during online enrollment.

An Information and Enrollment Session will be held:

- Tuesday, August 27, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.:  
Ottawa Building, DMB Conference Room 6 (611 W. Ottawa St., Lansing)  
If you are unable to meet with us in person you can participate in a webinar session, visit [www.SETwithMET.com](http://www.SETwithMET.com) and view our events page to select a month to see the webinar dates. Select the register link beneath the event description for the date you wish to participate. The registration site will provide login instructions.  
Now is the time to start reaching your college savings goals.



## Commander honored for years of service to ERT

Emergency Response Team District 1 Commander Jeremy LaBelle presented Officer Steve Coston a plaque for his 21 years of service on the team, some of which included serving as the Assistant District Commander for the St. Louis Team.



## State Senator and MVAA Director visit Saginaw Correctional Facility

In August, Saginaw Correctional Facility was visited by State Sen. Ken Horn and Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency Director Zaneta Adams.

Sen. Horn visited the facility's building trades program with a Vietnam Veteran and thanked Vocational Instructor Jared Ayres and Principal Adrienne Gates for the donation of Flag Boxes to the families of our Fallen Heroes. MVAA Director Zaneta Adams and MVAA's Legislative Liaison Fred Schaible also visited Saginaw Correctional Facility to tour the Veterans Unit.



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# MDOC pays tribute to Tennessee corrections employee killed by escaped prisoner

The Michigan Department of Corrections showed its support for corrections colleagues in Tennessee after a Tennessee Department of Corrections employee was killed by an escaped prisoner.

Members of the MDOC Honor Guard travelled to Tennessee to stand beside Tennessee Department of Corrections employees during a memorial service for Administrator Debra Johnson, who was killed on Aug. 7 during the prisoner's escape from West Tennessee State Penitentiary.

The prisoner was apprehended on Aug. 11.

A GoFundMe account was created on behalf of Johnson and money raised is going to support her family.

The Association of State Correctional Administrators also asked corrections agencies nationwide for their assistance in supporting Johnson's family.

To donate to the GoFundMe account, [click here](#).

For questions, or to donate in another way, contact Jennifer Boyd at [Jennifer.Boyd@tn.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Boyd@tn.gov) or 615-253-8164.



## Save the Date! EMPLOYEE RECREATION DAY

AT BAY MILLS RESORT & CASINO IN BRIMLEY, MI  
FRIDAY, SEPT. 27, 2019

Registration is open now for Employee Recreation Day at Bay Mills Resort & Casino in Brimley, with discounts on dinner for those who sign up before Aug. 30.

Activities will include an 18-hole, four-person golf scramble, a golf putting contest, a softball tournament, corn hole tournament, chalk art, scavenger hunt, photo booth, horse shoes, lawn games, a silent auction and dinner that will include fried whitefish, meatless lasagna, potatoes, vegetables, salad and dessert. Dinner is \$10 per person if paid before Aug. 30, or \$20 per person after that date.

For more information on event registration, [click here](#), or contact Kathy Keiffer at [KeifferK@michigan.gov](mailto:KeifferK@michigan.gov).

# With Thanks

## Consumers Energy CEO thanks MDOC for assistance during winter fire emergency

July 17, 2019

Ms. Heidi Washington  
State Of Michigan  
206 E. Michigan Ave.  
P.O. Box 30003  
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Ms. Washington,

In January, Consumers Energy experienced a situation unlike any other we have faced in the history of our company. After a fire at the Ray Compression Station, we were 500 MCF short to be able to adequately supply heat to Michigan homes. We got about 120 MCF to help fill the gap from the actions of business customers, like you. You listened, you heard, you understood the situation. It was an unbelievable response! You put people in front of profit. When you knew public safety was at risk, you sacrificed operations to ensure Michigan was safe. From the bottom of my heart: thank you!

To give you a sense of what the Ray Compression Station does, I wanted to share a little more. During the summer, we inject gas procured from interstate pipelines when supply is plentiful and prices tend to be lower. When the weather turns colder in the fall, we reverse the flow, condition the gas from underground to ensure high quality and reliable delivery across Michigan through our Transmission and Distribution system.

Immediately after we stabilized the situation at the Ray Compression Station we went to work identifying and correcting the causes of the unprecedented event. We have redesigned the circuits and corrected a ground wire issue within the safety monitoring system that caused the initial fault. We have also increased the height of the vent stacks for Plant 2 and Plant 3. Through the diligent work of the team at Ray, Plant 3 will be fully functional for withdrawal by September 1, 2019 and Plant 2 will be fully functional by December 30, 2019. These actions will mean that the Ray Compression Station and Ray Storage will be back to playing their role in our winter heating season, serving Michigan like it has for decades prior to the event last winter.

I will never forget the actions you took in Consumers Energy's time of need. I am grateful for your support!

Sincerely,



Patti Poppe

**Do you have a letter of thanks sent to your facility or office that you'd like to share?**  
**Send it to Holly Kramer at [KramerH@michigan.gov](mailto:KramerH@michigan.gov) and it could be included in a future edition of the Corrections Connection.**



# The Extra Mile

MDOC staff go beyond the call of duty to help others

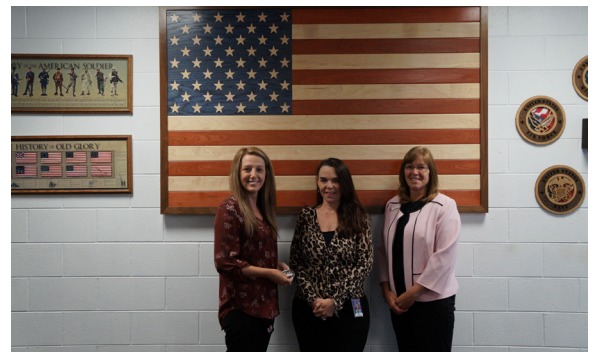


In February, Donna Kovar, Acting Nursing Supervisor at Alger Correctional Facility, responded to a call for assistance after a prisoner was stabbed while on the yard. The prisoner suffered two serious stab wounds to the torso, causing serious injury.

Kovar responded with skill and care by applying immediate interventions that stopped the bleeding and prevented further harm to the prisoner, before he was transported to the hospital for further treatment.

Kovar's exemplary actions earned her the department's Lifesaving Award.

Carrie Kienitz, a general office assistant at Alger Correctional Facility, received a Warden's Coin and a Symbol of Teamwork Coin for her hard work and diligence in the facility's mail room that led her to find books that contained drugs.



Iosco County Agents Doug Hedglin and Tiffany Richards were conducting home calls when they noticed a canoe flipped over in the Au Sable River.

As they approached the water, they saw two people struggling to stay afloat and pleading for help. While Richards called 911, Hedglin went to the riverbank to get the couple to let go of the canoe because it was keeping them in the middle of the river. The man let go and had no strength left to be able to swim or move his arms. Hedglin got the woman to swim toward him and he pulled her in.

When Richards saw the man was not moving, she jumped into the water after him with a long stick. She had him hold on to the stick and pulled him to the shore where she and Hedglin lifted him on to the bank.

Agents Hedglin and Richards earned the department's Lifesaving Award for their exceptional actions to help the couple.

Director Washington visited Alger Correctional Facility and was presented with a Symbol of Leadership Coin from Warden Cathy Bauman because of her hard work to lead the department in a positive direction.

Under her leadership, the state's recidivism rate reached a historic low, the prisoner population has declined to its lowest level in more than 20 years and the number of probation violators is shrinking.



The MDOC's Intel Unit was recognized with a Symbol of Teamwork Coin for their remarkable work that has resulted in the apprehension of dangerous individuals, successful resolution of cases and a positive impact on facilities and communities.

The team uncovered evidence of fraud a prisoner was attempting to engineer in federal court, helped indict four individuals through investigations into the Vice Lords Gang, assisted in a federal investigation into the activity of the Smokecamp Street Gang and provided the FBI with information on a suspect.

The team is often recognized by other agencies for their valuable assistance.



St. Louis Correctional Facility Warden Bob Vashaw recognized Corrections Officers Todd Lutz and David Miller with a Warden's Coin for their extraordinary work in finding a cell phone, SIM card and cell phone charger. All three were found in separate locations in the prisoner's cell and property.



Saginaw Correctional Facility Warden Tom Winn presented physician's assistant Josh Buskirk with a Symbol of Customer Service Coin for his exceptional work at the facility.

## Corrections Quiz

Name this program that pairs retired racing greyhounds with prisoners, who prepare them for a new home.

Bonus: Name the facility that operates this program.

Send your answer to Holly Kramer at [KramerH@michigan.gov](mailto:KramerH@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.

## July Quiz Recap

Name this motorcycle riding association founded by MDOC employees that supports charitable causes.

**Answer: Grey Dragons**

Congratulations to Macomb Correctional Facility Psychologist Karen Solgot for being the first to answer the July Corrections Quiz. Great job!

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# SNAPSHOTS

## A look at life around the MDOC



Chippewa Correctional Facility Warden Connie Horton and Kinross Correctional Facility Warden Jack Kowalski caught up with Gov. Gretchen Whitmer during her recent trip to the Upper Peninsula.



Pete Thomas, who was the Season 2 winner of The Biggest Loser and spoke to employees at Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center on wellness and stressful environments. His talk was part of the facility's quarterly speaker series and was selected because July was Wellness Month at the facility.



St. Louis Correctional Facility Warden Bob Vashaw arranged for a variety of food trucks to visit the facility two days per week this summer at times that accommodated different groups and shifts. Staff enjoyed BBQ and pizza among other meals.



The MDOC participated in Hero Fest at Cooley Law School Stadium in Lansing. There were number of resources available to military veterans and their families.

## Corrections in the News

[Michigan plans solar arrays for first 'green' prison, state park](#) — The Detroit News

[Ex-Michigan Inmate Credits Release to Dog Training Program](#) — U.S. News and World Report

[Partnership provides career track to MDOC jobs](#) — Grand Rapids Business Journal

[Prison inmates ready rescue dogs for forever homes](#) — WOOD TV

[Muskegon Co. inmates training dogs for adoption](#) — FOX 17

Spread the word about some of the great things happening at the MDOC and share these stories with friends, family and coworkers.

## Seen on Twitter...



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

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# June New Hires

Aguilar, Deborah	Registered Nurse, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Bacon, Megan	Student Assistant, FOA
Bialik, Lori	Secretary, Oaks Correctional Facility
Brugger, Megan	Resident Care Aide, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Cartwright, Morgan	Licensed Practical Nurse, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Connor, Dawn	Licensed Practical Nurse, Marquette Branch Prison
Costa, Kimberly	Corrections Qualified Mental Health Professional, Cooper Street Correctional Facility
Darling, Kenda	Cook, Carson City Correctional Facility
Davis, Megan	Resident Care Aide, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Deshano, Justin	Maintenance Mechanic, Saginaw Correctional Facility
Dillaway, Andree	Licensed Practical Nurse, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Dowdy, Zachary	School Teacher, Parnall Correctional Facility
Fuller, Erik	Corrections Qualified Mental Health Professional, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Geister, Taylor	Registered Nurse, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Hagerman, Amanda	General Office Assistant, Saginaw Correctional Facility
Hagerty, Mercedes	Resident Care Aide, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Harrison, Vida	Cook, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Hess, Kimberly	Registered Nurse, Carson City Correctional Facility
Hitt, Phillip	Registered Nurse, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Holm, Lawrence	Maintenance Mechanic, Alger Correctional Facility
Johnson, Geron	Registered Nurse, Saginaw Correctional Facility
Kassion, Mark	Licensed Electrician, Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility
Kauffman, Daniel	Teacher Aide, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Kingsley, Grace	Word Processing Assistant, FOA
Kirby, Audrey	Dental Hygienist, Kinross Correctional Facility
Li, Yubao	Librarian, Kinross Correctional Facility
Lummis, Kyle	Maintenance Mechanic, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Maier, Marcella	Resident Care Aide, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Masters, Kristopher	Storekeeper, Newberry Correctional Facility
McCall, Gabrielle	Corrections Qualified Mental Health Professional, Parnall Correctional Facility
Parmentier, Chris	General Office Assistant, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Peterson, Amanda	Corrections Qualified Mental Health Professional, Carson City Correctional Facility
Peterson, Jessica	Licensed Practical Nurse, Marquette Branch Prison
Phillips, Gary	Storekeeper, Thumb Correctional Facility
Poineau, Katie	Cook, Thumb Correctional Facility
Postema, Kelli	Corrections Qualified Mental Health Professional, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Raikko, Jodi	Registered Nurse, Marquette Branch Prison
Ray, Kristin	General Office Assistant, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Sercombe, Dayna	Resident Care Aide, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Seymour, Paula	Food Services Supervisor, Alger Correctional Facility
Starks, Heather	Resident Care Aide, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Stemler, Michele	Secretary, Ionia Correctional Facility
Stringer, Maranda	Cook, Lakeland Correctional Facility
Suvanto, Kelly	Registered Nurse, Marquette Branch Prison
Swierkosz, Peggy	Secretary, Macomb Correctional Facility
Thompson, Dawanda	Resident Care Aide, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Vallejo, Jessica	Departmental Technician, Corrections Central Office
Vasquez II, Jose	Building Trades Crew Leader, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Velasquez, Randy	Maintenance Mechanic, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Vorce, Tyler	Registered Nurse, Carson City Correctional Facility
Wendt, Christopher	Fire Safety Inspector, Corrections Central Office
Willaman, David	Registered Nurse, Ionia Correctional Facility
Williams, Craig	Cook, Saginaw Correctional Facility
Woodley, Darren	Corrections Qualified Mental Health Professional, Carson City Correctional Facility
Wyse, Rebecca	Registered Nurse, Cooper Street Correctional Facility



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# June Retirements

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Andersen, William	Resident Unit Manager, Carson City Correctional Facility
Baker, Amy	Assistant Resident Unit Supervisor, Carson City Correctional Facility
Braun, Daniel	Corrections Officer, Marquette Branch Prison
Brubaker, Patricia	Departmental Analyst, Corrections Central Office
Burlingham, Mark	Maintenance Mechanic, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Burnett, Bob	Corrections Officer, Thumb Correctional Facility
Burnham, David	Corrections Officer, Thumb Correctional Facility
Cairns, Jeffrey	Corrections Officer, Kinross Correctional Facility
Cremeans, Gilbert	Licensed Electrician, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Davis, Annette	Secretary, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Dirschell, Kent	Corrections Officer, Lakeland Correctional Facility
Doyle, Russell	Corrections Officer, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Dumback, Kathy	Administrative Manager, Kinross Correctional Facility
Dyer, Tammy	Corrections Officer, Muskegon Correctional Facility
Feigel, Charles	Departmental Technician, Cooper Street Correctional Facility
Fenner, John	School Teacher, Saginaw Correctional Facility
Geyer, Cheryl	Field Agent, Field Operations Administration
Gorton, Paul	Privacy and Information Security Officer, Corrections Central Office
Green, James	Correction Officer, Thumb Correctional Facility
Greenwood, Robert	Field Supervisor, FOA
Griffith, Lyle	Corrections Officer, Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility
Hill, Roxann	Human Resources Developer, Saginaw Correctional Facility
Hodges, Sherri	Departmental Technician, Kinross Correctional Facility
Hurst, Anthony	Corrections Officer, Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility
Jackson, Robert	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Keeler, Mark	Corrections Officer, Thumb Correctional Facility
Lamay, Daniel	Corrections Officer, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Lewis, Jacquelyn	Secretary, Ionia Correctional Facility
Lockwood, Robert	Corrections Officer, Oaks Correctional Facility
London, Ronald	Financial Specialist, Corrections Central Office
McComb, Ronald	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
McConkey, Elizabeth	Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Olds, Brian	Storekeeper Supervisor, Lakeland Correctional Facility
Pendell, Troy	Resident Unit Manager, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Pline, Philip	Corrections Officer, Ionia Correctional Facility
Pohl, Lonnie	Corrections Officer, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Potts, Alma	Assistant Resident Unit Supervisor, Kinross Correctional Facility
Rice, Patricia	Assistant Resident Unit Supervisor, Cooper Street Correctional Facility
Rose, Yvonne	Librarian, Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility
Sanders, Dalton	Dentist, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Silbernagel, John	Corrections Officer, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Smith, Martin	Corrections Officer, Ionia Correctional Facility
Sterba, Robert	Corrections Officer, St. Louis Correctional Facility
Tiesenga, Robert	Prison Counselor, Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility
Townley, Michael	Field Agent, FOA
Vandersilk, Ronald	Corrections Shift Supervisor, Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility
White, Christopher	Corrections Officer, Ionia Correctional Facility
Wright, Ivory	Trades Instructor, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility