



# COMMON GROUND

FEBRUARY 2018 ISSUE

**INSIDE THE SCSD'S  
AUTOMOTIVE DIVISION**

**A RECIPE FOR SUCCESS  
INTRODUCING THE SCSD'S  
NEW TEACHING KITCHEN**

**MEET LIEUTENANT  
JOHN DELSOLIO**  
OF THE SCSD AUTOMOTIVE DIVISION

# Sheriff's Statement



Along with our mission to provide for the care and custody of inmates and detainees who are remanded to our facilities by the courts, it is also our responsibility to ensure the health and safety of the men and women who help to make the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department one of the best law enforcement agencies in the country.

One of the ways in which we strive to realize these efforts is through the continued maintenance of our fleet of over 100 vehicles. In 2016, our Department's officers made 18,334 trips, driving more than 47,542 detainees and inmates to courts, hospitals, and other correctional facilities from Boston to the Berkshires. On average, our fleet travels between 30,000 and 40,000 miles each year, so proper maintenance and upkeep is critical to both the safety of our officers and passengers, and the efficiency of our vehicles. In this issue of the Common Ground, we feature our Automotive Division and some of the people in our Department who work to maintain this peak functionality of our fleet.

In addition to the work that they do with our vehicles, these committed members of our Department also take part as instructors in our Vocational Education Division. Teaching Small Engine Repair and Basic Automotive classes to enrolled inmates, our instructors work to impart skills that are designed to increase the employability of returning citizens upon their release.

To this end, we also focus on another important instrument in our efforts to provide marketable skills to our population: our newly-completed full-scale teaching kitchen for the members of our Culinary Arts program.

It is my hope that you will enjoy reading this edition of the Common Ground newsletter and, as always, I look forward to keeping you up to date and informed about the many programs and activities of the Sheriff's Department throughout the year.

**— Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins**

# Index

## A Recipe for Success



Learn about the recently opened state-of-the-art teaching kitchen for vocational programming at the Department.

## SCSD's Automotive Division



Read about the Division responsible for the maintenance, budgeting and purchases of needed vehicles and related equipment.

## Employee Profile: Lt. John Delsolio

Meet Lieutenant John Delsolio of the Automotive Division for the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department.

## COMMON GROUND NEWSLETTER

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## A RECIPE FOR SUCCESS: NEW KITCHEN OFFERS REAL-WORLD TRAINING FOR CULINARY ARTS PARTICIPANTS



Students in the Culinary Arts program at the Suffolk County House of Correction have a brand-new space to learn and practice their skills in.

Recently opened, the Department's new state-of-the-art teaching kitchen is one of the latest improvements to vocational programming at the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department.

The kitchen, which features new stainless-steel appliances and two flat-screen televisions -- one displays the lesson plan and the other displays the teaching table -- is as much a classroom as it is a cooking space.

"This new kitchen places our Culinary Arts program participants into real-life kitchen scenarios," said Captain David Granese, Director of Vocational Education. "This is the same set-up and equipment that you would find in high-end restaurants as well as some 'mom and pop' bistros. Our old kitchen is a space that was less conducive to teaching for logistical reasons. Now, everything our students need is sited in one main area -- the preparation, the cooking and the washing -- just like it is in a real commercial kitchen, and we have the teaching area built-in for a real learning environment."

Three of the Department's chefs -- Executive Chef Michael Hussey, Chef James Bailey and Chef Joe Kilcommons -- take turns teaching the ten-week course, which has about six sessions throughout the year. Right now, there are twelve men and twelve women in the program using the classroom on alternate days. The classes cover everything

from knife skills to basic cooking techniques to food sanitation. And, yes, students get to sample what they cook.

Getting the teaching kitchen up and running was a project two-years in the making. The facility opened in late 2016 and welcomed its first class in February of 2017. Prior to the new facility, students had to split their instruction time between the main kitchen and a separate classroom.

Within the last year, the Culinary Arts program received its pre-apprenticeship certification from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, so the time that students spend in the kitchen counts towards acceptance in official culinary apprenticeships once they're released. Graduates of the program have gone on to find jobs in local kitchens as everything from dishwashers to line cooks. Thanks to the new certification, men and women graduating the program have an additional tool that can help them in their efforts to become chefs themselves.

"Our Culinary Arts Program is an important part of an overall strategy to provide the kinds of vocational and educational training for inmates in our care and custody that can help to make the difference with respect to employability when they reenter society," said Sheriff Tompkins. "With our educational and behavioral programming, and the vocational training that we offer through our Common Ground Institute like Culinary Arts, our Urban Farming programming, Retail Skills training, tailoring and others, it is our intention to give returning citizens the best chance at a successful, sustainable life when they leave us."

# An Inside Look: The Automotive Division



The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department Automotive Division works to maintain a safe and well-regulated fleet of law enforcement vehicles. Led by Lieutenant John Delsolio, the team includes members from both the Suffolk County House of Correction and the Suffolk County Jail.

The Automotive Division is responsible for the maintenance, budgeting and purchasing of needed vehicles and related equipment. This Division provides a full-range of maintenance and repair operations for all of the Department's vehicle makes, models and types, including such small construction equipment as the Department's Bobcat loaders.

There are 103 vehicles in the Department's fleet, and the variety includes automobiles, vans and buses. Of the 103 vehicles, 26 are transportation vans and 4 are used as shuttle vans. The remaining vehicles are Suffolk County Sheriff's Department cruisers and include vehicles for designated staff of the Department. The majority of vehicles are used to transport detainees and inmates across the region to courts, hospitals and other correctional facilities.

"Our Transportation vans are the bread and butter of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department and, at any given time, there are 12 to 13 vehicles out at once," stated Lt. Delsolio. The entire fleet of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department averages between 30,000 and 40,000 miles yearly.

Beyond the normal maintenance and repair functions, members of the Automotive Division ensure all vehicles are running safely.

"We can't stress how important safety is here," said Lt. Delsolio. "We really focus on brakes and tires."



Officer Leo Boudreau, who works alongside Lt. Delsolio, added, "Safety is really important to us here, because the vehicles have the potential to cause injury if not tended to appropriately. We work on the totality of the vehicle."

Members of the Automotive Division emphasized the importance of working collectively as a team throughout the Department. "The Automotive Division, Transportation, and Communications Division all work together and it couldn't happen without all three entities," said Peter Antoine, a member of the Automotive Division.

The members of the Automotive Division are experienced officers who carry out a multitude of tasks in an effort to ensure the safety of all Department vehicles. Team members bring a variety of previous experiences to the division, including work as a mechanic for Ford Motor Company, owners of small businesses and serving as mechanics for the United States Army and Navy, among other jobs.



# Lieutenant John Delsolio Employee Profile

John Delsolio has served with the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department for the past 26 years.

Joining the Department in 1992, he has steadily risen through the ranks, graduating from Officer to Corporal and then to Sergeant before reaching his current rank of Lieutenant at the Suffolk County House of Correction, where he leads the Automotive Division.

"Before coming in to work at the Sheriff's Department, I had worked as a Ford Automotive mechanic and had served in the United States Navy," said Lieutenant Delsolio. "Having these experiences to fall back on made it easier when I decided to come in and work as an officer."

Starting in maintenance, Lt. Delsolio eventually transitioned into doing automotive work with the fleet and

vehicles of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department. Having worked with the Department for nearly three decades in various capacities, Lt. Delsolio's enthusiasm for his current assignment isn't hard to detect.

"As new models are constantly coming out, we need to keep up on the engines and vehicles," said Lt. Delsolio, speaking about the need to keep up with an ever-changing automotive industry.

In addition to his regular duties overseeing the maintenance and regulation of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department's fleet of vehicles, Lt. Delsolio also serves as an instructor for the Department's Common Ground Institute, teaching the Basic Automotive course.

"For me, it's great to put everything that I'm doing in the day, and have been doing for years, into a curriculum," said Lt. Delsolio. "Sheriff Steve Tompkins is adamant in his belief that these programs are not just an excuse for people to come in and waste their time. We work with the cars very closely so that when class participants walk into a job interview at a car dealership or garage, they already know how to balance and mount tires and they know how to use a lift correctly to work underneath a car."







## SMALL ENGINE & BASIC AUTOMOTIVE

The **Small Engine Repair** program offers a four-week course that is taught by Suffolk County Sheriff's Department Sergeant Daniel Raymond of the Automotive Division. The course serves as an introduction to and training in the repair, maintenance and safe operation of small engine equipment. "As part of our class, participants learn about everything from the tools of the trade to how engines work. I start off by asking students to 'name that tool,' because they're fundamental to the class and it really builds everything up." Students work on small engines such as lawn mowers, snow blowers and line trimmers and learn troubleshooting procedures, as well as the proper use of these forms of equipment. "It's encouraging to see how awake and attentive the students are. At the end of the class, I give each person a list of resources to help prepare them for the outside world."



Now in its second year, the **Basic Automotive** course is one of the newer additions to the Department's Vocational Education programming. The Basic Automotive course is a nine-week program where inmates learn about changing oil, lubrication, auto shop tools and equipment, electrical systems, cooling and climate control, steering, suspension, tires and roadside emergencies. At the end of this course, inmates are given a certificate of completion and leave with a better understanding of vehicle maintenance, operation and repair. Class instructor Lt. John Delsolio said, "We have a lot of interest for this class because it gives mechanically inclined participants the ability to work with their hands. We are teaching them with a combination of PowerPoints and working with the equipment in different stations. One thing that everyone can get out of this class is that they can learn something that will benefit not only them, but it will also benefit their wives, their children and their family when they return home."



# AROUND SUFFOLK COUNTY

Suffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins joined Plymouth County Sheriff Joseph D. McDonald, Jr. and Hampshire County Sheriff Patrick J. Cahillane in the Gardner Auditorium at the Massachusetts State House to testify on behalf of the Massachusetts Sheriff's Association in support of HB 4033, "An Act Relative to Combating Addiction, Accessing Treatment, Reducing Prescriptions, and Enhancing Prevention." Put forth by Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker, who also testified beside Secretary of Health and Human Services Marylou Sudders, HB 4033 would increase access to recovery services through assessment of the needs for treatment beds, expanding access to treatment services in hospital emergency departments, prevention education in schools and more.



Suffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins joined a large, energized and enthusiastic crowd to celebrate the life and teachings of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. during the 48th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Breakfast held at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center in South Boston. Along with Keynote Speaker Bakari Sellers, CNN Political Analyst and former South Carolina State Representative, the lineup on stage included U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren and U.S. Senator Edward J. Markey, Governor Charlie Baker, Mayor of Boston Marty Walsh, Attorney General Maura Healey, House Speaker Robert A. DeLeo, State Senator Sonia Chang-Díaz, State Representative and House Ways and Means Chair Representative Jeffrey Sánchez, members of the clergy and WCVB Channel 5 Boston's Chronicle Co-Anchor and event Emcee Shayna Seymour.



**In Memoriam:** Suffolk County Sheriff's Department K9 Simba (retired) passed away on Friday, January 19, 2018. Simba was the loyal partner of Corporal Robert Connelly of the K9 Unit/Suffolk County Jail from 2006-2013. Simba was the first canine trained in Passive Alert (2006) and was Boston Police Academy certified.







# SUFFOLK COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

## **DIRECTIONS FOR CORRECTIONS**

### A CONVERSATION WITH WOMEN WHO LEAD

#### MODERATOR

STEVEN W. TOMPKINS  
SUFFOLK COUNTY SHERIFF



TUESDAY  
**FEBRUARY 27, 2018**

6P.M. – 8P.M. (DOORS OPEN AT 5:30PM)

#### PANELISTS



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