



# COMMON GROUND

AUGUST 2023 ISSUE

## THE SCSD SPORTS ISSUE





## SHERIFF'S MESSAGE

AUGUST 2023

### Greetings,

In our dedication to the safe care and custody of the men and women remanded to us by the courts, our focus is traditionally on the comprehensive services and programming that we provide to give people the opportunity to return to our communities better able to provide for themselves and their families.

The work is frequently challenging and those who do it are largely unsung as they perform their duties, quietly committed to the serious business at hand, with little public interest in them as individuals or in their pursuits, which often include their personal support for agencies and organizations that continue the thread of caring for others.

For this issue, we take a more lighthearted approach in celebration of our SCSD family, offering a glimpse into the athletic pursuits of the men and women who not only help to make this Department one of the best law enforcement organizations in the country, but strive to make our communities better, both on- and off-duty.

Inside this special "SCSD Sports" edition, we bring you a story about two of our in-house unions – Local 419 and JOEASC (Jail Officers and Employees Association of Suffolk County) – volunteering their time and toil to compete in the BFit Heroes Cup, a hockey tournament that raises money for various charities; we feature our men's basketball team and their entry into the Scoops and Hoops, and Boston Strong Invitational tournaments in promotion of peace and building stronger communities; we highlight our General Counsel's 55-mile bicycle ride to support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) through the Best Buddies organization; we talk about our ongoing collaboration with the Special Olympics of Massachusetts; and we profile two of our most accomplished officer-athletes who continue to achieve at the highest levels of their chosen sports.

As always, I hope that you'll enjoy reading about these and other topics in this edition, and I look forward to bringing you more insight and information about the form and functions of the Department in the issues to come.

**-Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins**

### COMMON GROUND NEWSLETTER

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## INDEX



### HOCKEY, HEROES & HELPING OUT

Read about SCSD unions JOEASC and Local 419 as they skate for charity in the BFit Hockey Tournament.



### CAPTAIN CABRERA COACHES TO CHAMPIONSHIP

Learn about how Captain Jessica Cabrera helped lead her professional football team to ultimate victory.



### LT. BLOOM BREAKS RECORDS

Check out the latest medal count and record tally for Lieutenant Richard Bloom in world competition.



### CYCLING FOR A CAUSE

Read about General Counsel Allen Forbes' 55-mile ride for the Best Buddies Challenge: Hyannis Port.



### SCSD SUPPORTS SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Our Department came out to lend a hand for the Special Olympics Summer Games. Read about it here.



# GOOD TIMES “BFITTING” A GREAT CAUSE:

## SCSD SUITS UP FOR BFit HEROES CUP HOCKEY TOURNAMENT



Once again, members of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department took part in the BFit Heroes Cup, one of the largest first-responder hockey tournaments in the world.

The tournament was created by the Boston Bruins Foundation back in 2017 and includes among its participants members of police and fire departments, EMS (emergency medical services), military personnel and others. This year's tournament, with the help of more than 100 competing teams, raised over \$500,000 for various charities.

With participation organized each year by two of the Department's unions, JOEASC and Local 419, SCSD employees raise and donate their own money and time to play in the tournament to help bring in money for a charity that they select.

“It's for a great charity event that is well put together and incredibly well-organized, given all the teams from across the country that participate,” said Captain Jay McCarthy of the Suffolk County Jail. “Any opportunity to gather and socialize outside the workplace, particularly for an event like this, is appreciated by all who attend. A lot of laughs and good, healthy competition make for a great tournament. I'm already looking forward to the next one.”

As in years past, both the Suffolk County House of Correction and the Suffolk County Jail fielded teams comprised of SCSD members, in addition to players from other first responder and military organizations.

Participants of team “SCSD JOEASC” were, in alphabetical order:

James Antonetti, Kelly Brandano, Chris Buckley, James Casale, T.J. Cash, Mike Chisholm, John Demore, Jessica Egan, Bill Fisher, Alyson Garnett, Daniel Gomez, Eric Goodwin, Eric Hulbig, Jay McCarthy, John Murphy, Sean O'Hare, Shawn Riggins, Alex Sinclair, Rob Starck, and Nick Virgulto.

Participants of team “SCSD Local 419” were, in alphabetical order:

Brian Ahearn, Jason Campbell, William Carroll, Dan Daley, Truman Daniels, John DeGiacomo, Ray Feeney, Steve Fucillo, Robbie Gorman, Alex Hall, John Hayes, Chris Kelley, James Kelley, Tony Lemieux, Mary Marren, Gerry McManus, Andrew Mellor, Jonathan Montagino, Derek Prather, Mike Scannell, Jarrod Trovato, and Robert Troy.

*{Editor's Note: The photographs for the BFit Heroes Cup were provided by Mark Hulbig of Papila's Design.}*





# CYCLING IN SUPPORT:

## SCSD'S GENERAL COUNSEL CONTINUES PEDALING FOR PEOPLE WITH IDD IN BEST BUDDIES CHALLENGE



This past June, Suffolk County Sheriff's Department General Counsel Allen Forbes returned to the road for his sixteenth year of support for Best Buddies as a participant in the organization's "Challenge: Hyannis Port" charity bicycle ride.

Funds raised through the Best Buddies Challenge: Hyannis Port benefit Best Buddies International, the world's largest organization dedicated to ending the social, physical and economic isolation of the 200 million people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). The organization's programs empower the special abilities of people with IDD by helping them form meaningful friendships with their peers, secure successful jobs, live independently, improve public speaking, self-advocacy and communication skills, and feel valued by society.

The IDD community that Best Buddies serves includes, but is not limited to, people with Down syndrome, autism, Fragile X syndrome, Williams syndrome, cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury and other undiagnosed disabilities.

Through a cold, persistent rainfall that enveloped the route for the duration of the ride, Forbes went the distance, biking the fifty-five mile journey from Carver, Massachusetts through Myles Standish Forest and into Cape Cod, where he completed the journey in Hyannis Port.

Once again riding for "Team Harris," named in memory of his late son, Forbes was as ebullient as ever in his support of the organization, despite the less-than-ideal conditions.

"It's essentially the same ride," said Forbes, speaking about the effect of the inclement weather. "I wasn't going as fast as I'm used to, but it's still fun. It was cold and windy, but the energy of the people riding was on another level and that helped to pull everyone through."

Regardless of the circumstances, however, Forbes remains staunchly committed to Best Buddies and their mission of advocacy for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

"I'm going to do the Best Buddies Challenge for as long as I can ride a bicycle," said Forbes.

*For more information about Best Buddies, visit: [www.bestbuddies.org](http://www.bestbuddies.org).*



# SCSD BASKETBALL DISHES OUT ASSISTS FOR SCOOPS & HOOPS, BOSTON STRONG INVITATIONAL

The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department's Basketball Team took to the court to score points for a couple of community organizations aimed at promoting peace and enhancing community relations.

Joining a slate of other first responder and law enforcement organizations, the SCSD men's basketball team suited up for some friendly competition to assist Youth In Crisis Ministries' 22nd Annual Scoops and Hoops event at Ryan Playground in Mattapan, and the 8th Annual Boston Strong Invitational Tournament.

Along with Anthony "Big Time" Seymour, co-founder of the tournament, and a host of elected officials, members of law enforcement and community organizations, residents and competitors, SCSD representatives also staffed an informational table to give away our "Safety Tips for Kids" coloring books and crayons, Junior Deputy Badges, t-shirts and more to help support the organization and its mission to promote peace.

Youth In Crisis Ministries works to provide and create viable alternatives to help young men and women that are in high risk of committing violence and/or being a victim of a violent street crime. As the organization states, "each and every child should have the opportunity to be the architect of her or his own destiny."

While "Team SCSD" gave it their best shot, beating the Boston Police Department team for bragging rights and the chance to play for the title, they ultimately lost to a Boston Fire Department team that would not be denied. But, despite the loss, the Sheriff's Department was thrilled to be a part of this awesome event and a great cause.

The SCSD team laced up their sneakers once again for a different event, this one focused on improving the relationships between community members and law enforcement, and to honor the memories of the people who lost their lives as a result of the tragic events around the Boston Marathon of 2013.

Competing in the 8th Annual Boston Strong Invitational Tournament, members of the SCSD men's team hit the hardwood in support of the event's mission while embracing the camaraderie and competition.

This year, the event highlighted multiple sports, including T.E.A.M. Unity Basketball League (UBL); Futsal, a football-(soccer) based game played on a hard court like a basketball court smaller than a football pitch, and mainly indoors; and track races for Special Olympics athletes.





# RENEGADE SPIRIT:

## CAPTAIN CABRERA HELPS DELIVER FOOTBALL TEAM TO RECORD CHAMPIONSHIP HISTORY



Sheriff's Department Captain Jessica Cabrera is especially proud of her team this year.

"This win is special to me because it's our 5th straight Championship," said Captain Cabrera. "Also, since the Renegades began back in 2015, we have won more championships than any other professional women's football team in a single league."

According to recorded history, while the Toledo Troopers also won seven national women's football championships, their wins were split between two leagues – the Women's Professional Football League and the National Women's Football League.

"It's awesome every time," Captain Cabrera said, speaking about both the regularity of the team's success and the drive to sustain it. "Like everyone always expects Boston to be in the championship game every year, that's always our goal, also. Every year is a new year, but we always have the same goal."

And, though she gives a slight edge to the feeling of winning as a player versus that as a coach, Captain Cabrera takes special joy from seeing the well-executed plays that pave the way to championship rings.

This past July, the Boston Renegades won yet another national championship, adding to an already impressive legacy that began back in 2015.

While any single championship achieved by any team in any sport is reason enough for notoriety, earning five consecutive championships en route to becoming the winningest franchise in the history of the Women's Football Alliance, and tied for the most wins in the history of women's professional football, places you squarely among the most storied and celebrated professional sports dynasties anywhere.

Like other professional football dynasties, including the Patriots, Steelers, Packers, 49ers and Cowboys before them, the Renegades have greatly benefited from the steady presence of veteran leadership, both on-field and along the sidelines. Taking on both of these critical roles for the team throughout the years, Suffolk County







“I think I enjoyed the wins more as a player because all of the blood, sweat and tears that you put in pay off in the end,” said Captain Cabrera. “As a coach, implementing new drills and creating a practice plan, the preparation is making sure that the players are all dialed in for one goal. All those drills we ran as a player make sense to me now as a coach, and seeing my players go out there and execute the game is like another little win inside the larger win.”

As she takes the time to live in the moment, briefly basking in the glow of her team’s historic run, Captain Cabrera can’t help but to think back across her twenty-two year playing career as both a barometer of how far the game has come and an indicator of how much more it needs to travel.

“When I was a little girl, there just weren’t opportunities for girls to play tackle football,” remembers Cabrera. “I started football in my adult life, and that’s late compared to where people get started now. Girls playing in Pop Warner, on high school teams, college teams and in flag football is a huge thing. It definitely has come a long way, but we still have work to do. Until the day comes in which women get paid to play versus pay to play, I will not rest.”

“I do believe we will have in the coming years a great group of young football players. It is important for every girl who has dreamt of playing football to go out and follow their dreams, because dreams do come true.”







SHERIFF STEVEN W. TOMPKINS  
SUFFOLK COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

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# SCSD LENDS HELPING HANDS, HEART IN SUPPORT OF SPECIAL OLYMPICS



Members of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department's custody staff and participants in the Department's Community Works Program once again joined forces to help out with the production of the Massachusetts Special Olympics Summer Games, Torch Run and Cruiser Convoy.

Led by Department officers, two teams from the Community Works Program (CWP) helped to assemble portable basketball hoops, arrange tables, post signage and a host of other tasks in support of the event and its athletes. The CWP Unit is supervised by custody staff members and is comprised of volunteers from the Department's in-custody population who meet strict classification standards to be selected for the program.

For CWP members, it was an opportunity to utilize some of the skills that they've acquired through training in the Department's Vocational Education Division while building upon others, and a chance to give back to some deserving members of the community.

"I'm really happy to be out here helping and putting my training to use," said one CWP crewmember. "The Special Olympics is a good organization doing good things, and by us helping them, we're also doing good things."

As part of the SCSD's ongoing annual support of the Summer Games, Deputy Mark Loud took part in the Cruiser Convoy and participated in the last leg of the Torch Run to help open the ceremonies. As described by the Special Olympics organization, the torchbearers are known as "Guardians of the Flame," and members of law enforcement and Special Olympics athletes "carry the 'Flame of Hope' into Opening Ceremonies of local competitions. They also carry it into Special Olympics State, Provincial, National, Regional and World Games. There are over 97,000 law enforcement members that carry the 'Flame of Hope' annually. The flame symbolizes courage and celebration of diversity uniting communities around the globe."

The Special Olympics Massachusetts Summer Games is the largest event run by the organization every year. Over 1,500 athletes and Unified Partners, and more than 1,000 volunteers gather at the Harvard University Athletic Complex for three days of inclusion, sports and fun as athletes compete for gold in Track & Field, Power Lifting, Swimming, Tennis, and Volleyball.

*For more information, visit: [www.specialolympics.org](http://www.specialolympics.org).*



# LT. BLOOM ADDS TO MEDAL COUNT FOLLOWING BRIEF HIATUS

When last we featured the athletic exploits of our own Lieutenant Richard Bloom, he had wrestled, weightlifted and rowed his way to a ridiculous count of fifteen Gold Medals, one Silver Medal, two Bronze Medals and eight world records in international competition. We predicted then that he would “need to clear more arm space” to accommodate the next wave of medals from his imminent return to competition. Granted, this was no bold Nostradamusesque forecast, given his past penchant for production. But, after some forced downtime due to surgery, and time off to tend to his new role as a father, Lt. Bloom has managed to weightlift, wrestle and Jiu Jitsu his way to eight more Golds, four more Silvers, another Bronze and one more world record, cementing his legacy and legend as a Michael Phelpsian performer.



2022 World Police & Fire Games  
– Rotterdam, the Netherlands

Gold Medal – Freestyle Wrestling  
Gold Medal – Greco Roman Wrestling  
Gold Medal – Bench Press  
Gold Medal – Push Pull  
Silver Medal – Wrist Wrestling Right Hand  
Silver Medal – Wrist Wrestling Left Hand  
Set Record – Bench Press  
Set Record – Push Pull Bench Press  
Set Record – Push Pull Overall Score



2023 World Police & Fire Games  
– Winnipeg, Canada

Gold Medal – Bench Press  
Gold Medal – Push Pull  
Gold Medal – Jiu Jitsu Gi  
Gold Medal – Jiu Jitsu No Gi  
Silver Medal – Freestyle Wrestling  
Silver Medal – Greco Roman Wrestling  
Bronze Medal – Wrist Wrestling Right Hand  
World Record – Bench Press  
World Record – Push Pull Bench Press



All-Time World Police  
& Fire Games Results  
(2019, 2022, 2023)

10 – Gold Medals  
4 – Silver Medals  
3 – Bronze Medals  
17 – Total Medals  
9 – World Records



All-Time Police & Fire  
Games Results  
(First Responder, US,  
Can-Am, & World Games)

23 – Gold Medals  
5 – Silver Medals  
3 – Bronze Medals  
31 – Total Medals  
13 – Records (US & World)



# AROUND SUFFOLK COUNTY

## SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT JOINS PARADES IN CELEBRATION OF LATINO CULTURE

The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department recently participated in local parades held to celebrate Latino culture and heritage. SCSD members came out in celebration of the Puerto Rican Festival of Massachusetts, traveling the parade route from Copley Square to Boston's City Hall, where the festival – one of the largest in the United States – was held. The SCSD also took part in the Annual Dominican Parade and Festival. This year, the parade stepped off from Centre Street in Jamaica Plain and continued on to Franklin Park, before celebrants regrouped for the festival in Clifford Park in Newmarket Square.

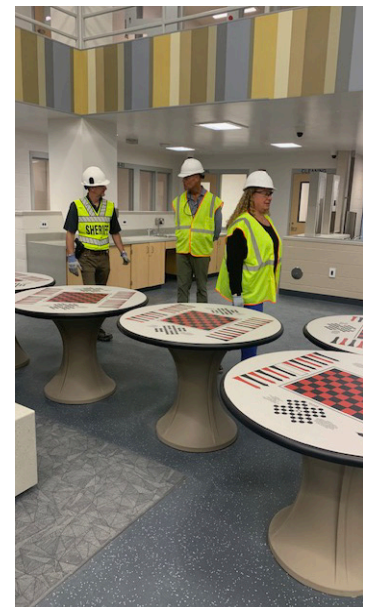


## SHERIFF TOMPKINS, DEPARTMENT TAKE PART IN NO BOOKS, NO BALL EVENT

Suffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins and members of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department recently joined with the Boston Police Department and several other agencies and individuals in support of the No Books, No Ball organization. Founded in 1991, The No Books, No Ball Basketball Program was developed by Anthony (Tony) Richards, a Dorchester native who wanted to provide boys and girls between the ages of six and seventeen, the opportunity to learn the game of basketball along with important life-lessons on sportsmanship and academic achievement.

## SCSD VISITS COLUMBUS, OHIO ON FACT-FINDING MISSION

Suffolk County Sheriff's Department's Superintendent of the Suffolk County Jail Michael Colwell, House of Correction Assistant Superintendent Rachelle Steinberg and Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association Executive Director Carrie Hill visited the Franklin County Sheriff's Department in Columbus, Ohio to learn about their innovative treatment programs for offenders, which are focused on mental health and substance use disorder treatment. The SCSD team toured both their existing facility and their new facility, which is currently under construction, in order to gain insight into best practices as the SCSD continues laying the groundwork to create a new behavioral health care program here in Suffolk County.







SUFFOLK COUNTY SHERIFF'S  
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