



COMMON GROUND

SEPTEMBER 2023 ISSUE

SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM 2023



SHERIFF'S MESSAGE

SEPTEMBER 2023

Greetings,

As has become tradition with our September edition of the Common Ground, we feature the participants of our Summer Enrichment Program, the paid summer internship that I created back in 2014.

When I first envisioned the kind of program that I wanted to build, I started with a few key goals in mind. First and foremost, I wanted to offer a paid summer program to young students in Suffolk County who were interested in careers in law enforcement and the criminal legal system so that they could explore the many avenues that would be open for them to pursue upon graduation. In addition, I felt that it was important for the Department- and for my fellow law enforcement agencies- to begin reaching out to young people in an effort to foster relationships built on mutual trust and respect in non-crisis situations. Finally, I wanted to provide a safe space for our youths during the summer months that would also be enriching for them during the break from academic learning.

To this end, for the 2023 iteration of the Summer Enrichment Program, I extended the work week from three days to five and introduced a new instructive component that provided participants with new techniques designed to improve study habits, and classes in financial literacy and leadership.

Along with coverage of our SEP, you can also read about our newly-graduated class of officers, see our picks for the September, 2023 Officers of the Month Awards, and take a trip "Around Suffolk County" to learn about just some of the many community activities that the members of our Department have taken part in.

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.

-Steven W. Tompkins



COMMON GROUND NEWSLETTER

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NEW RECRUITS SWORN INTO SERVICE

The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department recently welcomed twenty-three new officers following their Correction Officer Training Academy graduation.



SCSD SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM WRAPS SUCCESSFUL SEASON

The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department Summer Enrichment Program completed another successful run with a newly-revamped format.

SEPTEMBER OFFICERS OF THE MONTH

Join the Department in applauding this month's chosen awardees for "Officers of the Month."



AROUND SUFFOLK COUNTY

This month, the Department participated in several community events geared towards the end of summer and the beginning of the school season.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT WELCOMES 23 NEW OFFICERS DURING GRADUATION



The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department welcomed into its ranks twenty-three new officers who each completed their training at the Department's Correction Officer Training Academy (COTA) in Chelsea.

Sworn-in during their graduation ceremony, which was held at the Casa Lucia function hall in Revere and attended by members of the Department and friends and family of the graduates, these officers undertook and completed a rigorous thirteen-week course in both the academic and practical.

Receiving intense training in ethics and professionalism, suicide prevention, the use of force continuum, firearm safety and handling, inmate education and programming, contraband control, courtroom testimony, CORI and inmate rights and responsibilities, fire safety, CPR, harassment and discrimination prevention, cross-gender supervision, report writing, and more, the members of COTA Class 23-02 arrived to their graduation well-prepared and eager to begin their service.

"Today, we stand before you not as individuals defined by our past, but as a group prepared to embrace a brighter future," said Class President Joseph Lewandowski during his address to the gathering. "We must remain committed to the principals that have guided us on this journey."

"We must remember that resilience, forgiveness and empathy have shown us that every mistake can be an opportunity for growth, and that redemption is possible for all," Officer Lewandowski continued. "Congratulations to class 23-02. Let us embrace our newfound careers with gratitude and the steady belief that we have the ability to create a positive and lasting impact as members of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department."

Officers receiving special recognition for outstanding achievement during the academy were Christopher Forance, who was given the Academic Honor Award for registering a grade point average of 92.7; Joseph Lewandowski, who won the Top Gun Award for firearms proficiency; Walter Aulean, who garnered the Physical Training Award; Natalia Ortiz, who received the Academy Unit Citation for outstanding leadership, motivation and demonstration of professional ethics; and Kelvin Kerthi, who earned the Drill Instructors Award for outstanding group leadership, special motivation, and esprit de corps.

The members of COTA Class 23-02 are, in alphabetical order: Layton Artigo, Walter Aulean, Jessica Bruno, Dimitry Cayo, Fabrice Charlecius, Angel Deleon, Anderson Derisma, Retz Domingue, Christopher Forance, Bernard Goulding, Roshawna Grant, Phil Jean-Philippe, Kelvin Kerthi, Joseph Lewandowski, Patrick Lindor, Kerne Lorse, Dadeson Multy, Normilus Olivier, Natalia Ortiz, Denis Sanchez, Zaimé Sanchez, Flennard Shaw, and Ricardo Souffront.

Congratulations one and all, and welcome to the SCSD Family.



SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT WRAPS 9TH SUCCESSFUL YEAR OF SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM



The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department recently marked the end of the summer and beginning of the school year with the completion of this year's Summer Enrichment Program.

Launched in 2014 by Suffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins, the seven-week paid summer internship brings together young people from across Suffolk County with an expressed interest in law enforcement and criminal justice to learn about the great variety of career opportunities that exist within the Department and beyond.

To this end, the Department once again utilized its partnerships and collaborative relationships with the many different agencies and organizations that make up the criminal legal system and law enforcement community in Massachusetts with the goal of helping to increase participants' knowledge and expand their ideas of what a career in these organizations can look like.

The program was also envisioned as a vehicle that would help to bring together uniformed officers and young people with the goal of fostering positive, proactive relationships between them.

This year, the Department introduced a special study component which expanded the program from three days per-week to five days, with emphasis on advanced study techniques, financial literacy, and educational resources.

As part of the program, participants get to learn about the mechanics of law enforcement through job shadowing, weekly presentations and roundtable discussions, law enforcement-related field trips, and educational tours.

In addition to taking in presentations by members of the Department, Summer Enrichment Program participants were able to visit and tour the Massachusetts State House before meeting with Governor Maura Healey; Boston City Hall where they sat with Mayor Michelle Wu; Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority Police headquarters to meet MBTA Police Chief Kenneth Green; the Office of the United States Attorney General; the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office for a session with Attorney General Andrea Campbell; the Massachusetts State Police Barracks; the United States Marshal's Office with Marshal Brian Kyes, the FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigations), the Massachusetts Trial Courts, the Winthrop Harbormaster, and others.





Here at the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department, the SEP also toured both the Suffolk County House of Correction and the Suffolk County Jail; were instructed in CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) and lifesaving techniques by our Correction Officer Training Academy; sat in for a demonstration by the SCSO K-9 Division; took an interactive meeting with the Gang Intelligence Unit; attended seminars with representatives from our Field Supervision Unit, our P.E.A.C.E. Unit, which provides programming specifically developed for men between the ages of 18 and 25; were visited by an array of program services representatives; met with the Superintendents of both facilities; and sat with Sheriff Tompkins himself.

"We take great pride in our ability to provide this internship for young people interested in this field of study," said Sheriff Tompkins. "There are a multitude of different opportunities available in just about every agency, and we want to help our SEP participants to explore as many of them as we can."

"Now, more than ever, as law enforcement and the criminal legal system continue to evolve across this country, we need to have the input and engagement of our young people, particularly those who are committed to the work of effecting positive change for all members of our society."

For more information about the Summer Enrichment Program and other Department programming, visit: www.scsdma.org.



SCSD OFFICERS OF THE MONTH:

To recognize the exemplary performance of our custody staff, the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department has instituted the Officer of the Month award. This award is granted to staff members who consistently demonstrate excellence, professionalism, and integrity while carrying out their duties.

We are pleased to announce that Sergeant Antonio Jones has been honored as the recipient of the Suffolk County House of Correction Officer of the Month Award. Sergeant Jones was nominated by his peers for his work ethic, attention to detail and abilities as a supervisor. Superintendent of the Suffolk County House of Correction William Sweeney said of this month's winner, "Sergeant Jones is a great employee and supervisor, and an all-around good guy. Throughout his seven years with the Department, he's demonstrated a consistency and attention to detail that is invaluable in this profession. His dedication and thoroughness were exemplified again most recently when he discovered a cellphone that had been hidden by an inmate at the House of Correction."



We are equally pleased to announce that Officer Eliana Dos Santos has been honored as the recipient of the Officer of the Month Award for the Suffolk County Jail. Officer Dos Santos was nominated for her leadership by example and commitment to getting the work done properly and efficiently. Superintendent of the Suffolk County Jail Michael Colwell said of this month's award recipient, "Eliana epitomizes hard work & dedication. She has earned the respect of both supervisors and colleagues through a quiet competence and 'get it done' work ethic. We are thrilled to recognize her as Officer of the Month."

Officer of the Month was initiated to recognize and appreciate the diligence and commitment of our staff. The Command Staff and peers play a crucial role in the selection process, which involves nominations and evaluations. We encourage all of our employees to actively participate in the program by nominating their deserving colleagues.

AROUND SUFFOLK COUNTY

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT JOINS CITY OF BOSTON'S "OPEN STREETS" IN DORCHESTER

Members of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department recently joined the City of Boston at their Boston Open Streets event in Dorchester on Dorchester Avenue, between Ashmont Street and Freeport Street. Administering the SCSD Ident-A-Youth fingerprinting program and giving out the Sheriff's Department's "Safety Tips for Kids" coloring books, crayons and Junior Deputy badges, the Sheriff's representatives had a great time helping to make the event fun and safe for everyone. To learn more about Ident-A-Youth and other programs, visit: www.scsdma.org.



REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT BOLSTER "BACK TO SCHOOL" EVENT

Suffolk County Sheriff's Department employees recently helped to send young students back to school with mini backpacks, notebooks, pencils and other supplies at a special event held at the James W. Hennigan School in Jamaica Plain. Representatives of the Sheriff's Department also gave out "Safety Tips for Kids" coloring books, crayons and Junior Deputy Badges.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT LENDS SUPPORT TO COMMUNITY DAY IN DORCHESTER

The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department joined in the fun at the Bethel Pentecostal Church's Community Day, held at Laviscount Park in Dorchester. Event organizers provided free clothing, food, health information, games and music for attendees. The Sheriff's Department distributed "Safety Tips for Kids" coloring books, crayons, pencils and Junior Deputy Badges to those visiting the Community Day.





SHERIFF STEVEN W. TOMPKINS
SUFFOLK COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

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