

JULY 2021

SHERIFF KEVIN F. COPPINGER

ESSEX SHERIFF



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE ESSEX COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT



**READY
TO
SERVE**

MEET OUR NEWEST OFFICERS | Pg 4



A MESSAGE FROM

SHERIFF KEVIN F. COPPINGER

OUR COMMITMENT TO SERVE

What a long, strange year it has been!

Covid-19 has affected us all and in the world of corrections, its impact was substantial, multi-faceted, and continues to this day. On March 13, 2020, Massachusetts and just about the entire United States went into full pandemic mode. While the world shuttered and hunkered down, we remained open and fully functioning. We had no choice. We had a job to do and our staff stepped up magnificently to face those challenges head on!

Our employees came to work every day to see to the health and safety of all those that live and work here. We instituted the most stringent of cleaning and sanitizing protocols. We rearranged all of our facilities to maximize space to create social dis-

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tance. We tested and vaccinated employees, vendors, and inmates alike. We worked closely with the District Attorney, the courts, and the public to keep our Criminal Justice system operating.

We're proud of our work and our commitment to the citizens of Essex County. Throughout the pandemic, we remained diligent in servicing

our cities and towns. Our farm in Lawrence continued to grow fruits and vegetables, much of which went to help those in need. We continued to offer educational and workforce training to our incarcerated population to help them succeed when they leave our facilities. We expanded treatment and services for those suffering from substance abuse and mental illness.

We never rested.

We never stopped.

Now that the world is re-opening, I am proud to reintroduce our quarterly newsletter to keep the citizens of Essex County up to date on the good work we're doing at the Sheriff's Department.

We are here to serve you, here to help our communities.

Stay safe and stay healthy.

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CODING FOR A CAUSE

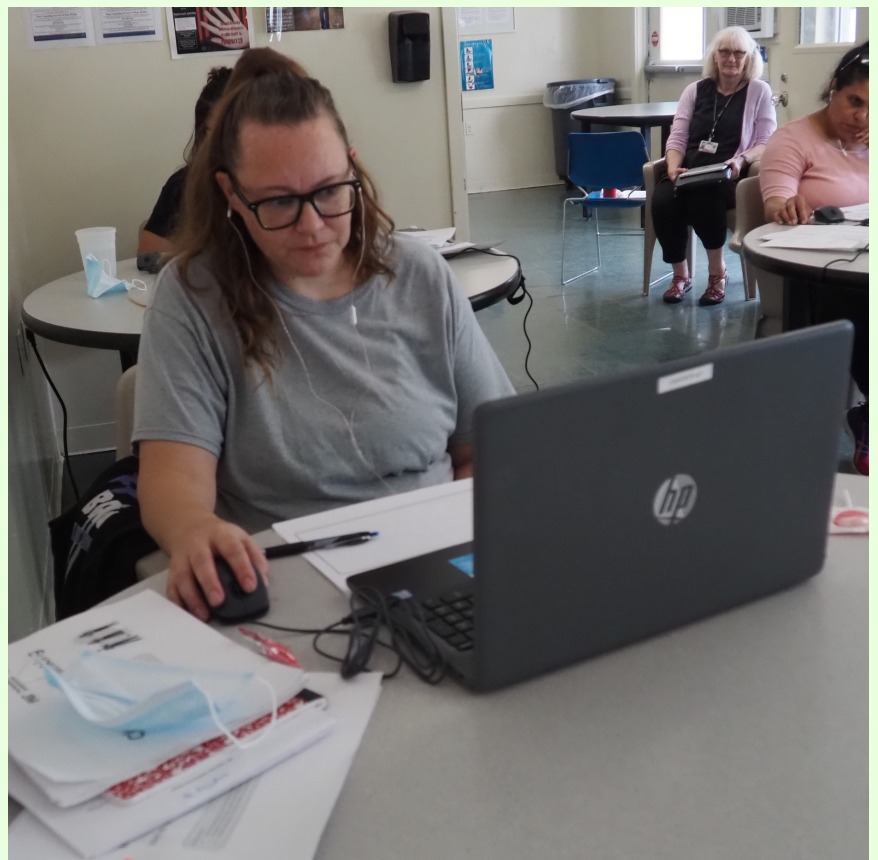
ESSEX COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT NOW
OFFERS CODING CLASSES FOR WOMEN

The Essex County Sheriff's Department is committed to providing quality re-entry programs to our incarcerated individuals to give them the best chance at success upon leaving our facilities.

One of the newest programs is a partnership with The Educational Justice Institute (TEJI) and Brave Initiatives to offer introductory coding and web design courses to women at our Women in Transition facility in Salisbury.

In this course, the students will think about their own journeys, identify a social issue they are passionate about, and learn to build a piece of technology to bring relief to that issue. Throughout the process, they will develop skills in empathy, human-centered design, and coding.

The hope is to expose these learners to career possibilities in technology, meet professionals working in tech careers, and ease the process of obtaining a job in this ever-developing career field.



The classes are taught via Zoom by a combination of Brave Initiatives instructors who have experience and expertise with this curriculum, and computer science students from MIT and Harvard. The students participate in two two-hour classes each week, and the program runs 13 weeks, culminating in a certification.

Corrections and Education:

**By Lane Glenn and
Kevin Coppinger**

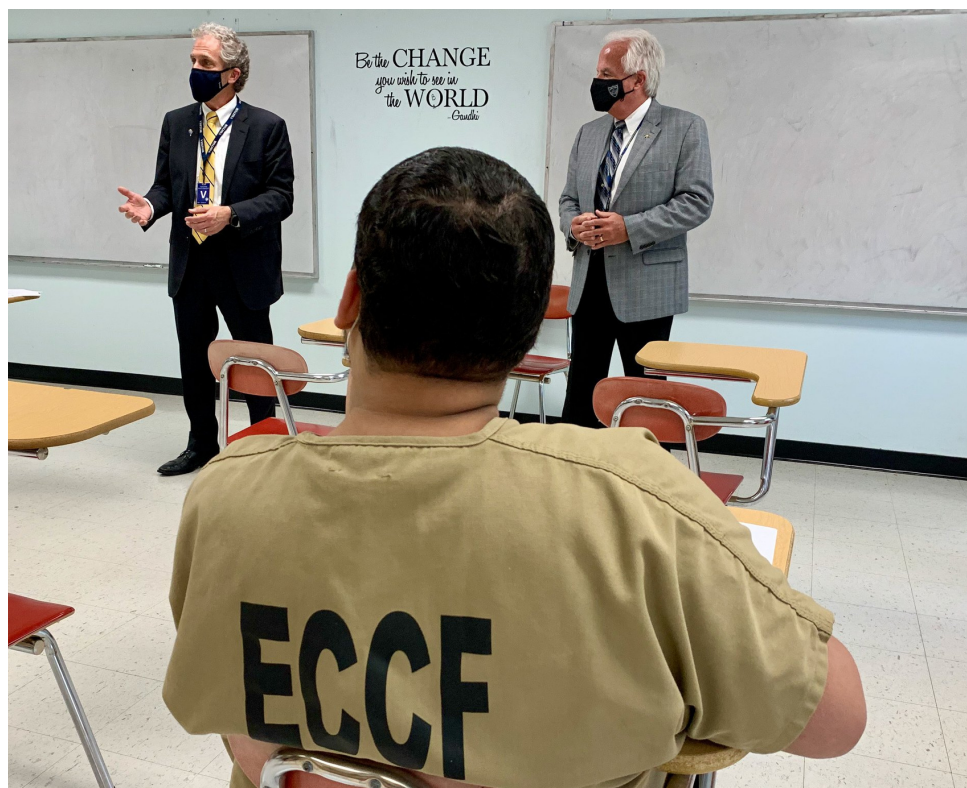
The United States of America puts more of our citizens in jail than any other country on the planet.

While we have only 5% of the world's total population, we have 25% of the world's prisoner population. According to the World Prison Population List, an astonishing 716 of every 100,000 Americans are behind bars in local and county jails, state prisons, or federal penitentiaries.

To compound this challenge, imprisonment falls disproportionately on low-income and minority citizens. Though African Americans and Hispanics make up approximately 32% of the US population, they are 56% of all incarcerated people in America.

While some kind of punishment is needed for an effective criminal justice system, the current approach to mass incarceration has proven too costly, and too ineffective, for everyone involved:

- The U.S. spends more than \$80 billion each year on corrections, an amount that has increased at triple the rate of spending on Pre-K-12 public education over the past three decades.
- Recidivism — the rate at which those convicted of a crime and incarcerated commit another crime and return to prison — remains alarmingly high. A recent report from the U.S. Department of Justice indicates that more than 80% of state prisoners were arrested again at least once within nine years of their release.
- As the COVID-19 pandemic has clearly demonstrated over the past year, infectious diseases are highly concentrated in corrections facilities:



Northern Essex Community College President Lane Glenn, shown left, and Sheriff Kevin Coppinger speak to a group of inmates enrolled in the peer tutoring program. These tutors help other inmates studying for the HiSET exam.

- 15% of jail inmates and 22% of prisoners — compared to 5% of the general population — report ever having tuberculosis, Hepatitis B and C, HIV/AIDS, or other sexually transmitted diseases. And, as the Marshall Project reported in December, by year's end, one in five prisoners in the United States had contracted COVID-19, a rate four times as high as the general population.
- A criminal record can reduce the likelihood of a callback or job offer by nearly 50%; and this negative impact of a criminal record is twice as large for minority applicants.

With the passage of the Massachusetts Criminal Justice Reform Act in 2018 by the legislature and signed into law by Governor Baker, Massachusetts became the leader in a national effort to reduce rates of incarceration; including how juvenile offenders are

Of all the ways proven to help reduce the likelihood that someone who has been in prison is going to commit another crime, the one that has the greatest impact for the lowest cost is quite clear: Education.

treated in the criminal justice system, and how states can implement an array of services, such as education and employment counseling, behavioral therapy, substance abuse treatment, and domestic violence prevention to reduce the need for imprisonment.

As a result, according to an analysis by the Brennan Center for Justice, between 2007 and 2017, 34 states reduced both imprisonment and crime rates at the same time; and Massachusetts led the pack, with the

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Partnering for a better future

Continued from page 4

steepest declines in both crime (40%) and incarceration (51%).

Massachusetts now has the lowest incarceration rate in the country.

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A national study of the effectiveness of correctional facility education programs by the Rand Corporation reveals that:

- Inmates who participate in correctional education programs
- are 43% less likely to re-offend than those who do not.
- The odds of finding a job after release for inmates who participate in correctional education is 13% higher than for those who do not.
- For every \$1 spent on prison education, taxpayers save \$5 on incarceration.

For all these reasons, the Essex County Sheriff's Department and Northern Essex Community College are proud to be working together on a \$1 million project to provide educational and vocational skills for inmates in the Essex County Correctional Facility, the Jail and House of Correction in Middleton, the Essex County Pre-Release and Re-entry Center in Lawrence, the Women in Transition facility, and the three Community Corrections Centers in Lawrence, Lynn, and Salisbury.

Even through the obstacles of the COVID-19 pandemic, NECC faculty and staff have been working "behind the walls" with corrections professionals at each of these facilities, providing inmates with the opportunity to complete their high school diplomas,



Northern Essex Community College President Lane Glenn and Sheriff Kevin Coppinger recently recognized over 120 inmates for their work in the Department's OARS program. This program is an intensive educational and behavioral program to help provide the necessary supports to live a productive and successful life upon release.

learn English-as-a-second-language, improve reading, writing, and math skills, access a special lending library, and take classes in computer applications. A generation ago, many people approached criminal justice with a "Lock them up and throw away the key" mentality. Today, whether it is more humane treatments for inmates with opioid addiction, mental health treatment services, or education and training, we understand that our role is not simply to punish, it is also to prepare our "residents" for living productive lives when they reenter society. Our most important job, and

the most important job of every inmate, every correctional officer, and every college teacher and counselor in this program is ensuring that when each resident's time is served, they walk out the door better than when they entered, and are more prepared for a brighter future — and they don't come back.

Dr. Lane A. Glenn is president of Northern Essex Community College, with campuses in Haverhill and Lawrence, and Kevin F. Coppinger is the Essex County Sheriff and former police chief of the City of Lynn.

MEET OUR NEW**OFFICERS**

Our Basic Training Academy recently graduated 15 new officers to join our ranks. These officers underwent a rigorous 12-week boot camp, described as one of the toughest in the country. Classes included CPR and First Responder training, firearms qualifications, ethics and professionalism, cultural diversity, and defensive tactics. We're proud of these new officers and we welcome them to the ECSD family. For more information on becoming an officer, visit www.essexsheriffma.org.

**William Catherwood****Christopher Freepartner****Nicholas Spinale****Christal Dunston****James Hinesley****Deirdre Johnson**



Nicholas Pointer



Joseph Ferraro



Grace Gordon



Rory McKane



Bryan Meinelt



Derek Zwiercan



Melvin Lee Cummings



Melvinson Reyes



James Atkins Jr.

AROUND ESSEX COUNTY

The Essex County Sheriff's Department serves over 800,000 people living in the 34 communities in the county. Here is a look at some of the ways we serve.

OUR FARM TO TABLES

OUR FARM AT OUR LAWRENCE FACILITY IS GROWING AND DONATING PRODUCE TO HELP THOSE IN NEED ACROSS ESSEX COUNTY.



GIVING BACK

OFFICER WILSON GERONIMO JOINED IN A SAUGUS TOUCH-A-TRUCK EVENT. THIS EVENT BROUGHT IN HUNDREDS OF YOUNG KIDS AND RAISED MONEY FOR THE MIDDLETON RELAY FOR LIFE.



HELPING HANDS

OUR ANTI-GRAFFITI UNIT WAS CALLED IN TO CLEAR THE LAWRENCE HISTORY CENTER OF GRAFFITI AROUND THE SITE.



AROUND ESSEX COUNTY

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COOKING UP A STORM

WOMEN IN OUR WOMEN IN TRANSITION PROGRAM SPENT A LONG DAY COOKING UP SOME DELICIOUS FOOD FOR MIDDLETON'S CHIEF WILLS DAY. WE ALWAYS ENJOY HELPING OUT AT COMMUNITY EVENTS LIKE THIS ONE.

HONORING SERVICE

OUR HONOR GUARD RECENTLY PARTICIPATED IN HAVERHILL'S HOMETOWN HEROES EVENT CELEBRATING VETERANS.



BACK TO SCHOOL

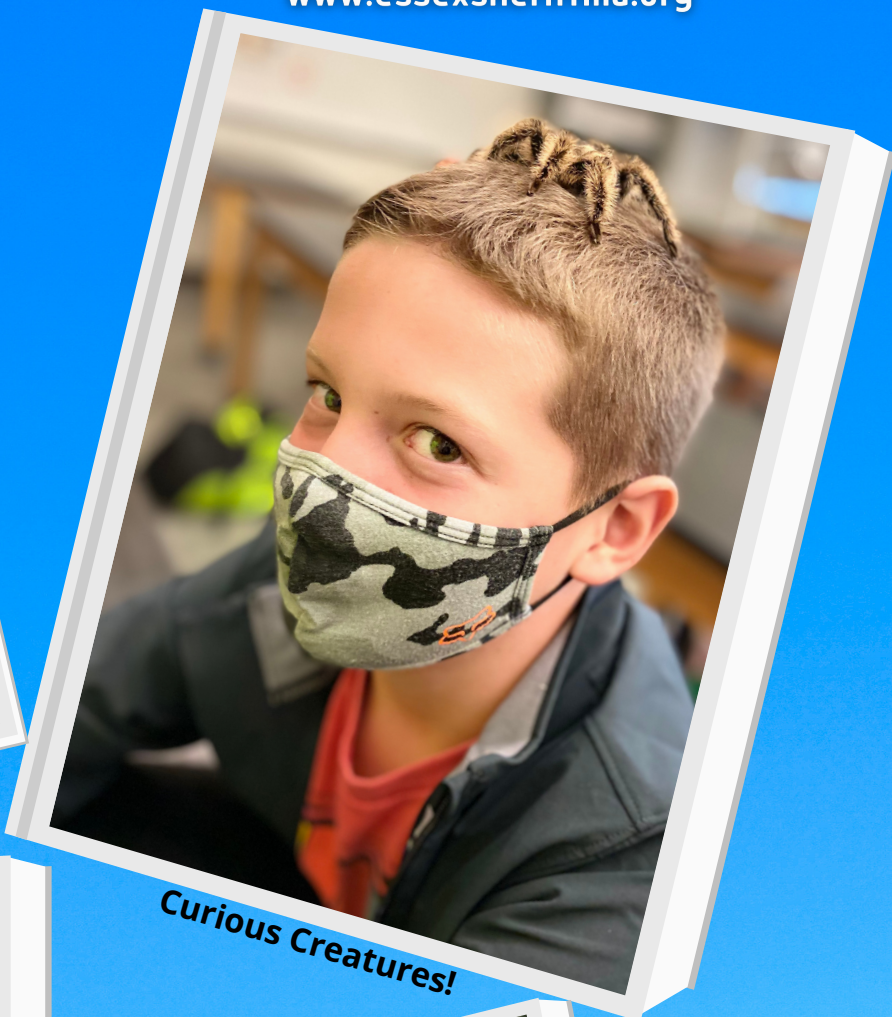
OUR CREWS HAVE BEEN HARD AT WORK PAINTING WALLS AND WAXING FLOORS AT SCHOOLS LIKE ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST SCHOOL IN PEABODY TO HELP THEM BE READY FOR THE RETURN OF STUDENTS IN THE FALL.

YOUTH CAMP

The Essex County Sheriff's Department was happy to bring back its Youth Leadership Academy in 2021. This free summer program offers children from ages 8 to 14 a week of learning and fun. For more information, go to www.essexsheriffma.org



Whale Watch!



Curious Creatures!



Law Enforcement Visits



Ropes Course

OTHER DEPARTMENT NEWS

NEW TRAINING CENTER OPENS

The Essex County Sheriff's Department opened its new Training & Staff Development Center at the Essex Agricultural and Technical High School. Located in Gallant Hall, this state-of-the-art facility provides many upgrades to how we train our employees, vendors, and volunteers.

This center highlights Sheriff Kevin F. Coppinger's commitment to bringing the department to the forefront of training in the Commonwealth.

The center provides the latest technology and offers assistance for the hearing impaired and streaming capability for remote learners. It also provides area for practical training, such as CPR/First Responder applications.



Essex Tech Superintendent Heidi Riccio and Sheriff Kevin Coppinger



HAVERHILL EXCHANGE HONORS ESSEX SHERIFF EMPLOYEES

The Haverhill Exchange Club honored three of our employees as its Law Enforcement Officers of the Year for their work keeping people safe at our facilities. Honored were WellPath Nursing Director Taylor Smith, Lt. Jotham Garbin, and Capt. Rick Ferrari.



OFFICER SAVES INMATE

Officer Ryan Danahey was on duty in one of our housing units when he noticed an inmate in serious medical distress. He rushed to his aid and began administering the Heimlich maneuver and dislodged the item stuck in the inmate's throat. The quick actions and skilled use of this training most likely saved the inmate's life. Sheriff Kevin F. Coppinger honored Officer Danahey for his on-the-job heroics.

THE ESSEX COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT IS NOW HIRING

CORRECTIONS OFFICERS



STARTING SALARY: \$63,962.36 - \$68,042.27*

EXCELLENT HEALTHCARE & BENEFITS PACKAGE

APPLY ONLINE! PAID TRAINING! NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!

The Essex County Sheriff's Department is seeking people to join our multi-cultural, multi-talented, and well-trained team of corrections professionals. Correctional officers provide care, custody and control of pre-trial detainees and sentenced inmates.



REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

- 21 years of age or over with a valid Driver's License.
- High School Diploma or GED equivalent
- US citizenship, dual US citizenship, or US Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR) status.
- All applicants are subject to a physical fitness test, extensive background investigation, interview process, psychological screening, drug screening.
- Valid License to carry a firearm. **
- Medical clearance for Basic Training Academy

ESSEX COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

SHERIFF KEVIN F. COPPINGER

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MIDDLETON, MA 01949
978-750-1900



For more information, contact:
Recruitment Specialist Stephen D'Apolito
Phone: 978-750-1900 ext. 3476
or email recruiting@essexsheriffma.org

*Includes physical fitness & education incentives, shift differentials, uniform allowance

**Applicants must be in the process of obtaining during hiring process but must have valid license to carry prior to graduating academy