

# ESSEX SHERIFF

NEWSLETTER FROM THE ESSEX COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

## STAR IS BORN

**SUPPORTING TRANSITIONS  
AND RE-ENTRY PROGRAM  
CELEBRATES ONE YEAR**

**ALSO IN  
THIS ISSUE**

**ON THE JOB TRAINING**

Pg 3

**BEAUTIFUL PARTNERSHIP**

Pg 7



A MESSAGE FROM

**SHERIFF KEVIN F. COPPINGER**

# PARTNERSHIPS PROVE STAR WORKS

You can't know the number of crimes you prevent – but you know it's happening when you walk into our Supporting Transitions And Re-entry Program (STAR) offices in Lawrence and Lynn.

STAR is a program that I envisioned as a former beat cop in Lynn. I saw the same people going through a revolving door at our courthouses. Repeat offenders would commit a crime, go to jail, come out, and go back to committing crimes. It was frustrating for me as a police officer, as police chief, and as a proud community member.

When I ran for Sheriff in 2016, it was about reversing the course. I knew that to stop crime, I needed to start work with inmates the day they entered the jail. Since 2017, that has been our goal – to offer wide-ranging educational and vocational opportunities to our population while ensuring they also receive the mental health, substance use, and other counseling they need to break the cycle of reoffending.

While we expanded the opportunities behind the walls, I knew we needed to extend these services in our communities. We needed a place where those leaving incarceration could continue to receive services, and we needed a place where law enforcement, families, and individuals could go to get the help they need to stay out of the criminal justice system. We brainstormed, we researched, we got creative, and STAR was born.

With \$800,000 in federal funds secured by Congressman Seth Moulton, we opened our STAR offices in May 2022. STAR offers individualized programming to help those coming out of jail or to keep someone from going to one. Referrals come to us from courts, law enforcement, families, and



**Sheriff Kevin Coppinger joins STAR Director Stacie Bloxham and Assistant Superintendent of Programs Jessica Oljey to celebrate the one-year anniversary of STAR in Lawrence.**

others. Those who come to us are assigned a STAR navigator who links the person to all the services they need to become successful in our communities – everything from workforce training to educational certificates, as well as helping with housing, food, and work. We work with the person to help with mental health treatment, substance use disorder, and other counseling – and if we don't already have a community partner that can help, we will go out and find one.

We have seen over 110 complete the STAR program. We've seen STAR graduates turn their lives around, including one who has launched his own online clothing business and another who completed a Google training program that provided her with a laptop and a year of service to continue her work.

While we can't measure the crimes our STAR program has prevented, we are seeing results. We are hearing from our law enforcement partners that STAR is having a positive impact in their communities and that it

provides them opportunities to help someone without involving the criminal justice system.

More importantly, we're hearing from our participants it's working. They tell us they feel safe, optimistic, and ready to work. We're very proud of our STAR program and will continue to update you on its success.

---

**"We needed a place where those leaving incarceration could continue to receive services, and we needed a place where law enforcement, families, and individuals could go to get the help they need to stay out of the criminal justice system. We brainstormed, we researched, we got creative, and STAR was born."**

---

SHERIFF KEVIN F. COPPINGER

PARTNERSHIP IN  
**PROFILE**

# aramark



## **IN2WORK helps people train for jobs in the community**

Helping people leave our facilities on a pathway to success is our mission, and we offer many educational and vocational programs to our incarcerated population.

One of those programs is Aramark's IN2WORK food service program. It provides certifications and internships in the food service industry, as well as scholarships for incarcerated individuals who want to further their education.

Sean B. took advantage of this program and has been working in our kitchen at the Essex County Pre-release and Re-entry Center in Lawrence. He said IN2WORK has helped him learn about working in a team environment, along with the basics of preparing food and cooking in small and large kitchens.



"It has been a blessing while being incarcerated, that I have been able to work, save money ... and help my mother who is in a wheelchair," Sean said. "Aramark has given me the option of full-time employment upon release. I am very grateful to Aramark and IN2WORK because a person with a criminal record has an uphill battle when it comes to finding employment."

Congratulations to Sean on putting in the hard work and achieving so much!



# OFFICERS OF THE YEAR

All of us at the Essex County Sheriff's Department would like to congratulate several of our fellow officers for earning Correctional Employees of the Year from the state. Each of these officers were recognized for their professionalism and heroism during critical incidents.

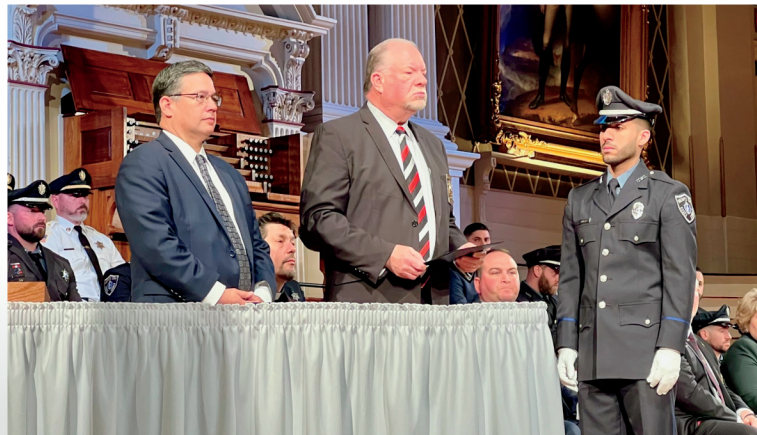
These officers were celebrated at a special May event in Worcester's Mechanics Hall.



The Medal of Valor was awarded to K9 Deputy Sheriff Kyle Kidger and his K9 partner Django, who died unexpectedly last year. Deputy Sheriff Kidger was presented a special award to recognize Django's contributions to our Department. He is shown with Special Sheriff William Gerke, left, and Superintendent Aaron Eastman, right.



Receiving a Meritorious Recognition Award was retired Sgt. Peter Waldman, Sgt. Louis Potvin, Officer Max Munyanya, Officer George Dekeon, Officer William Panzini, and Officer Ethan Champeau (not shown). They are shown with Special Sheriff Gerke and state Secretary of Public Safety and Security Terrence Reidy.



Officer Jose Arroyo received a Meritorious Recognition Award from state Secretary of Public Safety and Security Terrence Reidy and Special Sheriff William Gerke.



Also receiving a Meritorious Recognition Award was Sgt. Christopher Walsh, Assistant Director of Security Jonathan Campbell, Sgt. Brett Feldman, Deputy Sheriff David D'Amico, and WellPath RN Jonathan Wilson. Not shown in this picture is awardee Tatiana Bruno, a LPN with WellPath.

## A ONE-YEAR LOOK BACK

# STAR

**SUPPORTING TRANSITIONS AND REENTRY**  
**ESSEX COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**



It was one year ago that the Essex County Sheriff's Department opened its Supporting Transitions And Reentry (also known as STAR) offices in Lawrence and in Lynn.

In its simplest form, the STAR program operates in communities to help keep people out of jail by offering them a connection to the services they need to be successful. STAR has more than 120 community partners between the two offices that can help with connect a person with everything from housing to mental health and substance use counseling to educational and workforce training.

Since opening in April 2022, there have been over 600 referrals to these offices. Referrals come from the courts, corrections, law enforcement, family, and there have been many self-referrals from people just looking for a chance to succeed.

Each person who comes into STAR is assigned to one of our STAR Navigators. Our Navigators develop an individualized plan for the person and works with them one-on-one to ensure goals are attainable and met — and we cannot thank our team enough for the work they have done to make this program successful.

Sheriff Kevin Coppinger visited each of the STAR offices on the one-year anniversary to say thank you and to listen to ideas from STAR staffers on what more we can offer. He applauded the many success stories, including one individual who graduated the program and now has his own online clothing store, as well as the many who have gone through the program and are now working and supporting themselves and their families.

We are so proud of our STAR program, the community partners who work with us, and all of our STAR staff that have made this program such a success.



**Our Lawrence STAR staff**



**Our Lynn STAR staff**

## STAR BY THE NUMBERS

**OVER  
600  
REFERRALS**

**80 PERCENT  
ATTEND  
VOLUNTARILY**

**120  
COMMUNITY  
PARTNERS**



Women at our Women In Transition facility in Salisbury recently completed a three-week program in make-up artistry. The classes were offered by The TLE Center for Urban Entrepreneurship in Lawrence. The nonprofit organization provided all supplies and training, including video technology and Chromebooks.



**THE TLE CENTER FOR  
URBAN  
ENTREPRENEURSHIP  
OFFERS BEAUTY,  
BRAIDING, AND A  
CHANCE AT SUCCESS**

# A BEAUTIFUL PARTNERSHIP



**Men at our Essex County Pre-release and Re-entry Center learn the art of braiding while an instructor from The TLE Center for Urban Entrepreneurship watches.**

Individuals at our Essex County Pre-release and Re-entry Center in Lawrence and our Women in Transition facility in Salisbury recently completed a new, intensive training program in beauty.

Offered by The TLE Center for Urban Entrepreneurship, this three-month program provided certificates in make-up artistry and hair braiding. Both fields pay upward of \$60 per hour locally, making it a rewarding career option for those leaving our facilities.

The TLE Center is a Massachusetts nonprofit with a mission of developing a "pipeline of beauty microbusinesses that are not only owned and operated by owners who are under-resourced but that are also perceptibly contributing to the local economies they serve." TLE generously provided all the make-up supplies, mannequin heads, and necessary tools, as well as Chromebooks and video conferencing equipment. Volunteer trainers worked with participants twice a week, both virtually and in-person.

Out of the 12 that participated in the course, six said they planned to continue their training at TLE Lawrence facility after being released. TLE has generously offered to help participants with job placement and the opportunity to see clients at its Lawrence facility at no charge.



**MEET OUR NEW*****OFFICERS***

Our Basic Training Academy recently graduated 22 new officers to join our ranks. These officers underwent a rigorous 10-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](http://www.essexsheriffma.org).

**Yalitza Rodriguez****Skylar Abbatiello****Atebezi Fonge****Ethan Graziore****Keenan Guilmette****Ahmed Jolaoso****Ryan Rios****Daniel Norman****Jean Paul****David Rodriguez**





**Michael Ponn**



**Andrew Falcon**



**Nickey Bau**



**Paul Buckles**



**Andrew Cloutier**



**Cleiton Costly**



**Alexander Dellatto**



**Nirorkis Guerrero**



**Ayoub Mafhoum**



**Mohamed Osman**



**Cortney Otolo**



**William Miller**

# COUNT ON US 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.

## CATALYTIC CONVERTER ETCHING

The Essex County Sheriff's Department partnered with Middleton Police to offer catalytic converter etchings to residents to prevent theft of this expensive piece of vehicle equipment. Over 50 residents took advantage of this program!



## AUTISM AWARENESS

ECSD offers free medical alert seatbelt covers to help first responders quickly identify an autistic person in a vehicle. The cover signals to first responders that the person may resist help and need extra care and support during an emergency. We want to thank Lynnfield Police Department Chief Nick Secatore and Capt. Chris DeCarlo for helping us distribute these seatbelt covers.



## ANTI-GRAFFITI UNIT UP AND RUNNING

Our Anti-Graffiti Unit serves all Essex County municipalities and nonprofits at no cost. Here, the Unit is hard at work in Methuen. This dedicated team responds to hundreds of calls for graffiti removal each year. We thank them for their hard work and their commitment to serve the good people of Essex County.



## SHERIFF COPPINGER LOWERS HIRING AGE TO 19

The Essex County Sheriff's Department is lowering its minimum age for correctional officers from 21 years old to 19 years old to help address a critical shortage of officers.

With staffing shortages being what they are, the Essex County Sheriff's Department is expanding its pool of candidates in combination with an enhanced focus on applicant qualifications, staff training, and first-line supervision upon graduation.

"All law enforcement agencies are struggling to fill positions, but the need is even more dire in correctional facilities. By lowering the age to 19, we can provide an opportunity for

younger people to begin their law enforcement career upon graduating high school," said Sheriff Kevin F. Coppinger. "Correctional officers are not just responsible for the care, custody, and control of inmates. They are responsible for helping those that come to us leave our facilities ready for life as a successful citizen — and we need more officers to continue to fulfill this mission."

New correctional officers receive a \$2,500 sign-on bonus and a salary of up to \$68,000 a year. New hires are also eligible for the state's tuition reimbursement program that covers up to 100 percent of tuition at state

educational institutions.

"The economy is putting a strain on our families, making it harder and harder for many to pay for college. For high school graduates looking to begin their career in law enforcement, this opportunity provides a high-paying job and tuition reimbursements at state schools," Sheriff Coppinger said. "We can help the right candidates get the education and experience they want to join us in the rewarding career in law enforcement."

## NATIONAL JAIL LEADERS APPLAUD MAT PROGRAM

National leaders in corrections recently toured our Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) program, applauding it as a national model.

Our Department was among the first in the state to offer MAT, which combines medications and counseling for the treatment of substance use disorders. It has been shown that formerly incarcerated individuals have a 50 times higher opioid death rate than those who are nonincarcerated, but when MAT is initiated early and used regularly, the program is effective in minimizing the risk of overdose and possible death.

From the beginning of the program on Sept. 1, 2019 until February 28, 2023, we administered a total of 175,594 doses, including 108,909 doses of Subutex and 66,685 doses of Methadone. A total of 2,284 individuals have received medication as part of our MAT program.



**Back row from left, U.S. Office of the Assistant Attorney General Policy Advisor Meg Chapman, Falcon Inc. Senior Project Manager Rebecca Hall, and Massachusetts Sheriffs Association Director Carrie Hill. Front row from left, U.S. Office of the Assistant Attorney Senior Advisor Mariel Lifshitz, Bureau of Justice Assistance Director Karhlton Moore, Sheriff Kevin Coppinger, Arnold Ventures Director of Criminal Research Matthew Mizel, and National Institute of Corrections Chief Stephen Amos.**

A CAREER THAT PAYS



# SHERIFF



Up to \$68k  
to start  
\$2,500  
hiring bonus



Tuition  
remission

Scan to  
apply now



ESSEX COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

[WWW.WORKATESSEXSHERIFF.COM](http://WWW.WORKATESSEXSHERIFF.COM)