



# “PCS BRIGHT SPOTS”

*A Technical Assistance Unit Newsletter*



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*“If we focus our anti-crime resources and foster working partnerships between citizens, law enforcement, supervision, treatment, and other government agencies — we stand the best chance of reducing crime overall.”*

*Kathleen Kennedy Townsend  
Lt. Governor*

## National Parole & Probation Week Celebrates the History of Probation in America

*By Patricia Hiesener, Curriculum Developer, PCS-TAU*

July 14 through July 20 is National Probation, Parole & Community Supervision Officer Week. This marks over 100 years since the founding of the first parole and probation systems in the nation. John Augustus, a Boston shoe cobbler, is the “Father of Probation.” He convinced a court to release the custody of a drunkard to him rather than sending the man to prison – the penalty at the time. After successfully reforming the man, Augustus persuaded the court to release other offenders to his supervision. The police, court clerks and turnkeys were all paid only when offenders were incarcerated so this concept was quite controversial at the time!

As Division of Parole and Probation Director Judith Sachwald notes in her article, “Proactive Community Supervision: Opening Windows to Effective Intervention”, Pope Alvey was likely the first individual in Maryland history to be conditionally released under suspension of sentence in 1666. Mr. Alvey was a repeat offender who was convicted of stealing a cow. The St. Mary’s County Provincial Court sentenced him to hang but the court suspended the sentence and released Mr. Alvey on the condition that he behave for the rest of his life. Community supervision agencies were unheard of at that time, so it is

reasonable to speculate that the community kept watch over Alvey and reported to the court if he did not behave.

Today’s challenge is to not only re-engage the community and its resources in community supervision, but to provide effective agent intervention. Director Sachwald’s complete article is available at [www.dpscs.state.md.us/pnp/pcsarticle/pdf](http://www.dpscs.state.md.us/pnp/pcsarticle/pdf). Additional information about National Probation, Parole & Community Supervision Officer Week, as well as free posters and brochures, is available on the American Probation and Parole Association website at [www.appa-net.org](http://www.appa-net.org).

## Nuisance Abatement Efforts Work Throughout HotSpots

*By Robert Ertter, Parole and Probation, PCS-TAU, Josh Cohen, Community Liaison, PCS-TAU, and Sgt. Rex Snider, Anne Arundel County Police*

*Somerset County – Princess Anne*

The Princess Anne Community Policing/Community Supervision (CP/CS) team and town officials are finding positive results from their nuisance abatement efforts. The team uses a simple but effective method to identify and track steps to address problem areas. Color-coded pushpins on a map of the HotSpot indicate various levels of action such as owner notification, court action or demolition of buildings. Captain Scott Keller of the Princess Anne Police Department likes the method because it allows the CP/CS team and community residents to visualize the efforts towards area beautification.

*Anne Arundel County – Pioneer City*

Earlier this year, members of the Pioneer City HotSpot team began working in

conjunction with staff from the Anne Arundel County Health Department in an effort to identify community structures that were in violation of standards for suitable living conditions. On numerous occasions, members of the team and Health Department personnel toured the community and inspected conditions including broken windows, eroded exteriors, plumbing, and heating. Health Department personnel cited violations and legal action was initiated. The team found residents to be very supportive of this effort, and their assistance was used to identify additional problem areas in need of repair or renovation. Landlords must now adhere to a court ordered plan for improvements.

#### *Cecil County – Fletchwood*

The Fletchwood HotSpot team has fostered a positive working relationship between area landlords, government staff, and the HotSpot team. The team holds monthly meetings with several area landlords who collectively own a large amount of the area's rental properties. The team provides the landlords with a list of people who have been served eviction papers during the past year. This list enables the landlords to screen applicants and maintain a safe community. Government officials from planning, zoning and housing agencies also attend the meetings and work collaboratively with landlords to address issues like weed-filled lots, abandoned vehicles and run-down buildings. Cecil County Sheriff's Deputy David Walter praises the level of cooperation: "If I've got a problem with a tenant I just pick up the phone and sometimes the landlord will take care of it. We've got everyone working together. It's a lot of help." *For more information contact PCS-TAU at 410-295-1287.*

#### **Yorkway's Communication and Teamwork Make Arrests Possible**

*By Lois Drake, Volunteer Specialist, PCS-TAU*

In January 2002, Parole Agent Anita Obinger, of the Yorkway HotSpot Team, received a new case. The offender's file stated

that there was a felony assault warrant out for him in Virginia. She discussed this with Officer Bill Welsh, the Baltimore County Police Department officer working with the Yorkway HotSpot. Officer Welsh was able to verify the warrant from Virginia and get a photo. Although the photo was not very clear, Ms. Obinger noticed from the photo that the offender had been arrested previously in Baltimore County. Officer Welsh was able to procure a new photo from the Baltimore County Police Department Hot Desk and gave this photo to Ms. Obinger. She posted the photo at the Division of Parole & Probation Office in Dundalk. Ms. Obinger arranged for a meeting with the offender.

When the offender checked in with the receptionist, she recognized him from the posted photo. The receptionist alerted Ms. Obinger who then called 911 before meeting with the offender. Shortly into their meeting, Officer Welsh and fellow officers arrived to arrest him. Apparently, the team of Welsh and Obinger is one to be reckoned with! *For more information contact Lois Drake, Volunteer Specialist, PCS-TAU at 410-295-1287.*

#### **Woodmoor finds Teamwork Achieves Success**

*By Donna Lewis, Treatment Liaison, PCS-TAU*

At a recent Woodmoor team meeting, Agent Lisa Reed presented a case for staffing on an offender who is mentally challenged. From childhood through early adulthood, he has been on medication for anger management and comprehension. His grandmother cared for his medical needs and medications until her death five years ago. Since then, the offender has no family members to help with his medications. Both of his biological parents have drug addictions, and he has been estranged from them since childhood. For the past four years, he has

*"We can succeed together, or we can fail separately."*

Steve Bocian, Division Director for Justice Services,  
Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration

been in an abusive domestic relationship, and his dwelling is known as a nuisance home.

Officer Carrie Fields, of Baltimore County Police Department, brings a list of all domestic incidents to every meeting. Officer Fields brought this case to Agent Reed's attention. Agent Reed informed the offender that she wanted the HotSpot CP/CS team to meet with him and his girlfriend to try to create a plan to keep them both out of trouble. Several issues were discussed and resolved with the offender and his domestic partner.

Working with Celisa Ford of the Department of Social Services, the team achieved its desired goals. Medical assistance, food stamps and financial assistance were obtained for the offender. He was also approved for housing. The Woodmoor team identified a problem and addressed it before it escalated. *For more information contact Donna Lewis at 410-2951287.*

### **Plumbing Program Holds Third Graduation**

*By Terri Blazer, Field Supervisor I, Division of Parole & Probation and Ray Whitfield, Treatment Liaison, PCS-TAU*

On June 5, 2002 the Chesapeake Ranch Estates HotSpot Community in Calvert County held its third Plumbing Graduation Class. This twelve-week program has been taught by Master Plumber Edwards Roberts, a former probationer, since its inception. The classes are open to both juvenile and adult offenders with no formal job history or training

Mr. Roberts, who developed the curriculum and tests for the course, volunteers his time and talents to this program. Participants do not receive official certification but are presented with certificates of completion signed by Mr. Roberts. Graduates of the program have gone on to acquire jobs in plumbing and other related occupations. A former offender and graduate from the first plumbing class has

returned as Mr. Robert's assistant.

The Chesapeake Ranch Estates HotSpot Community is very proud that there have been success stories from each class. True to the goals of HotSpot Communities, lives have been changed and careers have started. *For more information contact William H. Hopkins, CRE Lead Coordinator, at 410-326-2636.*

### **Westside HotSpot Members Bike Ride to Assateague**

*By Patricia Stroud, Agent Senior, Division of Parole and Probation*

Members of the Westside HotSpot Team joined Team Moose, of the Moose Lodge in Franconia, VA, to participate in the 2002 Chesapeake Bay Asthma Bike Ride on Saturday, June 8. The 40 mile bike ride from Salisbury to Assateague is hosted annually by the American Lung Association of Maryland (ALAM). The purpose of the ride is to raise money for Camp Super Kids, a camp for kids with asthma and other breathing disorders, and pediatric asthma education. Team members Officer Chris Orwig, Patricia Stroud, Agent Senior, Stephen Truitt from the Wicomico Health Department, and Richard Catlin, from the Wicomico State's Attorney's Office were just a few of the reported 400+ participants. This year Team Moose raised over \$8,600 winning the award for the most money raised and for the largest team. Due to the efforts of this year's riders and volunteers, the American Lung Association of Maryland raised over \$100,000 for research and camps for children.

The team wishes to thank the Calvert County Hotspot, Mervin Wright from 100 Good Men, and Beth Hensyl from Juvenile Justice. Special thanks are extended to the VFW Post #194 and Commander Era in Salisbury for their very generous donation to ALAM. The Westside HotSpot Team hopes to make this ride an annual event each year and challenges other HotSpots to participate in Team HotSpot next year. *For more information contact Patricia Stroud, Agent Senior, at 410-543-6605.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*By Patricia Hiesener, Curriculum Developer,  
PCS-TAU*

The Proactive Community Supervision Technical Assistance Unit bids farewell to Terri Robinson, Regional Coordinator/Training Manager. Terri has been with the PCS-TAU since its inception in 1998. She will be continuing her work as a mediation practitioner and working with private & corporate foundations. We all wish her well!

This month we welcome Ilene Nathan. She will be working as regional coordinator for the PCS-TAU. Ilene retired as an Assistant State's Attorney in Baltimore City after working from 1980 to 2000. Recently she has worked as Deputy Director of Medicaid Fraud Control Unit in the District of Columbia.

You may have noticed a new voice when you call the PCS-TAU office. The PCS-TAU

welcomes Lee Lovette, III, who joined the PCS-TAU as our new Office Assistant on July 1.

### **Maryland Police Corps Recruiting Graduates-\$30,000 Tuition Reimbursement**

The Maryland Police Corps is recruiting men and women for its October 2002 class. If you know someone who is a recent college graduate, or who will graduate prior to October 2002, he/she may be eligible for this opportunity. Benefits include up to \$30,000 tuition reimbursement; innovative law enforcement training with room, board and a weekly stipend; and three credit hours toward a Masters Degree in Criminal Justice. After training, Maryland Police Corps recruits will be placed in an outstanding Maryland police department, offering an excellent benefits package. *For more information, research the Maryland Police Corps on the web at [www.policecorps.net](http://www.policecorps.net), or call toll-free at 1-888-97CORPS.*

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## MARYLAND

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### Proactive Community Supervision

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