



Promising Partnerships

A Newsletter from the
MARYLAND POLICE & CORRECTIONAL TRAINING COMMISSIONS
Advanced and Specialized Training Unit

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"We simply must work together as public safety professionals in collaboration with our community partners. This is the most effective strategy to reduce crime, protect our communities and make our neighborhoods safer places to live, work and raise families." Patrick L. Bradley, Executive Director, Police and Correctional Training Commissions

Neighborhood Safety Teams

By Glen Plutschak, Administrator

The beginning of the year saw the addition of a Neighborhood Safety Team Resource Unit to the Advanced and Specialized Training Unit. The purpose of the resource unit is to support existing neighborhood safety teams by offering training and technical assistance.

Through June, Collaborative Supervision and Focused Enforcement (CSAFE) lead coordinators and/or other community representatives will be asked to complete a survey administered by our staff. This survey has been designed to identify training needs, promising practices, and to determine the types of technical assistance neighborhood safety teams may require.

Looking toward the future, we expect to publish the results of the surveys in upcoming issues of this newsletter. We also anticipate the development of training activities that will focus on those needs identified through the survey. Fostering additional collaboration among the Heightened Enforcement Accountability and Treatment (HEAT) teams and neighborhood safety teams is expected to continue to enhance the quality of life for our citizens.

*"Without a sense of caring, there can be no sense of community."
Anthony J. D'Angelo*

Young and Old Tube Together

By Linda Green, Director of Community and Emergency Services - Grantsville

With spring upon us and summer just around the corner, we might be wishing for the colder days of winter. Members of Garrett County and the Grantsville CSAFE area have provided readers with a reminder of why winter is such a fun season.

On March 2, 2004, the Garrett County Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #99 sponsored an evening of snow tubing and a pizza party for students who attend the Partners After School program, a tutoring, mentoring, and educational service. Cpl. Jeff Murphy of the Garrett County Sheriff's Office coordinated the event and chaperones included Kerri Margroff from the Division of Parole and Probation as well as representatives from the Allen Hall Stars (Frostburg University), a group that provides tutoring services for the after school program.



Students from the Partners After School program in Grantsville wait to tackle "the hill" during a snow tubing event.

Spreading the Message

By Scott Beal, Senior Counselor, Department of Juvenile Services

For the past few years, downtown Silver Spring has been undergoing a major revitalization. The Silver Spring Urban District is anticipating that the majority of projects will be completed this summer and will make available to the public over 10,000 new entertainment seats with 3,100 new parking spaces. Entertainment such as the new Majestic Theater as well as numerous restaurants and dance clubs will have grand openings in upcoming weeks.

In preparation for such events, the Silver Spring Heightened Enforcement Accountability and Treatment (HEAT) team has been holding team meetings during police shift changes so that crime information can be dispersed to many officers at one time. Representatives from the Silver Spring Urban District attend to give the exact dates of restaurant and parking garage grand openings so the information can be used to foresee possible crime trends. The shift change meeting usually has 30 officers in attendance, which is a tremendous advantage to the probation agent when discussing warrants and staffing high-risk offenders. An additional benefit of this practice is the opportunity for the parole and probation agent to disperse information and photos of warranted offenders to the officers in attendance.

Grasonville's Tribute to Earth Day

By Cheryl Gover, Community Organizer

How do Grasonville CSAFE community members honor Earth Day when they are competing with Little League opening day and the Bay Bridge Walk? They pick Little League opening weekend with a rain date of the Bay Bridge Walk. Despite these odds, between 20-25 community members joined community organizer Cheryl Gover at the Community Center on April 24th to clean up and plant.

Community members landscaped the outside of the community center, making improvements to the walkways in front of the center and around the center's signs. Despite tough competition from other community events, the group was diverse and ranged in age from the very young to senior residents. The selection of donated items included perennial flowers and plants, rose and hibiscus bushes, as well as 15 crab-apple trees.



Members of the Grasonville Community work together to improve the Grasonville Community Center and honor Earth Day.

Change Does Not Occur Overnight

By Karen Fortune, Community Specialist, Advanced & Specialized Training Unit

Members of the Washington Village/Pigtown CSAFE area in Baltimore City have been creative in using environmental design to address crime within their community.

This community has been successful in changing lighting, erecting fences, and closing roads to change traffic patterns. These changes do not occur overnight and require a creative approach by team members who apply for and receive grant funding from a variety of sources.

Most recently, the team applied for and was awarded a \$100,000 Environmental Justice

grant. The award will be used to launch *Operation Clean and Healthy Neighborhood*. Strategies that the team will use include:

- Focusing a neighborhood publicity campaign on sanitation;
- Developing a “Tool Bank” for community members to share during neighborhood clean ups and other efforts;
- Promoting “Clean Block” campaigns;
- Sponsoring environmental seminars in three local schools; and
- Working with the Maryland Department of the Environment to promote the proper disposal and recycling of tires.

Children of Prisoners

By Arlene Lee, Director, Federal Resource Center for Children of Prisoners
(www.childrenofprisoners.org)

Every day adults are arrested or sentenced to serve time in jail or prison. Rarely, however, do people stop to consider the impact this has on children in our communities. Our nation’s incarceration rate exceeded 2 million people this past year, the highest ever. As more parents are incarcerated, more children are serving time as well. These children are in every community, every school, and every church. Their stories, and survival, are important to all.

While research is limited in this area, early indications from studies have suggested that children of incarcerated parents are 7 times more likely to exhibit violent or serious delinquent behavior. Until recently, children with incarcerated parents have not received attention as a special population with unique needs. Children and their families have tended to suffer in silence because of the shame and stigma associated with incarceration.

The Child Welfare League of America (CWLA) operates the Federal Resource Center for Children of Prisoners in collaboration with the

U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Corrections. The Resource Center, located in Washington, DC, conducts research and evaluation, collects and disseminates information, provides training and technical assistance, and increases awareness among the many disciplines and service systems that come in contact with families separated by incarceration. AST’s recent “Mommy’s Not Home” training was based on curriculum developed by CWLA for public safety, educational, and social service audiences.

EMBARC Offender Orientation

By Linda Fitzgerald, Agent Senior, EMBARC

EMBARC HEAT team members, Linda Fitzgerald (DPP), Dawn Jones (DPP), David Dawson (DJS), Geri Price (BCPD), and Diane Mosley (Community Organizer) sponsored their first offender orientation on Wednesday, April 28, 2004.

More than 70 offenders attended and heard representatives from Reaching the Unreachable Ministry, Iron Sharpens Iron, the National Women’s Prison Project & Maryland Justice Coalition, and Station North Resource Center. Participants received information about employment, offender services, and faith-based services. The purpose of the orientation was to link offenders with resources who could provide support for prisoner reentry, recovery, employment, and spiritual needs.

The success of the event could be seen by the manner in which participants interacted with guest speakers.

Germantown Family Event

By Amy Bransford, Agent Senior, Germantown

On March 26, 2004 a family event was held for residents of the Germantown CSAFE area at the Germantown Recreation Center. HEAT team members were on hand to explain CSAFE

and provide other useful information to attendees.

Fingerprint kits were handed out, and police and fire personnel provided safety tips. Parents were invited to bring their children, who were able to participate in arts and crafts and sports activities. A teen dance was also held.

Community events such as this are important to increase citizen awareness and involvement, show law enforcement in a positive light, and build lines of communication between residents and criminal justice agency personnel. Even informal relationships developed at events such as this can provide vital sources of information to solve and prevent crimes.



Members of the Germantown HEAT team pose with Sparky from the Montgomery County Fire Department.

Training

Continuing Education Classes

MPCTC certified classes are offered throughout the state. The schedule is as follows:

July/August – Think Globally Act Locally: An Overview of Homeland Security in Maryland

July 16th – Frostburg Center, Hagerstown

July 22nd – Easton Fire Department

August 6th – Judiciary Center, Annapolis

August 19th – Public Safety Education and Training Center, Sykesville*

**Due to an overwhelming response to the in-service training topics offered this year, morning and afternoon sessions will be offered at the Public Safety Education and Training Center.*

Please watch your mail or e-mail for the specific dates, locations, and registration information for upcoming events.

Notable Accomplishments:

- As of April 30th, the HATS pilot project is underway. This pilot is designed to improve the information system used by HEAT team members.
- The Federalsburg CSAFE Initiative sponsored its Third Annual Youth Fishing Tournament on Saturday, April 24, 2004. Fourteen participants enjoyed a casual morning of fishing at the Federalsburg Marina.

Please Help Us

Do you have a promising practice or notable accomplishment you would like to share with our readers? You may email your comments to Jennifer Beskid, Regional Coordinator, at jabeskid@dpscs.state.md.us.



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