

DOCS



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New York State Department of Correctional Services

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Coxsackie earns Olympic trophy – again



Coxsackie's Color Guard won the gold medal in the B Division during the Employee Olympics in Albany in June, helping the facility to repeat as Olympic champions and earn the Commissioner's Trophy. Pictured performing during the Color Guard competition are (from left) Lt. Michael Ambrosino and COs Michael Cousineau, David Hans, Dennis Plant and William Claus.

Escape demands we investigate jail operations

Investigation will detail what occurred to safeguard all prisons, communities

The escape last month by two inmates from Elmira demands a full accounting to protect against future escapes from prisons across the state, not only from down “The Hill.”

As I have said since the escapes occurred, our first obligation was recapturing the escapees and maintaining the safety and security of Elmira.

With that accomplished, we are now focusing some of our resources on investigating what exactly happened at Elmira.

Escapes from our prisons are rare – the last escape from a maximum-security prison occurred in 1994. The last escape from Elmira was in 1984.

So I think it is obvious our prisons are secure on a daily basis. But that also means we have to look at our procedures, policies and actions when that security record is breached and inmates escape.

I intend to release our findings publicly in a report to be issued at the end of August.

It is my intention that this report will be studied at prisons across the state.

This month's articles:

- ***Spotlight: Inmate numbers keep dropping: Page 3.***
- ***Coxsackie wins Olympics trophy: Page 4.***
- ***Five Points meets need for more cells: Page 8.***
- ***Arthur Kill attacks community trash: Page 12.***
- ***Eastern worker earns Governor's award: Page 13.***
- ***Staff changes: Page 14.***
- ***Employees teach kids dangers of DWI: Page 16.***

To the extent that we identify changes needed at Elmira, the report will be reviewed at all prisons to determine if changes are necessary in operations elsewhere.

As securely and safely as our system operates on a daily basis, I know every large organization can be improved upon and learn from the experiences, both good and bad, of all of its work force.

That applies to us as well.

In the meantime, I want to commend overall staff actions at Elmira in the wake of the escape.

More than one employee stated that seeing the rope dangling from the facility wall was like a blow to the chest: it was an insult to their normal, everyday control of their facility.

But to a person, staff shook off this insult to their justified pride in facility operations. They launched their escape procedures and the search became the focus of efforts by the facility work force, both those in and outside of the prison.

Luckily, during the 37 hours between confirmation of their escape and their recapture, the widespread search limited the escapees' movement in a way that forestalled any harm committed against local residents.

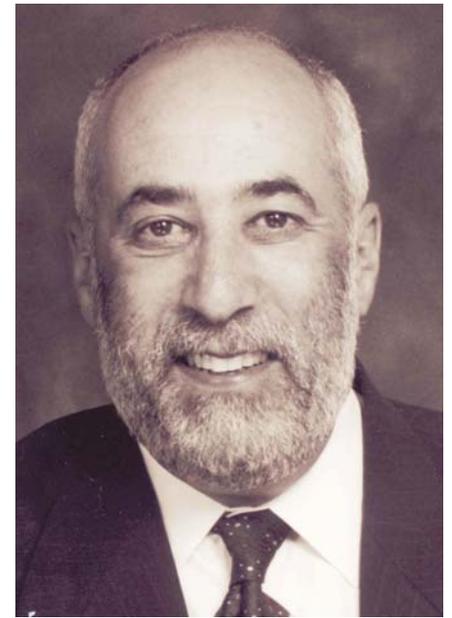
The pursuit by 150 law enforcement officials using helicopters, canines and ATVs resulted in the escapees being contained in wooded areas no more than a few miles from the prison.

I want to thank our colleagues who assisted us in the search and recapture: the FBI, Division of State Police, Department of Environmental Conservation, Chemung County Sheriff and the police departments in Elmira, Elmira Heights and Horseheads. Each of them performed professionally and represented the best of federal, state and local coordination in a textbook example of intergovernmental cooperation.

My faith in the work force at Elmira remains strong. I know the employees to be dedicated professionals. Their record speaks a vigilance that I believe is unmatched by correctional staff in other states, but it is also indicative of the commitment of the 32,000 men and women who work in our 70 prisons.

We must – and will – learn from this breach in security.

But even before our report is issued, I want all employees to know that I consider Elmira's work force “second to none” in a Department that I believe includes the best correctional work force in the nation. 



Commissioner Goord

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ON THE COVER: The masthead brings DOCS|TODAY together with its past via “Copper John,” the Colonial soldier who has stood atop the front gate of Auburn, the state's oldest prison, since 1821. The American flag was affixed to his bayonet in memory of those who lost their lives during the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks upon the United States. The flag itself was taken from a photograph of it flying above Ground Zero.

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Governor's plan extends early release to 1,300 more nonviolent felons

As 'right-sizing' of prisons continues, percent of violent offenders increases

The Department is now implementing Governor Pataki's 2003 budget initiatives designed to allow 1,300 more nonviolent inmates to leave prison early this year – if they participate in the programming assignments that have been shown to reduce recidivism.

As the population chart at right shows, Governor Pataki has stopped the upward spiral in the population that had been driven by the admission of low-level, nonviolent drug offenders.

The decline in the number of nonviolent inmates in the system means the percentage of violent offenders in the system is increasing – which is what led the Governor to authorize the construction of 5,000 maximum-security beds that include the Five Points prison profiled this month beginning on page 8.

Under initiatives proposed by the Governor, more than 50,000 nonviolent offenders have already earned early release from prison. They were mandated to successfully participate in a variety of academic, vocational, drug treatment and work programs.

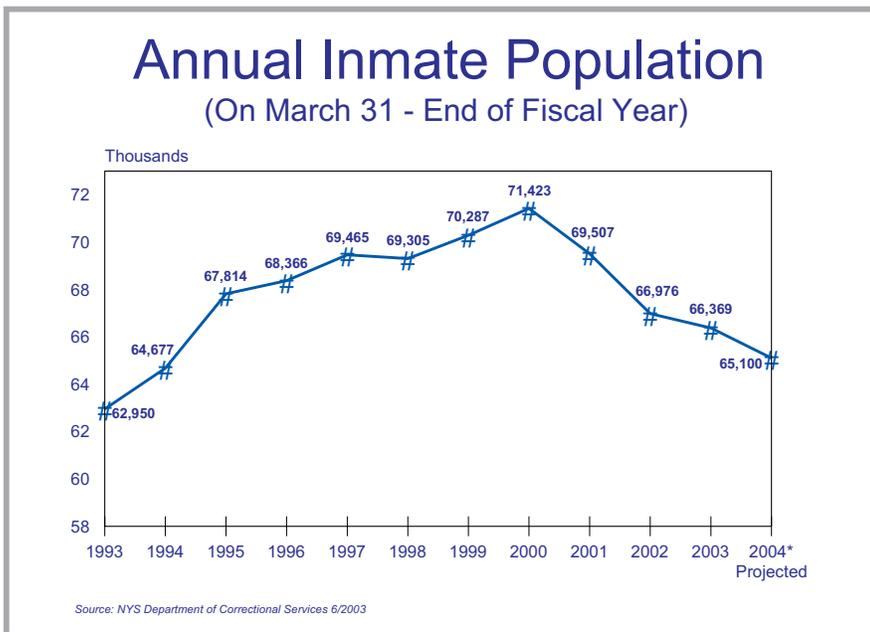
Because of the success of those programs, the Legislature has adopted the Governor's three-pronged approach to increasing those programs in a manner designed to offer early release to an additional 1,300 nonviolent offenders this year:

Presumptive release is targeted for 1,150 inmates not currently incarcerated for statutory violent, A-1, sex or homicide offenses and who have no prior convictions for these crimes. To qualify, they must have fulfilled all program requirements and maintained good behavior records. They will automatically be released upon their parole or merit time eligibility dates.

A-1 Drug Merit Time is expected to allow these offenders, for the first time, to earn one-third off their minimum sentences.

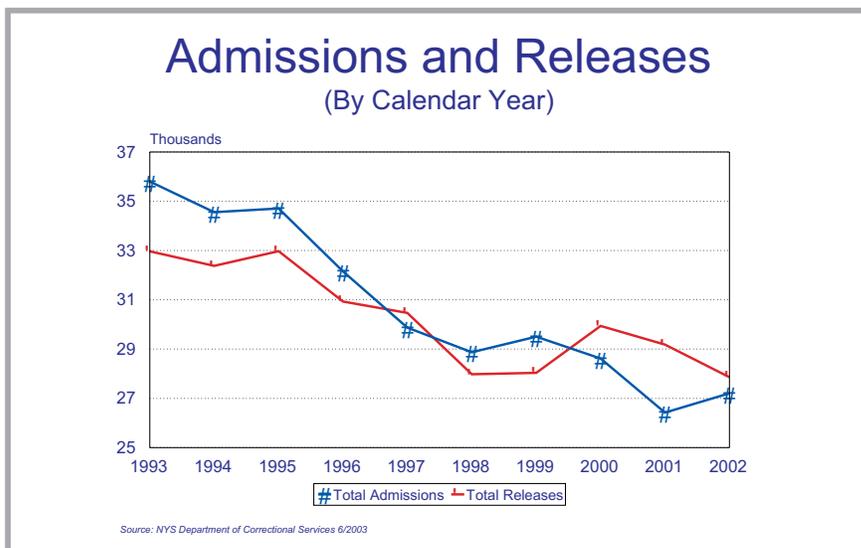
Seventy-five such offenders are expected to receive this benefit, for which none of them had previously been eligible.

Expanded Earned Eligibility will this year allow 40 inmates whose minimum sentences are eight years or less to earn parole release, rather than the prior minimum standard of six years.



A few statistics that show the effects of the Governor's "right-sizing" plan to offer nonviolent inmates early release while building cells for the violent offenders who are serving longer sentences:

- The percentage of violent offenders in the system has increased from 51 percent in 1995 to nearly 56 percent today.
- There were 23,345 drug offenders in prison in 1995 compared to 17,680 last month.
- The inmate population has dropped from a peak of 71,538 in December 1999 to 65,737 last month.
- The decline is even greater because it includes reducing the number of "state readies" backed up in the counties awaiting transfer to prison from 4,435 in July 1999 to 958 last month.
- The construction of new maximum-security beds has contributed to the numbers of both inmate-on-staff and inmate-on-inmate assaults declining to 20-year lows.
- There has been a 33 percent drop in the proportion of individuals returning to prison for new crimes who were released in 1998 and followed for three years, versus those released in 1988 and tracked for three years.



1,535 DOCS Olympians participate as Cossackie repeat as champions

Department employees trekked to the Albany region en masse in early June to compete, celebrate and socialize during the 19th Annual DOCS Olympics.

And by the time all the medals and accolades had been handed out and at the conclusion of the Olympics on June 7, one facility rose above all others.

For the second straight year, Cossackie captured the coveted Commissioner's Trophy, becoming only the third facility in the history of the storied Olympics to win back-to-back titles.

"I am proud to announce the selection of Cossackie Correctional Facility as the winner of the 2003 Commissioner's Trophy, symbolic of outstanding participation in and success at the 19th Annual DOCS Olympics," said Commissioner Goord, an Olympian himself who once again competed in the popular two-day, 36-hole golf event.

"Cossackie showed a large number of entrants, participation in team and individual sports, considerable interest on the part of the Executive Team, excellent pre-game preparation and a facility-wide desire to repeat as Commissioner Trophy winners," continued Commissioner Goord.

"I extend my thanks to all DOCS staff who participated in the Olympics or stayed behind in the facilities in order to allow their fellow employees to attend," said Commissioner Goord. "Once again, Olympics Director Dave Barringer and the Olympics Committee did an excellent job. I look forward to an even better 20th Olympics."

A total of 1,535 Department employees and retirees competed in this year's games. For the most part, Mother Nature cooperated, although a few events at the tail end of the games, primarily several track and field and tennis events, had to be canceled due to inclement weather.

For the fourth straight year, the Olympics were set to coincide with



Law enforcement torchrunners, including DOCS employees, made an appearance at the games.

the Department's annual Memorial Service and Medals Ceremony, which once again was held at the Training Academy and attracted a huge turnout.

Commissioner Goord will present the Commissioner's Trophy to Cossackie employees at a picnic at the facility later this year in what's sure to be a festive occasion.

According to Mr. Barringer, the only other back-to-back Commissioner's Trophy winners are Oneida, which won in 1990 and 1991, and Auburn, which captured top honors in 1993 and 1994. Only one other facility has won the award twice: Fishkill, in 1997 and 1999.

Once again, softball was the most popular event, with Mr. Barringer reporting 540 competitors in a variety of divisions. Golf was also popular, finishing a strong second with 460 Olympians, including those who competed in the miniature golf event.

The games featured one new event: indoor soccer, which attracted a total of five teams and some 55 competitors.

"Soccer was probably the biggest hit at the Olympics this year and it was well received by all the participants," said Mr. Barringer. "And I'm sure that once the word about its success makes its way throughout the state, we'll have even more teams competing next year and in the years to come."

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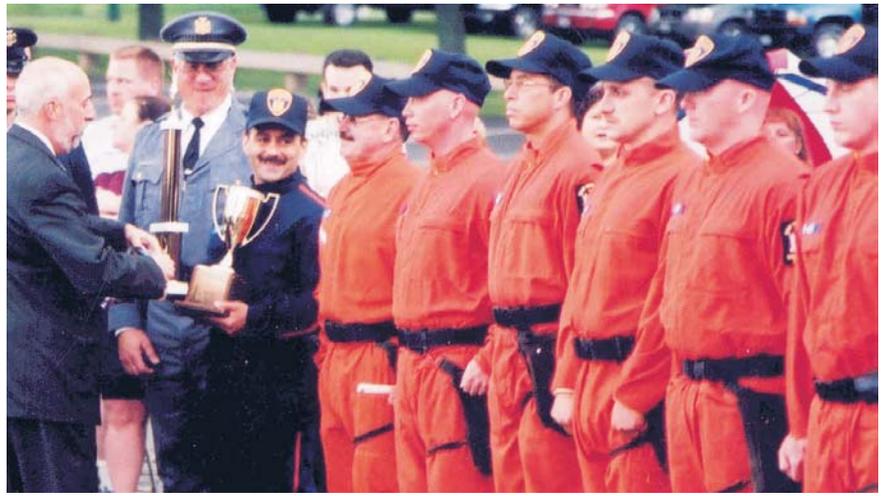


In the Color Guard competition, perennial powerhouse Green Haven fended off a strong challenge from Wyoming to win the gold medal in the A Division.

The Color Guard unit from Coxsackie grabbed top honors in the B Division, a strong showing which helped that facility grab the Commissioner's Trophy.

Mr. Barringer said one event appears to be soaring in popularity: the fishing derby, which began three years ago. In its inaugural season, there were 28 anglers who tested the waters at Saratoga Lake, compared to 48 last year and a record 74 this year.

Mindful of the increasing popularity of a less-than-physical event, Mr. Barringer said plans are in the works to add a striped bass fishing tournament on the Hudson River during next year's Olympics.



Commissioner Goord presents CERT gold medal to Sgt. Joseph Vasile of the Auburn team as Lt. Michael Vazquez watches.



Other new events that are also being mulled for next year's Olympics: a fireman's competition at the Training Academy, featuring events like a team bucket brigade. And, at the site of the popular miniature golf and go cart racing events, a rock climbing competition will be on the agenda for interested Olympians. And for those aspiring for the fairways, a long drive competition is on tap.

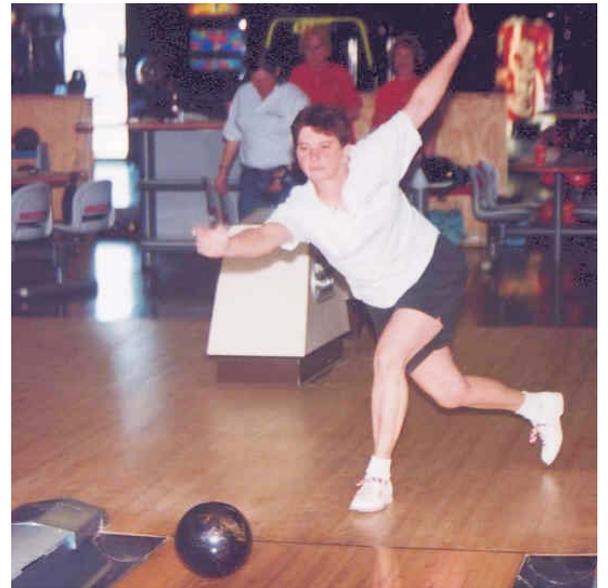
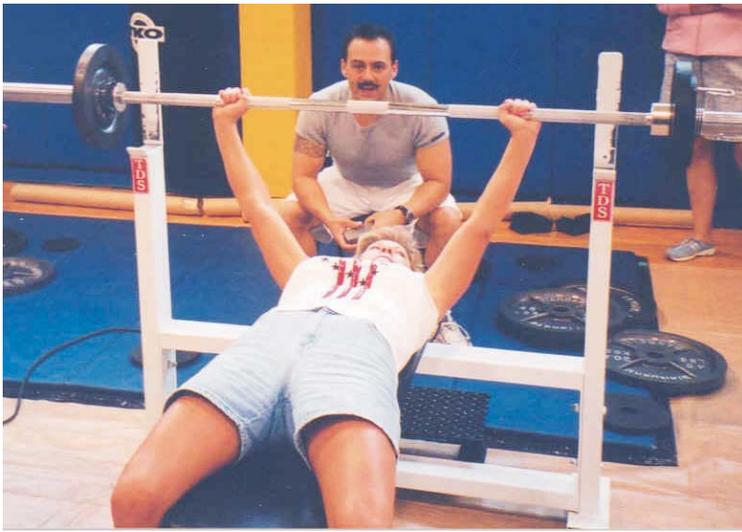
"We had an excellent Olympics this year but we're always looking to build on the experience to attract even more participants from throughout the state and give our regular competitors more options," said Mr. Barringer. "And we're always looking for suggestions on what new events to add."

For the record, employees participating in the Olympics are required to use personal time and funds for travel and participation in the annual games. 📖

More Olympic photos on pages 6-7.







Powerhouse Green Haven took the gold medal in the A Division color guard competition.



'Right-sizing' makes system safer

Five Points

In the late 1990's, the Department was faced with a vexing capacity problem. But unlike the capacity shortages of the 1980's that led to an unprecedented flurry of desperately needed medium-security construction, the pressing need more than a decade later was for maximum-security construction. At the urging of Governor Pataki, the Legislature approved the addition of 5,000 maximum-security beds, the largest such expansion in state history. The new construction was to include a mix of disciplinary and general confinement beds and called for two new prisons.

Five Points, New York's newest prison, opened in 2000. The logic was that the long-overdue construction (along with Upstate opened in 1999) would help to "right-size" the system.

"Right-sizing consists of two concepts:

- Offering nonviolent inmates, mostly housed in medium-security, barracks-style housing, the opportunity for early release through the completion of necessary programs
- Building the cells necessary to house violent offenders in maximum-security facilities.

The concept worked. The end result is a safer prison system for staff and inmates and a better and more-efficient way of operating the system.

Five Points, like Upstate, is a state-of-the art 1,500-bed facility consisting of five double-occupancy housing units. Both facilities have 750 cells. Whereas Upstate serves primarily as a disciplinary facility, Five Points is a general confinement facility. It features innovative accommodations for disabled inmates and high-tech security enhancements not found at most of the older maximum-security facilities.

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Located on the grounds of the former Seneca Army Depot off Route 96 in the town of Romulus in Seneca County, Five Points, which cost \$180 million to construct, is indeed an impressive sight. Some of its corridors stretch for more than a half mile, meaning staff members certainly get their exercise heading from lineup to their assigned posts. Unobtrusive as it's set back from local thoroughfares, the compound covers 72 acres within the secure perimeter with an additional 638 acres outside.

Each of Five Points' housing units include two floors and three wings. Four of the five units house general confinement inmates who are involved in regular daily programming and other activities. The fifth unit houses a variety of inmates with special individual needs; it also temporarily houses parolees who opted out of treatment at the nearby Willard Drug Treatment Campus and are awaiting transfers to other state prisons to complete their sentences.

The 750 cells were designed for double occupancy and have 105 square feet of interior space, making them the largest in the prison system. Each cell is equipped with a toilet and sink, and a facility-controlled shower. At only two stories, the housing units adhere to Commissioner Goord's direction that the facility maintain as low a profile as possible.

The fact that inmates don't have to be escorted by staff from their cells to a general shower area is a big security enhancement, as less contact between inmates and staff means a reduced likelihood of assaults. Each cell at Five Points also includes an attached recreation pen that can be opened electronically by staff from the central control consoles in each housing unit. That further reduces contact between inmates and staff and has meant fewer unusual incidents when compared with other older maximum-security prisons where there's more contact between staff and inmates.

Last year, for instance, the rate of inmate-on-staff assaults at Five Points was 12 per 1,000 inmates, compared to a rate of 21 per 1,000 inmates at the state's other maximum-security prisons. And through June of this year, the rate of inmate-on-inmate assaults at Five Points was 15 per 1,000 inmates, compared to a rate of 21 per 1,000 inmates at the other maximum-security prisons.

Five Points is unique in that it was specifically designed with an eye toward accommodating disabled inmates, specifically those in wheelchairs. Forty-eight general population, double-bunk cells were modified to provide access to the lower bunk for the disabled. Among the in-cell modifications are

handrails to help ensure the safety of disabled inmates when they're getting in or out of their beds. Additionally, mess hall seating, and the visiting room, recreation and program areas were modified to provide reasonable accommodations in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

There are also 24 additional cells for the disabled located in the facility's Special Housing Unit (SHU).

Another unique aspect of massive Five Points has nothing to do with the facility itself. It concerns the odd-looking white deer that freely roam the area foraging for food. During its heyday, the Seneca Army Depot boasted a deer population estimated at some 11,000 and it had a fence surrounding the perimeter. The nature of the facility did not permit for hunting, there-

fore the deer roamed the grounds and, like other wild game, were somewhat protected. As the years passed the deers mutated and a number of them became white. Not to be confused with albino deer, these deer are white. They're a frequent sight at Five Points and constantly draw curious glances from new inmates and first-time visitors.

Like many other facilities in the state, Five Points was named by Commissioner Goord in recognition of the region in which it's located. But unlike other obvious choices like Mid-State and Upstate, it took a bit of digging before the name Five Points was decided on.

Other prison names that had been proposed by area residents included West Central, Lakes, Central New York, Seneca, Interlakes and Seneca Depot.

The name Five Points was selected by Commissioner Goord and was subsequently approved by Governor Pataki.

Several maps of the region during the 1950's and earlier referred to an area about 15 miles north of where the prison is located as Five Points, or, in some instances, Five Corners. The

area is located just north of Geneva in the town of Phelps near the border of Seneca and Ontario counties.

Research by Steven O'Malley, chief historian for the Geneva Historical Society, ascertained that the area in question, near the New York State Thruway, once featured an intersection of five roads. They were the Thruway, Route 96, Route 14, Route 318 and an old county road which headed to West Junius, a small local township. The installation of a cloverleaf intersection in the area in the early 1960's, an architectural staple of the era, eliminated the five corners, but its legacy lives on nonetheless.



Five Points' corridors seem to go on forever.

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Other prison names that reflect the flavor of the area in which they're located include Eastern New York in Napanoch, Downstate in Fishkill and Mid-Orange in Warwick. There is also Lakeview near Lake Erie in Chautauqua County and Riverview in St. Lawrence County along the river of the same name.

Enhancing education, voc skills

Five Points offers a full range of academic and vocational programs to its inmates in order to provide them with the education and skills they need to ensure a successful reintegration into the community upon their eventual release from prison. And it's a laudable mission that Five Points' dedicated civilian staff take very seriously.

On the academic side of the ledger, Five Points offers its inmates classes in Adult Basic Education (ABE); General Education Development (GED), which is designed to have inmates obtain their high school equivalency diplomas, and English as a Second Language (ESL) for monolingual Hispanic inmates. The facility also offers a cell study program for inmates who for whatever reason are unable to leave their cells to participate in regular classroom programming.

Five Points also offers a Volunteer Tutoring program which utilizes trained Inmate Program Associates (IPAs). The paid assignment of an IPA involves assisting program services staff in the direct provision of various services to other inmates. The supervisor of volunteer services selects inmates according to the standards described in the IPA Policy and Procedure Manual, recommends placement in program services according to interest, knowledge and skills, and arranges training for all inmates involved in the program.

One of the primary goals of the program is to have trained inmates augment the efforts of program staff when it comes to providing inmates with enhanced educational skills. It also helps to save taxpayer dollars in these austere times.

As at many other facilities, Five Points offers a variety of vocational training programs. This is an attempt to provide inmates – many of whom have never held steady, good-paying jobs to support themselves and their families – with marketable job skills designed to help ensure that they'll be employed, law-abiding citizens upon their return to the community.

Five Points is just one of four facilities in the state to offer an appliance repair course; the other three facilities are Collins, Gowanda and Marcy. Students are versed in the use of different types of tools and testing devices such as ammeters, volt meters and pressure gauges to repair all kinds of household appliances including automatic washers, dryers, dishwashers, coffee makers, toasters, irons and food processors. The inmates learn to accurately troubleshoot defective appliances by detecting un-



White deer (right) are common at Five Points.

usual noises, overheating or vibration. They also learn to trace faulty electrical connections using manufacturer parts manuals and diagrams.

Upon successful completion of the course, inmates are awarded a certificate from the state Department of Labor (DOL), attesting that they are qualified to be considered for a job in the appliance repair field. They can then apply for jobs like tool crib attendant,

appliance installer, electrical tool repairer, refrigeration mechanic, gas appliance serviceman and small appliance repairer.

Five Points also offers a building maintenance program which provides inmates with the fundamental skills required to make minor repairs in such areas as carpentry, masonry, electrical wiring and plumbing.

Inmates who successfully complete the course also receive a DOL certificate, making them eligible for jobs like drywall applicator, light fixture repairman, mason's helper, tool crib attendant, electrician's helper and inventory clerk.

A cabinetmaking course is also a popular vocational shop at Five Points, which is one of only eight facilities in the state to offer training in the time-honored craft. Completion of the course permits the inmate to seek employment as a band saw operator, furniture finisher, shaper operator, machine setter, miter sawyer and planer operator.

Other vocational courses offered at Five Points include custodial maintenance, elec-

trical trades, horticulture, masonry and small engine repair. Through these varied offerings, it's clear to see that a Five Points inmate who wants to get his life back on track and get a job upon release to support himself and his family has every opportunity to do just that.

Helping inmates get their lives back on track

Cognizant that most of its inmates have more than educational and vocational needs, Five Points offers a wide variety of specialized program designed to help inmates succeed on the outside.

Among other things, Five Points offers its inmates Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT). This program – which is a minimum of six months depending on the needs of an individual inmate – is designed for chemically-dependant inmates. It employs the therapeutic community approach as spelled out in the Department's Alcohol and Substance Abuse Treatment (ASAT) program manual.

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Five Points' nurses review inmate records.

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The primary focus is to use the concept of community as a treatment modality. The community is perceived to be the agent of change, acting in a highly organized and structured fashion designed to engage program participants in social learning. This model sets ethics of right living and recovery for the chemically dependant inmate in the parallel path of mental, emotional and physical health. Accountability to self and responsibility to others are the cornerstones to building a caring and nurturing environment to facilitate a positive change in the inmate.

The goals of the program include the development of a pro-social system that promotes positive living skills while changing negative patterns of behavior, development of a positive peer role model system and learning the dynamics of addiction and what could trigger a relapse.

Five Points is also one of 18 prisons that offers a Sex Offender Program. Group counseling is the major component of this six-month program but it also includes some individual counseling and education, depending on the needs of a specific inmate. Emphasis is placed on developing awareness of predisposing factors and alternative skills/behaviors in order to avoid deviant sexual behavior.

Admission requirements include incarceration for a sex-related crime or being found guilty at a Tier Hearing for a sexually abusive or assaultive act, a willingness to identify problems related to sexual behavior and a willingness to employ alternative thinking and behavior patterns.

Inmates who are recommended to participate in the program – either at reception or by their counselor – and fail to do so run the risk of losing good time, lengthening their prison stay.

Five Points also offers a Special Treatment Program (STP) for seriously mentally ill inmates serving time for disciplinary infractions. The program is a collaborative effort between DOCS and the state Office of Mental Health (OMH). Inmates receive individual and small group therapy from OMH personnel under the supervision of security staff.

Teaming up to work as one

Just as with communities in other parts of the state where prisons have been built, residents of the pastoral Finger



CO David Lauber staffs a perimeter tower.

Lakes region embraced Five Points – even before its first inmates had been transferred there.

On August 26, 2000, just days before the first busload of inmates arrived, the Department held an open house so interested local residents could tour the facility and meet their new neighbors. Approximately 8,000 curious visitors took guided tours of the facility; for the vast majority, it was the first time they had ever seen the inside of a prison. Afterward, many of them – including a local woman who said she took her young, rambunctious son to the prison to show him what could happen if he failed to listen to her – said they were duly impressed by the tour experience and the enormity of the facility.

The tours covered three miles and lasted about an hour. Visitors were escorted by uniformed and civilian staff and got close-up views of housing units, the mess hall, the gymnasium building, the visiting area, the commissary, outside recreation yards and other areas.

For many visitors, the experience resonated, and they now return to Five Points on a regular basis as registered volunteers. Helping to address the religious needs of inmates, their substance abuse problems and other issues, these volunteers assist dedicated staffers in their daily missions and help provide an additional bridge for success upon an inmate's return to society.

Just as local residents are a key component of Five Point's mission, Five Points employees are a key part of the local communities in which they and their families now reside. They serve as sports coaches and volunteer firefighters, sit on various municipal and community boards and unselfishly hold regular fund-raisers for their neighbors in need. They're always willing to lend a hand, and for that the locals are grateful.

For example, Five Points employees – like their counterparts across the state – participate in annual Make a Difference Day activities to benefit the less fortunate.

Last year, Five Points employees continued their "Adopt a School" tradition which they began shortly after the facility opened in 2000.

The program is aimed at enhancing the educational needs of schoolchildren through the donation of needed school supplies like backpacks, notebooks, pens and pencils and printer cartridges. 



CO Rebecca Shields at work in draft processing area.

Facility Highlights

Arthur Kill cleans up after those trashing Staten Island's streets

Two supervised community service crews from Arthur Kill are going out of their way to help Staten Island residents recover from an uncommon rash of trash dumping and littering this year.

For the past eight years, Arthur Kill inmates, under the supervision of Correction Officers, have helped Staten Island officials with their annual spring clean-up chores, removing debris from the sides of local roadways and preparing the borough's popular beaches and parks for the usual summer rush. Staff and inmates have also been instrumental in cleaning area cemeteries each spring and righting headstones toppled by vandals. But the task has been a little trickier this year.

"There was an unusual rash of trash dumping on Staten Island earlier this year and that's the main thing that our crews have been concentrating on this year," said Arthur Kill CO Frank Duffy, who supervises one of the two inmate crews that perform various chores at the behest of Staten Island officials. "We've collected a lot of garbage already but there's still a lot of work that needs to be done. It just seems like it's all over the place this year. We've been very busy."

"We've developed a very close working relationship with Staten Island officials," said Arthur Kill Superintendent Dennis Breslin. "They're very appreciative of what we've done for them over the years. At the same time, staff and inmates take pride in what they are doing because they can see firsthand that they really are helping out in the local community through the variety of projects they perform. It's a relationship that works well."

For CO Duffy and the inmates assigned to his community service crew, they usually know by reading the weekend edi-

tions of the local newspaper where they'll be working the following week. The rash of illegal dumping throughout the borough has been so repeated and widespread that the newspaper dispatches a photographer every week to a so-called "hot spot," a politically correct phrase for an eyesore, and identifies in print a different location each week.

"Those hot spots are where we've been ending up, and they're scattered throughout the area," said CO Duffy.

CO Duffy said he takes a lot of pride in his job and said his inmates also seem to be real focused on helping to make the borough a better place.

"This program has been very successful down here," said CO Duffy. "We've been able to get a lot accomplished for Staten Island over the years at no expense to the local taxpayers and we will continue to be available to lend a hand in the future when the need arises."

Last year, inmates assigned to supervised community service crews throughout the state worked a

total of 1,252,019 hours on various projects, ranging from repairing Little League fields and senior citizen centers to painting churches and helping New Yorkers recover from natural disasters like heavy snows, flooding and ice storms.

Staff also provided 232,269 in community service crew supervision last year. In 2002, Arthur Kill community service inmates worked 20,694 hours while security staff provided an additional 7,772 hours in supervision. 



Arthur Kill inmates on the job in a supervised work crew.

Eastern employee's efforts earn Governor's award of excellence

George Butler receives honor as supervisor of volunteer tutors

George Butler, supervisor of volunteer tutors at Eastern, has received a top award for being one of 34 African-American employees in New York state government who've made significant contributions to the people of the Empire State while on the job and out in the community.

"I'm elated," said Mr. Butler, who spends a lot of time volunteering in the Hudson Valley community in various capacities. "I don't know what I've done to deserve this but I'm very, very thankful."

Mr. Butler received Governor Pataki's Excellence in State Service Award during a well-attended ceremony at the New York State Museum. He said he felt honored to be surrounded by many family members, friends and coworkers who made the 90-minute trip from Eastern to Albany to cheer him on when he received his award.

Sullivan hub Supervising Superintendent and Eastern Superintendent David Miller said the fact that Mr. Butler was honored for his efforts both inside the prison and out in the community was not surprising.

"He's Mr. Eastern. He's done everything imaginable," said Mr. Miller. "He's probably the most unselfish individual I know. He has dedicated himself to improving his own community and the correctional community. He helps all people in whatever way he can. He has a very special talent and he's well deserving of this award."

For Mr. Butler, his tireless volunteer efforts in religious, musical and other endeavors provides an inner comfort that's unparalleled.

"When you volunteer in the community you give it absolutely all you've got," he said. "You can truly say to yourself, 'I did something for my fellow man.' You're not doing it to get anything in return but it does give you a little bit of pride and self-esteem. I just love doing what I do."

Just before presenting the awards to Mr. Butler and the 33 other recipients, Office of Children and Family Services Commissioner John A. Johnson said the select group of award winners was indeed a worthy bunch.

"Your hard work and dedication have motivated all of us,"

Mr. Johnson said during the evening ceremony that attracted upward of 500 people.

"Department employees like Eastern's George Butler epitomize the professionalism, caring and dedication that drives this Department on a daily basis," said Commissioner Goord, who nominated Mr. Butler for the award. "His ongoing efforts have helped bring recognition and respect to this Department. Mr.

Butler is truly worthy of this award and he is to be commended for doing all that he possibly can to help others."

In his letter of nomination, Commissioner Goord wrote:

"Mr. Butler is an excellent representative for the Department of Correctional Services as an employee and has demonstrated an exemplary commitment and outstanding service to the goals and visions of New York state government."

A gifted musician, Mr. Butler was also recently honored by the Christ Church Ministries and the African American's Men's Association for volunteering his time

in the Hudson Valley community over the past two years, assisting the church's musician. He has continually refused any compensation for his many hours of time and services.

Mr. Butler began working with the Department in 1985 as supervisor of volunteer tutors at Camp Beacon and transferred to Eastern in that same capacity in 1987. At Eastern, Mr. Butler is an active member of the Diversity Management Committee; provides dynamic leadership to the Delinquency Intervention Program; provides time-consuming mentoring for the annual African History Month Program; contributes unselfishly to the GED graduation ceremonies; oversees special programs for both staff and inmates and provides notary public service to inmates and staff.

Mr. Butler has served in several capacities at various churches since the age of 14 and is currently the director of music at the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church of Newburgh. He has been a faithful member of the Mid-Hudson Chapter of the Gospel Music Workshop of America and is cofounder, chairperson and director of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Choir.

This isn't the first time a Department employee has been honored by Governor Pataki with one of the prestigious awards of excellence. Previous recipients include Office of Diversity Management Director Charlie Harvey and now-retired Attica Rev. Jeff Carter Jr. 



George Butler (third from left) is joined at the awards ceremony by Education Commissioner Richard P. Mills; James H. Harding Jr. of the Governor's Office of Legislative Affairs and John A. Johnson, Commissioner of the Office of Children and Family Services.

Transitions

June 2003

Name	Title	Facility
Promotions		
John D. Carey, Jr.	Dep Supt Security 3	Adirondack
Diane M. Wolcott	Systems Support Aide	Attica
James T. Conway	Superintendent	Attica
Michelle A. Woeller	Dep Supt Administration 3	Attica
Carol L. Brown	Calculations Clerk 2	Cayuga
John E. Deangelo	Commissary Clerk 4	Clinton
Eilen T. Buono	Senior Mail & Supply Clerk	Downstate
Calvin E. West	Superintendent	Elmira
Lawrence Weingartner	Dep Supt Programs 3	Five Points
Michael J. Allard	Superintendent	Franklin
Lauren Gillis	ASAT Counselor	Great Meadow
Kevin D. Hart	Indus Training Supr 2	Great Meadow
Anitha Cherian	Stores Clerk 2	Green Haven
Gerard Guiney	Dep Supt Security 3	Green Haven
W. E. Phillips	Superintendent	Green Haven
Brandy Bagley	Calculations Clerk 2	Greene
Christopher Gil	Maintenance Supervisor 3	Greene
Paige Dimasi	Calculations Clerk 2	Greene
David Bastion	Dep Supt Security 3	Lakeview
Tammy L. Burman	Inmate Records Coord 2	Main Office
Diane H. Holford	Sentencing Review Coord	Main Office
Joseph T. Ward, Jr.	Facility Operations Specialist	Main Office
Kevin F. Keller	Dep Supt Security 3	Mid-Orange
Arlene Stepney	Stores Clerk 2	Mid-Orange
Malcolm R. Cully	Superintendent	Monterey SICF
Robert F. Baker	Filter Plant Operator	Mt. McGregor
Paul M. Gonyea	Dep Supt Security 3	Ogdensburg
Stacey A. Bugaj	Calculations Clerk 2	Oneida
Carol E. Gallagher	Stores Clerk 2	Oneida
William M. Powers	Superintendent	Rochester
Kay M. Knott	Dep Supt Programs 3	Shawangunk
Jeffrey A. Hale	Inmate Grievance Prog.	Southport
Eric M. Strack	Maintenance Supervisor 3	Sullivan
Rebecca Garlinghouse	Inmate Records Coordinator 1	Ulster
James K. O'Connell	Superintendent	Ulster
Ronald J. Elvin	Nurse Administrator 1	Wende
Annette Klutts	Clerk 2	Woodbourne
Barbara Madison	CF Dep Supt 3	Wyoming
Jeffrey St. Louis	Correction Captain	Bare Hill
John Coleman	Correction Captain	Eastern
Sandra Amoia	Correction Captain	Lakeview
Michael Diangelo	Correction Captain	Orleans
Anthony Loscalzo	Correction Captain	Queensboro
Michael Sheahan	Correction Captain	Southport
Donald W. Babcock	Correction Sergeant	Arthur Kill

Joseph M. Keefe	Correction Sergeant	Arthur Kill
Larry H. Green	Correction Sergeant	Attica
Remy L. Babineaux	Correction Sergeant	Auburn
Gary Keohane	Correction Sergeant	Bayview
Daniel S. O'Connell	Correction Sergeant	Bedford Hills
Scott A. Collins	Correction Sergeant	Bedford Hills
Paul E. Fessette	Correction Sergeant	Downstate
Bradley S. Bushey	Correction Sergeant	Downstate
Frank Havranek	Correction Sergeant	Fishkill
Mark Jones	Correction Sergeant	Fishkill
Gerald D. Gillis	Correction Sergeant	Five Points
Dean M. Vogt	Correction Sergeant	Five Points
David P. Jolicoeur	Correction Sergeant	Green Haven
Robert L. Boylan	Correction Sergeant	Green Haven
Francis Exner	Correction Sergeant	Mid-Orange
Kevin P. Felter	Correction Sergeant	Otisville
John C. Rae	Correction Sergeant	Queensboro
Michael J. Joyce	Correction Sergeant	Shawangunk
Stephen J. Kearns	Correction Sergeant	Sing Sing
Jerome Werner	Correction Sergeant	Wyoming

Retirements

Dennis Muzzy	Plant Utilities Engineer 1	Adirondack
Carl Kelley	Vocational Instructor 2	Albion
Mary M. Lamb	Cook	Altona
Susan A. Geary	Institution Steward	Arthur Kill
Gerard Werner	Senior Counselor ASAT	Arthur Kill
Charles W. Finsterbach	Teacher 4	Attica
Teresa F. Gongora	Teacher 4	Attica
Rita K. Campagnola	Calculations Clerk 2	Auburn
Jose L. Flores	Ed Super (Vocational)	Auburn
Kathleen Oshea	Senior Correction Counselor	Bedford Hills
Mary Kromer	ASAT Prog. Asst.	Butler
James B. Bickford	Maintenance Supervisor 2	Camp Gabriels
Carol L. Brown	Calculations Clerk 2	Cayuga
Nicholas I. Valvo	Dep Supt Programs 3	Cayuga
Arthur Cunningham	Correction Counselor	Cayuga
Lewis V. Turner	Senior Correction Counselor	Clinton
Dennis L. Wilson	General Mechanic	Collins
Ethel M. Thomas	Vocational Instructor 4	Eastern
Rudolph Majette	Cook	Fishkill
Raymond Ferrer	General Mechanic	Fulton
Christine A. Ross	Keyboard Specialist 2	Gowanda
D. A. Dekalb	Indus Training Super 2	Great Meadow
Gerlinde Rice	Keyboard Specialist 1	Green Haven
Judith A. Parrotte	Teacher 4	Greene
Peter D. Willis	Ed Super (General)	Greene

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Nora E. Adelman Teacher 4 Greene
Clark K. Wilson Dep Supt Programs 3 Greene
Catherine E. Frank Keyboard Specialist 1 Greene
Jean E. Frisino Secretary 1 Main Office
Gerard J. Lillis Motor Vehicle Operator. Main Office
Gail A. Jarvis Keyboard Specialist 1 Marcy
Sandra F. Majcak Payroll Clerk 3 Mid-State
Beverly J. Danielski Nursing Assistant 2. Mohawk
Georgia J. Ortiz Nurse 2. Mohawk
Logan Roberts Nurse 2. Mohawk
Melvin L. Hollins Superintendent Oneida
John Genauer Correction Counselor. Sing Sing
Thomas H. Giltner Dep Supt Sec 3 Southport
Truman T. Liebig, Jr. Institution Steward Washington
Edward R. Donnelly Superintendent Wende
Noel R. Clawson Food Administrator 2 Willard
Albert D. Bemiller. Recreation Program Leader 1 Wyoming
John E. Landry Correction Lieutenant Clinton
John A. Lebednik. Correction Lieutenant Elmira
T.R. Fitzgerald Correction Lieutenant Great Meadow
Edward Shovah Correction Lieutenant Great Meadow
William Altman Correction Lieutenant Queensboro
Richard Kulis Correction Lieutenant Willard
C. N. Porter McNutt Correction Lieutenant Woodbourne
Donald LeBaron Correction Lieutenant Wyoming
Owen C. McKenzie. Correction Sergeant Arthur Kill
William B. Reif Correction Sergeant Clinton
William Cristofaro. Correction Sergeant Elmira
William McNamara Correction Sergeant Hudson
Rafael Taraza Correction Sergeant Queensboro
F. Pelicone Correction Sergeant Washington
Raymond C. Aubin Correction Officer. Adirondack
Michael W. Straight. Correction Officer. Adirondack
Loisel Wharton Correction Officer. Arthur Kill
J. E. Gostomski Correction Officer. Attica
David Gentilcore Correction Officer. Auburn
Richard B. Quinn Correction Officer. Auburn
Thomas P. Beer Correction Officer. Auburn
Albert Castellanos Correction Officer. Beacon
John R. Lennon Correction Officer. Cape Vincent
Edward R. Dubray Correction Officer. Clinton
Henry R. Venne Correction Officer. Clinton
Donn Breyette Correction Officer. Clinton
Albert L. Schaefer Correction Officer. Collins
Edward P. Tan Correction Officer. Collins
Nicholas R. Myrdycz, Sr. Correction Officer. Coxsackie
Steven J. Adams Correction Officer. Coxsackie
Richard Connolly Correction Officer. Downstate
Daniel Canissario Correction Officer. Downstate
Roger E. Ryan Correction Officer. Eastern
Luis Martinez Correction Officer. Edgecombe

Kent Bernard Correction Officer. Fishkill
Douglas Wallace Correction Officer. Fulton
Edmond Wilson Correction Officer. Fulton
Linda J. Shubbe Correction Officer. Gowanda
Francis A. Bedard Correction Officer. Great Meadow
Dean Pickett Correction Officer. Great Meadow
Dana G. Winchell. Correction Officer. Great Meadow
Lawrence W. Monroe, Sr. Correction Officer. Great Meadow
Dean L. Pethick Correction Officer. Greene
Gary D. Grady Correction Officer. Greene
David J. Grace Correction Officer. Greene
Robert M. King Correction Officer. Greene
Francis J. Ryan, Jr.. Correction Officer. Greene
D. J. Cole. Correction Officer. Groveland
Harry A. Lorow, Jr. Correction Officer. Groveland
Angelo J. Petito Correction Officer. Mid-Orange
Andre R. Bergeron Correction Officer. Moriah Shock
Judy L. Smithgorton Correction Officer. Oneida
Martin A. Kennedy Correction Officer. Otisville
Kenneth J. Mackin Correction Officer. Otisville
Luis A. Meade Correction Officer. Queensboro
Timothy S. Saccone Correction Officer. Sullivan
Penny L. Henry-Heinle Correction Officer. Sullivan
Jose A. Villafane Correction Officer. Ulster
William A. Clemmer Correction Officer. Ulster
M. Lapoint Correction Officer Washington
Richard Ward. Correction Officer. Washington
Yvonne Henderson. Correction Officer. Wende
Roger C. Lauper Correction Officer. Willard
John H. Roser Correction Officer. Woodbourne
Joseph A. Wagner Correction Officer. Wyoming

Deceased

Donald F. Edwards. Vocational Instructor 4 Groveland
John A. Peterson Correction Officer. Collins
Thomas D. Wood. Correction Officer. Fishkill
Gerald Dupree, Jr. Correction Officer. Franklin
Paul McDonald Correction Officer. Franklin
Bert Quackenbush Correction Officer. Mt. McGregor

On the web . . .

Readers with Internet access can obtain information on the world wide web from the offices of both Governor Pataki and Commissioner Goord. Their addresses:

Governor Pataki: <http://www.state.ny.us>

Commissioner Goord: <http://www.docs.state.ny.us>

Colorized editions of DOCS|TODAY beginning with January 2003 now appear on the DOCS website. Editions are posted as PDFs at the middle of the month prior to the cover date. 

DOCS staff drill teenagers on the dangers of drinking and driving

Employees from Washington and Great Meadow recently joined forces with community rescue personnel and other concerned citizens to teach area high school students the sometimes fatal consequences of drinking and driving.

The employees staged a mock but realistic fatal DWI accident for the benefit of students witnessed by students from the Fort Ann, Hartford and Granville high schools.

The event took place shortly before the annual high school prom and graduation season, the hope being that students would think twice about having too good of a time and then drinking and driving, placing themselves and others at grave risk.

“We’ve always prided ourselves on being an important part of the community and we just felt this would be a good thing to do,” said Washington Superintendent Israel Rivera. “

We’re always trying to help out whenever we can and the problem of teens drinking and driving is something that needs to be constantly addressed. Hopefully, we were able to convince at least several of the students to avoid drinking and driving. If we were able to prevent just one accident, and perhaps save one life, then we accomplished our mission.”

After the mock accident occurred, a recovery effort was undertaken by Correction Officers John Whittaker and David Gould, members of the West Fort Ann Volunteer Fire Department; CO Brian Irwin, a member of the Argyle Rescue Squad; CO Jim Vandenburg, a member of the Fort Ann Volunteer Fire



Rescuers (above) turn their backs on a dead accident victim to focus their attention on those who might still be alive (below) in a mock drill conducted by staff for teenagers.

Department, and CO Don Ballard, a member of the Fort Ann Rescue Squad. Washington ASAT Counselor Guy Martin also participated in the event.

During the demonstration, there was an extrication of young volunteer victims from the two vehicles that were involved in the fatal DWI crash. Also on hand to lend realism to the tragedy were members of local police departments to arrest the driver of one of the vehicles involved. There was also a coroner, who pronounced one of the accident victims dead at the scene.

Other participants included a local high school principal, a local judge, an insurance agent and a district attorney.

The event was held two days before the student prom in the area. There were no accidents or arrests afterward.

“I think that helps show that we got our message across, and for that we’re extremely grateful,” said Mr. Rivera.

There was more on the educational agenda as well.

Washington CO Kate Whittaker told the high school students what it’s like to be in a prison, and that drinking and driving likely could get them there, especially if they’re involved in a fatal accident that kills a friend or another motorist.

The students listened intently as she went into detail on the harsh realities of incarceration and the accompanying loss of freedom.

CO Whittaker made it clear that prison is definitely not a place that any of the high school students would want to be.

Most of them seemed to agree. 📖

