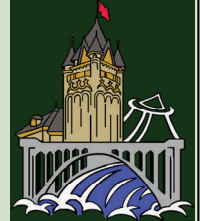




Autumn 2014



# Spokane County Detention Services Community Corrections Newsletter

Director John McGrath

Lt. Joanne Lake

## *Our Mission:*

Providing services for adult offenders to enhance public safety through effective and innovative programs supporting positive choices, constructive behavior and accountability, thereby reducing repeat criminal behavior.

## *Our Principals:*

- We believe change is possible, and it begins internally.
- We believe all people are equal and diverse individuals having intrinsic worth who deserve personal attention, support, humor, empowerment and recognition.
- We believe in creating a challenging environment that emphasizes individual growth, exploration and strength.
- We believe in being proactive participants in societal, environmental, political and individual change to promote a safer community.

## Judith Gilmore Keynotes 20<sup>th</sup> Fulcrum Re-Entry Graduation

***“The world is a dangerous place to live; not because of the people who are evil, but because of the people who don't do anything about it.”*** Albert Einstein

Geiger Corrections Center held its 31<sup>st</sup> Breaking Barriers Graduation on Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>. The milestone event marked the 20<sup>th</sup> Fulcrum Institute re-entry education graduating class at Geiger. On hand to deliver the keynote address was Fulcrum Institute associate director and community resource analyst, Judith Gilmore.

Sheriff Knezovich introduced Judith, explaining her critical role in establishing the partnership between Fulcrum and Spokane County Detention Services. “But we’re just scratching the surface of what can be done in this county, and it will only happen on a larger scale with more people committed to improving our quality of life.”

Judith addressed the grads and guests, concluding that Einstein’s assessment of “people who don’t do anything” is applicable to offenders aspiring toward positive life changes. “Einstein’s caution is also critically relevant to the entire community right now as county leaders and elected officials come together under the Law & Justice Council with the objective of reducing victimization, lowering recidivism, addressing Mental Health care inadequacies and moving offenders toward changed thought patterns.”

Judith told the offenders the formula for staying out of jail and making lifestyle advances is quite simple, but requires determination, a positive attitude, and a lot of hard work. “We can teach you how to get and keep a job, help you realize the importance of your influence in lives of your children, and we can connect you with a mentor, but ultimately you are the only one who truly determines whether to accept that help or continue coming to jail.”

Judith explained how Fulcrum is presently working to forge new partnerships with community businesses and non-profit leaders to establish and operate a job training and resource assistance facility in the west-central neighborhood. “We’re beating the bushes trying to cultivate support to better serve re-entering offenders and Spokane’s underserved community. While we’ve received a lot of positive comments and well-wishes, the concrete commitments we need so far have been few. The most worthwhile plans are never easily achieved, but coming here to celebrate your accomplishments strengthens our resolve and validates our commitment.”

Judith challenged the offender graduates to become immersed in the Fulcrum Institute job search and mentoring programs. “You are family to us and we want you to succeed. You can either start on the path to be our next mentor, or you can do nothing and become another example of revolving door recidivism.”

In ending, Judith cautioned the offenders to remain wary of those displaying good intentions. “Driving the road paved with good intentions can knock your front end out of alignment. Your friends and family love you and want you to be happy, but can unknowingly hinder positive change. Instead, drive the route you’ve mapped out with your counselors and Treatment providers. They’ve helped others navigate the potholes, and your biggest decision is to accept their help.”



Judith Gilmore, Fulcrum Institute Dispute Resolution Clinic.

## Geiger Work Crews Assist Fairgrounds Rail Removal, Reardan Site Build-Up

Geiger Work Crew inmates continue assisting with removal of rail cars from the Interstate Fairgrounds and the construction of the new home of the Inland Northwest Rail Museum, reports INRM VP Bob Boltz. "A crew of about 8 inmates has been coming out on Fridays with Work Crew Officer Todd Rosengrant to help lay track and assist with other projects."

The new museum site is located at western-most intersection of US 2 and state highway 231, about 2 miles west of Reardan.

One of the biggest jobs was moving the all the exhibit cars from the Museum's former site at the Interstate Fairgrounds to their new Reardan home. That monumental effort was just recently completed.

The foundation for the first building—a restoration and exhibit structure—was poured in early September, followed by the floor, then the erection of the structure itself. Official groundbreaking occurred Sept. 21.

Bob explained laying track is an on-going effort at the museum site. "We've been very lucky to have the Geiger Work Crews coming on Friday. It's physically demanding and they work hard. Rail tracks are laid by machines these days, but at the museum site it's all by manual labor. There's one inmate in particular who's been coming out, and he picked up track-laying quickly. If we were looking to hire track layers, I'd hire him."



Pulling Up Stakes--Geiger Work Crew Inmates help remove railroad track from the Interstate Fairgrounds.

Oldest rail car in the museum's collection was built in 1893; the newest car in 1946. "Some may need work on brakes, wheels and journals, but we got them into shape for the trip to Reardan. There'll be a viewing area at the restoration center where visitors can watch as these rail cars are brought back to their former splendor."

Bob added the remainder of the Fairgrounds track and the ties were pulled up and transported to the Reardan site. "We'll reuse all the track, plus those ties that are still in good shape. State tracks, which we can use, extend from Coulee City to Reardan and Cheney. Our eventual plan is to run an ag train tour on these lines. We think this could really turn into a popular offering. We'll also set up a 2-foot gauge track on site that kids can ride on, similar to what we've done at the Interstate Fair in the past, only longer."

The Museum's first structure, named the Lee Tillotson Conservation & Restoration Center, is being built by Bouten Construction at a cost of \$1.7 million. "Lee was a founding member of Railway Historical Society, and he left us quite a generous gift when he passed away in 2010. Construction of phases 2 and 3 will begin as funding is secured."

## Indian Summer Bolsters Geiger Community Garden Harvest Total



Peg Jones of the Medical Lake Food Bank and Detention Services Corrections Officer Ray Gawenit.

After a slow May and June start, the Geiger Community Garden ended with an impressive harvest total, according to Programs Officer Ray Gawenit. "Last year we totaled just over a ton of fresh produce that we donated to area non-profits," Gawenit noted. "This year we came close with about 1850 pounds donated to local non-profit soup kitchens and food banks. Considering the slow start, we were fortunate that good growing weather extended into mid-October."

The last harvest of the year was donated to the Medical Lake Food Bank, which is operated under the direction of Medical Lake resident Peg James of Medical Lake Community Outreach.

Peg said that donations of fresh produce were strong during September, but regardless how much is received, it's never quite enough. "I was hoping the need would lessen as the economy improved over the past few years, but it's just as tough now to find living wage jobs as it was during the height of the recession. While unemployment has been trending down, many of those we serve work minimum wage jobs and are unable to meet their family's housing and food needs. Others, due to age or

physical limitations, are unable to work at all."

The Geiger Community Garden is operated entirely by Geiger inmates as part of their Drug Court or Substance Treatment commitments to "give back" to the community.

## City of Spokane Grant Funds SNAP Reentry Series At Geiger Corrections

Thanks to a City of Spokane funding grant to Spokane Neighborhoods Action Program, Geiger offered incarcerated offenders a program to improve their chance at a successful transition back into the community after release.

Taught by Jay McPherson of Spokane Area Neighborhood Programs (SNAP), the transition curriculum includes instruction on financial basics, housing essentials and legal documentation procurement, plus guidance on preparing for job search, obtaining an interview and making a favorable impression.

Regarding job search, Jay explained to the offenders that their incarceration can either be a factor that screens them out, or it can be a springboard to constructive conversation and an opportunity to show growth and responsibility.

Jay taught the inmates they need to be completely honest about their past. "Then explain the work you've done to address previous poor decisions, and how that work is applicable to your ability to be a productive and dependable employee. Explain exactly how you'll make their life better."

Geiger also offers an extended course by Fulcrum Institute that focuses on job skills and the elements of a successful job search, however Geiger Lt. Joanne Lake noted the SNAP class is aimed at those who won't be at Geiger long enough to complete the longer curriculum. "All these offenders will be transitioning back to the community, and equipping them with the tools they need to bridge the change from incarceration to employment greatly improves the prospect of a positive outcome."



Jay McPherson, financial educator at Spokane Neighborhood Action Programs.

Offenders participating in the SNAP financial reentry program have access to job search assistance upon release.

## New GED Test More Difficult, But Geiger Offenders Making The Grade

Washington state re-vamped it's GED testing procedures this year, changing solely to an on-line testing system, and increasing the general level of achievement required in order to better coincide with current high school requirements and career- and college-readiness standards.

Geiger began building a Pearson-Vue authorized on-line testing center earlier this year, and Geiger Education Director Rebecca Butterfield recently obtained certification for this dedicated on-line testing center. She reports that while the test is noticeably more difficult, two students have already earned their GED, 13 others are currently working in the program and of 31 individual exams taken so far, 27 were passed.

"We didn't know what to expect when we first saw some of the new test questions, but those determined to make the grade are succeeding. We're currently using a software-based test prep package, but will be partnering with Community Colleges of Spokane in 2015 to bring in a GED prep instructor. As test proctor, I'm not allowed to teach GED prep."

## Anthony Foster Keynotes 32nd Geiger Breaking Barriers Graduation



Anthony Foster with Goodwill Industries.

Geiger Corrections Center graduated it's 32<sup>nd</sup> Breaking Barriers class of inmates on Nov. 6, and the celebration of accomplishment was keynoted by Anthony Foster, who for several years has been helping Military Veteran ex-offenders overcome their unique obstacles to a stable and constructive lives. Working through Goodwill Industries, Anthony assists, coaches and mentors Veteran ex-offenders in developing the skills and confidence needed to land and keep a job.

Anthony told the Geiger graduates that reflecting on their poor decisions of the past provides strength and ambition to make positive changes. "You can't succeed tomorrow without recognizing yesterday. If you're not able to do that, tomorrow will be yesterday again and again."

Anthony advised the grads that in order to properly put their past behavior in perspective, remove everybody from their thoughts except themselves. "Clear the room! You can't help them until you help yourself. Look at yourself standing alone and ask the hard questions without regard to blame, excuses or apologies. Your life is your own, and only you are responsible for your personal outcomes I've been in your seat, and what I found is that the only barrier to success was myself. Use your past as motivation and don't let your yesterday be your tomorrow."

## Geiger Work Crews Setting Riverfront Park Aglow

Geiger Correction Center Officer Todd Rosengrant's Geiger Work Crew spent two weeks in November at Riverfront Park assisting with the set-up of the first ever Spokane Winter Glow displays. Geiger crews strung all the lights throughout the park and set up each of the displays.

The official kick off was Nov 28<sup>th</sup>, however, most of the displays were ready the prior week and horse drawn carriage rides began. Public feedback has been extremely positive with Officer Rosengrant and his crew being very instrumental in making this new community endeavor a reality. Plan a walk through the park this holiday season. It will surely be a popular destination and is a great example of Spokane County Detention Service's positive contribution to our community.

Work Crew Supervisor, Sgt. Jason Robison, explained the Spokane Winter Glow project was conceived and organized by Jerry Schmidt, who also is the organizer for Hoopfest and Spike & Dig events.

"Jerry has spent a lot of time and resources organizing this event, and received a lot of help from the Spokane Community College welding program on display construction. We've worked with Jerry for years at other community events, so we knew this project would be a winner. He lined up a great group of volunteers and some really familiar local sponsors to fund some of the displays. The displays are up through Jan. 1."

Sgt. Robison reports Geiger Work Crews will continue litter clean-up along county roadways as long as weather allows. "We are set to continue into 2015 our involvement with the City's downtown beautification project and refuse control under the I-90 overpass."



Geiger Corrections Center inmates under the direction of Work Crew Officer Todd Rosengrant.

## New Geiger EHM Program Completing First Full Year

Geiger Corrections Center re-started its electronic home monitoring (EHM) program last January, and as of December 3, offenders had spent 2919 total days on Spokane County-supervised EHM. At a cost of roughly \$100 per jail bed day, the total represents a board bill savings in excess of \$290,000.

Spokane county defendants represented the largest portion of EHM offenders (2274 bed days). City of Spokane Valley offenders on EHM totaled 571 bed days, and Liberty Lake had 34 bed days. The City of Spokane (Spokane Municipal Court) operates its own EHM program, and those numbers are not tabulated by Spokane County Detention Services.

Detention Services has also tallied 445 offender days on Day Work Crew (a.k.a. Partial Confinement) this year through Dec. 3. On this program, offenders report to Geiger in the morning, spend 8 hours on a Geiger Work crew, return to Geiger at the end of the day and are then free to return home. This number does not include those offenders who satisfied court-ordered community service hours by participating on Geiger Work Crews.

Offenders serving EHM days with Detention Services pay their own EHM monitoring costs, which vary depending on the type of monitoring required. Rose Wing of Detention Services stated she's yet to process anybody authorized for EHM who opted to do jail time instead because they were unable to afford the EHM expenses.

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We're on the web:  
[www.spokanecounty.org/  
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