

Bradford County Newsletter

Your Government Working for You!

Bradford County Correctional Facility Update

By: Mark Smith & Steve Evans

Staffing at the Correctional Facility

Bradford County Correctional Facility is a 24 hour, 7 day a week and 365 day a year operation. Currently there are 20 full-time Corrections Officers, 3 Sergeants and 12 part-time Corrections Officers. Three full-time officers are serving abroad in our armed services on active duty. Since those positions are considered extended military leave those positions are being covered by our current part-time Corrections Officers.

As was recently reported in local media outlets B.C.C.F. is in the process of hiring more part-time officers. The staffing challenges of covering the shifts because of military leave and other issues such as prisoners who need to be on constant watch are demanding on the current pool of part-time officers. If a part-time officer cannot be found when a call in occurs then another officer must stay and work a double shift.

This situation has caused the workforce to be stretched thin. Bradford County is taking the necessary action of hiring more part-time officers to create a larger pool of employees to draw from under these circumstances.

Training Improvements

The state Department of Corrections offers a 4-week Corrections Officers basic training. The training

occurs in Elizabethtown, PA. and is provided at no cost to the county. The training includes First Aid, CPR, Custody and Control and other important training. As of Monday April 14th all full-time Corrections Officers will be attending the training on a rotating basis until all the officers have received the training. A committee has been established in which Sergeants and Corrections Officers will be participating. One committee will focus solely on training. The committee will participate in deciding the appropriate topics for training, in house delivery of training and priority for scheduling of trainings. Recently safe lifting training has also been provided at the facility.

Technical & Maintenance Issues

Ongoing issues with the central control computer system have been addressed. The central control system is critical to the operation of the facility. This system operates all the doors and cameras. A new power supply was purchased and installed immediately to resolve the issue. The Digital Video Recording system also was replaced and was under warranty. Cleanliness, painting and general routine maintenance have also become a higher priority.

Search for a Warden

As reported by local media the search for a Warden is

underway. Currently Sheriff Steve Evans is serving as Interim Warden after being appointed by the Prison Board. Bradford County Commissioners have submitted a letter to the Department of Corrections requesting their assistance in providing an Interim Warden to our facility. Using this service requires that the county pay the salary and expenses of that individual. The County Commissioners and the Sheriff feel it is important to the operation of the facility to recruit a professional Warden to take our Correctional Facility in a positive direction.

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We Need Your Help!

We would like to remind all the recipients of this monthly E-mail newsletter to help us add to our growing list of subscribers. We encourage all of our readers to pass the newsletter on to friends and family. Keeping you informed is one of our responsibilities as public officials and we would like to share the issues we are facing with as many residents as possible.

In the first month of the County e-mail Newsletter we have signed up over 400 subscribers and we would like to take that number even higher. Please help us in doing so....Pass this on!

Sign Up Here!

Important: Information for Our Bradford County Veterans

By: Gene Osmun

On April 24, 2006, Governor Edward Rendell signed House bill 1820 into law as Act 29 of 2006. This bill establishes the Persian Gulf Conflict Veterans Benefit Act. On November 7, 2006, Pennsylvania voters gave overwhelming approval to a ballot question to fund the program. The bond issue created a fund for the payment of compensation to or on behalf of eligible current and former members of the United States Armed Forces, a reserve component of the United State Armed Forces or

the Pennsylvania National Guard.

More information about the bill and an application can be found at the following website:

www.persiangulfbonus.state.pa.us

Information about economic stimulus payment for social security veterans and other beneficiaries, information can be found at www.irs.gov.

The Veterans Affairs Office would like to remind Bradford County Veterans that the office provides filing assistance to veterans, their surviving spouse and/or dependents on a variety of mat-

ters, such as claims for pension, compensation, insurance, loans, hospitalization, outpatient care, rehabilitation, emergency financial assistance, replacing lost military documents/medals, schooling and appeals. These efforts are coordinated with federal, state and local agencies.

The office also maintains burial records of deceased service persons (Veterans' Grave Registration) for Bradford County residents and veterans buried in Bradford County. A cemetery map and book are

maintained, as well as the computerized graves registration of over 8,000 deceased veterans. Financial assistance is given to qualified cemetery associations.

The office also can provide assistance to surviving spouses and family of qualified veterans with appropriate financial allowances for burial benefits, markers and headstones for graves.

Flags and flag holders are furnished by this office to various veterans' organizations/cemetery associations for decorating the graves of veterans buried within Bradford County.

Courthouse Dome Repair and Restoration

By: Mark Smith

The County Commissioners recently held a "kick off" meeting for the dome repair & restoration project. All parties involved were present at the meeting. During this meeting all timelines and details were discussed in regards the project. The project is currently underway.

On Monday, April 28, 2008, Evergreene Studios began working on the restoration on the lower portion of the dome. This lower portion of the dome will be finished this week. Following the completion of this initial work the scaffolding will be put in place to do the rest of the dome.



Left: A picture showing the difference made by the cleaning. The section up to the window sills has been cleaned. Above the sills has not been cleaned.

As County Healthcare Costs Rise, County Employees Step up to Make a Difference

By: Lorie Radney

One of the many challenges of being an employer is the rising cost of health insurance. Bradford County's costs, as everyone else's have been climbing from 2007 at a cost of \$2,454,947 to the projected cost of \$2, 678,274.

As health care costs rise higher and higher it has become evident to a group of employees of Bradford County that people needed to be encouraged to increase their level of activities and overall health. The group decided to offer the opportunity for employees to form teams and join the "Swimsuit and Shorts" Walk-

ing Challenge that is being initiated by the Towanda School and Community Wellness Council. The council's goal is to encourage people to model for their children how to be active and healthy and at the same time increase their own healthy habits. This is the second challenge that the council has initiated with 2, 585,481 steps being logged by the top team during the first challenge.

Three teams have been formed of Bradford County employees. The teams are in their third week of logging their activity. Their activity can include counting

steps or converting their activities such as swimming, raking, biking, etc., into steps. The teams report their weekly totals on Wednesday mornings. The team captains then provide that information to the Towanda School and Community Wellness Council that is keeping track of all team totals.

The Bradford County employee teams include the Seven Steps, The Huskies, and the Movers and Shakers. These are doing pretty well with their activities.

Even though there are no prizes at the end of the challenge, each

team member gains the best prize of all, GOOD HEALTH!

This challenge will be ending May 14, 2008. If interest continues a new challenge may be started.

Probation Responsible for Juvenile Delinquency Cases

By: Tom Schuster

The Bradford County Probation/Parole Department is responsible for Juvenile Court Intake, a duty authorized by the Pennsylvania Juvenile Act. Police departments refer delinquency charges to Juvenile Court by filing a Charging Sheet, alleging the misdemeanor and/or felony charges, with the Probation/Parole Department.

The purposes of the Pennsylvania Juvenile Act are to preserve the unity of the family whenever possible, or to provide another alternate permanent family, when the unity of the family cannot be maintained.

It is also to provide for the care, protection, safety, mental and physical development of children.

It is to be consistent with the protection of the public interest. The act provides for children committing delinquent acts with programs of supervision as well as care and rehabilitation. This provides balanced attention to the protection of the community, accountability for offenses committed and the development of

competencies. This enables children to become responsible and productive members of the community.

Probation works in a family environment whenever possible. It is not the goal of probation to separate the child from parents. This occurs only when necessary for the child's welfare, safety or health.

The goal of the Juvenile Act is to ensure that proper execution and enforcement is met. It is to ensure that parties are assured a fair hearing, and their constitutional and other legal rights are recognized and enforced.

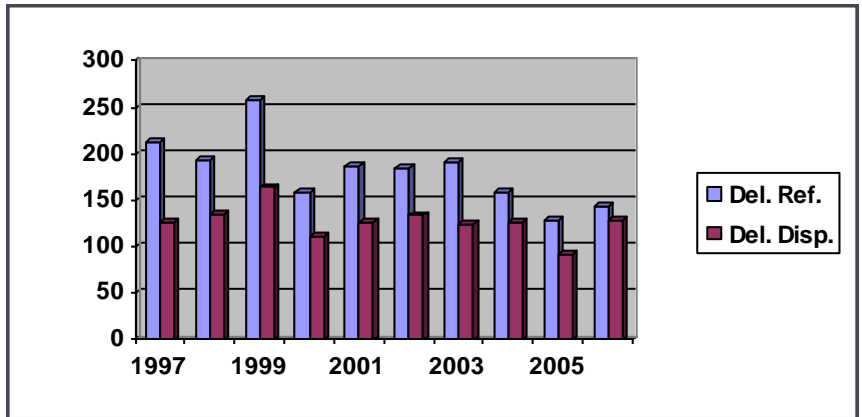
The juveniles or delinquent youths are handled on a case by case basis. This means the circumstances of each offense, as well as the problems associated with each juvenile and

the family are taken into consideration when seeking the correct course of action. Prior to being judged delinquent by the Juvenile Court, possible actions range from dismissal, informal adjustment, community service and consent decree (non-adjudication probation). If

in these schools. The majority of hours worked by these probation officers are during the school hours, and are performed on the grounds of the schools.

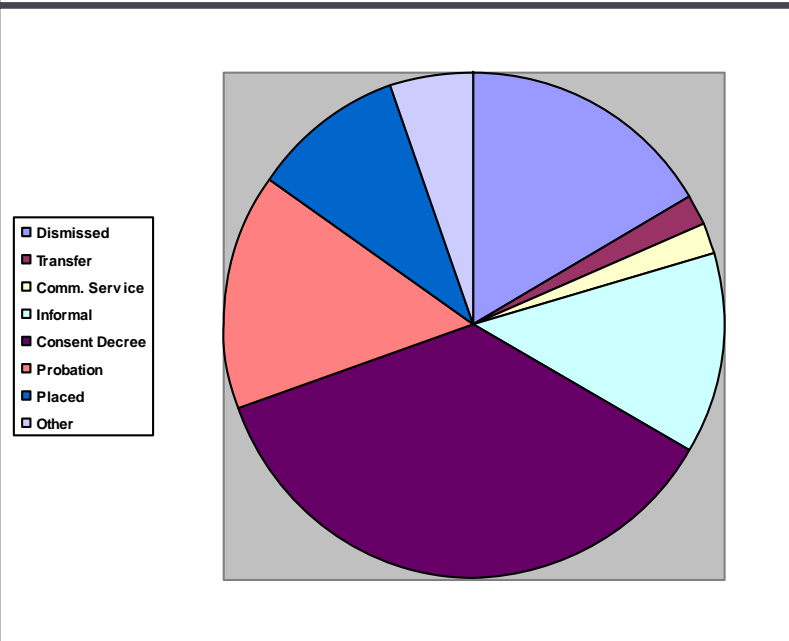
Community-Based Probation

A probation officer is assigned



Above: Juvenile delinquency referrals and dispositions have remained low.

Below: Juvenile Court Dispositions for the year 2006, which represents a typical year of disposition types. The majority of juvenile delinquent youth are supervised on Consent Decree and Probation supervision.



judged delinquent, the penalties range from probation supervision, electronic monitoring and placement in foster care, group homes, residential programs or secure treatment facilities. In addition to Juvenile Court Intake responsibilities, the supervision of delinquents is also a duty authorized by the Pennsylvania Juvenile Act.

The Bradford County Probation/Parole Department approaches the supervision of delinquent youth through the use of school-based probation and community-based probation supervision.

School-Based Probation

Five of the seven school districts in the county, and the B.L.A.S.T. Alternative Education Program, participate in the School-Based Probation services offered by the probation department.

Probation officers are assigned to work with youth

the duties of Community-Based Probation services. This officer works with the youth across the county attending schools not participating in school-based services, as well as the youth on probation legally withdrawn from school at the time of their Juvenile Court disposition.

If you have questions about the Juvenile Court system in Bradford County, and the role the Probation Department has in processing and supervising cases, please feel free to contact:

Chief Probation Officer Tom Schuster, or Asst. Chief Probation Officer Suzanne Ide at (570)265-1706.

Quick Updates...keep up to date with what's going on!

Official Election Results

Bradford County Elections would like to remind interested citizens that official election results will be available on May 9, 2008.

Treatment Court has three more Graduates

On Wednesday April 30, 2008 Bradford County Treatment Court graduated three more people from the program.

Bridge 17 Replacement, Leroy Township

A meeting of the selection Committee is scheduled for Friday May 2, 2008. During this meeting the Committee will read through the statements of interests received from companies who wish to do the project. Recommendations will be made to the Commissioners for final selection.

Bridge 26 Replacement, Sheshequin Township

Bradford County is moving forward with the replacement of Bridge 26 in Sheshequin Township on road T-730 over Spaulding Creek. Total estimated cost for this project will be \$1,460,000.00. The county's portion of this will be \$750,000.00.

County Government Directory

Accounting	265-1723	911 Center	265-9101
Assessment	265-1714	Conservation District	265-5539
Auditor	265-1716	Coroner	297-0720
Collections	265-1746	District Justice (Troy)	297-3880
Commissioners	265-1727	District Justice (Towanda)	268-5057
Courts	265-1707	District Justice (Wysox)	265-9393
District Attorney	265-1712	District Justice (Athens)	888-6324
Domestic Relations	265-1718	Emergency Management Agency	265-5022
Elections	265-1717	Planning	268-4103
Hearing Master	265-1711	Grants	268-4193
Jury Commissioners	265-1732		
Maintenance	265-1719		
Information Technology	265-1720		
Personnel	265-1722		
Probation	265-1706		
Prothonotary	265-1705		
Public Defender	265-1713		
Register & Recorder	265-1702		
Sheriff	265-1701		
Treasurer	265-1700		
Veterans Affairs	265-1704		
Victim Witness	265-1759		
Penn State Agricultural Extension	265-2896		
Area Agency on Aging	265-6121		
Airport	265-4900		
Library	297-2436		
Correctional Facility	297-5047		

Bradford County Court House
301 Main St.
Towanda, PA 18848

Phone: 570-265-1727

Fax: 570-265-1729

www.bradfordcountypa.org

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