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Lawrence County teens till community garden

by: **Cherisa Vigne**

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**Despite a few growing pains, the
successful Community Garden Project
provided important life lessons for
four juveniles.**



The community service project aimed at teaching juvenile offenders responsibility taught them more than a life lesson. It put them in the role of victim.

Since May, four clients reporting to the Lawrence County Juvenile Probation Department have participated in the Community Garden Project, a twofold program geared at teaching teens accountability while working to pay restitution to their victims.

The juveniles are working off their required 125 hours of community service by cultivating a 20-by-30-foot parcel of land near central court.

The pilot program is spearheaded by probation officers Shelley Foltz and Kevin Carmichael, who heard about the idea at a conference at Penn State.

"Several counties were already doing gardens, and their programs were flourishing," Carmichael noted. "We thought this would be a good program where the kids can reap their own benefits. Basically, they grow a plant and are able to see the fruits of their labor."

Not only does the project offer a positive outlet for the youth by teaching them to give back to the community, it also builds nurturing, compassion, and teamwork skills, Foltz said.

Garden, continued on page 4

James Rieland Named Director of Allegheny County Probation

On September 27, 2005, the Honorable Eugene F. Scanlon, Jr., Juvenile Court Administrative Judge, and the Honorable Donna Jo McDaniel, Criminal Court Administrative Judge, appointed James Rieland as the Director of Allegheny County Probation. The previous director and deputy director of the Adult Probation Department retired earlier this year. Rieland was named interim director three months ago. He began his work with Allegheny County 31 years ago as a juvenile probation officer. Rieland worked in juvenile probation for 28 years and served as deputy director of the Office of Children, Youth and Families for three years.

Although adult and juvenile probation have become one department, each will operate as a separate division. As the Chief Juvenile Probation Officer, Rieland supervised 110 probation officers whose caseloads totaled 4,000 juveniles. Adding to these already staggering numbers are 105 adult probation officers supervising approximately 25,000 criminals.

In his new role as Director of Probation Services, Rieland plans to share with adult criminals what he has shared with delinquents: balanced and restorative justice. In addition to helping parolees obtain employment and drug treatment, Rieland hopes to alleviate crowding in the Allegheny County Jail by finding alternative sanctions for parole violators. Sanctions, such as curfews or electronic monitoring, could be just as effective and less costly than incarceration.

This publication is produced monthly at the Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research at Shippensburg University.

Guest articles are always welcome; please submit them by email or on a disk. We particularly enjoy your photographs, but we ask that these be mailed - we will be happy to return them to you.

Greg Young is the editor. Our address is CJJT&R, Shippensburg University, 1871 Old Main Drive, Shippensburg, PA 17257-2299. (gyoung@state.pa.us)

Please send additions or changes to the mailing list to Julie Bozich at Signal Graphics Printing, 1010 Wesley Drive, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055 (julie@sgp.cc)

Rules of Juvenile Court Procedure (Delinquency Matters) Became Effective October 1, 2005

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court adopted Rules of Juvenile Court Procedure (Delinquency Matters) on April 1, 2005. The majority of the rules became effective on October 1, 2005. However, the five rules dealing exclusively with proceedings involving juvenile court masters become effective April 1, 2006.

A three-part series describing the major provisions of the Rules appeared in the May, June and July editions of *Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice*. Copies of this series can be downloaded from the "Publications" section of the JCJC website, at www.jcjc.state.pa.us.

Copies of the Supreme Court's order approving the Rules of Juvenile Court Procedure, the Rules of Juvenile Court Procedure, and the Explanatory Report can be downloaded from the website of the Administrative Office of the Pennsylvania Courts, at <http://www.courts.state.pa.us/Index/supctcmtes/juvct/dockjuvct.asp>.

Senator Thompson sponsors "Suicide Prevention Week" in Pennsylvania

Senator Robert J. Thompson (R) recently introduced a resolution in the state Senate designating the week of September 4-10, 2005, as "Suicide Prevention Week" in Pennsylvania. This observance coincides with the observance of National Suicide Prevention Week.

SR 153 notes that suicide ranks number 11 as a cause of death in the United States, and is the third-leading cause of death among those aged 15-24. More than 170 young Pennsylvanians committed suicide in 2003.

The resolution, which was adopted June 30, 2005, urges "all residents of this Commonwealth to support the volunteer agencies that work to educate the public on the symptoms and risk factors associated with suicide in order to prevent suicides and thus reduce the number of suicides in Pennsylvania."

York County Juvenile Court hosts awards breakfast

The 16th Annual York County Juvenile Court Awards Breakfast was held on October 4, 2005, at the Manchester Township Building in York County. The theme for this year's program was "Shoot for the moon...the brightest stars are those that shine for the benefit of others." Individuals representing various agencies, including representatives from community organizations, private providers, court employees, and state representatives were in attendance.

The program began with Chief Juvenile Probation Officer Dan Rhoads offering welcoming remarks. In his remarks, Chief Rhoads highlighted that this annual event is part of York County's recognition of Juvenile Justice Week, and is an excellent opportunity to celebrate the outstanding work by all juvenile justice stakeholders, including judges, juvenile probation officers, district attorneys, public defenders, providers, and community members. Judge John C. Uhler also offered remarks, in which he gave high praise to the hard work and commitment of everyone involved in juvenile justice in York County, particularly, the work of Chief Rhoads, the juvenile probation officers and staff.

During the awards part of the program, Lisa Rumsey was named Probation Officer of the Year. Additional award winners included: Detective Scott James, Police Officer of the Year; JoAnn King, Support Staff of the Year; Lisa Hall, School Employee of the Year; Mike Cummings, Inter-Agency Employee of the Year; and William Minehart, III earned the Youth Accomplishment Award. The Salvation Army was recognized as the Community Service Site of the Year. The E.B. Frock Memorial Award was presented to Daniel Elby, CEO of Alternative Rehabilitation Communities, Inc. and member of the York Central School District school board.

The York County Juvenile Probation United with Mental Health Program (JUMP) Court and members of the JUMP Court team were given special recognition as the Program of the Year in York County, and also for being named the Court Operated Program of the Year by the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission and the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers. Additionally, Gregory Howard was given the JUMP Court Youth Recognition Award. The York County JUMP Court will again be recognized for this achievement at the Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice Awards Dinner on November 3, 2005 in Harrisburg.

Breakfast, continued on back page



Douglas E. Ritson is new chief in Butler County

President Judge Thomas J. Doerr and the Butler County Department of Community Corrections, have announced the appointment of Douglas E. Ritson of Butler, as chief juvenile probation officer of the department's Juvenile Court Services Section.

Ritson graduated from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in 1994 with a degree in criminology. He completed an internship with Butler County Adult Probation and Parole, also in 1994. He served as community service coordinator and electronic monitoring officer until April 2004, when he was appointed as Deputy Chief Adult Probation Officer. During that time, he supervised the electronic monitoring program, the Pre-Trial program, Domestic Violence program, Sex Offender program and the ARD program.

Ritson's experience includes time as a defensive tactics instructor and a member of the county's Criminal Justice Advisory Board's Intermediate Punishment Program. He has certified training in de-escalation strategies, personality disorders and substance abuse, drug identification and concealment tactics, mental preparedness for armed confrontations and is county and state firearms certified.

Garden, from page one

“Each child that goes out and commits a crime must realize his or her mistake and learn to correct that mistake by giving back,” said Foltz, who is the department’s diversion/intensive probation officer. “One of our goals is that they gain a respect for property.” Unfortunately, they learned the hard way.

Because of faulty fencing, eight hungry groundhogs and three pesky raccoons munched away at the lettuce, cabbage, radishes, peppers, zucchini, and cucumbers. Then, an overenthusiastic groundskeeper mistakenly mowed down the pumpkin patch. Now, all that’s left standing are the tomatoes.

“The kids were upset. They put their time and energy into the garden and it got destroyed,” Foltz noted, adding that the flowers the foursome planted at the courthouse also were targets of vandalism. “And that’s how a victim feels. I think that was an important life lesson for them.”

The critters were trapped and placed in a “groundhog relocation program,” Foltz said, with the help of probation officers Mark Mastrangelo, Lisa Boots, and supervisor Carin Majocha.



The youths had planned to sell their vegetables at the August 24 and 27 book sale at the Lawrence County Government Center. The money would have been placed in an account to pay restitution to victims of juvenile crime. Despite these growing pains, the Community Garden Project was deemed a success by both Carmichael and Foltz.

“I think they learned self-respect and respect for others,” Carmichael noted. “The work they did in the garden enabled them to see they can do something other than crime. It was a good bonding experience with the officers, too. We were spending time with them outside the confines of the office. While I was rototilling, the kids were right next to me working. It shows them that we’re not just about talk, we’re right there with them.”

Foltz said she enjoyed watching the teens excel in the program. “(One of the juveniles) was unsure about the work at first,” she said, noting that the juveniles had to report at 8 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. “He’s turned out wonderfully. He’s really taken to it. He’s taken a lot of pride in it and has worked so hard. When he saw a tomato getting red, he was so ecstatic.”

Added (the teen), “I like to see things grow. I like to see people grow into better people. I know that all my hard work and dedication has come through.”

Talented Lawrence County teenager creates garden sign

Call it a work in progress. Shelley Foltz, diversion/intensive probation at the Lawrence County Juvenile Probation Office, drew a few sickly looking vegetables on a piece of paper and tossed it aside on her desk. She needed a sign to showcase the pilot Community Garden Project, located on a parcel of land near central court, but couldn’t quite get it from concept to paper.

“What I had was pretty pathetic,” she said with a laugh.

In walked one of the four juveniles working on the garden as part of her community service, who took an interest in the sign.

The 16-year-old junior at the Lawrence County Area Vocational Technical School designed and painted the brightly colored sign, depicting smiling plump tomatoes, zucchinis, cucumbers, pumpkins, and carrots.

“She came up with her own idea, and it took her about 11 hours to complete,” Foltz said. “And it’s better than anything I could ever come up with. She’s very talented and pro-active. She’s also organizing a book sale.”

Next month, the juvenile probation office will apply for the Agricultural and Rural Youth Grant through the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. The grant is awarded to organizations that serve youth ages 18 and younger with a focus on teaching leadership skills and the importance of agriculture.

Foltz said she hopes the Community Garden Project will be a permanent fixture on Court Street.

“The garden teaches our clients responsibility and accountability,” she said. “The kids have done an incredible job this summer, and we hope to continue the garden for years to come.”

THE PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE ON JUVENILE JUSTICE

November 2-4, 2005
Harrisburg Hilton and Towers
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

EXHIBITOR REGISTRATION FORM
Resource Day – 2005 • Friday November 4th

Agency _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
Phone () _____ Ext. _____ Fax () _____
E-mail _____
Name(s) 1) _____ 3) _____
 2) _____ 4) _____

TWO representatives from your agency may disregard the \$30 continental breakfast & Resource Day fee when registering for the conference. Please write “**EXHIBITOR**” beside the Resource Day check-off block on the conference registration form, **WHICH WILL BE MAILED IN AUGUST.**

****VENDOR REGISTRATION AND SET-UP AT THE HILTON WILL BEGIN AT 6:30 AM ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH. YOU MAY INCLUDE TWO ADDITIONAL STAFF FROM YOUR AGENCY TO ASSIST WITH EXHIBITOR SET-UP IF THEY ARE REGISTERED FOR RESOURCE DAY.**

Early Registration\$400.00
After August 29, 2005.....\$500.00

ALL TABLES WILL BE **PRE-ASSIGNED UPON RECEIPT OF PAYMENT**; all exhibit space will include an 8 ft. skirted table with electricity and two chairs. Please indicate the table number for your first three choices. (Refer to the attached table selection sheet.) You will be notified if your table of choice is not available.

1st Choice # _____ 2nd Choice # _____ 3rd Choice # _____

Your exhibitor information will be listed in the conference program if this form is returned on or before August 29, 2005.

Checks should be payable to: PA COUNCIL OF CHIEF JUVENILE PROBATION OFFICERS

Registration form & payment should be mailed to:
Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission
401 Finance Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0018

PLEASE PHOTOCOPY THIS FORM AS NEEDED FOR EACH REGISTRANT.
ALL INFORMATION MUST BE COMPLETED AND TYPED OR CLEARLY PRINTED.
 DUE TO THE LARGE VOLUME OF ATTENDEES,
REGISTRATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED BY PHONE OR FAX.

Name _____ Title _____
 Agency _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

<input type="checkbox"/> Complete CONFERENCE PACKAGE (Nov. 2 - 4)	\$240*	(\$280)**
Includes: Professional Caucuses and Youth Awards Program & Dinner (Nov. 2); Continental Breakfast, Morning & Afternoon Plenary Sessions, Lunch, Workshops, Reception, and Awards Program & Dinner (Nov. 3); Continental Breakfast & Resource Day (Nov. 4)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Professional Caucuses (Nov. 2)	Ø	Ø
<input type="checkbox"/> Youth Awards Program & Dinner (Nov. 2)	\$50*	(\$60)**
<input type="checkbox"/> Continental Breakfast, Morning & Afternoon Plenary Sessions, Lunch, and Workshops (Nov. 3)	\$100*	(\$110)**
<input type="checkbox"/> Reception and Awards Program & Dinner (Nov. 3)	\$60*	(\$70)**
<input type="checkbox"/> Continental Breakfast & Resource Day (Nov. 4)	\$30*	(\$40)**
<input type="checkbox"/> I prefer vegetarian meals.	GRAND TOTAL	\$ _____ \$ _____

* Registration forms must be postmarked on or before **OCTOBER 7, 2005**
 ** Registration forms postmarked on or after **OCTOBER 8, 2005**

Checks should be made payable to: PA Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers
 (Federal ID# 23-2498588)

Registration form and payment should be mailed to:
 Juvenile Court Judges' Commission
 401 Finance Building
 Harrisburg, PA 17120-0018

Agencies may submit one check for all staff attending.
 Indicate if payment is enclosed or will be sent separately.

Payment Enclosed

Payment will be sent separately

(Please include a list of names & agency affiliation with check.)

Lodging reservations at the Harrisburg Hilton and Towers must be made by **10/2/05** to receive the negotiated group rate of \$94 a night (single/double/triple/quad). Call (717) 233-6000 and identify yourself with the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission Conference in Harrisburg, PA. The hotel will confirm your reservation. Check-in time is 3 p.m.; check-out is noon. After **10/2/05**, reservations will be accepted on a room-availability basis at the prevailing rate. Conference overflow hotels are the Crowne Plaza on Market Square (717) 234-5021 and the Radisson Penn Harris, in Camp Hill, (717) 763-7117 (identify yourself with the JCJC Conference).

Requests for registration fee refunds for all or part of the Annual Training & Awards Program must be sent in writing to the JCJC at the above address and be postmarked by **10/21/05**. Conference "no-shows" who have not prepaid will be invoiced.

CONFERENCE INFORMATION: (717) 787-6910

Staff development news: on-line training courses available through December

The Center has been piloting a collaboration with Community Corrections e-Learning Collaborative (CCELC) and The Education Coalition (TEC) to extend to all juvenile probation officers the opportunity to complete on-line training courses during the current training season. The Center's fall staff development schedule includes four courses that are currently being offering by CCELC/TEC: Family Dynamics & Domestic Violence, Individual & Group Cognitive-Behavioral Approaches, Introduction to the Supervision of Sex Offenders, and Motivational Interviewing. These courses, which are currently being utilized by 64 federal, state, and local probation and parole agencies across 22 states, the District of Columbia, and Canada, remain open for registration on a continuing basis this season through the end of the calendar year.

Unique features of these courses include:

- participate from any computer or laptop, (home or work) which has a 56K modem and Internet access for approximately 60 minutes per day for two weeks;
- work at times that best suit your schedule, 24/7; and,
- 16 credit-hours will be awarded by CCELC/TEC and recognized by CJJT&R toward the 40-hour minimum annual requirement.

The cost for registration is \$95. JCJC training funds may be utilized to cover registration fees for these courses. Juvenile justice staff from throughout the Commonwealth have found these programs to be of high quality, providing needed flexibility and convenience. CJJT&R will continue working with CCELC/TEC in the future to develop other juvenile justice and Pennsylvania specific courses if our system's use of on-line learning justifies the investment.

Please see the listing of courses, schedules and registration form at the front of the Fall 2005 training brochure to take advantage of this opportunity. Please note that registration and payment for these courses is totally separate from all other CJJT&R workshops! Specific inquiries regarding on-line courses and registration may be directed to Stephen Bishop at 717 477-1294. For details on other Center-sponsored training, please refer to the Fall 2005 training brochure or visit the Commission website: www.jcjc.state.pa.us and click on training and then Fall 2005 to review the entire calendar.

Beaver County MHMR will receive SAMHSA grant

Beaver County MHMR has been awarded a grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to develop a comprehensive system of care for adolescents and young adults ages 14 to 21 who are involved with the juvenile justice system and have co-occurring mental health / substance abuse disorders. The grant will provide funding of approximately one million dollars per year for six years and is one of only 25 such awards granted nationally.

The Beaver County program "BC SCORES" will follow a "Systems of Care" approach emphasizing that the mental health needs of children can best be met within the home, school and community, and that families and youth should be the driving force in the transformation of their own care. It will be implemented as collaboration between the juvenile justice, child welfare, education, mental health and drug and alcohol systems and will employ Family Group Decision Making as a major component. Juvenile offenders will be screened for participation during the juvenile court intake process. Those determined to be at-risk for co-occurring disorders will be given mental health and substance abuse assessments. A full array of services will be made available to youth and families in need including a Multi Systemic Therapy (MST) component.

John Yarnell is new Chief in Sullivan County

Sullivan County President Judge Brendan J. Vanston recently appointed John E. Yarnell as the new Chief Probation Officer for Sullivan County. John is a graduate of Bloomsburg University with BA degrees in Sociology and Criminal Justice. He has experience working in the educational field as the Outreach Coordinator for the Berwick Area School District, where he coordinated the delivery of social services to at risk students and families experiencing substance abuse, conflict resolution and crisis. Mr. Yarnell also worked as a Program Coordinator for the Children's Home of Reading.

Yarnell has a combined experience of over five years in probation, having worked first as a Berks County Juvenile Probation Officer and most recently as an adult probation officer for Berks County. He is a certified pistol instructor and an avid outdoorsman.

Hurricane Katrina relief project begun by Venango County

by: Susan Goss, Juvenile Probation Officer

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the youth of Venango County Court Supervision Services began a hurricane relief project on September 7, 2005. A group of community service workers who meet weekly to design a mural for downtown Oil City stopped their work on the mural and designed support ribbons as a fund raiser for displaced families of the hurricane. The youth are partnering with local churches which are raising money to help shelter displaced families. The ribbons are designed as blue for hope, white for the state flowers of Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana, and a sea shell for the Gulf Coast. That day the youth made enough ribbons to raise \$75.

On September 14, an additional 26 youth and several parents came to the Second Presbyterian Church to help with the ribbon making. A number of these youth had completed their required hours but wanted to help. Some brought their friends or siblings. During the work sessions it has been stressed that the youth are not helpless and can contribute. We have been having

conversations while making the ribbons that will increase their awareness of all victims and all communities.

Experts have stated that all of our children are affected by the horror they see on the television. They repeat that the best way to help our youth deal with the stress is to give them a way to actively participate. We are planning several projects, such as a haunted house and a toy drive, to assist the families of Hurricane Katrina. We are also planning to make and sell trick-or-treat bags for cats and dogs to assist the Humane Society in their efforts to rescue the animals that were victims of the hurricane as well.

PA Pathways for Victim Service Conference 2005 in November

The seventh annual statewide conference, "Pennsylvania Pathways for Victim Services" will be held November 16, 17 & 18, 2005, at the Penn Stater Conference Center in State College.

This year's conference will provide numerous educational opportunities for all professionals seeking to enhance their skills in working with victims of crime. There will also be a special track on program management which will address issues such as coaching and counseling, ethics and grant proposal writing.

Presentations from nationally recognized speakers will highlight the conference. Dr. Michael Pritchard, youth advocate, humorist and public television host will open the conference activities. The luncheon speaker, Dave Pelzer is recognized in many circles as a survivor and an activist for the prevention of child abuse. Also highlighted will be a dramatic presentation entitled, *Beyond the Walls- The Road to Redemption*, an elegy and a call for peace born out of concern for the number of children who have died of violence in Philadelphia. The Annual Presentation of the Governor's Victim Service Pathfinder Awards will be held Thursday during the dinner banquet.

The conference announcement and registration information can be found on the PCCD website at www.pccd.state.pa.us or hard copies can be obtained from Janet Shaw Lemoine at phone 215-848-3429 or email c-jlemoine@state.pa.us.

York County Breakfast, from page 3

The audience was also provided with a summary of York County's Outcomes Report for 2004, which highlighted the following results: 13,205 hours of community service were completed; 92 percent of juveniles completed assigned community service; \$80,942 in restitution was paid to crime victims; 81 percent of juveniles paid their restitution in full at case closing; and 90.4 percent of Youth Aid Panel cases did not re-offend since its inception in 1996.

