

# Press Release

State of Maryland  
Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services



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Secretary

## **Williamsport-Division of Correction Partnership to be Lauded Friday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m.**

*Town mayor and officials thrilled with results  
of first municipal inmate labor crew in Maryland*

**Towson, MD (April 15, 2010)**---The Western Maryland town of Williamsport will host Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services Secretary Gary Maynard and Division of Correction Commissioner Mike Stouffer on Friday, April 16<sup>th</sup> to thank the Department and Division for the tremendous job done by an inmate work crew throughout the town.

Williamsport was the first municipality in Maryland---and is still the only one---to employ a full-time inmate labor crew. Since 2008, inmates from the pre-release unit at the nearby Maryland Correctional Training Center have completed a wide variety of tasks---from curb-painting and sign work to rehabbing the town hall, and helping clean up parks and the town cemetery. New and proposed projects this spring include a significant restoration of the historic Riverview Cemetery, installing public restrooms in the town park, and improvements to the largest barn in Maryland (which is located in the park).

“Our citizens have embraced these guys,” says Williamsport’s Clerk-Treasurer Donnie Stotelmyer, himself a former DOC supervisor. “It’s been a positive impact on Williamsport. We love them.” Stotelmyer called it a “no-brainer” for other towns and cities to call on DOC inmates for help with projects that most municipalities today do not have the money or manpower to accomplish.

Under Secretary Maynard, DPSCS has launched a broad initiative---called Public Safety Works--- to expand the use of inmate labor crews throughout Maryland. Although relatively few jurisdictions to date have taken the Department up on the offer, those that have are taken aback by the volume and quality of the work performed by the inmates. Currently, inmates are building houses for Habitat for Humanity on the Eastern Shore; restoring State veterans’ cemeteries using honorably-discharged inmate-veterans; building oyster spat pots and growing bay grasses; planting trees by the tens of thousands; and investigating various significant community projects, from building walking tracks at schools to repairing wheelchairs and mowing equipment, to name just a few.

“I really believe other towns are missing out on an opportunity,” says DPSCS Secretary Gary Maynard. “With these tough economic times, we can help towns with limited budgets and limited manpower.

“In the past two years, our inmates have restored state veterans’ cemeteries, planted over a half million trees, built parks and playing fields, cleaned trails, and helped restore Maryland’s environment with bay grass planting, oyster spat cages, and many other projects. Inmates care for retired racehorses on our Central Maryland farm, and take care of rescue dogs at several prisons.”

Hagerstown-area inmate projects include:

- Access gates built for C&O Canal National Park (MCIH inmates)
- Trees planted (more than 10,000)
- Municipal projects in Williamsport and Smithsburg
- Oyster spat cages (thousands) built by Maryland Correctional Enterprises inmates at MCIH
- Bay grasses grown in greenhouse, to be replanted along Shore waterways
- MCTC currently has 19 inmate work crews assigned to various details

DPSCS and the DOC are proud of the partnership forged with Williamsport, and applaud town leaders for their forward-thinking use of Public Safety Works inmate crews.