WELCOME TO THE COMMISSIONER’S CORNER:
Thanks for continuing to check in with this column. I will continue to feature information on department issues. If you have ideas, issues or suggestions from institutions or field offices, please submit them to Richard_Schmitz@correct.state.ak.us or call 465 4640.

VALLEY PRISON SITE SELECTION FOCUS OF PUBLIC MEETING:
A public forum will focus on site selection for the new Mat-Su Prison, a key step in the public process leading to the start of construction on the large medium-security facility. The forum, to be held in Wasilla on Oct. 12, is a collaborative effort of the department, the borough, AHFC, and contractors RISE Alaska and DLR Group. The meeting, from 6-9 p.m., will be at the Wasilla Multi-Use Sports Complex.

When completed in 2010, the new Mat-Su Valley prison will be the largest building in Alaska. As envisioned, the prison will have beds for 2,250 offenders and provide jobs for as many as 500 Alaskans. A press release from the Mat-Su Borough can be found HERE.

A prison site selection team has narrowed a list of sites based on a set of basic criteria, including: the site must be within a 30-mile radius of the Parks-Glenn highway interchange, be located no closer than one-mile to a school, and be consistent with any existing comprehensive plans, Special Use Districts or zoning.

After the public meeting the list of sites will be further narrowed, based on technical review and public comment. Technical screening includes closer scrutiny of the sites to see if they are in flood zones, on developable soils, and have sufficient water. Additional public hearings on the "short list" of sites will be held in late October and early November at various locations throughout the Borough. The Borough Planning
Commission and the Assembly will also hold public hearings and make a decision on the sites later in the year.

POINT MACKENZIE C.F. RECORDS 1st MILLION POUND HARVEST:

Despite a cool and somewhat rainy summer, the Point Mac Correctional Farm has turned out a record, 1.06 million-pound harvest of a broad range of produce. It is the farm’s first harvest to top the 1 million pound mark. In August alone, Point Mac sent 18,800 lbs of produce to ACC, 11,900 lbs to Spring Creek, 11,700 to Hiland Mountain, 16,800 to Palmer, 2,200 to Wildwood, 2,000 to Nome and 21,200 pounds to the Food Bank of Alaska.

For 2006, Point Mac has harvested the following:

- chickens: 12,177 lbs
- turkeys: 6,775 lbs
- pork: 5,586 lbs
- beef: 12,762 lbs
- moose: 600 lbs
- salmon: 687 lbs
- potatoes: 320,000 lbs
- cabbage: 114,751 lbs
- cauliflower: 19,600 lbs
- broccoli: 13,500 lbs
- squash: 46,000 lbs
- turnips: 14,148 lbs
- cucumbers: 611 lbs
- lettuce: 1,300 lbs
- peas: 6,000 lbs
- radishes: 10,167 lbs
- turnip greens: 14,000 lbs
- Brussels sprouts: 23,000 lbs
- basil: 2 lbs
- beets: 500 lbs
- collard greens: 4,200 lbs
- chives: 5 lbs
- oregano: 3 lbs
- dill: 9 lbs
- celery: 170 lbs
- thyme: 1 lb
- kohlrabi: 648 lbs
- sage: 2 lbs
- raspberries: 139 lbs
- rhubarb: 2,756 lbs
- rosemary: 1 lb
- carrots: 138 lbs
- Swiss chard: 1,511 lbs
- and timothy hay: 8,553 bales (400,000 pounds).
BOARD OF PAROLE COMPLETES MOVE TO DIPLOMACY DRIVE:
The full operations of the Alaska Board of Parole have been moved to Anchorage (mailing address: 4500 Diplomacy Drive, Suite 109). All staff positions of the board are now in Anchorage, reported executive director Larry Jones.

SHARE CAMPAIGN POWERS UP WITH FUN AND PRODUCE:
The 2006 Department of Corrections SHARE Campaign kicked off within the department with a number of fund-raising events and a popular produce drawing. In the Juneau Central Office, pizza was a lunch-time draw for staff members receiving SHARE forms and information along with their pizza and soft drinks.

Meanwhile, Palmer Correctional Center kicked off its annual SHARE Campaign drive this year with a real eye catching event on Sept. 27. Campaign volunteers Sharon Wessels, Janice Ferdinand and Faith Golden organized the opening fundraiser. Several staff at the facility volunteered to be the targets of whipped cream pies, at which time a hotdog luncheon was underway. Approximately $400 in donations was raised at the event, with all proceeds going to support the SHARE Campaign in the valley. Thanks goes out to several local businesses,
which were generous in their donations of hot-dogs, buns, chips, drinks and whipped cream. Pictured above, from left to right: John Atwell, Tomi James, Jason Kollander, Cindy Betts, Earl Houser, Cal Harvey, Rod Ramirez and Jerome Oates, displayed left to right.

A ‘SHARE’ page has been placed on the state web page, it can be found at: [http://state.ak.us/local/akpages/COMMERCE/share/](http://state.ak.us/local/akpages/COMMERCE/share/). Any DOC employee who donates to SHARE will be entered in a drawing for potatoes (25 pounds) or frozen turkeys and produce from Point Mackenzie. You can staple a $5 bill the pledge form, or sign up for payroll deduction. Please email the department’s SHARE coordinator (richard_schmitz@correct.state.ak.us) for information.

**CORRECTIONS RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN UNDERWAY:**
With the help of a $100,000 budget allocation, the Department has begun a major recruitment advertising campaign using television, radio, print and movie screens across the state. In addition, a distinct series of ads will be developed to promote Correctional Officer positions at Spring Creek Correctional Center in Seward. The campaign will run through the spring. A web site has been created at: [www.alaskacorrections.com](http://www.alaskacorrections.com)

In our 12 institutions, we have approximately 60 open Correctional Officer positions; 46 positions were created just this year to help reduce overtime and to fill new security posts at Fairbanks Correctional Center, identified during a recent security incident. The department has 21 Probation Officer positions open in field offices statewide – many of these are new positions resulting from recently enacted laws which strengthen the supervision of sex offenders.

**EMPLOYMENT UPDATE:** Employment statistics for August 2006:

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