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# ATLANTIC NEWS

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## Jailhouse Rocks

By JOHN DEMING  
ATLANTIC NEWS STAFF WRITER

HAMPTON | When the musty, cramped police station that had been used until late 2004 was built in 1963, it was supposed to be a temporary structure, according to Hampton Police Chief Bill Wrenn.

Temporary, it seems, meant 41 years.

"There's mold," Wrenn says. "People were getting sinus infections."

The difference is such a colossal improvement over the old facility, that "upgrade" would be an understatement. The new facility on Ashworth Avenue towers over the old one, which at first glance, seems like it can fit in the new building's lobby.

"People would see the

old one and probably think, 'What a crappy building, this must be a crappy police department,'" comments Wrenn.

Like any department, they held roll call every morning — except they had to do it in the break room. The new building's break room has several tables, a sink and a refrigerator — and is about a quarter of the size of the new squad room, which is designated for roll call and has several computers set up for officers to fill out reports.

This is one of innumerable improvements.

"You could fit six of the old building into the new one," Wrenn says.

The sparkling new cell block facility is also ripe with efficiency. Both the

juvenile and adult cell blocks are designed to keep prisoners apart — and officers safe when conducting interviews.

Among the many features are external flushes for the toilets — meaning a prisoner cannot flush the toilet in a cell.

"It's a very slim possibility," Wrenn says, "but just in case someone tried to flush drugs after hiding them in a body cavity."

So, they thought of everything.

"We gave all the ideas to architects," says Wrenn. "We had numerous meetings with them going over the flow of the building."

But the new police station is not only an improvement over the old facility — it is such a modern facility

that it rivals almost any station out there.

"There are a lot of things in this building you won't find anywhere else," Wrenn says. "We tried to think of everything. There isn't much we can't do."

Entering the lobby of the old facility, a person would up in a cramped little hallway with dirty brick walls and one chair in the corner.

But if you get through the front doors of the new building — which requires security clearance — you're in a wide open room with a high ceiling, two desks, benches and marble floor that holds a mirror shine.

And connected to the lobby is an interview room in which police can talk with anyone who comes through the door while maintaining

the security of the facility, Wrenn says.

Once you pass through the lobby — provided you have an electronic ID card — there is a set of stairs, and the building is divided into two levels. Among the functions in the upper level are the administrative offices, the training room and the squad room. The lower level contains the cell block, the locker rooms and laboratories.

For training, officers used to have employ the use of a high school classroom or the selectmen's meeting room. The new facility has a training room that looks like it leapt off the silver screen.

"It's much nicer not having to take space from the high school," Wrenn says.

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JANUARY 7, 2004

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- Living Longer, Living Better, a new column by Dr. James Tucker.
- Health news and notes.
- Exeter Hospital's mobile van on the move.

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### EXETER

- Selectman approve warrant article for new water treatment facility, but cost is \$1.6M higher than expected.

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- New E-Z pay toll-collection system to get a test drive through Spaulding Turnpike tollbooth first.

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- A total of \$171,130 in federal funds becomes available for food and shelter programs in the county.

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### IN BUSINESS

- New ownership at Adaptations Unlimited on Dover Point embraces "service and style, by design" at all price points.

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## TSUNAMI RELIEF

Red Cross, Irving Oil partner to raise funds for efforts

SPECIAL TO THE ATLANTIC NEWS

PORTSMOUTH | Irving Oil has partnered with the American Red Cross to make it easier for New Englanders to donate to the Tsunamis crisis in Southeast Asia.

Irving Oil's network of Mainway locations across New England will be collecting cash donations on behalf of the Red Cross for a two-week period, which officially began this week on

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COMING NEXT WEEK...



A new, in-depth look at the SAU 16 school system in and around Exeter. We capture the programs, the students and much more!