

## Our Mission

The Department of Correction shall strive to be a global leader in progressive correctional practices and partnered re-entry initiatives to support responsive evidence-based practices alligned to law-abiding and accountable behaviors. Safety and security shall be a priority component of this responsibility as it pertains to staff, victims, citizens and offenders.

## Suboxone Sniffing K-9

The Connecticut Department of Correction is among the first correctional agencies in the nation to have a K-9 capable of sniffing out Suboxone.

Under the direction of Commissioner Scott Semple, officer Jaime Rivera and Lt. Andre Cox completed a four-week training on May 15, 2015 with the department's first Suboxone Canine, a three-year-old Black Lab named Diamond.

Suboxone is an opiate replacement drug that is used to satisfy the brain's hunger for opiates and limit the harsh withdrawal symptoms that addicts suffer when they stop using.



Officer Rivera and Diamond

see [A Very Special Nose/page 9](#)

May 5, 2015

through

June 12, 2015

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Wethersfield, CT 06109

## From the Commissioner



I recently had the privilege of attending the Correctional Education Association's (CEA) Region 1 Annual Conference held in Mystic, CT. First off, let me just offer my congratulations to Principal Maria Pirro and the entire CEA committee who worked long and hard to plan, organize and run the conference. Your efforts resulted in a well-organized, well-attended event that had many of those in attendance singing your praises.

Speaking of singing your praises, I would like to take this opportunity to publicly praise all the teachers, administrators and support staff that make up the Connecticut Department of Correction's USD#1. Anyone who has heard me speak knows the respect I have for teachers. You may have heard me say, "I don't remember what I learned in fifth grade, but I remember my fifth grade teacher Mr. Mobilia." I remember him, because (although I may not have realized it at the time) he inspired me. Inspiring students, that is what great teachers do.

see [An Honorable Profession/page 3](#)

Dannel P. Malloy  
Governor

Scott Semple  
Commissioner

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# Brown Smoke

## Lieutenant Noel Brown cooks up a storm for the troops

If you pulled into the parking lot of the Hartford Correctional Center recently it looked more like a roadside barbecue joint than a jail. Upon closer investigation, you would find Lt. Noel Brown of the MacDougall-Walker Correctional Institution cooking up a feast for the facility's staff in honor of Correctional Employee week.

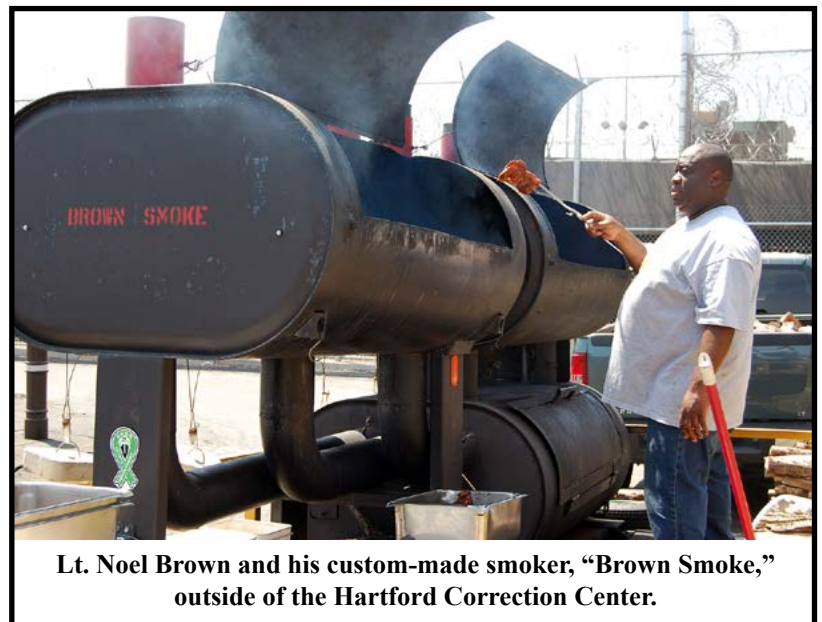
Brown who began his day at 4:00 AM in order to serve up mouthwatering barbecued chicken and pork to staff from all three shifts. A fact that is even more impressive when considering Hartford CC was the fourth facility he had cooked for during the course of the week. By the time he made it to Hartford on Friday, Lt. Brown and his barbecue pit on wheels had already made individual stops earlier in the week at the MacDougall and Walker buildings, as well the Carl Robinson Correctional Institution.

"You have to lead from the front," said Brown who donates his time, talent and equipment for the luncheons, while the facilities provide the food. These barbecue sessions are far from the only occasion Lt. Brown has donated time and money on behalf of fellow staff members. A 25-year veteran of the department, with 21 of those years stationed at the Hartford Correctional Center, Lt. Brown has lost track of the number of luncheons and fundraisers he has helped organize and contributed to in order to benefit staff in need. He recalled donating \$500 to pay for the cost of food for one luncheon alone. Lt. Brown cannot place an exact dollar amount on how much of his own funds he has donated for the sake of employee wellness, but he did say the number was "sizeable". Despite his contributions, Lt. Brown is insistent that he is not alone when it comes to being generous. Many of his fellow staff members are very generous and very helpful according to Brown. "If we can afford it, we need to share a little bit of the wealth," Brown said. "My mother always taught me that, 'those who are blessed have a duty to pass it on.'"

The intoxicating aroma aside, the first thing you notice is the uniqueness of Lt. Brown's custom made barbecue smoker dubbed "Brown Smoke," which consists of not one, not two, but three 300 gallon oil tanks joined together by ductwork. Lt. Brown is quick to point out that although the design for the smoker was his, it was manufactured by General Maintenance Officer Francesco Rocca of the MacDougall-Walker Correctional Institution, whom Brown refers to as a "genius" when it comes to fabrication.

Although Lt. Brown's love of food is apparent (he advises to never trust a skinny cook), his decision to get into the barbecue catering business was rather unusual to say the least. While deployed in Afghanistan during 2006, the base he was stationed at was being bombed heavily. Brown who retired last year at the rank of Staff Sergeant after 28 and one half years of service in the Army National Guard readily admits that he had never been so afraid in his life. He was sure he was going to die that evening. Then, out of the blue, it came to him, "if I get out of this alive, I'm going to build a smoker," he said laughing at his seemingly illogical thought process. Claiming that he did not even really know what a smoker was at the time. "I survived, so I kept my word."

And there are many well-fed staff members who are glad he did.



Lt. Noel Brown and his custom-made smoker, "Brown Smoke," outside of the Hartford Correction Center.

# Manson Facility Awards

Manson Youth Institution held its annual awards ceremony on May 9, 2015 during an open house for staff, family and friends. The awards ceremony was a culmination to the weeklong celebration of “Correctional Employees Week”. During the open house a buffet meal was provided by the MYI Quality of Work Life Committee. There were Tactical demonstrations provided by CERT, K9, SOG, SITCON and TSU.

## **The Manson Youth Institution’s 2015 Facility Award Winners:**

**Employee of the Year** : Counselor Ann Bramson

**Unit of the Year**: Food Services

**Supervisor of the Year**: Captain Scarmozzino

**Correction Officer of the Year 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>**:

Officers James Carey, Ray Faryniarz, and Walter Smith

**Health Services Employee of the Year**: Scott Stephenson, CSW

**Support Services Employee of the Year**: Matt DiPasquale, CFSM

**Educator of the Year**: Dan Cambra

**Distinguished Service**:

Lt. Perry, Officers Garofalo, Whalen, G. Cwalina, and Hebert

**Preservation of Life**:

Officers R. Jones, T. Cook , J. Hanlon, V. Cellana, T. Cook, and A. Aiello

**Circle of Merit**: Officers Signori and Ruggiero



**K-9 Officer Dennis Hinkson (2nd from left) and his partner Dozer entertain visitors during the MYI Open House.**

## **An Honorable Profession** from page 1

The job of a teacher is difficult enough in a public or even private school setting, but when you choose to teach within a correctional environment, the difficulty factor increases exponentially. When thinking about the challenges that you face, it is hard to know where to begin. From language barriers, to low literacy rates, to emotional and developmental issues – the challenges seem endless. Yet despite all these obstacles, you do what teachers do, you teach.

I want to take a moment to also credit our custody staff for their operational competencies that have created an environment in which we can safely provide educational opportunities to the offender population.

Given my respect for the teaching profession, it angers me when I hear the often quoted saying (which I will not insult you by repeating) about why teacher’s teach. Teaching is among the most complicated jobs there is. It demands broad knowledge of subject matter, curriculum, knowledge of federal, state and departmental policy, enthusiasm, a love of learning, classroom management techniques, resourcefulness, creativity, and the desire to make a difference in the lives of the students.

The motto of USD#1 is “Non Sum Qualis Eram” which translated from Latin is, “I am not what I used to be.” What a great message for those who find themselves incarcerated, for those who have had little to no success in school in the past. I choose to look at the motto as a message of hope. Implied in the message is that through education, an individual can transform themselves and become not just a better student, but a better person as well. It almost goes without saying that education plays a key role in our agency’s goal of successful reentry. A teacher that can get a student to realize the value in learning is doing a great service not only to the individual student, but to society in general as well.

Make no mistake about it, teaching is an honorable profession. Thank you for the great work you do and for the positive impact you make on the lives of your students.



# Standing Tall at the New Haven Correctional Center

Correction Officer Theodore Borowy has worked for the Department of Correction for nearly twenty-six years. He has been assigned to the New Haven Correctional Center and has spent over twenty years in the facility's AP Room in the AP Shakedown or AP Booking posts; he is the backbone of that area. In 2002, he was awarded the DOC Correction Officer of the Year Award and he has received a number of facility awards.



Officer Theodore Borowy, a.k.a. 6'9"

Officer Borowy is known at NHCC and throughout the agency as 6-9, which is also his height. He is recognized as the standout AP Booking Officer, a post that requires attention to detail and perfection, and is extremely fast-paced and demanding. His ability to memorize inmate ID numbers is an example of the attention he gives to the job.

A memorable day for 6-9 was when he discovered three vials of cocaine in a court sandwich of an inmate returning from court. His hobbies include watching UCONN women's basketball, collecting coins and target-shooting.

6-9 has become a role model. His advice to new officers: "Try to better yourself by showing initiative and learn

as many different posts that you can. Always stay fair, firm and consistent."

Officer Borowy is a very modest man who says, "I just come to work and do my job." He is highly respected and admired by all staff that he has worked with throughout the years. He is very respected by inmates as well.

Until he hits his thirty-year mark, 6-9 has no intention of retiring. When he does retire, he plans to volunteer his time helping the greater New Haven Community. When that day eventually comes, he will be sorely missed at NHCC but his legacy will remain.

# Around the Cell Block



**CONNECTICUT** - In a sign of the times the Connecticut Department of Correction has joined the world of social media in the form of a Twitter account.



You can follow the latest tweets from the Department of Correction [@CT Corrections](#).

<p><b>Total Supervised Population on June 12, 2015 19,880 On June 12, 2014 the population was 20,529</b></p>
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## No Charge for a Charge

The Department of Correction (DoC) is the first state agency in Connecticut to have an electric vehicle charging station installed and operational thanks to a grant from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) Municipal and State Agency Incentive Program. The new double-unit charging station is located in Wethersfield, on the street-side of 38 Wolcott Hill Road. The charging station is available to the general public free of charge.

DEEP is committed to encouraging the use of electric vehicles (commonly referred to as EVs) by supporting the development of EV infrastructure in Connecticut. To promote the use of electric vehicles by making charging stations more readily available in convenient locations, DEEP has been offering 50%-of-cost incentive programs. When DEEP began offering other state agencies an incentive program with up to 100% funding, Deputy Commissioner Cheryl Cepelak encouraged the agency to apply for the grant.

The location at 38 Wolcott Hill, which was agreed upon by the Department of Administrative Services and DoC, is conveniently located near DoC's Central Office, the Department of Labor, and a state commuter parking lot. Prior to this DoC-sponsored installation, the nearest charging station was located at the Panera restaurant on the Silas Deane Highway in Wethersfield, about 3.5 miles south of Central Office. Nancy Dittes, of the department's Management Information Systems Research Unit, drives an all-electric car that is charged at home from solar panels. This new charging station makes it possible for her to drive the electric vehicle almost daily, eliminating 85 miles (round trip) per day of traditional gas pollution and carbon emissions. The new charging station can charge two vehicles at a time. It is a "level 2" station; it takes about four hours for a vehicle to charge fully, depending on the size of the vehicle's battery and the amount



**The new Electric Vehicle Charging Station at 38 Wolcott Hill Road.**

it's depleted before plugging in. Each retractable cable on the charging station is 20 feet long, reaching easily across the two ADA-compliant spaces. The green flashing light stops blinking when your vehicle is fully charged. The etiquette is to leave your cell number or a note in your windshield to notify others when it's ok to unplug your car if they are waiting to charge theirs.

DoC is investigating other possible locations to install additional charging stations that would be free and open to the public. The DEEP grant is still available, and agencies are eligible to receive multiple grants for multiple locations.

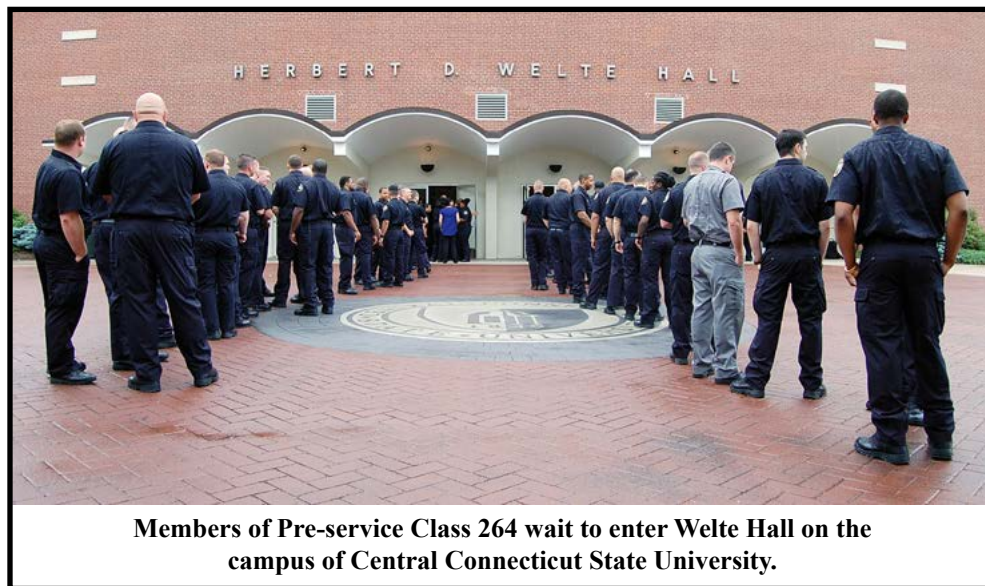
This first of its kind state agency installation would not have happened without the support of Deputy Commissioner Cepelak, the engineering expertise of Tom Phillips; the oversight of Director Steve Link; financial advice from Director Michelle Schott; grant support by Christine Fortunato; a DAS buy-in from Gary Durgan, and monitoring of the DEEP incentive programs by Nancy Dittes.

A brand new program announced May 19 by Governor Malloy -- the Connecticut Hydrogen and Electric Automobile Purchase Rebate Program (CHEAPR) -- will make it cheaper for Connecticut residents, businesses, and municipalities to purchase or lease electric vehicles. Vehicles covered include battery electric, fuel cell, and plug-in hybrid vehicles. The Connecticut rebates are on a sliding scale, up to \$3,000. When combined with a federal tax credit of as much as \$7,500, the savings are substantial, however, the CHEAPR funds are limited. For more information, including details about eligible vehicles, please see [www.evconnecticut.com](http://www.evconnecticut.com).



# A Supersized Graduation

The Graduation Ceremony of Pre-Service Class 264 was such a big event that it was held at the Welte Hall Auditorium on the campus of Central Connecticut State University in New Britain. In addition to the more than 200 graduates, special guests included Governor Dannel P. Malloy, Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman, and the Commissioner of the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) Dora Schriro.



**Members of Pre-service Class 264 wait to enter Welte Hall on the campus of Central Connecticut State University.**

There were so many trainees in Pre-Service Class 264 that they had to be split into two groups – one trained on first shift, the other on second shift.

The graduation also featured the swearing-in of the department's newest administrators: David Maiga, the Director of the Offender Classification and Population Management Unit, and Scott VanOudenhove, the Deputy Warden at the Hartford Correctional Center.

Following their remarks, Governor Malloy and Lt.

Governor Wyman, bowing to the pressures of their hectic schedules, had to depart the ceremony early. After which Commissioner Semple took to the podium to address the graduates. In a break from tradition, rather than offering up some personal insights to the graduates, he shared advice from various wardens, which he had collected previously. One example of the advice that Commissioner Semple shared with the audience came from Warden John Alves of the Manson Youth Institution who offered the following, "Don't let the job change who you are; have faith in yourself; and never ever quit on something you want to attain."

With the remarks from the dignitaries completed the focus of the ceremony turned to the presentation of awards, certificates, and badges to the graduates. The PRIDE award is presented to a trainee who best represents the Department of Correction motto of PRIDE by demonstrating the values of: Professionalism, Respect, Integrity, Dignity, and Excellence. The trainees receiving the PRIDE award were nominated by their classmates, along with the backing of their Class Manager. The recipients of the PRIDE award for pre-service class 264 were: Correction Officers Patricia Diaz, Nicholas Hudobenko, Matthew McKenna, Justin Rackliff, Wilfredo Rivera, Christian Vazquez, Kemesha Woodfine, and Thomas Zakrzewski.

The class also recognized Correctional Food Service Supervisor David Govoni (1<sup>st</sup> shift) and Correction Officer Gary Hancock (2<sup>nd</sup> shift) as the recipients of the Victor E. Harris, Jr. award. The Victor E. Harris, Jr. award, named for a deceased officer whose enthusiastic dedication and commitment to correctional education and training, still lives on in the memory of department staff.



**Food Service Supervisor David Govoni, one of the two Victor E. Harris Jr. Award winners.**

## Years Of Service

### Employees with 20 Years of Service as of January 2015

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Facility</u>	<u>Hire Date</u>
Ardizoni, James	Correction Officer	Enfield CI	12/30/1994
Baskerville, Charlene	Office Assistant	CRCC	1/20/1995
Beckham, Julie	Corr Counselor	York CI	1/20/1995
Bergeron, Susan	Payroll Clerk	Central Office	1/6/1995
Bosco, Michael	Voc Instructor	Cheshire CI	1/6/1995
Bragg, Clinton	Corr Plmr & Stmfr	Northern CI	1/20/1995
Champagne, Bonnie	Payroll Officer2	Central Office	1/6/1995
Daly, Kimberly	Corr Counselor	CRCC	1/20/1995
Diouk, Sofia	Corr Counselor	CRCC	1/27/1995
Dowd, Andrew	Lieutenant	Brooklyn CI	8/19/1994
Duchesneau, Kimberlie	Human Res Asst	Central Office	1/23/1995
Duhaime, Elaine	Rcrd Spec 1	CRCC	1/20/1995
Eberle, Susan	Corr Cmry Op	Central Office	1/6/1995
Fournier, Donald	Corr Electrician	Enfield CI	1/6/1995
Fulcher, Loretta	Counselor Sup	Central Office	10/14/1994
Gayle, Ancel	Corr HVAC Tech	Carl Robinson	1/20/1995
Godwin, Tanjorie	Correction Officer	CRCC	10/14/1994
Harder, Raymond	Plnt Facils Engr 1	Northern CI	1/20/1995
Hodina, Peter	Genl Maint Ofcr	CRCC	1/13/1995
Irizarry, Edwin	Lieutenant	Cheshire CI	12/9/1994
Jefferson, Lawanda	Office Assistant	Central Office	1/20/1995
Kennedy, Shaun	Corr Counselor	Central Office	1/27/1995
Korza, Edward	School Principal 2	Osborn CI	1/27/1995
Kotsch, Samuel	Plnt Facils Engr 1	Cheshire CI	1/20/1995
Laplante, Steven	Food Svcs Supv 2	MWCI	1/27/1995
Morrow, Thomas	Maint Supv	CRCC	1/6/1995
Murphy, Mary	Subst Abuse Cnslr	Central Office	1/20/1995
Pace, Michael	Correction Officer	CRCC	8/19/1994
Paro, Richard	Corr Plmr & Stmfr	Hartford CC	1/20/1995
Scarlett, Joyce	Secretary 2	Hartford CC	1/20/1995
Sokolowski, Kimberly	Secretary 2	MWCI	1/20/1995
Spence, Robyn	Counslr Supv	Hartford CC	1/27/1995
Sweeney, James	Correction Officer	CRCC	12/9/1994
Tatum, Charles	Food Svcs Supv 2	CRCC	1/20/1995

### Employees with 25 Years of Service as of January 2015

Brown, Noel	Lieutenant	MWCI	1/26/1990
Carucci, Robert	Correction Officer	CRCI	1/26/1990
Hines, Gerald	Deputy Warden	MWCI	1/26/1990
Masi, Joseph	Voc Instructor	CRCI	1/26/1990
Pelletier, Jane	Accountant	Central Office	1/31/1990

## Support Team Brad

Lieutenant Brad Emmelmann of the Northern Correctional Institution and a member of CERT, is currently in the Intensive Care Unit of Saint Francis Hospital in Hartford. In a show of support for Officer Emmelmann and his family, bracelets reading, "Team Brad" can be purchased for \$10 with all proceeds going to the Emmelmann family.



Bracelets can be purchased in the Tactical Operations Unit, Room 117, on the first floor of Central Office.

A website has also been established. If you would like to make an additional donation, go to: <http://www.youcaring.com/lieutenant-brad-365924>

Please keep Lt. Emmelmann and his family in your thoughts and prayers. Thank you for your support, and know that the family is extremely touched and appreciative of the overwhelming response from the DoC family.



## Years Of Service cont.

### Employees with 30 Years of Service as of January 2015

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Facility</u>	<u>Hire Date</u>
Desormiers, Edna	Human Res Spec	Central Office	11/23/1984
Holmes, Theodore	Lieutenant	New Haven CC	1/18/1985
Rochefort, Kelley	Admin Asst	Brooklyn CI	1/4/1985

## Cycling for a Cure

Correction Officer Jason Regan of the Hartford Correctional Center will be riding his bicycle for more than just exercise. On July 11-17, he will participate in the American Diabetes Association's New England Classic Tour de Cure. He, along with other riders, will cycle 550 miles during the course of a week throughout New England, to raise money and awareness for diabetes research.

In order to prepare for this event Regan has been riding rain or shine, to and from work at the Hartford jail. In addition, he has ridden hundreds of miles in and around Connecticut.

The Tour de Cure is a series of fundraising cycling events held in 44 states nationwide to benefit the American Diabetes Association. In 2013, more than 65,000 cyclists in 89 events raised more than \$26 million to support the mission of the American Diabetes Association.

According to the American Diabetes Association, nearly 30 million people in the United States have diabetes. Every year 1.7 million Americans are diagnosed with diabetes. In 2010, diabetes was the seventh leading cause of death in the United States.

For Officer Regan the cause is personal, his girlfriend was diagnosed as a teenager with type-one diabetes. To support Officer Regan on his ride please visit: [HTTP://main.diabetes.org/goto/JasonRegan](http://main.diabetes.org/goto/JasonRegan) or by mail at:

**American Diabetes Association**  
**Attn: New England Classic Tour de Cure**  
**10 Speen St, 2nd Floor**  
**Framingham, MA 01701**  
**Support for Jason Regan**



Correction Officer Jason Regan

## End of Watch

The Department of Correction's K-9 Unit is saddened by the unexpected passing of one of their beloved partners, "Red" on May 23, 2015.

A Blood Hound, Red was donated to the Department from the Virginia Bloodhound Association in June of 2011.



Lt. Henry Gasiorek and Red

He graduated from the Connecticut State Police Bloodhound Program in May of 2011 and began his too short three-year career with the Department of Correction K-9 Unit.

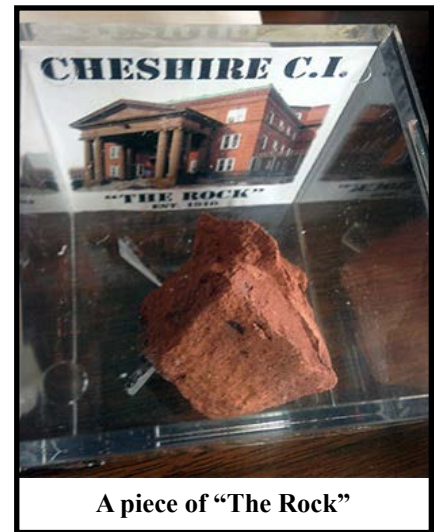
Red assisted the State of Connecticut in searching for missing individuals, runaway children in Enfield and Wethersfield and persons suffering from Alzheimer's disease. He also assisted law enforcement officials in Massachusetts with tracking a bank robbery suspect in East Longmeadow.



## Cheshire Rocks Correctional Employee Week

Staff of the Cheshire Correctional Institution celebrated Correctional Employee, Nurses and Teachers Week with a cookout followed by a tour of the facility for family members. More than 100 family members attended the event.

To commemorate the occasion, each staff member received an actual “Piece of the Rock,” along with a photo of the facade of the 1910 prison all enclosed in a plastic case for safe keeping. Following the facility tour, there was also a demonstration by members of the K-9 Unit.



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## Connecticut Receives MacArthur Grant

Connecticut has been selected for a grant designed to help it reduce its jail population. The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation announced recently that the State of Connecticut is one of 20 jurisdictions selected to receive a \$150,000 grant to create a fairer, more effective local justice system. The grant is a part of the Safety and Justice Challenge, the Foundation’s \$75 million initiative to reduce over-incarceration by changing the way America thinks about and uses jails.

Connecticut will use the award to support Governor Dannel P. Malloy’s Second Chance Society initiative. Connecticut was chosen following a highly competitive selection process that drew applications from nearly 200 jurisdictions from 45 states. The Safety and Justice Challenge competition supports jurisdictions across the country seeking to create more just and effective local justice systems that improve public safety, save taxpayer money, and yield better outcomes.

The 20 jurisdictions selected will work with expert consultants to develop a plan for local justice system improvement. In 2016, as many as ten of these jurisdictions will receive a second round of funding – between \$500,000 to \$2 million annually – to implement their plans over two years.

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## A Very Special Nose from page 1

Not wasting any time, Officer Rivera and K-9 Diamond began working within the facilities searching for the illegal drug just three days after finishing their training.

A prescription narcotic, Suboxone, can come in the form of pills or very thin strips. The Associated Press has reported that states from Maine to New Mexico have seen a jump in the discoveries of illegal doses of Suboxone in prisons.

Would be conveyers of contraband have turned crushed Suboxone pills into a paste and spread it under stamps or over children’s artwork. It is not uncommon for Suboxone strips to be concealed under stamps or inside of inmate mail.

# Running for a Reason

## DoC once again participates in the Law Enforcement Torch Run

The Law Enforcement Torch Run to benefit Special Olympics Connecticut was held June 3, 4 and 5, 2015, and once again Department of Correction employees across the state were involved.

This year's Torch Run covered more than 500 miles and passed through more than 100 cities and towns. Over 1,500 Law Enforcement officers and Special Olympics Athletes participated in this year's Torch Run. In addition to staff members of the Department of Correction, participants in the torch run represent local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies.

On Wednesday, runners met in Old Lyme and Putnam and ran to Ledyard.

Lieutenant Paul Mancarella of the Brooklyn Correctional Institution helped to organize the 47-mile relay run, which began shortly before 8 a.m. outside Putnam Town Hall and ended nine hours later at the Foxwoods Resort Casino.

Most participants ran 6-mile or 7-mile sections of the relay run, which went through Putnam, Plainfield, Griswold, Lisbon, Norwich, Montville, Preston and ended at Foxwoods.

More than a half-dozen correction officers from the Brooklyn Correctional Institution ran a 6.6-mile stretch through Plainfield which ended at Hank's Dairy Bar on Route 12.

"It was a great run," said Lt. Tommy Thomas. "It's my fourth time doing it. It's for a great cause. I always enjoy it." On Thursday, runners met in New Branford, Windham, Enfield, Watertown and Seymour and concluded with a ceremony at the State Capitol.

For the final leg on Friday, runners met in Newington, Chester, New Milford, Wilton, Monroe and Greenwich and converged on Southern Connecticut State University for the kick-off of the Special Olympics Connecticut Summer Games.

The Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics is the movement's largest grass-roots fundraiser and public awareness vehicle. At its most basic level, the Torch Run is an actual running event in which officers and athletes run the Flame of Hope to the Opening Ceremonies of local Special Olympics competitions and State and National Games. Annually, more than 85,000 dedicated, compassionate and volunteer law enforcement officers participate in the torch run throughout 35 nations, 12 Canadian Provinces and 50 US States, raising more than \$50 million for local Special Olympics programs in 2013 and over \$500 million since its inception in 1981.

The first Connecticut Torch Run was held in 1986, when it consisted of just a few legs converging onto the campus of the University of Connecticut at Storrs.



**Lt. Tommy Thomas, center, of the Brooklyn Correctional Institution carries the torch for the Law Enforcement Torch Run next to co-worker correction officer Jayson Belleville, left, and judicial marshal Scott Robinson.  
Photo courtesy of NorwichBulletin.com**