



P.R.I.D.E. at Work



Our motto: Professionalism, Respect, Integrity, Dignity, Excellence

Santa Visits DOC Families



(l-r) CO Robert Crowell, Lt. Marie Barnes, CO Roland Grant, Santa aka CO Richard Dubay, Warden Daniel Martin, CO Scott Vitanza, Lt. Richard Blanc, CO Maribeth Ouellet and a DOC staff member's child take a moment to pose with the donated items before they left to distribute the "goodies."

Correctional Staff from Cheshire CI and Garner CI played Santa for the children of Secretary 2 Migdalia Tramontano of the Garner Correctional Institution. Migdalia's husband, Tony, was a Lieutenant at the Cheshire Correctional Institution prior to his sudden passing in May 2006. Staff from both facilities took a huge holiday bundle accompanied by "Santa" aka Correction Officer Richard Dubay and surprised the family with toys and other items. The Waterbury Republican newspaper was on hand for the event and ran an article in the December 21st edition of that paper. Continued on Page 5,

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Our Mission

The Department of Correction shall protect the public, protect staff, and provide safe, secure and humane supervision of offenders with opportunities that support successful community reintegration.

About and for correctional professionals

December 31, 2006 - January 13, 2007

From The Commissioner



With the New Year, we are hoping to see a downward trend in the number of offenders that we have been managing in our facilities over the course of 2006. Before I go into detail, I need to express my sincere appreciation for the masterful job that staff have done as we were challenged with what was likely the largest number of offenders in our history. Despite the influx and the necessary use of non-traditional housing areas and additional posts, our facilities remained safe, secure and orderly. I credit all of you for this success. Of course, dealing with population fluctuations is something that we have a long history of being very good at, in light of the fact that we also are charged with the state's jail population. As you no doubt know, the Connecticut Department of Correction had experienced

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Garner CI Staff Spreads Holiday Cheer to Homeless Children

Thanksgiving began this holiday season with a reflection of how fortunate we all are to have the love and support from our families and friends.

The Children's Home in Cromwell, Connecticut houses over 100 homeless children who do not have any family to give them a gift or share time with them this holiday season. With the help of DCF, the orphanage staff have found temporary holiday foster homes for their children ages 1 through 7. Unfortunately, 60 children ranging in age from 8 through 17 have no place to go.

Staff at the Garner Correctional Institution as well as Biometrics Inc. of Connecticut and Brian Barker, Coach of Tennis Professional James Blake, donated Christmas gifts for each child at The Children's Home. Each child received one clothing item and one non-clothing item. Also donated was over \$1200.00 in gift cards in order to purchase each child a birthday present throughout the entire 2007 calendar year.



On Thursday December 21, 2006, the Garner staff along with Brian Barker delivered the donated items to the children at the home with the help of the DOC Central Transportation Unit who transported all the gifts in their unit's property trailer.

The generosity of all who donated brought great joy to each child at the home where the children cheered upon their arrival that morning.

Employee Assistance Program

1-800-252-4555

Available 24 hours a day - 7 days a week

www.theEAP.com

Distributed bi-weekly to 7,000 staff and via the internet throughout Connecticut and the nation by the Department of Correction.

Theresa C. Lantz, Commissioner

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Wethersfield, CT 06109

M. Jodi Rell, Governor

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860.692.7783

Honoring One of Its Own - “Captain” Reports For Duty



Photo Courtesy of The Day Newspaper (center, l-r) Cheryl Wilcox, Lieutenant Anthony Cusano and Warden Lori Ricks are surrounded by the Department of Correction Honor Guard as “Cap-

After the death of Vocational Instructor Richard Wilcox (MacDougall Dental Lab), his family requested that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the NEADS (Dogs For Deaf and Disabled Americans) dog program at the York Correctional Institution. Donations totaled enough to purchase a dog for this program. The dog “Captain,” pictured above sitting on a drum, arrived at York CI last month and will be trained in their assisting program.

Cheryl Wilcox, widow of Richard Wilcox, former drum sergeant with the Connecticut Department of Correction Honor Guard, was on hand for a ceremony where the Honor Guard presented “Captain,” a 4-month-old Labrador puppy, to the NEADS Program at York CI. Captain is named as a tribute to Richard Wilcox and will be trained by an inmate to be a disability assistance dog for the NEADS Program.

NEADS of Princeton, MA, is a non-profit organization established in 1976 to train and provide rescue dogs and donated puppies to assist people who are deaf or physically disabled in leading more independent lives at work, home and school. These assistance dogs become an extension of their owners and bring security, freedom, independence and relief from social isolation to their human partners.

Around The Cell Block



California- More than 6,000 state correction officers earned more than \$100,000 due to overtime in the strained prison system and 900 earned \$50,000 or more in overtime alone.

Kentucky- The state’s longest serving prison inmate has died after serving 53 years for murders he committed at the age of 18.

South Carolina- A 24-year-old man applying for a job as a federal prison officer was arrested when his background turned up outstanding warrants for theft.

**Total
Supervised
Population
on
January 7, 2007
23,433
On January 7, 2006
the population was
22,480**

DOC LEaD Program Receives National Award

Director Sandra Sawicki of the Maloney Center for Training and Staff Development (MCTSD) is pleased to announce that the International Association of Correctional Training Personnel (IACTP) awarded the prestigious 2006 Innovative Approaches Award to the Connecticut Department of Correction.

This award is given for high quality training that advances the state of the art in correctional training.

The award was presented during the IACTP's annual trainer's conference on November 1st in Atlanta, Georgia. IACTP is an international professional association of trainers, training administrators, and educators representing all aspects of the field of corrections.

The award recognized the Connecticut Department of Correction's Leadership Excellence and Development (LEaD) program for senior level leaders. The LEaD program was acknowledged for the unique blended approach to leadership development that included classroom based competency development, executive coaching, use of 360° feedback instruments, and action learning groups.



Curriculum Specialist Linda Rubin, pictured above (on left) with Kathy Mickle-Askin, President of International Association of Correctional Training Personnel, where she accepted the award on behalf of the Connecticut Department of Correction.

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Did You Know?...

Did you know is an informational column written by the Facilities Management and Engineering Unit, aimed at increasing your knowledge of issues in our everyday lives. If you have any questions or an idea for a future column please contact Director David Batten at 860.692.7554. This week's article was submitted by Environmental Analyst Richard Pease and he can be reached at 860.692.7562.



There are several sensible, precautionary steps homeowners who heat with oil can take to head off potentially costly problems caused by fuel leaks and spills. The typical cleanup cost from spills ranges from \$20,000 to \$50,000.

Every fall you should:

- Inspect for leaks. Look at the tank, fuel delivery line, valves, piping, and fittings.
- Have your oil company clean the furnace and repair or replace damaged parts. A well maintained furnace means lower fuel bills and cleaner emissions.
- Inspect the vent pipe to ensure that it is free of obstructions and that an audible signal (whistle) is on the vent. Oil company personnel listen for the whistle to help avoid overfills.

Year round you should:

- Retain all oil delivery receipts. Keep them handy so you can track your oil demand. Unexpected increases could mean a leak.
- Ensure that your street number is clearly visible from the road to prevent oil company personnel from delivering fuel to the wrong address.
- Clearly mark the location of the tank's fill pipe to ensure that oil company personnel deliver your order to the right place.

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LEaD - National Award Cont'd

The dedicated efforts of the succession management core team helped bring to life the LEaD concept that was proposed in the spring of 2005. The Department is now offering a LEaD – Manager level program and a LEaD – Supervisor level program to further the organization's Workforce Excellence succession management strategic initiative.



Members of the LEaD Core Committee (L-R) 1st row Fiscal Administrative Manager Michelle Clayton, Major Elizabeth Martrinez, Training Lieutenant Brenda Shapiro, Director of Training & Staff Development Sandra Sawiciki, Principal Personnel Officer Pam Connelley, and Correctional Food Service Manager Michael Gaughran. 2nd row Warden Charles Lee, Director of Human Resources Dan Callahan, Director of Facilities Management & Engineering Dave Batten, Director of Affirmative Action Robert Jackson, and Counselor Supervisor Gerald Wagner. (Missing from photo are North District Administrator Wayne Choinski, Warden Eileen Higgins and Curriculum Specialist Linda Rubin.

Santa Visit Cont'd

The generosity didn't end at the Tramantano household, it was extended to include the family of Correction Officer Justin Anderson of Cheshire CI, who was recently deployed to Iraq, and to the family of Correction Officer Richard Sapko who passed away in August 2006. Staff from both facilities made monetary contributions towards the purchase of the holiday items. Volunteers from both facilities helped to wrap and to deliver the gifts.

Staff had done a facility-wide fundraiser earlier in the year and had the opportunity to meet the family members of Lt. Tramantano and Officer Sapko. Lt. Barnes and Lt. Blanc of Cheshire CI were instrumental in organizing this event and they shopped for the donated toys. When they were asked why they decided to do this, they responded, "This was the first holiday season that these families would be without their loved ones and after meeting them at the fundraisers, we felt compelled to do something special for the kids."

Migdalia Tramantano, whose family received a visit from Santa wanted to add the following words of appreciation to all the DOC staff involved: ***"I would like to thank the Department of Correction for showing great concern for my children. I have been blessed to have so many caring people in my life. Just seeing the twins' (Dominic & Jada) faces when Santa walked into the house, is a moment they and I will never forget. My older son (Richard) who happened to turn 18 on that same day, expressed to me that he was happy to know that people still think of us and care. My older daughter (Ariel) couldn't stop smiling and made a special friend that day. The kindness and the generosity you have shown my family is beyond belief. On behalf of Tony, our children and myself, thank you for all you have done for us."***

Robinson CI Annual Donation to CCMC

Warden Bruce Cuscovitch of the Robinson Correctional Institution was proud to announce that \$1000 worth of toys was presented on December 14th to the Connecticut Children's Medical Center in Hartford. This donation was made possible because of the contributions made to the In-mate Photo Program.

Major Monica Rinaldi and Recreation Supervisors William Schmitt and Paul Caccavale were available to represent the CRCI facility as they made this annual holiday donation to the Children's Hospital. Corporate Relations Officer for the Hospital's Foundation, Robert Nolan, expressed sincere thanks and gratitude on behalf of the many children who are hospitalized during this holiday season.



(l-r) Robert Nolan, Recreation Supervisors Paul Caccavale & William Schmitt, and Major Monica Rinaldi.

Did You Know?...Cont'd

At least every 10 years have the oil tank cleaned out. Over time, water (from condensation) and sludge can cause corrosion, resulting in leaks. If you remove your tank, also remove fill and vent pipes immediately to prevent a fuel delivery to a location without an attached tank. For your new tank, consider purchasing one with double walls; they provide an extra layer of protection regardless of where the tank is located.

For indoor above ground tanks:

Inspect indoor, aboveground storage tanks for signs of pitting and corrosion, particularly at the bottom of the tank. Tanks primarily rust from the inside out, so if signs of aging are present, replace the tank. Indoor tanks generally do not last more than about 30 years, and often their life span is much shorter. Consider installing two inexpensive upgrades. Place a plastic heating oil tray or pan under the tank, and replace the fuel delivery line with one encased in a protective sleeve. The pan or tray will make it easier to keep the tank area clean and help identify and contain small leaks. Installing a sleeve that covers the delivery line protects it from physical damage and moisture.

For underground tanks:

Determine if the underground storage tank is made of steel (common) or fiberglass (rare). Most steel underground storage tanks will last approximately 10 to 20 years. If the tank is older than that or the age is unknown, replace it with an aboveground storage tank. Locate your new tank under a shelter or inside a basement or garage to prevent rust, corrosion, or damage.

For outdoor, aboveground tanks:

Ask an oil technician to inspect the stability of the aboveground tank. A full 275 gallon tank weighs more than 2,000 pounds. They have metal legs and should sit on a concrete pad. If the legs become loose or the pad cracks, the tank can fall over and rupture. Replace outdoor, aboveground storage tanks that have been uncovered for 10 years or longer. These tanks rust from the inside out, so cleaning or painting the outside does not usually prolong their life. Protect the tank from the weather, such as falling snow and ice, and prevent ruptures by tree limbs. In an emergency if you suspect an oil leak or spill, immediately contact your oil company and fire department for assistance.

Condolences



Director Sawicki and the staff of the Maloney CTSD are saddened to announce the passing of Barbara Leavitt, mother of Training Lieutenant Lisa Jackson.



Deputy Commissioner Murphy and the staff of the Operations Division are saddened to announce the passing of Maria Colon, the mother of Captain William Colon.

Think Golf



Although this has been a unique winter, golfers have been pretty happy. Spring will officially greet us March 21st and daylight savings time begins early this year (ie, March 10th). To that end, the Joe Bongiorno DOC Golf League will have an organizational meeting for last year's members and anyone interested in playing during the 2007 season. The meeting will be held on Tuesday (weather permitting), March 6th at JoAnne's Restaurant on Rte. 190 in Somersville, CT from 4p.m.-5p.m. Anyone who is interested in getting more detail about the league is encouraged to call Secretary Larry Soine at 860.763.6391. Newly elected President D. J. Figiela looks forward to seeing you at JoAnne's!

The Commissioner Cont'd

more than 15 years of continuing increases in the inmate population up until 2003. At that point, through the introduction of our Re-Entry Model and collaboration with our partners in the criminal justice community as well as other state agencies who work with offenders, we were able to achieve a 4.2 percent population decrease which was the largest reduction of any state in the country for that year. In 2004 and 2005 we achieved two more consecutive years of decreases and we were one of less than a dozen states in each case to show such a decline. This occurred as many other states were forced to look for out-of-state beds or to the building of new facilities as their populations continued to climb. During this past year however, our population increased by about 1,000 offenders. In large part this was due to the spike in violence in our urban areas, which impacted our accused population. Through our continued collaborative efforts with other agencies in the criminal justice system, we are now experiencing stabilization in our population growth. Let's hope this trend carries us through the New Year as we continue to reinforce public safety and staff safety.

*To the best correctional professionals in the country,
I wish you and yours a happy and healthy New Year.*

MVP's

Albee, Thomas, CO	MYI
Bengtson, Christina, Lt.	HCC
Bergeron, Sue, PC	CO
Blocker, Ernie, CO	BCC
Bonewitz, Barbara, PC	CO
Brooks, Mike, PC	CO
Buffalin, Mario, Lt.	MCSTD
Cain, Chris, CO	BCC
Champagne, Bonnie, PPO2	CO
Christian, Donna, PC	CO
Cleary, Karen, PPO1	CO
Danner, Raymond, CO	BCC
Deedon, Warren, CO	BCC
Ferreira, Linda, PC	CO
Foley, Terry, PC	CO
Gaglioe, James, SalesMgr.	CEC
Gardino, Ronald, CO	BCC
Goguen, Linda, PPO	CO
Goodfield, Irene, PC	CO
Guarino, Paul, CC	BCC
Guimond, Sean, CO	NCI
Herboldt, Carlene, FAO	CO
Howes, Jeremy, CO	NCI
Jordan, Diana, PC	CO
Josfiak, David, CO	NCI
Kielbasinski, Carla, PC	CO
Krzymowek, Adam, HVAC	MYI
Lidwin, Daryl, Ind. Supvr.	OCI
Macala, Judy, PC	CO
Massop, Marlone, CO	NCI
Miller, LuCiana, PC	CO
Mosig, Shelley, PC	CO
Olivieri, Robert, Voc. Instr.	OCI
Orduz, Marjorie, CC	OCI
Sansone, James, CO	BCC
Smith, Roger, CO	CRCI
Soberal, Edgardo, CO	BCC
Szlanga, Mariola, PC	CO
Thibeault, Nicole, CC	BCC
Vega, Nayda, PC	CO
Ware, Leigh, CS	YCI
Whitehouse, Amy, PC	CO
Williamson, Manuel, CO	BCC
Zalot, Agata, PC	CO
Zuccalo, James, CTO	NCI