

Remember Our Troops



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



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

MacDougall-Walker CI -Tops in Fundraising for SOCT

The Connecticut Department of Correction led the way, as the Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run Executive Committee held its



Warden John Seiminski (2nd from left) with Commissioner Theresa Lantz (center) with staff from MWCI and representatives from Special Olympics-CT.

Annual Kickoff Luncheon. More than 300 members of the state's law enforcement community were at the meeting to celebrate the accomplishments of

2006 and to plan for the up-coming year's fund raising campaign. Police departments, state police barracks and state inspectors were all honored for their efforts to support those with intellectual disabilities. But when it came time for the top prize, it was Warden John Sieminski and members of his staff who came forward to receive it.

Continued on Page 5, See *MWCI/SOCT*

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

February 25, 2007 - March 10, 2007

From The Commissioner



It's that time of the year again when the General Assembly is back in session creating a whirlwind of activity that invariably considers changes in how the Connecticut Department of Correction carries out its work. For me and members of the Central Office staff, this means frequently spending time at the Legislative Office Building, insuring that we communicate our needs and goals to the lawmakers in both public testimony and private meetings. At the top of our agenda is the budget that the Governor has proposed for the next two years. In its current form it provides support to continue the re-entry efforts that have been so successful in managing our inmate population. This, as always, is subject to scrutiny as the legislature reviews its own priorities on the state's spending. Some of the areas I have recently testified about include: supporting our current policy on the utilization of K-9's; explaining our agency costs to include staff overtime;

Continued on Page 2, See *The Commissioner*

Henry Gets a New Home



Staff at the York Correctional Institution recently got a heartwarming glimpse into how their hard work with the NEADS Puppy Partnership pays off. During his training at York, Henry the yellow Labrador Retriever was known for not always following the rules and leaving the impression that he might never make the grade. But in early February he came back to York one last time, to show off his new owner, Anthony Hoel, a 17-year old from Minnesota. Despite Henry's reputation and the fact that he and Anthony had only known each other for four days, it was apparent they were already fast friends. Henry stayed by Anthony's side and when Anthony wheeled around the Eastside gym, Henry's eyes never left him. He is trained to help Anthony turn on lights, open doors and pick items up off the floor. Anthony's mother Susan said they had waited two years for Henry. She and her husband run a clinic for children with disabilities

where Henry will also work in addition to taking care of Anthony. The inmate trainers who currently have other disability assistance dogs under their guidance came to say an emotional good-bye to Henry whom they had all seen grow from puppy hood. It was clear to them that while it might not be easy to let go of a dog you have raised for a year, it is far outweighed by the benefit that the animals provide to kids like Anthony.

The Commissioner Cont'd

discussing our confined population increase and its impact on crowding; detailing our need for bond funds to enhance staff and facility safety and security, to include radios, cameras, building enhancements, etc; and educating lawmakers and the public that we were deservedly recognized by the Pew Charitable Trust study as a national model for other states in correctional policy implementation, collaboration and offender re-entry. As I continue to meet with legislators and testify, please know that I constantly reinforce these core tenants: 1) The staff of the Department of Correction is made up of dedicated professionals who are committed to public safety. 2) The public can be proud of the work we do as public servants and as a leader in our field. 3) We are committed to influencing positive change in offenders in support of public safety. I look forward to any opportunity to speak on behalf of the agency and about you, our staff. Throughout the year, it is part of my continuing obligation to educate the public about the important role we play in our state government, communities and the criminal justice system.

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

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Robinson CI Announces Employees of the Quarter



CO Christopher Jones with Warden Bruce Cuscovitch.

Warden Bruce Cuscovitch of Robinson CI is happy to announce the Employees of the Quarter to the following staff members: Correctional Officer Christopher Jones and Human Resource Specialist Susan Garner.

Officer Jones was selected as a result of be-

ing “a veteran officer with a positive attitude,” “accepting all assignments without complaining,” and “having an even temperament.”

Susan Garner was recognized for “assisting the staff at Robinson CI,” “always conducting yourself in a professional manner,” and “keeping a positive attitude while, at times, working a thankless job.”



HRS Susan Garner with Warden Bruce Cuscovitch.

Around The Cell Block



Pennsylvania- A county prison was surprised to learn they have 85 gang members locked up. “We had no clue,” said the Deputy Warden.

Washington- It’s estimated that 1.5-million children in America have at least one parent in prison. In 94 percent of the cases, the parent is the father.

West Virginia- A bill passed by the state senate would allow inmate mothers to keep their newborns with them behind bars for the first 18-months.

Scotland- Unhappy with the cleanliness of what they have been issued, inmates at the country’s largest prison are demanding that they be allowed to wear their own underwear.

Book Donation Drive

March 26th marks the one year anniversary of the untimely passing of Richard “Dick” Wilcox. Dick was a Vocational Instructor affiliated with Correctional Enterprises, a member of the DOC Honor Guard, and involved in many local & community affairs in his hometown. To commemorate the event, the MacDougall School is initiating a Book Donation Drive for the Library in Dick’s honor. All books will be inscribed with the name of the donor on a specially-made label created for this occasion.

Anyone interested in donating a new, hardcover book to the MacDougall Library can do so by contacting Librarian Susan Boss (860) 627-2127, or Assistant Principal Mary Kane (860) 627-2283. Librarian Boss can provide a list of reference and general reading options that would complement our existing resources. Donations will be received during March and April.

**Total
Supervised
Population
on
March 5, 2007
23,614
On March 5, 2006
the population was
22,743**

From Our Troops

The following excerpt is a letter and an update from DOC staff that are currently deployed overseas in the military.....***“I am still overseas and probably will not be home until next May. It has been pretty crazy over here. We get rocketed on a regular basis, but recently a lot of things have happened to turn the tides. I can’t say much here - but we are cleaning house. It’s a dusty dirty place and the less you have the better. Sitting in a bunker got old real quick. Here is a picture (see above) of me holding a 107mm rocket tube. It doesn’t look that big, but it’s one hell of an explosion! I watched this one fly overhead and explode just outside***



CO Justin Anderson
Cheshire CI



CO Ray Caron - Northern CI

the FOB (Forward Operating Base). It over-shot the base and landed on the other side. Tell everyone who asks, that I am doing good. I hope everything is all right in the facility and I wish the best for my brothers and sisters in blue; and I hope we all stay safe! -Justin”

In December of 2005 Correction Officer Ray Caron of Northern CI was deployed and is now stationed in Sharana, Afghanistan, in the Paktika Province. He is a member of B. Co. 1/102nd Infantry and he is a Platoon Sergeant currently assigned to PRT Sharana for security and convoy operations.

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 written by Plant Facilities Engineer I Kenneth White. He can be reached at 860.739.2074.

Where does my garbage go? That question popped into my mind the other day as I once again engaged in the weekly ritual of “putting out the trash.” There must be something more than just dragging the can and recycle bin out to the curb on Tuesday and bringing it back on Wednesday. I began my learning journey by contacting my garbage hauler.

The lady on the phone was surprised by my question. There weren’t too many calls requesting this information. After a bit of fumbling she handed me off to her supervisor. Her boss asked me what town I lived in and decisively told me, “Your waste goes to the Hartford landfill or the resource recovery plant.” That answer didn’t really meet my needs; it somehow seemed a bit contrived. Hmm... more research was obviously needed. A quick “Google” search led me to the Connecticut Resource Recovery Authority (CRRRA) web site. The CRRRA has the enviable responsibility for managing all of the household waste generated in 115 of the state’s 169 cities and towns. This amounts to the byproducts of the lives of more than 2,422,063 of our fellow Connecticut residents (2000 U.S. census). The CRRRA deals with this “odorous” task at four trash-to-energy plants, varied recycling centers, and numerous solid waste landfills.

Waste is collected by local municipalities and contracted haulers. Towns traditionally provided trash removal as part of its regular service to taxpayers, but the current trend toward privatization has increased the number of private companies in the garbage business.

Continued on Page 6, See *Did You Know*

Parent's PRIDE - Winner of Safety Award



DAS Worker's Compensation Program Coordinator William Donnelly submitted this letter to Commissioner Theresa Lantz: "As I visit the various Department of Correction facility health and safety meetings, I challenge the committee members to come up with ideas for safety posters which I offer to fund and produce. The Corrigan-Radgowski Safety Committee took me up on the offer. Abigale Simmons, daughter of CTO Jeff Simmons actually hand-painted

her submission on a canvas frame (see photo above) which I scanned into a poster to be displayed at the facility." - Congratulations Abigale on a Job Well Done!

MWCI/SOCT Cont'd

The MacDougall-Walker Correctional Institution was the top fund raising facility/department among law enforcement in the state. The total raised by the facility for 2006 totaled \$17,156! This was the first time that a correctional facility achieved top honors in the state. "Our staff proves time and time again, that our dedication to protecting and caring for others extends far beyond our facility perimeters," said an extremely proud Commissioner Theresa C. Lantz. The Department's Honor Guard set the tone for the gathering by presenting the colors on stage. Bridgeport CC, Manson YI, and Willard - Cybulski CI were also recognized for their commitment to Special Olympics. If staff would like further information, they may contact Captain Joseph Carlone at Central Office.

CDOC Model Praised in National Study

A prominent national study on the staggering increase in the country's prison population has cited Connecticut as a "striking and successful" example of how to manage the ongoing influx of offenders. The study, backed by the Pew Charitable Trusts, projected that over the next five years, that there will be an increase of nearly 200,000 offenders nationally at a cost of more than \$27-billion. The study also reports that Connecticut is one of only three states that are expected to experience no growth in their inmate population during this time period. "We are proud and extremely pleased that our efforts to support successful re-entry and our unprecedented collaboration among branches of government and our sister state agencies are now being recognized for their substantial benefits in impacting growth in the offender population," said Commissioner Theresa C. Lantz. The report details how Connecticut, through its legislature, Correction Department and state agencies, invested in re-entry and recidivism reduction instead of building new correctional facilities. "Within two years following the development and adoption of this strategy, Connecticut went from having one of the fastest growing prison populations in the nation to experiencing a decline steeper than almost any other state," the study said.

Friends of Ferguson Donation Calendar



(l-r) Director of Programs And Treatment Mary Marcial, Ann Mortimer, Laird Mortimer, Joan Rinaldi, Commissioner Theresa Lantz, Robbie Monsma, Barbara Leffler, and Dianne Pacetta-Ulmann of Unified Scool District # 1.

The Ferguson Library has donated over 24,000 books, periodicals and other reading material to the Department of Correction since July of 2005. These ma-

terials are distributed to the 18 correctional facilities throughout the state and augment the inventory that currently exists. Commissioner Lantz and Director Mary Marcial recently presented the volunteers from the Friends of Ferguson Library (pictured above) with a plaque in recognition for all their work with this project.



March 16 - 18
Easter Seals
Greater Hartford
Rehabilitation

Center is pleased to announce that its 2007 Volleyball Marathon will be held at Trinity College in Hartford on . This is thier 25th year, and they are planning some exciting activities to commemorate this this milestone! Players of all ability levels are invited to participate in the fun! Funds raised this year will be allocated toward the new Easter Seals Breast Cancer Rehabilitation Program, the first of its kind in the state of Connecticut. For more information, please contact Pat Haney via e-mail at phaney@eastersealshartford.org, or 860.714.9500. or visit their website at: www.hartford.easterseals.com

Did You Know?...Cont'd

Trash picked up at curbside in most of the towns along the Connecticut River is transported to the CRRA's Mid-Connecticut Project. The Mid-Connecticut Project consists of a trash-to-energy facility located in Hartford, four transfer stations, the Hartford landfill, a regional recycling center and the CRRA Visitors Center & Trash Museum in Hartford.

The trash-to-energy facility uses the refuse-derived fuel (RDF) process. The plant, rated at 2,850 tons-per-day, separates burnable materials from recyclables and other residues. Recyclables are shipped away to specialty processors. Non-burnable residue is deposited in the Hartford landfill. Shredding the remaining materials is the last step in creating the refuse-derived fuel that is burned to create steam used for turbine-driven electrical generators. That fuel is burned along with coal to produce 68.5 megawatts of electricity; the equivalent of more than 750,000 barrels of oil, or enough electricity to power 70,000 households for a year.

More information on waste disposal in Connecticut can be found on the Connecticut Resource Recovery Authority (CRRA) web site at <http://www.crra.org> and the MDC at <http://www.themdc.com/midctproject.htm>.



March 29
- Retirement
Celebration for
Director of
Security
Dennis

Jones will be held at Zabbara's Restaurant & Banquet House, 245 Hartford Road New Britain from 5:30 to 8:30. The cost is \$25 and includes the gift. For tickets or contributions, please contact Major Jon Warren at 860.692.7505 by Friday March 23, 2007. There are limited tickets and NO tickets will be sold at the door.

Condolences



With sympathy, Director Doug Kulmacz and the staff of the Volunteer & Recreation Services Unit recognize the passing of Maria Machabee, mother of Sec. 2 Andrea Ouelette.



Director Sandra Sawicki and the staff of the Maloney Center for Training and Staff Development are saddened at the passing of Mrs. Rosemary Wagner, mother of Counselor Supervisor Jerry Wagner and Lorenzo Sarrapachielo, father-in-law of Correction Officer Michael Myshrall.



Warden Robert Correa and staff at New Haven CC are saddened to announce the passing of: Mary S. Davis, mother of Correctional Officer Walt Davis; Virginia Holmes, mother of Lieutenant Ted Holmes; Edward Lynch, father of Lieutenant Terry Lynch and Charles Spears, father of Correctional Officer Charles Spears Jr.



Director Brian Garnett and the staff of the External Affairs Unit are saddened to announce the passing of Maura Kyc, sister of Counselor Supervisor Joan Ellis of Central Office and sister-in-law of Principal Steven Ellis of Osborn CI.



Warden David Strange and the staff at Osborn CI are saddened to announce the passing of Roland Senecal, father of Lieutenant Neil Senecal and father-in-law of Counselor Supervisor Beth Senecal of Cheshire CI.



Director Dave Batten and the staff of the Facilities Management & Engineering Unit are saddened to announce the passing of Merle Turner, father of Correctional Electrician Joel Turner of York CI; Michael Misiaszek, Jr., father of Electronics Technician Michael Misiaszek III of York CI; Walter E. Weir, Sr., father-in-law of Correctional Maintenance Supervisor Thomas Morrow of Corrigan-Radgowski; and Danny Messeck, brother of General Maintenance Officer Eugene Messeck of Bergin CI.



Director Dave Batten and the staff of the Facilities Management & Engineering Unit are saddened to announce the passing of David C. Sweet, Jr., Retired Plant Facilities Engineer 1, father of Correctional Stores Supervisor Kevin Markey.



Director Bob Foltz and the staff of Fiscal Services are saddened to announce the passing of Kristine Sanzo's grandmother.



Warden Bruce Cuscovitch and the staff of Robinson CI are saddened to announce the passing of the father of Correction Officer Jeff Shiholuk.



Warden Daniel Martin and the staff at Cheshire CI are saddened to convey news of the passing of Commissary Operator Ed Coelho.



Rev. Anthony J. Bruno, Director of Religious Services, is saddened to inform everyone of the death of Karl Nygard, brother of Secretary Deb Barry.



Angela Jalbert, Acting Superintendent and the staff of Unified School District #1 are saddened to announce the passing of Harry Lowenstein father of Vocational Instructor Hugh Lowenstein.



Director Bob Cosgrove and the staff of the MIS Unit are saddened to announce the passing of Donald Plourde, husband of Systems Developer 2 Patricia Plourde.