

Remember Our Troops



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



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

New DOC Dogs Report For Duty



Members of the DOC K9 Unit pose with DC Murphy after the graduation ceremony. They are: (l-r) Frank McLaughlin & K9 'Storm', Deputy Commissioner of Operations Brian K. Murphy, Officer Joseph Bandzak & K9 'Major', Class Trainer Officer Andre Cox and Officer Ronald Zaczynski & K9 'Blaze'.

It was difficult to keep the excited graduates from barking their approval and drowning out the commencement speaker. But with a little encouragement, and no doubt the promise of some quality time with a cherished tennis ball later, three of the Department of Correction's furriest, were among the K9's who recently graduated from the Connecticut State Police canine training class 131.

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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

January 1- 31, 2008

Chancellor Carter Speaks at GED Graduation Ceremony



A school graduation ceremony was held at Robinson CI on Wednesday, December 5th, to acknowledge and celebrate 25 GED graduates and 20 Vocational Education graduates. Warden Bruce Cuscovitch began the activity with words of welcome and congratulations. The keynote speaker for the event was Dr. David Carter, Chancellor of the Connecticut State University System.

Continued on Page 10, See *Chancellor*

USD #1 Announces 2008 Teacher of the Year

Ms. Rachel Boccio has been selected as the 2008 Teacher of the Year. Ms. Boccio is a State School Teacher at the Manson Youth Institution in Unified School District #1 and has been employed by the Department of Correction since May of 1998. During her employment, Ms. Boccio has taught at every level of academics, and is known for the outstanding work that she does with students with limited literacy skills. Her students are often at a pre-kindergarten reading level when they enter her class. Her success with teaching them the necessary reading skills to mainstream into higher level classes has been phenomenal. Ms. Boccio is known as a taskmaster and cooperator. She has been involved in agency and district committees and has been the recipient of two Faculty Enhancement Grants from USD#1. She has also been the recipient of the Excellence in Student Teaching Award, issued by St. Joseph's College in CT. We congratulate Ms. Boccio for the outstanding work she has done to improve student achievement in Unified School District #1.



Good Samaritans At Garner

The evening of Friday, December 7th was one commuters in Connecticut will never forget. A storm that was predicted to be "just a dusting," ended up being a nightmare. Roads in the state quickly became icy and stayed that way throughout the evening.

Counselor Jamey Palmieri and Maintenance Officer Mark Styra left work at Garner CI and were heading eastbound on Interstate 84 when they came upon a Blazer that had flipped over on its side, off the highway. Counselor Palmieri stopped his car and quickly learned that there were two women still in the vehicle and they were trapped at the bottom. He climbed on top of the Blazer and opened the door. The vehicle was shaking and could have tipped over. Maintenance Officer Styra held the door open while Counselor Palmieri reached in the vehicle and grabbed the hand of one woman and pulled her safely out of the vehicle. He then assisted the other woman out of the Blazer. By this time several citizens had stopped to assist and the police were on their way.



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

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Parent's PRIDE



(l-r) Patricia Davis, Michael Davis Jr. (award recipient), and Michael Davis.

The Brothers of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated with the support of The Aetna, Travelers and the Beta Sigma Lambda Educational Foundation Incorporated (BSL) held the 4th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Young People's Oratorical Contest at the Bethel AME Church in Bloomfield on January 12th. The BSL Educational Foundation Inc. provides programs and services that help develop and shape aspiring young scholars. The theme for this year's contest was "Health Disparities in America, Fact or Fiction?" There were eight contestants, in the middle school and high school divisions competing for scholarship prizes. One of the participants was Michael Davis Jr., son of Administrative Assistant Patricia Davis (Central Office) and Captain Michael Davis (Hartford Correctional Center). Michael, who is in the 9th grade at Bloomfield High School, won first place in the High School Division and received a \$5,000 Savings Bond. Congratulations on such a notable achievement!

Congrats



Warden Esther Torres and the staff at Willard-Cybulski congratulate Lieutenant Mary Forkey on the birth of her grandson, Jamison Allen Forkey, born on Christmas Day! Baby Jamison weighed in at 8 lbs. and 15 oz. and is 21 inches. The proud parents are Jason and Amy Forkey.

Around The Cell Block



Arkansas- As a holiday gift, the state's 14,000 inmates will get \$6 in their commissary accounts but no oranges as in past years.

Australia- Twenty people have been banned from visiting one prison after they were caught during the holidays trying to smuggle drug scales, cell phones, cash and weapons.

New Hampshire- There were initial concerns after it was learned the four new service dogs to be trained at the state prison are poodles.

Maryland- Prison officials began an inmate bee-keeping program to insure that the plants on an 18-acre prison farm would get pollinated.

*Total
Supervised
Population
on
January 15, 2008
23,654
On January 15, 2007
the population was
23,721*

CEC Donation to DCF



DOC staff from Osborn CI present the DCF social workers with the toys made by CEC.

On December 20th social workers from the Department of Children & Families met with staff from the Department of Correction to receive over 100 toys that were created by inmates that work in the sewing shop for Correctional Enterprises of Connecticut (CEC) at Osborn CI. The toys were distributed by DCF social workers to low income families and foster children for the holiday season.

The Department of Correction has been doing the toy donations for several years, but this year is the first time that DCF has been the recipient of the crafts.

Continued on Page 8 , See *CEC Donation*

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 article has been written by Plant Facilities Engineer Sam Kotsch and questions relating to it may be answered by contacting him at 203.806.2664.

Repairing Toilets

Your toilet is operated by a fairly simple system of levers, floats and seals. Many basic repairs are ones that you can do on your own without the expense of hiring a plumber. All you really need is some basic tools and the ability to figure out what isn't working. Once you have identified the problem, you can buy new parts- they usually aren't very expensive and install them yourself. Your spouse will think you're a genius and you will save money.

Let's start with a very basic explanation of how a toilet works. It consists of two parts, the tank and the bowl. The bowl is the part of the toilet that sits on the floor. It has a discharge throat at the bottom, which allows waste to be flushed away. The tank generally sits on top of the bowl. This is what holds the water that allows you to flush. When you push the handle, the water from the tank is released into the bowl. Gravity does most of the work here as the water seeks to level itself within the trap of the toilet. As the water seeks to level itself out, it pushes all of the waste through the "S" trap and it falls into the drain line on the other side. Armed with a basic knowledge of how your toilet is supposed to work, let's take a look at some other issues you may have with your toilet.

A toilet that won't stop running is the most common problem. Your toilet is designed with a float system inside that monitors and maintains the depth of the water in your tank. At the very bottom of the tank is a valve.

Continued on Page 5 , See *Did You Know*

DOC Commissioner's - Making The News



Commissioner Theresa C. Lantz discusses correctional issues as she appears with Representative Pamela Sawyer who represents the Bolton area, on her cable-access television show, which she has produced for more than a dozen years.



Deputy Commissioner Brian K. Murphy and Local 387 President David Testa, discuss prison crowding, when they recently appeared on Fox 61's Beyond the Headlines with Shelly Sindland.

Did You Know Cont'd

That valve holds the water in the tank until you are ready to flush. When you flush, the valve opens and allows all of the water in the tank to rush into the bowl. Typically, this is a flapper style valve. Since the valve is made of rubber, it can start to decompose or rot over time. Sometimes the rubber hardens and warps. In either case, the valve no longer seals correctly and water is allowed to escape from the tank into the bowl even when you haven't flushed. Since the float mechanism in the tank is going to allow the water to keep running until the tank is full, your toilet will run forever. Nine times out of ten, you can fix this problem by replacing that flapper valve. There are several different styles, so you'll want to shut off the water to your toilet, remove the old valve and take it with you to the Home Depot so that you can match it up properly. The total of this repair should cost no more than \$15.00.

Another common problem is often found with the flush handle itself. That handle sees a lot of use, and since they are often made of plastic, they can break. Replacements are readily available and they like the flapper valves shouldn't be more than \$15.00. The most important thing that you'll need to keep in mind when purchasing a new handle is the location of the handle of the tank. Is yours on the front or the side? You'll need to know this when you make your purchase or you may have the wrong bend in the arm that allows it to function. Additionally, some tanks have what is called an angle mount. These are not as popular, but some decorative tanks have corners that are beveled at 45-degree angles. These require a special handle and may be a little harder to find. Again good luck, and if you have any additional questions you can contact me at 203.806.2664 or you can look on one of these websites Simkins, Brian "Repair Common Toilet Problems." [DoItYourself.Com](http://www.doityourself.com). or <http://www.doityourself.com/stry/repairtoiletproblems>.

Bishop Cote Delivers Holiday Mass in Prison



Bishop Michael R. Cote (pictured at left) of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Norwich was at the Corrigan-Radgowski Correctional Center to conduct Christmas Eve Mass. Bishop Cote has been a priest since 1975. He was ordained as a bishop in July 1995. He was appointed and installed as the bishop of the Norwich diocese in 2003.

During the mass the inmates sang the hymns of the holidays together as Deacon Jesus Diez Canseco played the guitar. Bishop Cote read from the Book of Matthew and offered words of consolation during his homily. He stated, "The Holiday season is a very difficult time for inmates to be in prison." It's a time for families, and being in prison, makes the holiday that much more difficult." Inmates also received Holy

Communion as part of the service.

Continued on Page 9 , See *Mass*



MVP'S

Baker, Lisa, CO	CRCI	Forkey, Mary, Lt.	WCCI	Morgan, Adam, Lt.	WCCI
Barber, Earl, CO	CRCI	Furey, Christopher, CC	BCI	Murray, Melissa, Capt.	BCI
Bass, Donald, CO	WCCI	Garguilo, Marc, Capt.	CRCI	Nicolescu, Sorin, CO	WCCI
Bedard, Jason, PO	HCC	Gentles, Eric, CO	CRCI	Olson, David, CO	MYI
Birmingham, Fred, CC	MYI	Girard, Jeff, SST	MYI	Ouelette, Jason, CO	CRCI
Brown, Anthony, CO	WCCI	Golfieri, Joseph, CO	CRCI	Ouelette, Lise, HR Asst.	CO
Burns, John, CTO	MYI	Goudreal, Paul, CO	CRCI	Palmieri, Jason, CTO	MYI
Callaghan, Dennis, Capt.	MYI	Guay, Robert, CO	MYI	Powel, Jason, CO	MYI
Capasso, Michael, Capt.	MYI	Guerrero, Jimmy, CO	MYI	Powell, James, CO	MYI
Cellana, Valerie, CO	MYI	Guest, Ray, CC	MYI	Roach, Caleb, CO	MYI
Coloski, Charles, CO	MYI	Gugliotti, Corie, CO	CRCI	Roberts, Natalie, CO	MYI
Constanzo, Philip, Capt.	MYI	Hagans, Terri, Capt.	MYI	Roby, John, Lt.	BCC
Cook, Thomas, CO	MYI	Hall, Linda, SACC	HCC	Roche, Dennis, Capt.	CRCI
Cote, Michelle, Rec. Spec.	MYI	Hardt, David, CorrFireSvcSpvr, MYI		Rucker, Darryl, Lt.	MYI
Cox, Carl, CFSSII	YCI	Henry, Sonia, CHN	MYI	Ryan, Mike, CO	MYI
Cristillo, Nicola, CO	MYI	Hoffman, Sandra, CO	CRCI	Santa, Jose, Lt.	WCCI
Danielle Mancini, CC	MYI	Irwin, Tyrone, CO	CRCI	Scarmozzino, Cynthia, Lt.	HCC
Dconarine, Lalman, CO	MYI	Jackson, Willie, CO	CRCI	Thomas, Michael, CO	CRCI
DeBoise, Dashedelle, OA	BCC	Kennedy, Kevin, Lt.	WCCI	Torres, Richard, Lt.	BCC
Diakon, Timothy, PO	CO	Lawlor, William, CO	CRCI	Tralli, Tim, CHN	HCC
DiBeneditto, John, CO	WCCI	Lawson, James, CFSSII	MYI	Vasquez, Carlos, CO	CRCI
Dugan, Carianne, CO	MYI	Loubier, Wendy, CFSSII	YCI	Wallace, Arthur, CO	CRCI
Duncan, Luther, CO	MYI	Lusardi, William, Lt.	HCC	Ware, Leigh, CS	YCI
Efrain, Roman, CO	MYI	May, Garland, CO	CRCI	White, Robert, CO	MYI
Flecha, Cesar, CO	MYI	McCarroll, Brian, RS	MYI	Wozniak, Joanne, Rec. Spec.	MYI

Agency Good Neighbors

Robinson CI - Warden Bruce Cuscovitch is very happy and pleased to announce that again this year resources received through the Inmate Photo Program at Robinson CI were distributed to three very worthy organizations. Specific donations include the following: \$500 to the Make- A-Wish Foundation in Trumbull, CT.; \$500 to the Network Against Domestic Violence in Enfield, CT.; and \$1,000 worth of toys donated to the Connecticut Children’s Medical Center. Pictured at right are (l-r) Recreation Supervisor Paul Caccavalle, Robert Nolan of the CCMC and Recreation Supervisor Bill Schmidt as they delivered the toys on Thursday, December 27th.



Northern CI - Warden Jeff McGill praised the staff members of Northern Correctional Institution for collecting new unwrapped toys for Operation E.L.F. Pictured (at left) are members of the facility Diversity Committee who helped coordinate this year’s toy drive to help Connecticut Service Members and their families during the holiday season.

Promotions & Transfers

November & December 2007

<u>Name</u>	<u>New Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>New Position</u>
Kristina Barker	Parole Officer 2	Kelli Meeker	Lieutenant
George Camp	Counselor Supervisor	Jerry Moore	Parole Officer 2
Ivette Capitan	Lieutenant	Elaine Pacheco	Dep Dir P&C Services
Edwin Cardona	Parole Officer 1	Dean Parracino	PO Trainee
Katherine Fortuna	PO Trainee	Arthur Reardon	Parole Officer 1
Mark Franco	Parole Officer 2	Mary Reinhard	Parole Officer 2
Calma Frett	Correctional Counselor	Margie Rorie	PO Trainee
David Gallo	PO Trainee	Keyra Rosario	Parole Officer 1
Joseph Haggan	Dep Dir P&C Services	Helen Santini	Parole Officer 2
Lushonda Howard	Parole Officer 1	David Shea	Fiscal/Admin. Officer
Netasia Jones	Parole Officer 1	David Snyder	Parole Officer 2

CEC Donation Cont'd



Vocational Instructor Jean Frezza (Osborn CI) surveys the toys made by CEC before they were loaded up for delivery to the Hartford DCF office.

In past years, DOC has donated toys to homeless shelters in the Hartford and New Haven area.

The idea for inmates to create toys as holiday gifts began as an accident about seven years ago. An inmate in Osborn's parenting program stitched together a rag doll from raw materials to use as practice for cradling a baby, said Jean Frezza, the clothing industry supervisor who trains inmates in the sewing factory. Frezza, who was a designer in New York City before joining the state Department of Correction nine years ago, said she instantly recognized the creative talent.

From then on, "I would test their skill by asking them to make toys," she said. Inmates would have to sew stuffed frogs, bunnies, or other shapes to pass what she called her "test projects." At any given time, Frezza teaches

about 30 of Osborn's 2,100 inmates how to make everything from lap top cases to uniforms. Frezza beamed as she watched the workers load up the toys for the holiday charity donation.

New Resource For Department of Correction

"When it comes to the future, there are three kinds of people: those who let it happen, those who make it happen, and those who wonder what happened."

John M. Richardson Jr., scholar

On September 14, 2007 the Connecticut Department of Correction hired Cheryl Cepelak as Director of the newly created Organizational Development Unit (ODU). Originally named Research and Strategic Planning, the ODU will expand its products and services to provide tools, information and strategies that allow the department to plan for, and more readily adapt to opportunities, challenges and changes. Cheryl, a UConn graduate and member of the International Public Management Association for Human Resource Professionals as well as the CT Training and Development Network, brings over nineteen years of State management experience to our department.

"Services we provide include implementation of strategic planning, monitoring the application of performance improvement and change management initiatives, group facilitation and team building," Cheryl explains.

Also included in Director Cepelak's responsibilities are coordinating and overseeing the Department's grants program as well as managing research requests. Cheryl's team includes Grants Manager Christine Fortunato and Fiscal Administrative Officer Jaye Boucher.

"OD is a support resource for all those facilities, divisions and units in the department that seek to shape their future," said Cheryl, "Let's hear from you today!" Cheryl can be reached at 860.692.7658 or via email at Cheryl.Cepelak@po.state.ct.us.

Mass Cont'd



Captain Edward Ramsey, a spokesperson for the Department of Correction, who was on hand for the services told the New London Day, “families aren’t allowed to send holiday packages with homebaked goodies into the prison for security reasons. But on Christmas, the food services staff depart from the usual menu in an effort to prepare something special.”

Sister Patty Cook, Catholic Chaplain at the facility, asked the inmates in attendance at the mass, “What is it that we most want for Christmas? No matter what our resources are, most of us, if not all of us, want what we cannot buy.” She encouraged the men to seek out the things they can’t buy for Christmas – “the joy that comes from peace, the healing that comes from forgiveness and the happiness that comes from love.”

In a letter to the Public Information Office, Sister Patty also thanked Captain Ramsey for allowing a reporter from the New London Day to witness and cover the mass. “It was refreshing to open the newspaper on Christmas morning and see the positive news article regarding the mass.”

Golf Anyone?



It has been quite a winter so far, but as always, it will eventually end. Spring will officially greet us on March 20th. To that end, The Joe Bongiorno DOC Golf League will have an organizational meeting for both last year’s members and anyone interested in playing during the 2008 season. The meeting will be held on Tuesday (weather permitting), March 4th at JoAnne’s Restaurant on Rte. 190 in Somersville, CT from 4 pm - 5 pm. Anyone who would like to get more details about the league is encouraged to call League Secretary Larry Soine at 860.763.6391. League President D. J. Figiela (Bergin CI) is looking forward to seeing you at JoAnne’s.

C.E.R.T. Recruitment

Director Richard Miele of the Tactical Operations Unit has announced that the Correction Emergency Response Team (CERT) is recruiting new members to fill current vacancies.

Candidates should be familiar with Administrative Directive 7.4, Emergency Response Units, and should be in compliance with Section 8. Emergency Response Unit Member selection. Appointment and Retention Criteria. Interested candidates must submit a copy of the previous year’s attendance, last three years of evaluations (if applicable), three letters of recommendation (one must be from your Shift Commander/Immediate Supervisor and two must be from either active SOG/CERT Members or facility Supervisors); and a one or two paragraph letter explaining the reason for applying for this position. All perspective candidates must pass a two-day assessment to include the DAS physical assessment, firearms certification course, the DAS physical assessment test and complete a two-week Tactical Operation training session before being assigned to C.E.R.T.

Applications must be in no later than February 22, 2008. All applications must have the Warden’s review and signature. We are searching for the Department’s finest to join this critical, elite team. If there are any questions, you may contact the Tactical Operations Unit, Statewide Executive Officer, Captain Joseph Carlone at 860.250.7104.

New DOC Dogs Cont'd



“These handlers and their K9 partners are a crucial component of our ability to insure our facilities are safe secure and orderly,” said Deputy Commissioner Brian K. Murphy, who along with Deputy

Warden Joseph Chapdelaine, who heads the K9 Unit were there to cheer on the graduates. The three teams completed a grueling 14-week course, which covered all areas of law enforcement K9 operations. The ceremony also featured a special award for retired Correction Officer David Belanger (pictured above) recognizing him for his nearly 20 years of service as a K9 trainer for both the DOC and the State Police. The newly graduated K9 teams brings the total number of dogs who are available to patrol our correctional facilities to 19.

Chancellor Cont'd

Highlights of Dr. Carter’s remarks included the following: “this is not a place that you want to return to;” “...think of yourself five years from now and what you will see yourself doing;” “tell yourself - I am going to be a better person today than I was yesterday;” “Remember that on this planet Earth, you exist not just for yourself, but for others as well;” “Your life is in your hands!” “ This is not a place that you want to return to. You have proven that you are capable of doing schoolwork. You have put forth the effort, which required self-discipline. The truth is that if you successfully complete the GED here, there’s not a mountain you cannot climb. You just have to say to yourself that I am going to take advantage of the opportunities that are out there waiting for me.”

His closing remarks challenged the graduates by saying, “Do you have the will to continue growing ? If so, pursue more educational opportunities.”

Attendees also heard from the GED Valedictorian who scored a 3610. The ceremony ended with a delicious dessert that was provided by Vocational Education Faculty member Vincent Rouns and his Culinary Art students.

Condolences



Warden John Tarascio and the staff at Gates CI are saddened to announce the sudden passing of General Maintenance Officer Emil Addabbo. He worked for the Department of Correction DOC for 8 years.



Director of Facilities Management & Engineering Dave Batten, is saddened to announce the passing of Douglas E. Carter. He was a plumber at Enfield CI and worked for the Department of Correction for 9 years.



Director David Batten of the Facilities Management & Engineering Unit is saddened to announce the passing of Anna M. Skripol, mother of Plant Facilities Engineer David Skripol.



Warden David Strange and the staff at Osborn CI are saddened to announce the passing of William Fiore, father of Counselor Supervisor Mike Fiore; Timothy Donahue, brother of Lieutenant Sean Donahue; and Claude Massoop, son of Correction Officer Errol Massoop.



Warden Higgins and the staff at Bergin CI are saddened to announce the passing of Lillian Goff, mother of Recreation Supervisor Mark Price.



Director Braren and the staff of the Parole & Community Services Unit are saddened to announce the passing of Linda Davis, mother of Records Specialist Tressa Davis.