

1968-2008

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Years of Excellence
in Public Safety
Through Staff
Professionalism



Happy Holidays

With the holiday season now upon us, it is timely to review our accomplishments and explore what the future might bring. Although these are difficult times, there is still much we have to be thankful for.

As always, when I count my blessings, the first thing that comes to mind is you—the men and women of the Connecticut Department of Correction. I want to thank you all personally for your hard work and dedication over the past year.

You should look back with PRIDE on what you have achieved in 2008. Despite incarceration levels at or near record-highs, our facilities continued to operate in a safe, secure and humane manner.

Those of us who are fortunate enough to be with our loved ones during the holidays, should take time to remember the brave men and women, including fellow staff, who cannot be with their families because they are protecting our freedom. For their selfless sacrifice we should all be grateful.

The New Year will no doubt bring with it many challenges, as we find ourselves in turbulent economic times. I am comforted by the knowledge that, with your support and determination, we will continue to excel as one of the best correctional agencies in the country.

It is truly my honor to serve as your Commissioner.
Wishing you and your families the very best for 2009.

Sincerely,

Theresa C. Lantz

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.

December 10-23, 2008

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24 Wolcott Hill Road
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M. Jodi Rell
Governor

Theresa C. Lantz
Commissioner

Web address: [www.ct.gov/
doc](http://www.ct.gov/doc)

Public Information

Office telephone:

860.692-7780

Fax: 860.692.7783

All the Right Moves

Commissioner Theresa C. Lantz is pleased to announce the appointment of Anthony Coletti as the Warden of the Brooklyn Correctional Institution.



Brooklyn's new warden, Anthony Coletti

After having worked as a police officer in the town of Norwich, Connecticut from 1979-1988, Warden Coletti began his career with the Department of Correction as an officer in February of 1988. Upon transferring to J.B. Gates, he was promoted to Lieutenant in 1990. He stayed at Gates where he was promoted to Captain in 1994. Warden Coletti's march up the ranks continued when in 1998 he was promoted to Major of the Corrigan-Radgowski Correctional Center.

When Robin Sutherland suffered a heart attack, Coletti stepped up to the plate as temporary warden at Brooklyn CI from June 2006 through September of 2007.

Clearly up to the task, the facility ran smoothly during Coletti's watch. However, the true testament to Warden Coletti's leadership abilities was when he graciously

welcomed back, and supported Robin Sutherland as Warden after her recuperation.

"I am honored to be here as warden in light of all that has happened," said Warden Coletti. "This means a lot to me."

Along with the promotion of Warden Coletti, Commissioner Lantz has announced the following Deputy Warden promotions and re-assignments:

Promotions:

Carlos Burgos - Gates C.I.

Jesus Guadarama - M.Y.I.

Christopher Corey - Corrigan/Radgowski C.C.

Re-assignments:

Karl Lewis - New Haven C.C.

Laura Castronova - Gates C.I.

Raymond Coggeshall-Corrigan/Radgowski C.C.

Terry Rose - Willard/Cybulski C.I.

Raquel Torres - Corrigan/Radgowski C.C.

James Murdoch - Brooklyn C.I.

Jon Brighthaupt - Northern C.I.

Kimberly Weir - Security Division

Please join in wishing them well in their new assignments:



**MYI's New Deputy Warden,
Jesus Guadarama**



**The New Deputy Warden At
Gates CI: Carlos Burgos**

The Season of Giving

Toys from up North

Warden Jeffrey McGill of Northern CI is proud to announce the accomplishments of the Diversity Committee. Members of the committee collected new unwrapped toys for the Lions Club of Somers, CT. The toys will be distributed to families in need during the holiday season.



Left to Right: DW V. Light; DW T. Rose, CO L. Colon, Warden McGill, OA N. Leiper; Rec Supv A. Cameron, OA K. Such, Deacon Bernd, DW N. Rodriguez

CRCI Donates to Charity

Warden Bruce Cuscovitch is very happy and pleased to announce that again this year, resources received through the Inmate Photo Program at CRCI were distributed to four very worthy and appreciative organizations. Specific donations included the following: \$1000 worth of toys for the Connecticut Children's Medical Center; \$500 to My Sister's Place; \$500 to the Enfield Food Shelf; and \$500 to the Enfield Police Dept. "Toy for Joy" campaign.

Giving From (and for) the Heart

Warden Angel Quiros and Capt. Anna Dorozko want to thank staff for participating in raising \$11,168 for the American Heart Association, up from last year's \$7,381. Whether walking in the Heart Walk, participating in the dunk tanks, buying candy, holding a facility meal, or buying a bracelet, heart, or pin, it is appreciated and to be commended.

Intelligent Gifts

The Special Intelligence Unit not only provided 4 year old Daniel with his Christmas Wish, they were able to further assist with the Christmas wish lists of Robert, Tyrell, Alejandro, Malek, Ashton, Tyler, and Travis thanks to the giving spirit and collaborative effort from the Special Intelligence, Security Risk Group and Telephone Monitoring Units.

CRCI Pointsettia Sale

Members of the Carl Robinson Quality of Work Life (QWL) Committee have sold 130 holiday poinsettias to generate monies for the facility. Office Assistant Karen Piccoli is pictured selling the poinsettias. QWL uses monies throughout the year to address facility staff needs. A recent example was the purchase of two new couches for the Officer's Mess Hall.



Office Assistant Karen Piccoli

A Captain's Journey

Recently the staff of the York Correctional Institution welcomed back a very special "Captain" – the bright eyed yellow Labrador Retriever who graduated from the National Education of Assistance Dog Services (NEADS) program to become the assistant to Mr. Michael Williams. Mr. Williams wanted to personally visit the York Correctional Institution to thank the trainers and staff whose commitment and expertise taught Captain the skills he would need to become an assistance dog.



Michael Williams with his assistant Captain

During his visit, Mr. Williams said that because of Captain he is able to complete daily tasks that he otherwise would not be able to. These assistance dogs become an extension of their owners and bring security, freedom, and independence to their human partners. Unit Manager Travis Spring, Counselor Jen Bishop, and Counselor/NEADS Coordinator Kris-Anne Kane, all of whom have provided boundless dedication to the program, escorted Mr. Williams and Captain during their tour.

The yellow Labrador Retriever was named "Captain" as a way to honor Vocational Instructor Richard Wilcox (also known as Captain), who passed away three years ago. Mr. Wilcox served as a volunteer for the NEADS

program and left a priceless legacy for the program and Mr. Williams.

Around the Cell Block



Michigan- With a declining inmate population, two minimum security facilities will be closed saving \$21-million but costing 330 jobs.

England- Staff at one prison purchased nearly \$7,000 in take out dinners for inmates as part of a religious observance.

New Hampshire- The state's corrections commissioner is proposing that inmates who complete their GED could ask a judge for sentence reduction.

Indiana- Crime Stoppers is broadcasting details about unsolved crimes to inmates on closed-circuit televisions, offering a \$1,000 reward for information.

Educating the Educators

State School Principal Pat Stamidis, of the Willard/Cybulski Correctional Institution was one of four guest panelist members for the Delta Kappa Gamma's 69th Fall Conference entitled "Alternative Educational Settings," held November 8, 2008. Pat has been a member of this international organization of key women educators since 1997. She gave the audience (all DKG members/educators) an overview of the prison schools, including how inmates are initially assessed using the Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE) and via the General Educational Development (GED) exam. Additionally, she spoke briefly about the Enrichment Curriculum and the Re-Entry Program. Each of the panel members spoke for ten minutes and had a five-minute question and answer period.

***Total
Supervised
Population
on
December 23, 2008
23,336
On December 23, 2007
the population was
23,350***



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 was written by Irving Fallon, Plant Facility Engineer 1, and questions relating to it may be answered by contacting him at 860.692.7564.

Cleaning Clogged Plumbing Drains

The Department of Correction employs many wonderful plumbers that spend much of their working day opening drains from various obstructions. Although the typical homeowner should never experience a drain clogged by the insertion of a blanket, the principles and methods are largely the same.

A short list of “don’ts” apply.

The cover of a toilet’s reservoir is deemed by many to be an enticing location for displaying various knick-knacks. It is all too easy for these items to fall within the toilet basin, which can lead to clogs.

Grease, cooking fats, butter, gravy, and coffee grounds can clog any kitchen sink drain. They should go out with the household garbage and never enter the drainage system.

It is tempting to apply chemicals to sink drain clogs. This should be avoided since **if** the chemicals do not remove the clog, they will remain in the drain trap piping and possibly injure the plumber (or you) when the trap is loosened to clear the clog. This is a leading cause of injury for plumbers.

Never plant trees along the path of a sewer. The roots of trees readily gain access to underground sewer pipes and, once inside, swell to cause a restriction (to the point of blockage) within the pipe. A tree’s root spread is roughly equal to the spread of the visible-branch canopy.

Tools of the Trade

A blocked drain affecting an entire house will probably require the use of a power drain snake for removal. Although this equipment is available for rent to the unlicensed homeowner, their use is extremely dangerous and should be left to the professional.

Certain tools are necessary for tackling drain clogs. Fortunately, they are inexpensive and easily obtained at any hardware store. Toilet clogs require the use of a toilet plunger (a suction cup like plumber’s helper designed for toilets) and, for more stubborn problems, a closet auger. A plastic bucket is handy to transport the used plunger/auger. Parents of young children may want to keep a spare closet wax outlet gasket on hand in case the water closet needs to be removed from the floor to locate a missing toy.

Showers, lavatories and kitchen sinks require the use of a sink plunger (suction cup like plumber’s helper), a small auger with a ¼” wide spring cable, and a Channel Lok wrench. Plumbers also recommend the use of wet paper towels to close off the shower/sink overflow hole while using the plunger.

If several fixtures are stopped up and the drain lines are connected to a public sewage system, first check to be sure that the public system is functioning properly. If your neighbor(s) are experiencing the same problem, discontinue water use and contact you local water utility.

UConn Great Returns to Storrs

Donny Marshall, former University of Connecticut basketball star and NBA player, was the guest speaker at the recent Unified School District #1 GED Graduation Ceremony held November 14 at the Bergin Correctional Institution. At first blush you might think the only thing Marshall has in common with the inmates at Bergin CI is that they both spent time in Storrs, CT. Marshall was quick to point out that he shared more with them than they might suspect. The product of a bi-racial union, Marshall grew up poor, raised by his mother, with an absentee father.

Currently a commentator for the Boston Celtics, Marshall stressed to the crowd of family, friends, inmates and the 14 graduates assembled at the facility, the importance of education. He said that

all his accomplishments on the basketball court notwithstanding, one of the proudest moments in his life was when he walked across the floor of Gampel Pavilion to accept his diploma during graduation ceremonies from the University of Connecticut. “No one can take away your mind,” he said.” No one can take away your education.”

Others addressing the graduates included Warden Eileen Higgins, Director of Special Education for USD#1 Christine Murphy, and School Administrator Dorothy Durst. As an added bonus to those receiving their GEDs, Marshall not only gave out the diplomas, but also posed for pictures with each individual graduate.

“You are an inspiration to me, “ said Marshall. “Think about how many people told you that you couldn’t achieve this, but you did.”



Former UConn and NBA basketball star Donny Marshall hands out diplomas as School Administrator D. Durst looks on.



Some of the gingerbread houses donated by USD #1 to this years “We are the Children Christmas Party”

House / Party

Under the supervision of Vocational Instructor Tom Prince-Warinsky, culinary arts students at York CI created 14-magnificent ginger bread houses, which were donated to the “We are the Children Christmas Party,” held at the CT Expo Center.

The Christmas party, organized by local radio personality Gary Graig, provides an opportunity for 1,200 needy children in Connecticut to have a memorable holiday. The party has been an annual event since 1985.

Keeping the Home Fires Burning

The cold winter months will be a little warmer for several families in the southeastern part of the state thanks to a new program at the Corrigan-Radgowski Correctional Center.



A work detail from Corrigan Radgowski CC delivers wood to a local resident under the supervision of Officer Jason Ware

Overgrown and fallen trees that surround the perimeter of the facility needed to be cleared for security reasons, and rather than having the wood rot, grounds Officer Joe Schoonmaker came up with the idea of donating it to people in need.

This past fall, Schoonmaker and fellow officer Jason Ware began contacting social service agencies, and soon they had a growing list of “customers.” Since the program has started, nearly 30 cords of wood have been donated to 18 local families, as well as to social service agencies in Griswold and Montville.

After the wood is cut and split, it is also delivered and stacked at the recipient’s house free of charge. Two cords of wood would otherwise cost \$400 or more.

A recent beneficiary of free firewood was John Linda of Montville, an elderly gentleman who is busy caring for his ailing wife. “They came along and it was like a Godsend,” Linda said. “It’s been a real help.”

The hope for next year is to donate between 30-40 cords of firewood. There is enough wood around the facility to keep the program viable for a few more years, according to Officer Schoonmaker. Afterwards, he intends to turn to contractors that need lots cleared of wood.

Drain Care from page 5

Clogged Sinks

Slow to drain water in a sink usually means that the piping is clogged at the junction between the waste and vent pipe. To quickly solve this situation, remove the basket strainer (if the sink has two basins, plug the second basin outlet tightly with a rag to prevent loss of pressure). Take the sink style “plumber’s helper,” and place the force cup directly over the drain opening. Fill the sink with approximately 4 inches of standing water so the seal of the force cup can take hold. With both hands, push down on the handle with a slow, even pressure. Next, pull up on the handle sharply several times. This should remove the blockage.

On a stubborn clog, the next step would be to use a flexible spring cable snake. Place a container directly under the trap, loosen the trap’s two nuts and remove the “J” bend portion of the trap. Use a ¼” spring cable snake feeding the cable slowly into the drain pipe and rotating the cable by hand as you feed. Turn the handle until the obstruction is broken up. Remove the cable, reassemble the pipes, flush the fixture drain with hot water, and check for leaks.

Clogged Bathtub Drains

If a bathtub has a pop-up type drain stopper, the most likely cause of the clog is hair accumulated in the stopper. Remove the stopper and clean. If still clogged, proceed with the steps outlined above under clogged sinks. The overflow connection should be blocked with wet paper towels before plunging for best results. Some additional water may need to be added while plunging a tub to keep the force cup covered until the flow through the drain returns to normal.

MVP'S

Algarin, Eduardo CO	Bergin	Savoie, Richard CO	Gates	Torres, Geraldo Cpt.	MWCI
Babbitt, Kyle CO	Gates	Schena, Deana CC	CRCC	Torrueillas, Rafael CO	NHCC
Bond, Dionne CO	YCI	Schmidt, Thomas CO	NCI	Tourangeau, Mark CC	NCI
Cassista, Daniel Lt.	ECI	Schmidt, William Rec. Sup.	CRCI	Tracey, William CO	Gates
Coderre, Stephen CO	ECI	Schoonmaker, Joseph CO	CRCC	Trina Kendall CSAC	Bergin
Collins, Wesley CO	Bergin	Scott, Arthur Cpt.	CRCC	Trowbridge, Jennifer CO	MWCI
Danek, Michael CO	ECI	Scott, Tracy CO	BCC	Turner, James CO	CRCC
David, Frank CO	Bergin	Seaver, Richard, CO	NCI	Turning, Kelly CO	OCI
David, Steve CO	Gates	Seibert, Paul CO	Gates	Tyler, Lawrence CO	CRCI
Edwin, Steven CO	Bergin	Senick, Mark CO	Gates	Valeriano, Anne CCS	Bergin
Ferraro, Allen CO	ECI	Senita, Paul CO	CRCC	Valeriano, Armando Capt.	CO
Fico, Annette CO	YCI	Shabenas, James CO	YCI	VanBuskirk, David CO	Gates
Figiela, Donald Lt.	Bergin	Shaheed, Abdul Lt.	Gates	Vaughn, Carlton CFSS II	CO
Fontaine, Shane CO	ECI	Sheriff, Andrew CO	Gates	Vendrella, Jane RN	NHCC
Fontasine, Jason CO	Gates	Sikorski, Gary CO	YCI	Verdone, Mark Cpt.	CRCC
Fonville, Darlene CO	YCI	Singleton-Jones, Maxine RN	NHCC	Vernon Staton, Vernon CO	CRCI
Galvez, Richard Lt.	MWCI	Sistare, Jimmy GMO	Gates	Wagher, Karl CO	MYI
Greene, Michael CO	YCI	Siwicki, Brian Lt.	NCI	Wagner, Elizabeth Lt.	YCI
Halket, David CO	ECI	Small, Kareem CO	Gates	Waido, Edward Lt.	Gates
Harraka, Albert CTO	Gates	Smith, Steven CO	Gates	Waldron, Richard Lt.	CRCC
Houle, Thomas Elctrcn.	Bergin	Smith, Gary Lt.	NCI	Wallace, Lashanda Mail Hndlr.	ND
Hurm, Richard CO	Bergin	Smith, Geraldine CO	MWCI	Walsh, Lea CC	MYI
Hylton, Ronald CTO	Gates	Smith, Joanne CC	OCI	Walters, Ronald CO	Gates
Ikechukwu, Ugonna CO	ECI	Smith, Michael CO	NHCC	Ware, Jason CO	CRCC
Ilvento, John CTO	Gates	Smith, Robert CTO	Gates	Ware, Leigh CS	Gates
Jackson, Moses CO	ECI	Smith, Valerie SST	CRCC	Warner, Jerome CO	Gates
Johnson, Vaniel CO	ECI	Snyder, David CC	MWCI	Washo, Janet SST	MWCI
Joseph, Daniel CO	ECI	Soine, Larry SST	CRCI	Weimert, Kenneth CO	YCI
Killeen, Donald CO	ECI	Somers, Betsy CO	CRCI	Welch, Edward CFSS3	CRCC
Kotch, Heather CO	MWCI	Sowell, William Lt.	Bergin	Wellenberger, Robert CO	MWCI
Lamontage, Mark CO	Bergin	Spina, Richard Lt.	Gates	Wemmell, Michael CO	ECI
Lane, Darryl CO	Gates	Spotten, Kelly CO	Gates	Wheeler, Julianne HRS	CRCC
LaPointe, Thomas CO	ECI	Spruill, Seneca CO	OCI	Whipple, Kevin Lt.	Gates
Maloney, Shane CO	ECI	Sri, Im-Ly RN	MYI	Whiteley, Scott	BCC
Maltz, Sarah CO	YCI	St. Onge, David CO	CRCI	Whitham, Richard, SST	Gates
Marotta, Jennifer CO	YCI	Staub, Nicholas CO	YCI	Whittingham, Yanike CSAC	MYI
Martinez, Lisette CO	MWCI	Steeves, Kim CTO	Gates	William, Gregory CO	MWCI
Morin, John CO	Bergin	Stevens, Gregory CO	ECI	Williams, Dean CO	NCI
Noon, Michael CO	Gates	Stewart, Michael CO	ECI	Wilson, Othar CO	Gates
Oliveras, Freddy CO	Bergin	Stork, Steven CO	NCI	Wilton, William CO	Gates
Parsons, Laurie CO	MWCI	Strachan, Clay CO	CRCI	Winton, Thomas CFSS2	CRCC
Paul Carra, Paul FSS II	MWCI	Strogoff, Joseph CO	ECI	Wojkowski, Richard CO	MYI
Pisano, Domrenick Sr. Lt.	ECI	Sullivan, Walter CO	CRCI	Woody, Craig CO	Gates
Pontarelli, Ronald CO	ECI	Surfus, Danny CO	CRCC	Woolard, Larry CO	Gates
Pope, Christopher CO	ECI	Surprenant, Jeffrey Lt.	MWCI	Wozniak, Joanne Rec. Spec.	MYI
Ramos, Steven CO	ECI	Suse, Mark, CS	NCI	Wray, Franklin CO	NHCC
Rivera, Hector CO	ECI	Sutherland, George CC	CRCI	Wright, Gary CS	MWCI
Roethel, James CO	YCI	Sweeney, James CO	CRCC	Wyzik, Edward CO	MWCI
Sanelli, Steve CO	Bergin	Szulczyck, Kevin CO	CRCC	Yacovou, Matthew CO	CRCC
Santana, Angel CO	MYI	Szaban, Scott CC	NCI	Young, Ronald CO	NCI
Sarsfield, Jean Lt.	Gates	Talaga, Stephen CO	CRCI	Young, Ronnell Sec.	CO
Sas, John GMO	Gates	Tatum, Charles CFSS II	CRCC	Zabik, Patricia RN	MWCI
Sas, Robin Sec. II	CRCC	Taylor, Christopher Capt	MYI	Zegarzewski, Jeff CC	Gates
Sato, Kirk CFSS II	MWCI	Taylor, James RN	MYI	Zegarzewski, Michael CO	YCI
Saucier, Paul CO	Bergin	Tetreault, Scott CO	Gates	Ziolkovski, Sherry PO	CRCC
Sauza, Benjamin CO	MYI	Thomas, Tommy CO	NCI	Zuccalo, Jim CTO	NCI
Savoie, Barbara CHN	NCI	Tierpak, John CO	NHCC	Zukowska, Malgorzata RN	MYI



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Dec
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