



Connecticut
Department of Correction

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

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



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.

Black History Month Observed

Each February, our country recognizes Black History Month as a moment to reflect upon how far we have come as a nation, and what challenges remain. Led by the various Diversity Councils, staff throughout the Department of Correction embraced the opportunity of Black History Month to honor and highlight the significant contributions of African-Americans with a wide-range of educational programs. Guest lecturers for staff as well as inmates, historically based lesson plans in the USD #1's classrooms, and special meals prepared by the Food Services staff were just some of the many ways in which the agency observed Black History Month.



Members of the Hopewell Baptist Church Gospel Choir perform at Central Office as part of the DoC's celebration of Black History Month.

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From the Commissioner



As of the beginning of February, the annual legislative session has begun once again. This is supposed to be a short session meant primarily to deal with adjustments to the two-year budget. So far, I have appeared before various committees and panels on three occasions, with no doubt more to come. I wanted to give you an overview of what I am reporting to our elected lawmakers about the operations of the Connecticut Department of Correction. First and foremost, I speak about our success in maintaining the safety and security of our correctional facilities, and in supervising offenders in the community. I also stress our achievement in managing the size of our offender population. At a time when other states are looking at building new facilities or are engaging in mass inmate releases with disastrous effects, I have been able to report that the number of inmates in our facilities has dipped by early January to nearly below the 18,000 mark, and as of mid-February we are in the 18,300 range, reflecting an anticipated annual increase at this time of year. We continue to remain some 300 below the monthly projections established by the Office of Policy and Management.

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Black History Month Recap

Dr. Carter Visits Brooklyn



Brooklyn CI Warden Valerie Light, State School Teacher Jean Hansen and Dr. David Carter.

Dr. David Carter, Chancellor of Connecticut's State University System presented to 55 inmates during a Black History Month event on why society should believe in them and why they should believe in themselves. He chose to expound upon several quotes taken from the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s speeches regarding civil rights and the proper manner in which to conduct oneself.

Dr. Carter gives his time and energies annually to Brooklyn CI. His commitment began about ten years ago and has been kept ever since. Each year he encourages inmates to read for self-improvement. His own personal challenge for reading becomes double what he prescribes for them. This year, inmates had to read 25 books to his 50. The books that Dr. Carter reads each year are donated to the inmate library. This year 33 men participated in reading 1,452 books which was 505 more than last year. For the coming year he proposed that they read 35 to his 70. The challenge is on!

An additional component towards self-improvement was added this year by event coordinator, Brooklyn CI State School Teacher Jean Hansen. So inspired by Dr. Carter's plea to the inmates to "do something positive with their lives," and President Barack Obama's call for community service, Mrs. Hansen devised an inmate- to-inmate volunteerism program whereby inmates possessing certain areas of knowledge or expertise be encouraged to assist others. The tasks completed ranged from learning phonics, to GED preparation, business planning to speech writing. Seven inmates gave 614 hours of their time to 131 inmates seeking assistance.

Amazed at this feat, Dr. Carter himself agreed to commit 88 hours (the average number of hours each inmate gave) of his own time to volunteer as a tribute towards this accomplishment.

Community Healing at New Haven C C

The staff members of the New Haven Correctional Center were treated to an inspirational and thought-provoking presentation by guest speaker Enola G. Aird, founder of the Community Healing Network. Founded in New Haven, Connecticut in 2006, Community Healing Network is a diverse group of individuals, faith communities, and civic groups working to promote emotional and physical health and wellness for black people.



Enola G. Aird Esq., founder of the Community Healing Network.

Torch Bearers

Law enforcement staff from a variety of law enforcement agencies including the Department of Correction gathered at the Marriot in Farmington on March 2, 2010, for the Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) 2010 Kickoff Breakfast. Aside from getting the fundraising efforts started for this year's Torch Run, held June 9-11, the event was also an opportunity to acknowledge the achievements of 2009.

Among those honored during the breakfast was Commissioner Brian K. Murphy, who in recognition of his many years of involvement with the Torch Run, was the 2009 inductee to the Connecticut LETR Hall of Fame. Warden Kevin Gause and Lieutenant Eric Dessaulles of the York Correctional Institution were on hand to receive the award for the facility that raised the most amount of money, a remarkable \$36,000. The York CI total was the third highest amount collected statewide last year.



Former York CI Warden Angel Quiros and current Warden Kevin Gause along with other York CI staff members were recognized for raising \$36,000 in 2009 for Special Olympics.



Commissioner Brian K. Murphy is inducted into the LETR Hall of Fame.

Worldwide, the LETR for Special Olympics is the largest grassroots fundraising public awareness vehicle for Special Olympics. In 2009, more than \$34 million was raised for Special Olympics. More than 85,000 officers carried the "Flame of Hope" across all 50 states and in 43 countries. The Connecticut LETR program reached a milestone in 2009 by raising \$512,000. For those efforts, Connecticut received the Emerald Award, presented to those programs which exceed half a million dollars in annual donations.

This year's Torch Run will cover 539 miles, and run through more than 100 cities and towns. Approximately 1,500 law enforcement officers and Special Olympic athletes will participate in this year's Torch Run. These officers represent local, state, and federal departments, agencies and correctional facilities. Aside from the three-day Torch Run that leads into the State Summer Games in June, there are a wide variety of opportunities to raise funds for this worthy cause including: Tip-A-Cop, motorcycle rides, raffles, golf tournaments, and more.

Double Duty

On Wednesday, March 3, 2010 York Correctional Institution's Warden Kevin Gause announced the deployment of Correction Officer Michael James. Officer James is a 15-year veteran of the Department, in addition to serving in our armed forces (Army). He will be deployed to Afghanistan on March 13, 2010, for a tour of duty that is to last one year.

This will be his second deployment during this war. He is a member of the 247th Well Drillers Detachment and is an Operations Sergeant 1st Class. Warden Gause and the staff at York CI wished him well and a safe return.



York's Captain James Korch, Officer Michael James and Warden Kevin Gause.

A Red Letter Day

The American Heart Association's Regional Director Michelle Nicholson was at Central Office on March 4th, to present Commissioner Brian K. Murphy with a plaque of appreciation for the Department of Correction's contribution to the 2009 Heart Walk.

Regional Director Nicholson presented the commissioner with the Team Spirit Award, noting that the Department of Correction, collecting more than \$14,000, was the third top fundraising company/agency in the state.

Also present was Enfield Correctional Institution Warden Edward Maldonado who accepted the award for the top fundraising facility. Enfield CI staff members raised more than \$5,400 during the Heart Walk campaign.



Enfield CI Warden Edward Maldonado, American Heart Association's Regional Director Michelle Nicholson and Enfield CI Counselor Ross Sutherland.

The "Top Walker" award went to Correctional Counselor Ross Sutherland. His efforts paid tribute to the memory of his sister-in-law, Warden Robin Sutherland, who lost her life to heart disease in November of 2008.

Seeing Red at Osborn CI



Lto R: State School Teachers Judith Pevzner, Vincent Ginnetti and Carol Kasabian.

There were red sweaters. There were red sweatshirts. There were red blazers. There were red pants. There were even red t-shirts emblazoned with the American Heart Association's logo.

February 5th, was the American Heart Association's national Go Red day, and the Osborn Correctional Institution staff responded with their usual generosity to help stamp out this number one killer by raising a total of \$419.00 for this very worthy cause.

Around the Cell Block



Kentucky-A Columbia, Kentucky sheriff says a claustrophobic deputy has lost his job after accidentally locking himself in a jail cell and trying to shoot his way out of it. The incident happened on the first day that a new \$12.4 million county jail was open to the public.

Pennsylvania-Two women and a teenage girl tried to smuggle tobacco and cigarette papers into a prison through a 50-foot strand of taped-together straws. A Fayette County Prison staff member spotted a woman and a 14-year-old girl on a stool outside a window of the prison with 70 straws taped together.

Arizona- All or parts of four prison complexes in Pheonix are among a dozen state properties on a shortened list of facilities being proposed for sale-leaseback refinancing to help balance Arizona's state budget.

***Total
Supervised
Population
on
March 12, 2010
22,999
On March 12, 2009
the population was
23,423***



Did You Know?

“Did You Know” is an informational column written by the Facilities Management and Engineering Services Unit, aimed at increasing your knowledge of issues in our everyday lives. This article was written by Jay Harder, Plant Facilities Engineer 1, and questions relating to it may be answered by contacting him at 860.692.7558. If you have any questions or an idea for a future column please contact Director David Batten at (203) 806-2666.

Maintaining Proper Tire Pressure

Engineers working for car manufacturers today invest millions of dollars in the design and the handling characteristics of all modern cars and trucks. All of the components of the car’s suspension, brakes and tires are designed to give the driver a safe, reliable, and smooth handling car. Of all these components, the tires and more importantly, the tire pressure, is the most overlooked by the car owner/driver that will create the most adverse and unpredictable handling of the car.

The part of the tire that actually touches the road surface as it rolls is called “the contact patch” and on a properly inflated tire it is about the size of your open palm. All four tires have the same contact patch if they are inflated according to the car manufacturer’s specifications. With all four tires having the same contact patch, all four tires have approximately the same friction/traction/grip. When driving in a straight line, the car should track straight or true going down the road. If a tire, especially a front tire, is underinflated, the tire now has a larger contact patch, which in turn, creates more friction or traction as it rolls; causing the car to drift to the side of the road that the underinflated tire is on. You will experience the same effect when braking, more so if the underinflated tire is on the front of the car. A by-product of the extra friction is heat and will cause the underinflated tire to overheat compared to the other tires on the car, causing the tire to prematurely wear or even fail. An overinflated tire will have the opposite effect with a smaller contact patch and, having less traction causing the car to have the tendency to drift to the side of the car with the properly inflated tire.

All modern cars are designed by their manufacturer to under steer when trying to corner at speeds at the upper limits of what the car is capable of handling. Under steer happens when you try to corner at speeds higher than your front tires are capable of keeping traction to turn the car with the result being the car will go straight instead of turning. Over steer is just the opposite and happens when the front tires are getting too much traction compared to the rear tires while cornering and the back of the car wants to spinout. All cars are designed to under steer as it is more controllable by simply easing off the gas and then the front tires will start to grip the pavement and turn the car. Over steer is much more difficult to correct once it starts and usually can be done only by very experienced and trained drivers. Correct tire pressure and, in turn, the contact patch is very important in keeping the under steer/over steer characteristic of your car’s handling as it was designed by the manufacturer,s engineers. Overinflated rear tires will reduce the contact patch and grip of those tires and enhance the over steer tendency of a car. Overinflated front tires will reduce their contact patch and grip and increase the car’s tendency to under steer, and vice versa. If you are experiencing under or over steer, you are going faster than the car’s ability to maintain grip on the pavement due to either speed or road conditions.

Maintaining proper tire pressure is one of the single best things you can do to maintain your car and should be checked regularly, especially with the change in seasons and temperatures as air expands and contracts with heat and cold. For best results, always check tire pressures when the tires are cold, before driving your car, as the manufacturer’s tire pressure recommendation is for a cold tire. Properly inflated tires wear more evenly, last longer, and get better gas mileage. In addition, your vehicle will corner, brake, and track the way it was designed to by the manufacturer.

Cup of Plenty

The Connecticut Department of Correction Commissioner's Cup Charity Golf Tournament was held on October 2, 2009 at The University Club of CT in North Windham, CT. The Tournament was a huge success; fielding 27 foursomes, raising \$3,000, and a spectacular day of golf and fun with co-workers and friends. The Commissioner was very happy to present two checks in the amount of \$1,500 each to the 100 Club of Connecticut and the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure.

The 100 Club of Connecticut is a charitable organization committed to the task of easing the financial burdens of the surviving spouse and children of all police officers, correction officers, and firefighters, volunteer and full-time, who have given up their lives in the performance of their duties. Accepting the donation on behalf of the 100 Club of Connecticut was their Managing Director William E. Sydenham, Jr..

The Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure is a grassroots organization that is the largest source of nonprofit funds dedicated to fight against breast cancer in the world. Since its inception in 1982, the organization has invested nearly \$1.5 billion to end breast cancer forever. Accepting the check on behalf of the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure foundation was Director of Organizational Development Cheryl Cepelak.



L to R - Committee Chair Tom O'Connor, Cheryl Cepelak of the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, & Commissioner Brian K. Murphy.

Recent Promotions

NAME	FACILITY	EFFECTIVE	LOCATION
Cohens, Lynn	Sub. Abuse Counselor	01/15/2010	Addiction Ser.
Cooper, Elisabeth	Correctional Counselor	01/18/2010	Central Office
Davis, Latisha	Corr. Counselor Trainee	02/26/2010	New Haven CC
Flood, Yvonne	Corr. Record Specialist I	02/12/2010	Bridgeport CC
Flores, Marvin	Corr. Counselor Trainee	02/26/2010	Corr./Rad. CC
Fullard, Shawn	Correctional Counselor	02/26/2010	Osborn CI
Iozzia, Katherine	Corr. Counselor Trainee	02/26/2010	Corr./Rad. CC
Marvel, Jacqueline	Training Lieutenant	1/29/2010	MCTSD
Miller, Tuere	Corr. Counselor Trainee	02/26/2010	Northern CI
Zegarzewski, Jeffrey	Counselor Supervisor	1/15/ 2010	MCTSD

All In a Day's (or night's) Work

When offenders on parole or transitional supervision stray from the path of the straight and narrow, often times it is the Fugitive Investigations Unit that has to reel them back in. Part of the Parole and Community Services Division, the Fugitive Investigations Unit (FIU) has the unenviable and dangerous job of finding individuals who do not want to be found. Not only is it hard work, but there is also plenty of it.

Since October of 2009, the FIU has:

Arrested 26 Parole absconders

Arrested 18 Transitional Supervision escapees

Assisted the USMS (each unit member is assigned to the United States Marshal's Service Fugitive Task Force), in apprehending 18 other persons wanted on felony charges by various federal, state and local agencies, including manslaughter, robbery and sexual assault.

Conducted ten extraditions in seven different states.

The unit also seized over 3400 "bindles" of heroin, five ounces of rock cocaine, 27 rounds of ammunition, \$5,000 of U.S. currency, and 26 marijuana plants.



The Fugitive Investigations Unit (L to R): Dan Bennett, John Viscomi, State Trooper Dave Montini, Randi Demers, Jeff Fernandes, Mac Sprawling, Jose Cartagena, Dan Berry, George Byrd, and State Trooper Scott Spraggins.

Will-Power

Bridgeport Correctional Center is conducting a fundraiser for Officer William Harrington. Officer Harrington recently was diagnosed with a brain tumor and the cancer has spread to his stomach. Officer Harrington began his career at the Bridgeport Correctional Center eight years ago. Shortly thereafter he was diagnosed with a brain tumor and underwent treatment and went into remission. Unfortunately, the tumor has returned and spread. Officer Harrington is receiving progressive treatment, and is in and out of the hospital every two weeks. Officer Harrington has a fiancée and a one-year-old son. He has the support of his immediate family and, of course, his Bridgeport CC family. Officer Harrington has the "*will-power*" to fight the cancer, and with his positive attitude and "will" to live, he is determined to win!

We would like to alleviate some of the financial burden for Officer Harrington by selling t-shirts. The cost is \$15.00 and 100% of ALL proceeds will benefit him and his family. Bridgeport CC is extending an invitation to all DOC employees to support this fundraiser and we ask that you keep Officer Harrington and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

If you are interested in purchasing a t-shirt you may contact Pamela Neuendorf, Operations & Administrative Services Secretary at the Bridgeport Correctional Center @ (203) 579-6985.



Commissioner's Update

from page 1

I have also talked about the benefits of our reentry efforts, which I have stressed, are being carried out in a measured and methodical manner utilizing the greatly improved information sharing capabilities developed since the Cheshire tragedy. The most recent state recidivism study again confirms that a period of community supervision is beneficial in improving the chances of successful reintegration. We also are using an increasing amount of enhanced, electronic monitoring in supervising this population in the community. Our placement rate for community supervision is up while the technical violation rate is down. Of the more than 200 offenders placed on Reentry Furlough, we at the time of one of the testimonies had experienced just three technical violators. I have also touted our efforts at furthering the use of video conferencing. In December of last year we carried out nearly 500 video conference hearings for parole, immigration, social security, and a number of other state and federal agencies. We continue to work with the State Judicial Branch on also utilizing them for habeas hearings. Each one of these conferences represents a significant savings in terms of travel and staff time not to mention the enhancement to public safety because the offender never has to leave the building.

While I am on the subject of the General Assembly, let me inform you that the Judiciary Committee has a bill before it that would prohibit inmates from using the State Freedom of Information Statutes to obtain staff personnel records. I have testified in favor of this bill and made clear that we consider this tactic by offenders of utilizing state law to obtain personnel information to be a threat to safety and security and an effort to intimidate and undermine the authority of our staff. We intend to do all that's in our power to get it passed this year. Each and every time I testify before any legislative body there is always a section in my prepared remarks that is meant to publically thank you, our staff—those inside our facilities, as well as parole staff serving in the community. I make clear to the lawmakers that it is due to your professionalism and dedication that our facilities remain safe and secure. You have embraced the concept of needing to do more with less, and as a result the Connecticut Department of Correction continues to carry out its mission, despite the many challenges that the current economic times have presented to us. As always, please remain vigilant and let's stay on top of our game.

A Prison to be Proud of

The following article is a reprint of a column that originally appeared in the Journal Inquirer on Tuesday, February 16, 2010.

Something in state government that does work well opened itself for inspection by journalists the other day — the MacDougall-Walker Correctional Institution, a high-security prison in Suffield. With 2,100 inmates, MacDougall-Walker is the largest prison in New England. It may also be the quietest, thanks to its division into small and manageable dormitories and its carefully scheduled operations that prevent formation of large groups of prisoners.

In its school wing the prison offers inmates extensive educational and vocational training programs. Inmates also can work in the prison system's regional commissary operation, based at MacDougall-Walker. Participation in these things is an incentive to good behavior and, for prisoners with shorter sentences, a facilitator of hope for a decent life upon release. There's a comfortable library. There's also a medical and dental wing. Uniformed staff members are sharp and crisp but not overbearing. The prison is a self-contained little city.

The prison is relatively new, built in 1991 and, by additions, later — clean, bright, and airy, with little violence. (The safer prisoners feel, the less they will try to make weapons to protect themselves or take out their aggression with.) The proof may be in MacDougall-Walker's accreditation by the American Correctional Association. Not many prisons are accredited, but MacDougall-Walker scored 100 percent in its most recent accreditation audit, in 2008. Since it is the largest prison in New England, that is doubly remarkable.

While the prison has many security checkpoints, each day is regimented, and many prisoners arrive with psychological problems, it is just possible to imagine being able to stay or become sane at MacDougall-Walker. That may be the highest achievement for prisoners and prisons alike.

Chris Powell is managing editor of the Journal Inquirer