



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.

A Legend Retires

Dr. Edward Blanchette, the Director of Clinical Services for the Department of Correction retired May 28, after 26 years of service. Starting in what was the Somers State Prison in 1984; Dr. Blanchette has been the go to person for all medical related policies and decisions. Perhaps most notably, the good doctor for years provided round the clock on-call service for all HIV and other infectious disease problems.

At a retirement send-off at Central Office on his final day, Dr. Blanchette received the traditional gift of a retirement badge from Commissioner Brian K. Murphy. With his wife at his side, Dr. Blanchette thanked those he worked closely with, including Commissioner Murphy, for their support. As for the secret to his success, Dr. Blanchette in his typical quiet manner summed it up rather succinctly, “Do the right thing,” he said while adding. “If you make a mistake, admit it, and don’t make that same mistake again.”



Dr. Edward Blanchette

May 1, 2010
through
June 4, 2010

Distributed bi-monthly
to 7,000 staff
and via the Internet
throughout Connecticut
and the nation
by the
Department of Correction
24 Wolcott Hill Road
Wethersfield, CT 06109

From the Commissioner



It seems to be the question I am getting most often these days as I tour our correctional facilities and meet with staff from across the agency. It is some variation of, “How long are you going to be around?” That is often followed up with, “Who is going to be the commissioner after you are gone?” I fully understand and appreciate the questions and the concern being expressed about the future leadership of our agency and the larger picture of where the Connecticut Department of Correction is headed as we proceed through 2010.

After deciding to retire last July, Governor Rell asked me along with Deputy Commissioners Mark Strange and Carol Salisbury to stay on and head our agency. Simply put, I along with Deputy Commissioners Strange and Salisbury will continue to run this agency to the best of our abilities until the Governor tells us otherwise.

When the time comes for us to step aside, let me assure you that the transition will be a smooth one.

M. Jodi Rell
Governor

Brian K. Murphy
Acting Commissioner

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FOI Bill Becomes Law

In what is viewed as an important and necessary protection for employees of the Connecticut Department of Correction, Governor M. Jodi Rell signed House Bill 5404, "An Act Concerning the Nondisclosure of Certain Information Regarding Certain Employees to Inmates Under the Freedom of Information Act" into law on May 26, 2010.

In a unanimous vote, the Connecticut General Assembly passed the legislation on May 4th to stop prisoners from using the state's open government laws to access personnel files of correctional officers (including all current and former DoC employees) and employees of the Board of Pardons and Paroles. Others protected under the law include employees of the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, and patients confined at the maximum-security Whiting Forensic Institute.

Department of Correction administration, as well as the correctional employee unions joined together in their support of the legislation that restricts inmate access to personnel and medical files of employees because they view such requests as a threat to the safety and security of staff and at the prisons.

"The safety of staff is our top priority," said Commissioner Brian K. Murphy who testified in front of the legislature in favor of the bill. "This law is an additional tool for us to use in helping make sure they stay safe." The state Freedom of Information commission opposed the bill, arguing current law prevents such information from being released under certain circumstances.

Warden Coletti to Retire Author, Father, Guest Speaker



Warden Anthony Coletti

Warden Anthony Coletti of the Corrigan/Radgowski Correctional Center will retire after 22 years of service with the Department of Correction effective July 1, 2010. He came to the agency after having been an officer with the Norwich Police Department for nearly a decade.

During his time at the Brooklyn Correctional Institution he was assigned as the Acting Warden of the facility for a period of 14 months. Warden Coletti was promoted to the rank of Deputy Warden in 2007 and was assigned to oversee the operations of the consolidated Corrigan/Radgowski Correctional Center. Based on his experience, expertise and performance, he was appointed as the Warden of the Brooklyn Correctional Institution on December 15, 2008.

Please join Commissioner Brian K. Murphy in wishing Warden Coletti success and happiness in his future endeavors.

Felix Rodriguez is the author of *Dad, Me & Muhammad Ali*, winner of a Mom's Choice Award. He is passionate about the importance of fatherhood and wrote this book based on a true story about himself and his son. Mr.

Rodriguez was invited by School Principal Dottie Green to be a guest speaker at both the New Haven Correctional and Hartford Correctional Centers. He shared the story of the book and his own story of growing up without a father and being determined to be successful as a man and as a father. Mr. Rodriguez

works full time for the Department of Children and Families as an assistant to the Deputy Commissioner.

Dad, Me, and Muhammad Ali is a heartwarming story about the importance of being a good father and what it means to be a hero.



Felix Rodriguez

Off Grounds Crew

If there is any truth to the saying, “good fences make good neighbors,” then the organizers of the Travelers Championship golf tournament could not ask for better neighbors than Carl Robinson’s Officer Timothy Pope and his community work detail.

For six weeks leading up to the golf tournament and for two weeks afterwards, Officer Pope brings a crew of as many as five inmates to the Tournament Players Club in Cromwell to help set up for the annual stop on the Professional Golfers Association tour. “We do just about anything they ask us to do,” said Officer Pope while taking a break from course preparations. “The main thing we do is put up fences and cover them with bunting.”



Officer Timothy Pope at The TPC River Highlands

Before the first ball is teed-up (this year’s tournament runs June 21-27), more than two miles of green bunting have to be stretched over temporary as well as permanent fencing that line the golf course. Without the knowledge of the general public, quietly away from the glare of the television cameras, for ten years, a detail from the Carl Robinson Correctional Institution has volunteered approximately 800 hours of inmate labor to the Jaycees organization, which runs the event. Once the golf pros, television crews, and throngs of fans have come and gone, Officer Pope and his crew return to take everything down and store it away for next year.

Military Maneuvers



Correction Officer Douglas Kohlun of Cheshire CI

Homecoming

Members of the 192nd MP unit returned from their deployment in Iraq arriving at the Hartford Armory on May 19th. Commissioner Brian K. Murphy, Counselor Supervisor Barbara Segura, and several Department of Correction’s military veterans were on hand to greet the returning heroes. Among those deployed with the unit were the following Department of Correction staff members: Officer Nikkia Harakaly (CTU), Officer Phillip Maldonado (HCC), Officer Sarah Malta (York CI), Captain Dan Murphy (MCTSD), Officer Michael Nichols (York CI), Officer Stanquinto Sudduth (CRCI), and Officer Dean Williams (NCI). They had been deployed since May of 2009.

On the Homestretch

Four personnel from the Department of Correction currently deployed to Iraq as part of the 118th Multifunctional Medical Battalion continue their work on their complex mission in Operation Iraq Freedom of providing aggressive Force Health Protection to the United States Forces in Iraq and responsive combat health material logistics throughout the country. Deployed since last summer, Mike Desena, CHNS (NHCC), Lieutenant Gerald Wood (HCC), Lieutenant Noel Brown (HCC) and Officer Douglas Kohlun (CCI) have finished approximately 2/3 of their mission, and look forward to their return to their families and friends.

Russians by the Sea

The Department of Correction participated in its own version of “Glasnost” (the Soviet governments’ policy of maximal publicity, openness, and transparency) recently when staff at the York Correctional Institution received several visitors from the Astonian Border of Russia. They had arrived in Washington D.C and in conjunction with the Connecticut Representative Delegation, took part in a tour of the facility.



The Russian Delegation visits York CI

The party included: Dmitry Matveyev, Deputy Head of the Pskov Law Institute of the Federal Penal Service of the Russian Federation; Roman Nickolayev, Vladimir Lavrentyev, both lecturers of the Department of Criminal and Penal Law, Pskov Law Institute of the Federal Penal Service of the Russian Federation; Judge Jonathan E. Silbert; Olga Balashova, Attorney; Tatiana Gaidalenko, Attorney; Irina Borisenkova, Facilitator; and Rita Kit, Interpreter. The visitors were accompanied by State Representative Michael Lawlor and Chief State’s Attorney Kevin Kane. The visitors were from the Pskov Prison system or “Colonies” as they refer to them. The state of Pskov is geographically four times the size of Connecticut with a population of 750,000 people. The guests were surprised at how much we have in common with them as far as how we house the offending population. The women in their “Colonies” or “Camps” wear t-shirts and denim skirts for the uniform of the day as do the women at York C.I. The staff uniform of the Russian officers was described as being more militant than ours. Another difference was that the staff in Russia must work one year in the Russian military before working in the “Colonies”. Furthermore, in the Russian system, in order to promote to a supervisory level you must have a college degree. The rank of Colonel is equal to our rank of Lieutenant.

These visitors were accompanied on tour of the York grounds by Warden Kevin Gause, Deputy Warden Karen Bernard, Deputy Warden Karen Oien, Dr. Steven Lazrove, Health Services Administrator Ron LaBonte and Lt. Eric Dessauls. The tour was beneficial to both parties in that information and opinions were shared amongst the group.

Around the Cell Block



Florida – To save time and resources, some Florida jails have begun preventing inmates from receiving any mail beyond a simple postcard. But Manatee County inmates and family members have filed suit in Tampa’s federal court, alleging the rule violates First Amendment rights.

Michigan – A plan to smuggle heroin and marijuana into the Mid Michigan Correctional Facility fell apart when a drug-filled tennis ball only made it over one of the two perimeter fences surrounding the prison. Correction officers soon spotted the ball laying between the two fences at the level 1 prison.

California – In an effort to reduce operating expenses, California prison officials have suggested paroling comatose or severely incapacitated inmates could save the state more than \$200 million.

**Total
Supervised
Population
on
June 4, 2010
22,991
On June 4, 2009
the population was
23,354**

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 has been written by Plant Facilities Engineer I Irving Fallon, and questions relating to it may be answered by contacting him at (860) 692-7564. If you have any questions or an idea for a future column please contact Director David Batten at (203) 806-2666.

Did You Know Driveway Sealing

Asphalt is a glue-like compound that binds together gravel and sand particles to make driveways and roads. It is a superb driving surface that requires a minimum of care. Traffic on roadways actually wears away the surface asphalt that becomes damaged by the rays of the sun and atmospheric oxygen. Driveway asphalt does not obtain enough friction to create surface wear and, without protection, becomes brittle. Micro cracks develop in brittle asphalt, which allows water to penetrate through the paved surface and erode the underlying gravel base. The weight of vehicles driving over the crack pushes in the pavement. This produces water created soil voids and progressively expands the pavement fractures. The water that puddles in the soil under pavement, cracks, expands upon freezing in colder climates, and creates “potholes”. With a little effort, the homeowner can prevent these problems with the periodic application of asphalt sealing materials. Newly paved driveways do not need to be sealed for at least a year.

Preparation

If patching large cracks before sealing is required, plan on making repairs one day and sealing the next day. Look for a two-day dry weather forecast with temperatures of at least 50 degrees Fahrenheit. Thoroughly clean the asphalt surface before beginning any repairs. Trim grass and bushes away from the edge of the driveway with a shovel, and then use a stiff broom to remove dirt and debris from the driveway.

Check the driveway for any oil spots or stains. If not treated properly, the spots will bleed through the newly sealed driveway and cause the stains to reappear. Apply a solution of tri-sodium phosphate (TSP) and water to these areas, or use a specifically formulated driveway cleaning solution. After vigorously scrubbing these problem spots with a stiff wire brush, hose the area down and allow it to dry.

Repairing Cracks

Use an old screwdriver to clean dirt and debris from small cracks, then thoroughly scrub the crack edges with a wire brush and vacuum up any debris. Once the crack is clean, fill it with crack sealer (a caulk-like compound available at home centers). Use a trowel to level and smooth the surface.

Filling Holes

Dislodge loose materials from the edges of small potholes using a wire brush. For broken or severely cracked areas, a hammer and a cold chisel may be required to remove the asphalt. After the depression is clean, fill it with asphalt patch mix according to directions. Larger potholes require the use of coarse-aggregate filler or cold-patch. Once the patch compound has been applied, tamp it down flat. If you do not own a tamping tool, you may rent one or make one from scraps of wood.

Sealing

Once the asphalt has been repaired and cleaned, the driveway is ready to seal. Typically, the higher investment in sealer, the longer it will last. Use a stir stick to mix the sealer to a uniform consistency to avoid a blotchy appearance, or purchase a sealer described as no-stir. Sand may be mixed into the sealer to provide traction on a sloped driveway. Start by pouring a ribbon of sealer across the width of the driveway about two feet from the end of the garage or house. Use the squeegee side of the applicator to spread the sealer across the pavement, working toward the street. Apply enough pressure to leave a thin coat (two thin coats are better than one thick one). As more sealer is required, pour it next to where previously finished and provide a slight overlap. Make sure to allow for sufficient drying-time before allowing vehicle or foot traffic on the sealed pavement area.

Bergin CI Employees of the Quarter

Warden Rinaldi and her staff are honored to announce Bergin CI's Employees of the Quarter.

Officer Kevin Flynn was recognized by his peers for his professionalism and outstanding work ethic. Officer



Counselor Calma Frett and Officer Kevin Flynn

Flynn is highly regarded by both staff members and inmates.

Counselor Calma Frett was recognized by her peers for her outstanding dedication as the Volunteer Coordinator, as well as being an active member on many of

Bergin's Committees. She is always willing to lend a hand to anyone that needs it. Congratulations to both.

Parole Presentation

In late April Parole Officers Jason Bedard and Carmen Gonzalez gave a presentation to a group of Criminal Justice students at Middlesex Community College enrolled in one of the colleges criminal justice classes. During the seminar, they reviewed the overall field of parole as well as various career paths.

In an email to their supervisors, Emily Canto, a career counselor at the college, expressed her gratitude.

"On behalf of the class, the professor and myself, I wanted to let you know what a wonderful presentation it was. The discussion was informative; I believe our students now have a clearer and more realistic understanding of this career field. Their honest approach was refreshing and lead to many students to stay after class ended to ask individual questions. I think they lead an exceptional presentation and wanted to ensure you were aware of their efforts."

Milestones at Hartford CC

Warden Scott Erfe of the Hartford CC takes time out to pay tribute to some of his staff with more than 20 years of service in the Department of Correction.



Pictured are from left to right, Captain Rafael Delvalle, Officer Marion Baker, Officer Yolanda Feliciano-Bedard, Officer Edwin Merced, Warden Scott Erfe, and Lieutenant Ken Olszta. Each were handed a 20 Year coin by the Warden.

Retirement Party For **Ervin L. Macklin** July 3, 2010

Clarion Hotel
42 Century Drive Bristol, CT
(across from ESPN)
Room reservations:(860) 589-7766

\$35 per person \ \$50 per couple

Open Bar
Baked Stuffed Shrimp,
Filet Mignon, Stuffed Chicken

For tickets call Ervin: (860) 690-9528

Reception:7:30 - 8:30 PM Dinner:8:30 – 10:00 PM
Party Time :10:00 – 1:00 AM
RSVP by June 19, 2010

Administrative Professionals Day

A Day of Professionalism and Networking

“Very informative, Excellent presentations,” were some of the sentiments shared after the professional development day for Executive Assistants, Administrative Assistants, Secretary IIs, and Secretary Is recently held at the Maloney Center for Training and Staff Development.



With the help of Abigail Jefferson, M.Ed (yellow shirt), administrative staff stepped out of their comfort zone.

The morning started off with welcome remarks by Commissioner Brian K. Murphy and Director Cheryl Cepelak, followed by staff networking the room and introducing their partner(s). The day spiraled into a vivid presentation on Interpersonal Communication Skills by Training Lieutenant Wallace Ford and an interactive, fun-filled, energizing presentation, by Abigail Jefferson, M.Ed, where those in attendance were able to “step out of their comfort zones” and participate in stress reduction movements; drumming and song, while absorbing information on multicultural awareness through storytelling.

The afternoon session continued with career path presentations by Executive Administrative Assistant Judene Beausoleil, “Working in the Commissioner’s Office” and Principal HR Specialist Donna Pantin-Worrell, “Ownership” and ended with a presentation by OPM Intern Sabrina Hawkins under the guidance of Training Program Specialist Alice L. Clive of OPM on “Dress for Success in these Economic Times.”

Chaplain Receives Blessing of ACA

Director of Religious Services Reverend Anthony J. Bruno is pleased to announce that the American Correctional Association (ACA) has awarded Chaplain Charles F. Williams of Bergin Correctional Institution the Certified Correctional Supervisor (CSS) credential by the national Commission on Corrections Certification.



Chaplain Charles Williams

Chaplain Williams earned this distinction based on his experience and many accomplishments in the field

of corrections and following successful completion of a comprehensive examination. The only other individual within the Connecticut Department of Correction who has been similarly recognized is Associate Chaplain Laurie Etter of York C. I. Congratulations to both these chaplains for their impressive accomplishments, and for bringing positive attention to our DOC and our Religious Services Unit.

Hartford CC Gives Back



Hartford Correctional Center Warden Scott Erfe (R), and Recreation Supervisor Alan Kapitzke(L), present

Patrina Davis, of the United House of Prayer For All People with a donation of \$500, revenue which was a result of the Hartford CC Inmate Photo Program. The money will be used for the youth summer program.

Years of Service

Employees with 20 Years of Service as of April 2010

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Facility</u>	<u>Hire Date</u>
Angelo, Joseph	CorrectionOfficer	MYI	4/20/1990
Bielez, Eric	CorrectionOfficer	Osborn CI	4/20/1990
Caron, Michael	PlntFacilsEng I	Northern CI	4/20/1990
Chapdelaine, Carol	Warden II	Osborn CI	4/20/1990
Corey, Christopher	DeputyWarden	CRCC	4/20/1990
Donovan, Jon	CorrectionOfficer	Northern CI	4/20/1990
Falls, Sharon	CorrectionOfficer	Enfield CI	4/20/1990
Goguen, Darren	CorrectionOfficer	WCCI	4/20/1990
Hall, Michael	CorrectionOfficer	Bergin CI	4/20/1990
Johnson, Kenneth	CorrectionOfficer	MWCI	4/20/1990
Kapitzke, Sylvia	OfficeAssistant	Osborn CI	4/16/1990
Lacoss, Glenn	CorrectionOfficer	Bergin CI	4/20/1990
Lopez, Gladys	Rcrd Spec I	CRCI	4/6/1990
Mercier, Michael	CorrectionOfficer	Brooklyn CI	4/20/1990
O'Donnell, Brian	CorrectionOfficer	Enfield CI	4/20/1990
Oliver, David	CorrectionOfficer	Bergin CI	4/20/1990
Riker, Jeffrey	CorrectionOfficer	Cheshire CI	3/9/1990
Roberge, Mark	CorrectionOfficer	Gates CI	4/20/1990
Santiago, Raphael	CorrectionOfficer	MWCI	4/20/1990
Saylor, Melvin	Lieutenant	Northern CI	4/20/1990
Vereen, Quinn	CorrectionOfficer	Northern CI	4/20/1990
Vescera, Nat	CorrectionOfficer	Cheshire CI	4/20/1990
Williams, Eric	CorrectionOfficer	MYI	2/9/1990

Employees with 25 Years of Service as of April 2010

Boudreau, Patricia	Hum. Res. Spec.	Central Off.	4/28/1980
Carberry, Michael	FoodSvcsSupv III	Brooklyn CI	4/12/1985
Harper, Linda	Admin. Assistant	Cheshire CI	4/26/1985
Lajoie, Michael	Warden III	Central Off.	4/26/1985

An Excerpt from the 1898 State Prison Report ...

The introduction of incandescent lights into the cells has done much to improve the sanitary condition of the prison and the health of inmates. From March to September, there has been expended for electricity the sum of \$1,082.70.

Moving Forward

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In the interim, what I ask of you, the staff of the best department of corrections in the country, is to keep doing your jobs. You have my commitment, and that of Deputy Commissioners Strange and Salsbury, that we will continue to do ours. We have been entrusted with the tireless task of protecting the public, and we cannot ever let down our guard. I know that while I am here, and long after I have left, you will continue to set the bar for correctional excellence. Stay safe.

Department of Correction Day at New Britain Stadium

Catch the Fun & Excitement of Rock Cats Baseball

**Saturday
June 5, 2010**

Gates Open 5:05 pm
Picnic Time: 5:35 pm - 7:05 pm
Game Time: 6:35 pm

**Rock Cats (Minnesota Twins)
vs.
Binghamton Mets
(New York Mets)**

Includes All-You-Can-Eat Buffet
Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Chips, & Soda

**For Tickets call:
Stephanie Bryant (860) 692-7613
Kate Baumann (860) 224-8383**