

**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.*

## Arnone Named Commissioner

Leo C. Arnone was appointed by Governor M. Jodi Rell as the seventh commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Correction as of July 30, 2010. He brings to the position more than 36 years of experience in a variety of prominent roles within the state’s criminal justice community.



**Commissioners Leo C. Arnone and Brian K. Murphy**

Commissioner Arnone served for 21 years with the department, beginning as a front line correction officer at the Somers State Prison in 1974. His compilation of experience with the agency is broad and varied. He has held nearly every position up to and including warden and has overseen pre-trial, sentenced, dormitory and celled facilities.

see Former DoC Employee/page 6

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Acting Commissioner

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## From the Commissioner



It is with a deep sense of appreciation and respect for the outstanding staff that I have worked with at all stages of my career, that I now prepare to depart the agency, which I have served for the past 29 years. Starting as a correction officer in 1981 at the Somers State Prison and leaving as your commissioner in 2010, I have truly enjoyed every day of my career. Through the good and the bad, there existed one common denominator, my ability to count on my fellow staff to get us safely through the day. I have never had a moment, whether walking the beat in a facility, or a day testifying before the legislature that I have not felt supported and backed by you, the staff of the Department of Correction. Thinking back over the past 29 years, I can assure you that our agency has made incredible strides over the course of those three decades. First and foremost the safety, security and order of our facilities have never been better. That is reflected in our incident rates, which in most all cases are far better than they were at any point in my career, remain at historically low levels and still continue to improve. At all levels of our agency, our succession planning has insured that the next generation of leaders will be prepared for the challenges ahead.

see Commissioner’s Farewell/page 6

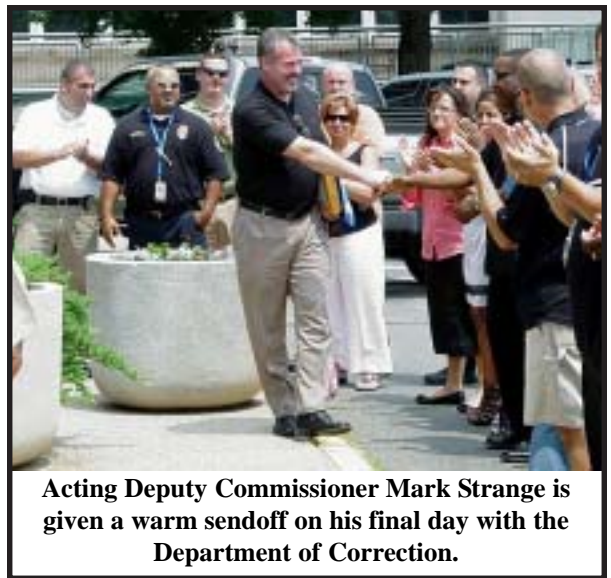
## Strange's Swan Song

After 29 years of service with the Department of Correction, Acting Deputy Commissioner Mark Strange walked out of Central Office for the last time as an employee on Friday, July 16. Although he had retired from the Department last June, he agreed to stay on as Acting Deputy Commissioner of Operations to help provide stability to the agency during this period of transition.

Before he "walked out" past a throng of friends and colleagues, Acting Deputy Commissioner Strange's years of service were formally recognized at a luncheon held in Café 24. In front of family members including his father, his sister, and his brother David (retired DoC warden), Commissioner Brian K. Murphy presented Acting Deputy Commissioner Strange with a Department of Correction flag, a proclamation from Governor M. Jodi Rell, a plaque of appreciation and the traditional retirement badge.

The sendoff also provided the opportunity to meet the newly appointed Commissioner of the Department of Correction, Leo C. Arnone. As a retired employee of the Department of Correction, Arnone had worked alongside several people in the room. For many others, however, it was a chance to meet the Department's seventh commissioner.

In his remarks to the crowd Acting Deputy Commissioner Strange thanked everyone, especially Commissioner Murphy. "I was a lone wolf when I came into this department," said Strange. "Then I met Brian (Murphy) and we became a pack."



**Acting Deputy Commissioner Mark Strange is given a warm sendoff on his final day with the Department of Correction.**

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## New Training Class To Start in September

Governor M. Jodi Rell has authorized the Connecticut Department of Correction to hire a new class of 127 correctional staff with training to begin on September 10, 2010. Of that total, 120 would be new correction officers with the remainder to include parole officers, nurses, a chaplain and other job classifications.

"The Department of Correction is a critical component in our efforts to keep our communities safe," said Governor Rell. "While the agency has been able to close a correctional facility and substantially reduce its overtime over the course of the past year, a growing number of retirements is now making it necessary to add to the agency's ranks."

Over the course of the current fiscal year, the department has saved \$5.6-million through a reduction in its overtime usage of more than 158,000 hours. Earlier this year, the agency had closed the Webster Correctional Institution in Cheshire, at an annual savings of \$3.4-million, and had redeployed the staff from that facility. However, also this year, some 314 staff have been separated from the department, most through retirement and another 69 employees have indicated their intention to retire by August 1, 2010. As a result, the agency's overtime usage has begun to increase, necessitating the additional staff.

"The Department of Correction is grateful that Governor Rell has approved these mission critical staff, which will insure that our facilities remain safe, secure and orderly, and allow us to continue to fulfill our primary mission of protecting the public," said Acting Commissioner Brian K. Murphy. It is estimated that once the new hires have completed their training and are deployed to their correctional facilities, overtime usage will be reduced by some 90,000 hours during the remainder of the fiscal year, for a savings of \$3.4-million.

# Dog Days of Summer



L to R: K-9 Officer Andre Cox, “Kazi”,  
Commissioner Brian K. Murphy, K-9  
Officer Robert Sabourin, and “Blade”.

Despite the steamy weather and the stiff competition, teams from the Department of Correction’s K-9 Unit faired extremely well during the 19th annual Connecticut State Police K-9 Olympics. The event was held July 17 on the Depot Campus of the University of Connecticut off Route 44 in Storrs. A total of 24 teams with entrants from the University of Connecticut Police Department, the Connecticut State Police and various municipal police departments from across the state participated in the event. The teams of officers, with their trained dog partners, competed in tests of knowledge, ability, strength and stamina in exercises that included obedience, obstacles, simulated apprehension and handler protection.

Congratulations to the Connecticut Department of Correction’s K-9 Unit on an outstanding performance at this year’s event. All the handlers and their K-9 partners performed extremely well this year. Award winners are listed below.

## Overall Performance

**1<sup>st</sup> Place Overall: Officer Robert Sabourin, K-9 “Blade”.**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place Overall: Andre Cox, K-9 “Kazi”.**

## Criminal Apprehension Drill

**1<sup>st</sup> Place: Officer Paul Aubin, K-9 “Bo”.**

## Obstacle Drill

**1<sup>st</sup> Place: Officer Shawn Dexter, K-9 “Triton”.**

## Most Experienced Competitor

**Officer Dan Murray, K-9 “Brady”.**



**K-9 Officer Robert Sabourin and his dog  
“Blade” finished first place overall in the  
19th annual K-9 Olympics.**



**Lieutenant Henry Gasiorek takes one  
for the team.**

In addition to the competition, there were displays by state police, fire, corrections, emergency services and local businesses. Representatives from the Connecticut Child Identification Program were also on hand providing ID packets for children. Monies raised during the K-9 Olympics will be distributed to various charities including: Shriners Hospital for Children, Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation, and the Hole in the Wall Gang Camp.

Please take the time to congratulate all of our K-9 Teams and Captain Joseph Carlone, the K-9 Commander, for their contributions to the Department of Correction and this great event. Director of Tactical Operations William Colon expressed his appreciation through an email to Lieutenants Greg Chandler and Henry Gasiorek for their exhausting efforts in making this year’s K-9 Olympics such a success.

## Law Enforcement Torch Run

This year's Law Enforcement Torch Run to benefit Connecticut Special Olympics was held on June 9, 10, and 11. Staff members from the York Correctional Institution participated on Wednesday, June 9th. The York CI leg of the run started in Old Lyme at the A&P Supermarket and ended at the opening to the Rocky Neck State Park, where the Torch was passed to the participants from the Gates Correctional Institution.

This year the staff of York CI raised a total \$2,330.00 for the day of the Torch Run. A total of 12 runners participated from York CI and they completed the longest route of the day which was 8.2 miles.



York CI sent additional staff to Rocky Neck State Park to walk and raise money while the torch worked its way to the opening of the park from Old Lyme. Staff members of Gates CI were invited to join in walking and running for the cause. There were approximately 12 staff members from Gates CI that participated for a total of 37 walkers/runners this year from both facilities. This year's top torch run fund raisers from York CI were Correction Officers Tim Wilbur and Jeff Bragg who managed to raise \$300 each.

In addition to the Torch Run, York CI initiated a "Tips for Hair Cuts" program in the cosmetology class room. State School Teacher Pat Cirillo, with the assistance of the inmates she supervises, raised a total of \$1,095 in tips for the Special Olympics. On top of all the other efforts, Recreation Supervisor Ray Bull raised \$1,000 for the Special Olympics by taking photos of the inmate population in celebration of Mother's Day.

To date, the staff of the York Correctional Institution has raised more than \$15,000 this year for the Connecticut Special Olympic Athletes.

## Around the Cell Block



**Massachusetts** – Republican legislators proposed a bill to end the practice of paying inmates for working within prisons. Instead, prisoners would work up to 7.5 days per month off their sentence. Proponents estimate the measure could save taxpayers up to \$3 million annually.

**Ohio** – Ohio's prison system is about to allow loved ones to spend time with inmates through a video hookup from a specially equipped parole office. At parole offices in Cleveland and Cincinnati, up to two adults and two children (young enough to sit on laps) can see and talk to an inmate for up to a half-hour for a prepaid \$25 fee.

**Washington** – State lawmakers concerned that mental hospitals are not secure enough have passed a law allowing them to send mentally ill and dangerous defendants to prison, instead of to a hospital.

**Total  
Supervised  
Population  
on  
July 30, 2010  
23,225  
On July 30, 2009  
the population was  
23,386**



## 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 Mike Sirois, Plant Facilities Engineer I. He can be reached at 860-253-3649 with any questions. If you have any questions or an idea for a future column please contact Director David Batten at (860) 692-7554.*

# Energy Home Audit - Insulation, Heating & Cooling

You can easily conduct a home energy audit yourself. With a simple but diligent walk-through, you can spot many problems in any type of house. When auditing your home, keep a checklist of areas you have inspected and problems you found. This list will help you prioritize your energy efficiency upgrades.

## Insulation

Heat loss through the ceiling and walls in your home could be very large if the insulation levels are less than the recommended minimum. When your house was built, the builder likely installed the amount of insulation recommended at the time. Given today's energy prices (and future prices that will probably be higher), the level of insulation might be inadequate, especially if you have an older home.

If the attic hatch is located above a conditioned space, check to see if it is at least as heavily insulated as the attic, is weather-stripped, and closes tightly. In the attic, determine whether openings for items such as pipes, ductwork, and chimneys are sealed. Seal any gaps with an expanding foam caulk or some other permanent sealant. While you are inspecting the attic, check to see if there is a vapor barrier under the attic insulation. The vapor barrier might be tarpaper, Kraft paper attached to fiberglass batts, or a plastic sheet. If there does not appear to be a vapor barrier, you might consider painting the interior ceilings with a vapor barrier paint. This reduces the amount of water vapor that can pass through the ceiling. Large amounts of moisture can reduce the effectiveness of insulation and promote structural damage. Make sure that the attic vents are not blocked by insulation. You also should seal any electrical boxes in the ceiling with flexible caulk (from the living room side or attic side) and cover the entire attic floor with at least the current recommended amount of insulation.

If your basement is unheated, determine whether there is insulation under the living area flooring. In most areas of the country, an R-value of 25 is the recommended minimum level of insulation. The insulation at the top of the foundation wall and first floor perimeter should have an R-value of 19 or greater. If the basement is heated, the foundation walls should be insulated to at least R-19. Your water heater, hot water pipes, and furnace ducts should also be insulated.

## Heating/Cooling Equipment

Inspect heating and cooling equipment annually, or as recommended by the manufacturer. If you have a forced-air furnace, check your filters and replace them as needed. Generally, you should change them about once every month or two, especially during periods of high usage. Have a professional check and clean your equipment once a year. If the unit is more than 15 years old, you should consider replacing your system with one of the newer, energy-efficient units. A new unit would greatly reduce your energy consumption, especially if the existing equipment is in poor condition. Check your ductwork for dirt streaks, especially near seams, these indicate air leaks, and they should be sealed with a duct mastic. Insulate any ducts or pipes that travel through unheated spaces. An insulation R-value of 6 is the minimum recommended.

## **Commissioner's Farewell** from page 1

And while we have been truly fortunate not to have experienced any major incidents in recent years, our emergency planning and constant drilling have sharpened our skills and readiness for whatever may occur. As I prepare for that final day and start to clean out my office I can think back on the times at Somers when order was in very short supply. Thankfully, those days are behind us. The gang program which I took part in developing has established the foundation for the safety of our facilities and has become the benchmark program that has been copied by correctional agencies from coast to coast and overseas. But all of these memories come back to what is our foundation, the dedicated men and women who make this agency what it is, day in and day out. They are dedicated, hard working people who are committed to their job, their correctional colleagues and the citizens of our state. They are what make this agency the best correctional agency in the country. It will be the relationships and bonds that have tied us together that I will miss the most. And yes, I will miss the job, as it and you have been a major part of my life for 29 years. I am truly honored and humbled to have been given the opportunity to conclude my career as your commissioner. In closing, I ask for your support and commitment to Commissioner Leo Arnone. Thank you, stay safe and I wish you the very best for the future.

## **Former DoC Employee Named Seventh Commissioner of Agency** from page 1

He progressed through the ranks from correction officer to treatment officer, lieutenant, training officer and captain over the course of 14 years at what was then the state's only maximum security prison for men. During this period he was a member of the state's first Correctional Emergency Response Team (CERT) and went on to become it's commander before leaving the Somers Facility.

In 1988, he was promoted to the rank of deputy warden of the Hartford Correctional Center and in 1991 would become its warden. He was transferred in 1992 to the warden's position at the Robinson Correctional Institution in Enfield.

Commissioner Arnone was assigned in 1993 as the regional director of agency's northern region where he oversaw six correctional facilities in the Somers/Enfield area with a total of 4,000 inmates and 1,800 employees spread over more than 1,700 acres.

In 1995, Commissioner Arnone accepted the challenge of rebuilding the state juvenile detention system within the State Judicial Branch. He began as the Superintendent of the Hartford Juvenile Detention Center and over the course of the next three years developed the facility's policy and procedural manuals. He was named a Deputy Director of Operations for the Court Support Services Division in 1999 with responsibility for three high security detention centers and seven contracted community facilities. During his tenure, all three state facilities would become fully accredited through the American Correctional Association (ACA) and the system overall was transformed from one in disarray, to one which is held up as a national model.

In 2007, Commissioner Arnone transitioned to the Connecticut Department of Children and Families as the Bureau Chief of the Juvenile Service Bureau. In this position he was responsible for juvenile offenders who have been committed to the custody of the department. The bureau consists of the Connecticut Juvenile Training School, the Division of Juvenile Parole, five residential facilities, six community reentry programs and the pending construction of a new secure facility for girls. Under his oversight, the training school was also accredited with the ACA with a score of 98.7 out of 100.

Please join outgoing Commissioner Brian K. Murphy in welcoming, and pledging support to the new Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Correction, Leo C. Arnone.

## Bridgeport Staff Honor Veterans

Staff of the Bridgeport District Parole and Community Services Office, along with their families and friends, hosted a Veterans Memorial Brunch at the VFW 403 in Hamden, Connecticut recently. In an attempt to show appreciation to local veterans, Parole Officer Goodwin organized the event with the assistance of Parole Officers Howard, Lloyd, Okwuosa, and Rorie, Records Specialist Nichols, Office Assistant McCarty, Parole Manager Williams and Lieutenant Griffin (NHCC).



**DoC staff members and local clergy pose with members of the VFW Post 403.**

During the brunch, those present were able to articulate to the veterans the appreciation felt by so many Americans. Without their service to our country, we would not be the nation we are today; strong, prosperous and free. During breakfast, staff were honored to hear the stories of many, both young and old, who faithfully served the United States of America. Each veteran's story shared a common theme, humble appreciation for being remembered. Those present were especially honored to hear the story of one of our very own, Parole Officer Howard (Petty Officer, 3<sup>rd</sup> Class, United States Navy). She proudly represented the United States Navy as well as the Department of Correction as she eloquently spoke about her experience in the military. Organizers of the event feel that such events and displays of admiration towards our military are all too rare. The Bridgeport District Office hopes that the brunch is just the first of what they hope will become an annual event. However, they are quick to point out that the ultimate objective is to honor members of the military, not only on designated holidays such as Memorial Day and Veterans Day, but every day throughout the year. To those who have served our country, we salute you.

## Inside Voices

**Counselor Sarah Chester provides an overview of one of the programs she facilitates at Brooklyn CI**

Victim Offender Institutional Correctional Educational Services, VOICES, is a program that educates offenders about the consequences and impact their crime has on victims and their community. VOICES is a 20-session program that meets twice a week. It is a group from which every offender can benefit. During the group sessions offenders share their experiences with one another about either being a victim or knowing a victim.



**Counselor Sarah Chesters**

As a facilitator, I believe in the importance of inviting victims to come in and share their experiences. As a result, numerous guest speakers come in to share how being a victim of a crime has affected them. Offenders often tell me, and other group members, the enormous impact listening to victims share their stories has had on them. When a speaker is unavailable, the offenders watch movies that deal with victimization, but the impact is not as great as with a "live" presentation – so I try to schedule as many guest speakers as possible. Oftentimes victims have commented that through their stories, they hope to have the offenders experience firsthand the devastating impact that crime can have, not only on the victim, but also the victim's family, and their community. Another goal of the VOICES program is to have offenders perform a service that benefits the community. At Brooklyn CI, for the past five years, inmates donate cosmetics which they purchase from commissary. These cosmetics are in turn donated to the local domestic violence shelter. Recently, a group of inmates suggested giving monetary donations to the shelter for the purpose of buying Christmas presents for the women and children staying at the shelter. The opportunity to donate was offered to all the inmates at the facility, resulting in more than \$200 in donations. I truly enjoy facilitating the VOICES and believe that it is one of the best programs the Department of Correction has to offer.

## Years of Service

### Employees with 20 Years of Service as of June 2010

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Facility</u>	<u>Hire Date</u>
Bandzak, Joseph	Correction Officer	Central Off.	6/1/1990
Boislard, Robin	Correction Officer	York	6/1/1990
Brown, Andre	Parole Officer II	Central Off.	6/1/1990
Busher, David	Parole Officer II	Central Off.	6/1/1990
Carroza, April	Counselor	Cheshire	6/15/1990
Castronova, Lora	Deputy Warden	Gates	6/25/1990
Ducat, Marc	Correction Officer	Gates	6/1/1990
Faryniarz, Raymond	Correction Officer	MYI	6/1/1990
Fish, Wendy	Correction Officer	York	6/1/1990
Godburn, Eileen	Parole Officer II	Central Off.	6/1/1990
Johnson, Lamar	Correction Officer	Bridgeport	6/1/1990
Knowling, Thomas	Corr. Stores Sup.	Central Off.	6/22/1990
Mayes, Gary	Corr. Ind. Sup. I	Cheshire	6/1/1990
McDaniel, Darren	Correction Officer	Cheshire	6/1/1990
McPherson, James	Correction Officer	Cheshire	6/1/1990
Moore, Anthony	Correction Officer	Osborn	6/1/1990
Morris, Michael	Correction Officer	Central Off.	4/20/1990
Oliveras, Freddy	Correction Officer	Bergin	6/1/1990
O'Neill, Walter	Lieutenant	Cheshire	6/1/1990
Owens, Marc	Correction Officer	Garner	6/1/1990
Pagel, Gregory	Correction Officer	Garner	6/1/1990
Pellot, Jose	Correction Officer	MYI	6/1/1990
Picone, Darlene	Secretary I	CRCI	6/1/1990
Renaud, Christopher	Correction Officer	Garner	6/1/1990
Runcie, Delroy	Correction Officer	Enfield	6/1/1990
Scott, David	Correction Officer	Central Off.	6/1/1990
Sosa, Luis	Correctional Captain	Central Off.	6/1/1990
Spina, Richard	Lieutenant	Gates	6/1/1990
Thompson, John	Correction Officer	MYI	6/1/1990
Wilbur, Timothy	Correction Officer	York	6/1/1990

### Employees with 25 Years of Service as of June 2010

Brodersen, Debra	Office Assistant	Northern	6/7/1985
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### Employees with 30 Years of Service as of June 2010

Berry, Dennis	Mail Handler	Northern	6/13/1980
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## Stroman Honored

The staff of the Bridgeport Correctional Center recently paid a fitting tribute to one of their own. A memorial service was held on June 17th to honor Officer Michael Stroman. Officer Stroman was a 17-year veteran of the department, and only 48 years old, when he passed away suddenly at his home.



With members of the Department of Correction's Honor Guard on hand, Acting Deputy Commissioner Mark Strange presented a State of Connecticut flag from Governor M. Jodi Rell to Officer Stroman's mother.

## Legal Brief



**Jim Neil Esq.**

Please join with the Director of the Legal Affairs Unit Sandra Sharr in welcoming the newest member of her staff, Legislative & Administrative

Manager Attorney James E. Neil. Prior to joining the Department of Correction in June, Attorney Neil was the Director of Operations for the State Marshal Commission.