



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 restitution, rehabilitation and successful community intergration*

## Bergin CI to Close

In a memo dated June 29, 2011, addressed to all staff, Commissioner Leo C. Arnone stated that based upon the recent failure of the vote on the union concession package, and the requirement that the State Budget be balanced by the end of the fiscal year, which ended on June 30, 2011, the Connecticut Department of Correction



Bergin Correctional Institution

must move forward with its Plan B requirements. As a result, the agency is again moving forward with the closing of the Bergin Correctional Institution. Layoff notices went out to the staff at the facility last week and representatives from the Human Resources Unit are onsite working on re-assignments. It is anticipated that the last inmate will be removed from the facility by August 5, 2011, and that the facility will be fully closed by August 15, 2011.

June 9, 2011  
through  
July 8, 2011

Distributed bi-monthly  
to 6,200 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



I have spent a considerable amount of time over the past few months at the State Capitol, talking with legislators. Much of the discussion centered on our efforts seeking approval of the Earned Risk Reduction Credits program. I am very proud to report that this measure was approved by both houses of the legislature and is awaiting the signature of Governor Malloy.

It will provide up to five days a month off an offender's sentence as an incentive for them to participate in programming in keeping with the direction of their Offender Accountability Plan. Good behavior would also be required and the credits can be revoked based upon a failure to comply with programming or poor behavior. As I told the lawmakers again and again, this is a very conservative program. More than 30 states provide some sort of incentive program and Texas, by comparison, gives up to 10 days a month without any requirements on the offender's part to earn the credits. Under the oversight of Warden Monica Rinaldi, we are in the process of putting together the details of exactly how this will be implemented.

Dannel P. Malloy  
Governor

Leo C. Arnone  
Commissioner

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# National Institute of Corrections Conducts Training at York CI

On May 16-19, training academy Director Tracey Butler, and Warden Kevin Gause of the York Correctional Institution hosted a training session titled, "Operational Practices in Women's Prisons" at the York CI's Wellness Center. This training was conducted by the National Institute of Corrections. The training was led by former Connecticut DoC Warden and Deputy Commissioner of Administrative Services Evelyn Bush. Other trainers included retired Warden Susan Poole from California, retired Superintendent and Regional Director Carol Porter from Washington, Mental Health Director and Program Manager Jeanna Gomez from New Mexico and Texas, Warden Annie



**Susan Poole, a retired warden from California leads a discussion during the recent female gender specific National Institute of Corrections training at York CI.**

Harvey from North Carolina and Deputy State Court Administrator Jeff Shorba from Minnesota. The topics were female gender specific and included: Operational Issues, Operational Practices and Programs, Gender Differences, Legal Issues, Communication, and Health Care in addition to numerous other topics. In attendance were Superintendents, Deputy Superintendents, Wardens and other staff from neighboring female facilities in Danbury (Federal), Rhode Island, Massachusetts and New York. In addition, a supervisory team from York CI including, Maintenance, Custody, Classification, Unit Management, Education and Medical, was also in attendance. The training was educational and an enlightening experience for all involved.

## Pendulum of Corrections from page 1

I view this as another key component of our efforts to provide opportunities that support successful community reintegration and preparing offenders to return to their home communities. During all of this talk with the legislators, I have explained my philosophy of corrections in 2011. What I have told them is that I see our agency firmly resting on two equal legs. One is our strict adherence to safety, security and criminal justice. This has to be our foundation, so that good order exists in our facilities and that offenders know they will be held accountable for their crimes. The other leg is one of redemption. By this I mean that we are here to provide those opportunities that offenders can and should utilize to redirect their lives. As you know, at the suggestion of a lawmaker, I have added the word rehabilitation to our mission statement. We must, as part of our daily duties, provide offenders with the potential to better themselves while they are in our custody. This is where the Earned Risk Reduction Credits come in. As I have said to the lawmakers, my vision is for the pendulum of corrections to, for once, rest in the center of these two legs. After 22 years in corrections, I and many of you, have seen it swing from side to side. When I first joined the agency in the early 70's, the thinking was that nearly everyone was mentally ill and that is what drove their criminal intent. So we were in a treatment mode. When issues arose from that, because safety and security were taking a back seat, we went back to basics and locked everyone down with very little programming. It's a balance that we must aim for with safety, security and criminal justice on an even footing with redemption and programming. It is my desire that we will enhance both of these legs as we go forward.

## Warden Light Retires

After 22 years with the Department of Correction, Warden Valerie Light of the Brooklyn Correctional Center retired effective July 1, 2011.

Light, who was appointed as the warden of the Brooklyn facility in July of 2009, began her career in 1989 as a Correctional Rehabilitation Counselor at the Western Substance Abuse Treatment Unit in Newtown. Before coming to Brooklyn, Warden Light served as the Deputy Warden at the Northern Correctional Institution.

Warden Light has earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Social Work from Sacred Heart University as well as a Master's of Science Degree in Counseling from Western Connecticut State University. She has also completed Women in Corrections and an Advanced Management Strategies for Women and Minorities courses through the National Institute of Corrections. In 2007, Light was honored with the distinction of being named the department's Manager of the Year. In 2010, she was appointed to the Post University Criminal Justice Advisory Council based upon her experience and correctional expertise. The Council is responsible for advising the university on curriculum issues in the field of criminal justice.

Please join Commissioner Leo C. Arnone in wishing Warden Valerie Light best wishes on her retirement.



**Warden Valerie Light with Officer Jeff Raymond during a Correctional Employee Week Recognition Luncheon held in May at Brooklyn CI**

## New Beginnings and Endings at Parole



**Joseph Haggan and Rebecca Fleming (Center), Director and Deputy Director of Parole and Community Services with their new staff members.**

A training day at Camp Niantic in East Lyme, CT held in June for Parole and Community Services staff was an opportunity for introductions of new staff as well as a chance to honor long-time veterans of the agency who were retiring. Director of Parole and Community Services Joseph Haggan had the pleasure of introducing seven new staff members to the division. The new parole officers (all have the title of Parole Officer I) are: Sarah Chesters, Stephan Ciaffaglione, Reishia Gonzales, Carol Mullen, Alan Piascik, Donna Savoie, and Joseph Schmidt. In addition to the new parole officers, Leigh Ware was introduced as a recently promoted parole manager.

Director Haggan also had the bittersweet privilege of honoring two employees who recently announced their plans to retire. A 26-year veteran of the agency, John Kelly began his career as a correction officer at the New Haven Correctional Center

in 1985. During his tenure with Parole, Kelly worked at both the New Haven and Hartford offices. He retired as a Parole Officer II on July 1, 2011. Also honored was Executive Assistant to the Commissioner (EAC) Louis O. Roy. He came out of retirement as a full-time parole board member for the Board of Pardons and Paroles. Recently, he left the BOPP to work for Parole and Community Services in his new title as EAC. He retired, for a second time, on June 30th. Please join Commissioner Leo C. Arnone and Director Joseph Haggan in wishing the incoming, as well as outgoing, parole staff congratulations and best wishes for future success.

## Not Even A Tornado Can Stop Her

Mailmen have nothing on Correctional Nurse Gail Boyer. Despite having a tornado cause considerable damage to her home, she not only reported to work on time – she worked a double shift. While heading home from work at the Cheshire Correctional Institution on June 1, Nurse Boyer heard news reports of the tornadoes that roared through Western Massachusetts. She contacted her 17-year-old son, who was also on his way home. As he pulled into their driveway, the wind tore the door off of his car. He then ran into the house and the windows blew in so he ran down to the basement where he was safe. Due to the extensive damage caused by the tornado, only emergency personnel were allowed in the area. So, not having seen her son (who took the family cat and stayed with neighbors), spending the night in a motel along with her husband, Ms. Boyer came to the facility the following day and worked her scheduled double shift.



Correctional Nurse  
Gail Boyer

Health Services Administrator Richard Bush said that nurse Boyer came to work with a positive attitude, even stating that she “didn’t like the house anyway, and now she will have to get a new one.”

## Willard-Cybulski CI Donates to Tornado Relief

Recreation Supervisors Jeff Beiler and Al Kapitzke recently delivered 42 shirts, 35 jackets, 36 belts, and 56 pairs of shoes and sneakers donated by the staff of the Willard Cybulski Correctional Institution. The items were delivered to the Springfield, Massachusetts Salvation Army to benefit the victims of the tornado that ravaged portions of Western Massachusetts on June 1.



Recreation Supervisor Al Kapitzke

## Around the Cell Block



**OKLAHOMA** – Inmates at minimum security prisons have recently been allowed to resume smoking on prison grounds. Tobacco was banned from all Oklahoma prisons in 2004. A spokesman for the Oklahoma Corrections Department said that allowing smoking means one less thing to monitor with budget cuts that have resulted in fewer correction officers.

**NEW YORK** – A current inmate and his girlfriend have pled guilty to a scheme in which he stole thousands of dollars of unemployment benefits while incarcerated in an upstate prison.

**MICHIGAN** – A federal judge recently heard arguments challenging a Michigan law that bars parole for juveniles convicted of certain murders. The American Civil Liberties Union claims the law violates a constitutional ban on cruel and unusual punishment.

**Total  
Supervised  
Population  
on  
July 8, 2011  
22,430  
On July 8, 2010  
the population was  
23,115**



## 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 Jim Thomson, Design Engineer III, and questions relating to it may be answered by contacting him at 860-692-7518. If you have any questions or an idea for a future column please contact Director David Batten at (860) 692-7554.*

## Getting the Hang of It

On occasion I have noticed objects such as pictures, curtain rods and towel bars falling off the walls they were intended to be anchored to. Usually, it was the result of improper installation. Here are the secrets of hanging items up for good.

To hang pictures, and small decorative items, use picture hangers. You’ll notice they are designed with the nail going into the wall at an angle. This is so the nail won’t pull out due to weight or vibration. An upward pull is required to take the nail out which should not happen with something hanging on it pulling down. If you use a nail without the hanger to hang something, drive the nail into the wall at a down angle.

How to hang things with weight such as book shelves, flat screen displays, microwaves or things that get pulled such as towel bars or curtain rods: This article assumes your walls are plaster or wall board. You cannot use screws to attach the item to the wall board only. They will pull out of the soft plaster or gypsum. The best method is to attach the item to a wooden stud in the wall. Unfortunately, the studs are behind the wall surface so you can’t see them.

The following are some common methods used to locate wall studs:

**Electronic Stud Finder:** You slide this along the wall and it beeps or changes a light display when the thickness of the wall changes over a stud.

**Nail Method:** Pound a small nail into the wall until you hit a stud. This leaves tiny holes in the wall which require repair.

**Magnet Method:** Slide a small magnet along the wall until it finds a nail or screw that had been driven into a stud to attach the wall board (notice the screw in the electronic stud finder picture). The magnet method is slow. This method does not identify the edges of the stud, only that there is a stud somewhere near the nail or

screw. You can only hope the fastener was driven near the center of the stud.

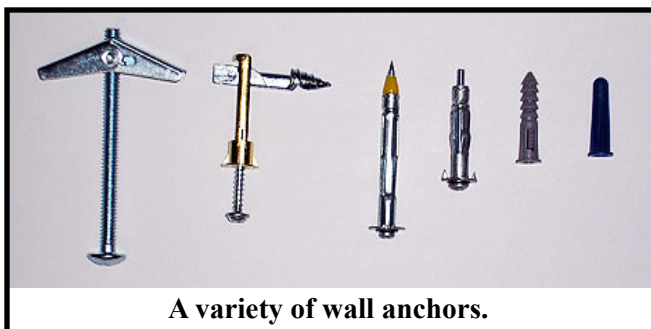
If there is no stud located where the screw needs to be, you must use an anchor to give the screw something to hold onto. Most wall anchors have expandable tabs that grip the wall on the back side so the screw won’t pull out. Follow the instructions on the fastener package; using the correct drill size called for is critical.

**Caution:** Plaster and gypsum wall materials are not

very strong. Only light weight items such as small shelves, towel bars and small curtain rods should be attached with anchors. Do not attach large items such as video displays, microwaves or large shelves to walls if you cannot fasten the object to a wall stud with some of the screws. Heavy objects will pull anchors out of the wall, possibly taking pieces of wall with them.



An Electronic Stud Sensor



A variety of wall anchors.

# Torch Bearers

The 2011 Law Enforcement Torch Run took place on June 8-10, and once again staff members from the Connecticut Department of Correction played an integral part in its success.

This year marked the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the event and during the course of the three days, participants in the Torch Run covered more than 530 miles and ran through more than 100 cities

and towns. More than 1,500 Law Enforcement officers and Special Olympics Athletes participated in this year's Torch Run. Staff members from Brooklyn CI, Central Office, Corrigan-Radgowski CC, Manson Youth Institution, Osborn CI, and York CI were among the facilities that participated in the Torch Run. The York Correctional Institution participated on Wednesday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, with 17 runners participating in the longest route of the day of 8.2 miles - five staff ran the entire length. York C.I. as in past years, 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. This year the staff of York CI raised a total \$3,700.00 for the day of the Torch Run.



**Warden Kevin Gause (front row, far left) poses with York CI's 2011 Law Enforcement Torch Run participants.**



**Correction Officer Jason Guerrero of the Manson Youth Institution proudly carries the Torch during Leg #7 of the run.**

This year's top torch run fund raisers from York C.I. were correction officers Tim Wilbur - \$570 and Jeff Bragg - \$250. Since its inception in 1986, when Connecticut's first Torch Run was just a few legs converging onto the campus of the University of Connecticut at Storrs, the Law Enforcement Torch Run has grown into the largest grass roots fund-raising event for Special Olympics Connecticut. The goal for 2011 is to raise \$550,000.



**Staff from the Osborn Correctional Institution prepare to run their leg of the Law Enforcement Torch Run.**

# York CI Tip-A-Cop

On May 20, 2011, York Correctional Institution staff participated in a Tip-a-Cop fundraiser for Special Olympics Connecticut. There were also numerous staff members from other facilities participating in this event statewide. York facility staff members were located at three Dunkin Donuts establishments located in Waterford, Niantic and East Lyme. Due to the efforts of York's staff a total of \$1,491.11 was collected. Additionally, the owner of the Dunkin Donuts generously matched the amount collected for a total for the day of \$2,982.22. Year-to-date, the total collected for Special Olympics Connecticut from York CI is over \$9,500.

## Osborn CI Facility Awards

Sometimes Warden Carol Chapdelaine spends her days behind her desk working. Sometimes she is walking around Osborn CI, touring units and speaking to staff and inmates. And on May 6, 2011, in honor of National Correction Officers' and Correctional Professional Employees' Week, she put on an apron and dished up food to hungry staff. "This facility runs as well as it does because I have such a great staff," she said. "They make this facility shine in spite of limited resources and budget cuts." So she and her managers did by serving up chicken parmesan, shells and salad on first and second shifts and bacon and egg sandwiches on third shift. Following the luncheon on first shift, she and Deputy Warden Steven Frey honored staff with an awards ceremony, naming 25 staff members as Employees of Distinction, and naming the Maintenance Department as Osborn CI's unit of the year. "I have staff who routinely go above and beyond to get the job done, so Deputy Warden Frey, Deputy Warden Iweka (who transferred to Manson Youth Institute on May 4, 2011) and I wanted to recognize their efforts. They are the best."

### Osborn Correctional Institution's 2011 Award Recipients

#### Supervisory Team Leadership 2nd Shift Supervisory Team

**Supervisory Leadership**  
Lt. Luis Colon, Lt. John Manning, Lt. John Tuttle

**Correction Officers of Distinction**  
Officers Joseph Caccamo, Josefina Diaz, Rasan Jacobs,  
Steve Ramos, Elbert Robinson, Jose Viera

**Employees of Distinction**  
Robert Bernd, Joseph Czech, Tiffany Dyke, Akbar Esa,  
Paul Foley, William Fowler, Ray Glass, Richard Hardy,  
Syed Hussain, Mia Lawrence, Lauren Miller, William  
Murphy, Eileen O'Neill, Cathy Palardy, Kevin Power,  
Garth Wlochowski

## New Kids on the Block



Nibbles, the brown goat on top of the box, is getting to know his new friend from JB Gates Correctional Institution, Tenuviel, with a friendly headbutt. Meanwhile, Tenuviel's mother, Lilly, takes a chow break. The two were transferred recently from the Second Chance Ranch at Gates CI, and just in time. Due to health complications, Corrigan Radgowski's other goat, Bits, had to be put to sleep, leaving Nibbles by himself. With the arrival of her new friends, hopefully Nibbles will be able to cope with the loss of Bits.

## Sign of the Times



The Carpentry Shop at Cheshire Correctional Institution, under the masterful supervision of State School Teacher Mike Bald, recently completed the sign (pictured above) for the Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security.

# A Fair to Remember

A College Fair was hosted at the Maloney Center for Training and Staff Development on June 1, 2011, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. for staff; their families, and for staff from other State agencies as well.

Colleges from both Connecticut and Massachusetts were represented at the fair. Schools who participated included: Sacred Heart University, Western Connecticut State University, Post University, Albertus Magnus, University of Bridgeport, Western New England, Wesleyan University, Gateway Community College, Charter Oak, Springfield University, University of Hartford, Southern Connecticut State University, and Middlesex Community College.

In addition to meeting with representatives from the various colleges, attendees also had the opportunity to meet one-on-one with Human Resource’s Administrative Assistant Sue Levey to discuss tuition reimbursement.



Attendees discuss program offerings with representatives from area colleges and universities during the College Fair held at the Maloney Center for Training and Staff Development.

## Years of Service

### Employees with 25 Years of Service as of May 2011

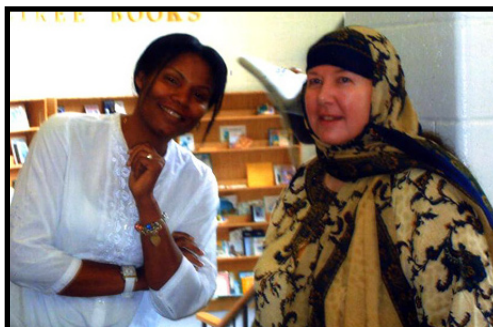
Name	Title Job	Facility	Hire Date
Costa, Douglas	Corr. Counselor	Gates CI	5/23/1986
Gallick, Deborah	Corr. Counselor	Cheshire CI	5/23/1986
Thurlow, James	Parole Officer II	Central Office	5/23/1986

## Thanks and Gratitude

Correctional Officer Traver Smith and Tanya Smith, a Medical Record Specialist, both from the New Haven Correctional Center (NHCC) wish to express their heartfelt thanks and gratitude to all of the staff at NHCC for all of the care and concern they showed us when we needed it most. Our mother’s home was a total loss as a result of a fire on Mother’s day. As soon as the New Haven staff heard what had happened they wasted no time in rallying together in a show of support for us. Whether it was a kind gesture, a warm embrace or words of encouragement, we thank you for your generosity and keeping us in your thoughts. We truly appreciate all you have done to make a very difficult time easier for us.

## Exploring Egypt

The Garner Correctional Institution’s Diversity Council recently sponsored a program about Egypt. Highlights included Correctional Nurse Michelle Lee wearing native Egyptian garb, and also her display of items that she purchased during a recent trip to Egypt. Food Services and Education staff prepared falafels (deep fried balls or patties made from chickpeas or fava beans and spices) for lunch.



L to R: Garner Correctional Institution’s Correctional Counselor Sandra Wynkoop and Correctional Nurse Michelle Lee.