

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 reintegration

The Best of the Best DoC holds Annual Awards Ceremony

Each year the extraordinary accomplishments of the staff of the Connecticut Department of Correction are recognized during the Department’s Annual Award Ceremony; this year’s ceremony was held on Friday, February 24, 2012 at the Maloney Center for Training and Staff Development. “This is always a great occasion for us as an agency when we join together to honor these outstanding employees, who went above and beyond the call of duty,” the commissioner said as he addressed the gathered crowd of family and fellow staff.



Commissioner Leo C. Arnone presents the Commissioner’s Award to Warden Carol Chapdelaine.

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From the Commissioner



Here we are already headlong into 2012, ready to engage in another legislative session and all that comes with it, and it occurred to me that we haven’t yet taken just a moment to review and appreciate all we were able to do as an agency during the past year. When the hours, days and months are flying past it is difficult to put perspective on what we accomplish on a daily basis, so let me take a stab at some of the highlights of 2011. First and foremost on the list of achievements was the reduction in the size of our agency. We were able to safely and securely close both the Gates and Bergin Correctional facilities and while change on that scale is never easy, it was a significant step in making this a smaller and smarter correctional system. This is already saving money for the taxpayers of our state and reducing our agency budget, which had grown to the range of \$700-million. I can tell you that for 2012, there are no further closings planned as we continue to absorb the overflow inmate population.

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Dannel P. Malloy
 Governor

Leo C. Arnone
 Commissioner

Web address:
www.ct.gov/doc

Public Information
 Office telephone:
 (860) 692-7780
 Fax: (860) 692-7783

Annual Awards Ceremony

Honors DoC's Finest from page 1

While the accomplishments of all the award winners were truly impressive, the exploits of the Medal of Valor winners added an additional element of awe. Take the case of Correction Officer Karin Jones who ran into a burning building to save her elderly neighbor as well as the neighbor's grandson. As if to accent her heroic act, just as she she was crossing the street to get away from the burning building, oxygen tanks inside the house exploded – the force of the explosion throwing the trio to the ground. Then there were the actions of Lieutenant Lawrence Bradley, Jr. who dove down not once, but twice to the bottom of a lake to save a friend from drowning.

The Connecticut Department of Correction 2011 Annual Award Recipients

<u>Award</u>	<u>Recipient</u>
Medal of Valor	Karin Jones
Medal of Valor	Lawrence Bradley Jr.
Officer of the Year	Antonio Chapman
Employee of the Year	Karen Martucci
Dist. Public Service	Theresa Penn
Supervisor of the Year	Rocco Sweat
Manager of the Year	Kevin Gause
Parole Officer of the Year	Netasia Jones
Health Services	
Employee of the Year	Erskin Edwards
Teacher of the Year	Matt Reinke
Excellence in	
Correctional Training	Wallace Ford
Innovator's Award	Rayford Somerville
VIP of the Year	John Santa
Unit of the Year	Parole & Comm. Serv. Mental Health Unit
Commissioner's Award	Carol Chapdelaine

Though not as dramatic, there were also examples of staff members going to extremes to help others. For example, Captain Theresa Penn who received the Distinguished Public Service Award literally spent entire weekends on top of a local Dunkin Donuts to raise money for Special Olympics.

As in years past, the ceremony culminated with the presentation of the Commissioner's award. As its name suggests, the winner of the Commissioner's award is selected solely by the Commissioner – all of the other awards are selected by committee.

This year's recipient was Warden Carol Chapdelaine of the Osborn Correctional Institution. Warden Chapdelaine is the first woman to run that facility since it opened in 1963, nearly 50 years ago. In presenting her with the award,

Commissioner Arnone noted that not only is Warden Chapdelaine a very capable administrator with an encyclopedic-like knowledge of statistical information pertaining to the facility, but she also has a very personable style of leadership.

“When you follow her on tours, she knows every staff member, and they know her,” said Commissioner Arnone. “To a person, she knows what's going on in their work lives and their personal lives.”

In an impressive show of support that epitomized the spirit of the ceremony, both District Administrators and all the wardens present at the ceremony lined up to congratulate Warden Chapdelaine as she left the stage.



Commissioner Arnone presents Captain Theresa Penn with the Distinguished Public Service Award.

Pre-Service Class 250 Graduates



The Department of Correction's Honor Guard escort Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman and Commissioner Leo C. Arnone into the graduation exercises for Pre-Service Class 250.

The 108 members of Pre-Service Class #250 were graced with not just one guest speaker, but two, during their recent graduation ceremony on Tuesday, February 21, 2012 at the Maloney Center for Training and Staff Development.

The first special guest to address the class was Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman who congratulated the graduates, while also thanking the gathered throng of friends and family for their support. Lieutenant Governor Wyman went on to remind those gathered that their continued support would be even more important as the graduates embark on their careers.

Next up was Colonel Danny Stebbins of the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection who provided the

ceremony's official keynote address. He shared several examples of positive experiences collaborating with staff from the Department of Correction over the course of his career. His most recent example was after last year's tropical storm when some 20 DoC staff members rode along with state police troopers, assisting in whatever way necessary in the wake of the storm. Colonel Stebbins has such a positive impression of Department of Correction staff that he even went as far as to jokingly announce that the Connecticut State Police were recruiting.

The ceremony moved on to the presentation of certificates and badges. A total of 95 correction officers, three parole officers, one commissary operator, one correctional counselor, and eight Correctional Managed Health Care staff members comprised the graduating class.

Members of Class 250 selected Lieutenant Daniel Czikowsky as their Outstanding Instructor, while the Victor E. Harris Jr. Award, named after a deceased Department of Correction employee who embodied the positive attributes of a trainer, was awarded to Correction Officer Jimmie Guerrero.

Correction Officer Frederick Laughman received the Highest Scholastic Achievement Award with an impressive overall test-score average of 99.65%. In accepting his award officer Laughman gave a piece of advice for a successful career which he borrowed from New England Patriots' coach Bill Belichick – "do your job."

One last individual was acknowledged during the ceremony when Training Director Tracey Butler announced that this would be Training Officer Theodore Angelakopoulos' last pre-service class. Angelakopoulos, who has been an integral part of the pre-service training program for several years will retire on April 1. The gathered throng sprung to their feet to give him a standing ovation. With that, Director Butler turned it over to Father Anthony Bruno who said a benediction, followed by the department's honor guard retiring the colors, and the graduates processing out of the auditorium into their future with the Department of Correction.



Members of Pre-Service Class 250 take the oath

Taking the Plunge

More than 266 “plungers” took to the water on Sunday, February 18, 2012 at Hammonasset Beach State Park in Madison as part of the Penguin Plunge to benefit Special Olympics Connecticut. Among those braving the chilly waters of Long Island Sound were Deputy Commissioners James Dzurenda and Cheryl Cepelak. The Deputy Commissioners had squared off in a fundraising battle that pitted the Operations Division (with Deputy Commissioner Dzurenda depicted as Superman) against the Administration Division (with Deputy Commissioner Cepelak depicted as Wonder Woman). All totaled the DoC raised more than \$4,500 - earning the Department the Arctic Hero Award. The event was a huge success with more than \$80,000 raised for Special Olympics Connecticut.



Deputy Commissioners Cheryl Cepelak and James Dzurenda prepare for the plunge.

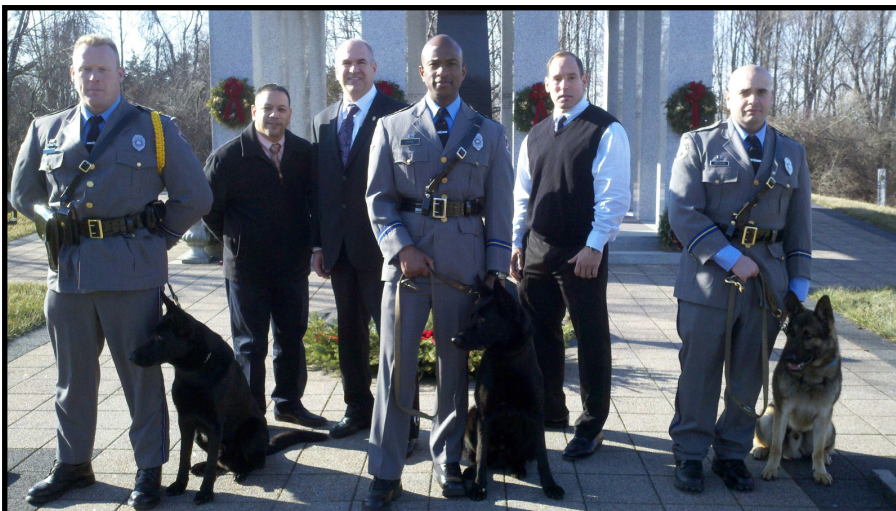
Around the Cell Block



WASHINGTON – The U.S. Bureau of Prisons is unveiling a program that will allow many of its more than 200,000 inmates to carry MP3 players, packed with personalized music lists. Although the inmates can choose from nearly 1 million song titles, the list will be monitored to exclude “explicit” tracks, including obscene or racially charged material.

ILLINOIS - Five current and former inmates are pressing forward with a 5-year-old lawsuit against the state of Illinois claiming that the amount of soy in their diets while behind bars caused them “irreparable, actual harm.” The plaintiffs claim they had up to 100 grams of soy protein per day in their prison diet, though the US Food and Drug Administration recommends no more than 25 grams.

Three New K-9 Handlers



L to R: Correction Officer Dan Murray and K-9 McSeamus, Director of Tactical Operations William Colon, Deputy Commissioner James Dzurenda, Correction Officer Kevin Chung and K-9 Blitz, District Administrator Michael Lajoie, Correction Officer Joe Motta and K-9 Viper.

Three staff members from the Department of Correction’s K-9 unit were members of the 151st Patrol Dog Training Class graduation held January 5, 2012 at the Connecticut State Police Training Academy in Meriden. Those graduating, after completing the rigorous 14-week training program, included Correction Officer Dan Murray and K-9 McSeamus, Correction Officer Kevin Chung and K-9 Blitz, and Correction Officer Joe Motta and K-9 Viper.

**Total
Supervised
Population
on
March 5, 2012**

21,226
*On March 5, 2011
the population was
22,424*

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 Correctional Maintenance Supervisor Ed Marinaccio of Hartford CC. Any questions related to this article may be answered by contacting him at 860-240-1878. If you have any questions, or have an idea for a future column, please leave a message on the Director of Facilities Management and Engineering’s phone at (860) 692-7554.

Buying a Flat Screen Television

Are you thinking about purchasing a new Flat Screen Television? You probably have been looking through your Sunday newspaper’s flyers to find the “best” deal on a new television. You may have asked a family member or friend on what set they purchased and if they could recommend a particular television.

You may have a good idea on what size to purchase for the room it will be placed in and have a dollar figure you are willing to spend on a new television set. Here’s a tip on how to determine the size of the television for optimal viewing, divide the distance you will be sitting from the screen and divide it by two. Example, if your sofa is 8 feet away from the television set divide 8 feet by 2 equals 4 feet or a 48” screen size. Remember the screen size is measured diagonally from corner to corner. This is a general formula; you may find a 40” screen satisfies your needs. Once you have determined the size of TV you want to buy, you will notice a wide range of pricing for the same size set. The television with the lowest price may not be the best value, all sets are not equal, they differ in technology and features offered. That said, which TV is best for you?

When looking at flatscreen TVs, you see terms like Plasma, LCD (Liquid Crystal Display) and LED (Light Emitting Diode). These are common technologies readily available at this time. Each of these technologies has their advantages and disadvantages.

Generally, Plasmas advantages over LCD’s are that they better display deep blacks and more color depths, they have better motion tracking, more of a viewing angle and are generally less expensive than a similar sized LCD television. Plasmas have disadvantages versus LCD - they consume more power, they are heavier, and they generate more heat, the screen tends to glare in brightly lit rooms. Early models were susceptible to burn-in, but advances in the technology have virtually eliminated this problem.

LCD advantages over Plasma televisions are they consume less power, they are lighter, run cooler, and have less screen glare, picture quality is better in brightly lit rooms, and they are not susceptible to burn in. LCD has disadvantages versus Plasmas because they generally have a lower contrast ratio which means they don’t display deep blacks and color depths as

well, they have a lower viewing angle and not as good at tracking motion - fast moving objects tend to have a trail behind them. Higher end, more expensive, LCD televisions have incorporated technology advancements that address their disadvantages versus Plasmas televisions.

Now starts the confusion about current television sets on the market place called LED televisions. They are really an LCD television that uses LED’s to enhance their television’s display capability to reproduce deep blacks and depth of color. There are two types now available - Edge Lighting, where a series of LED’s are placed behind the outer edges of the screen, and Full-Array where LED’s are placed behind the entire surface of the screen. Full-Array will enhance the entire screen, while Edge Lighting will enhance only the outer edges of the televisions display. LED technology is incorporated on the high end LCD sets. For more information go to the manufacturers’ and consumer ratings web sites.



LCD TVs can be susceptible to poor motion tracking.

North Wing Renovation

An extensive renovation projected to cost \$7,350,000, of the Bridgeport Correctional Institution's North Wing is underway. Work on the old North Wing will include the complete replacement of all the building's mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems, removal of most of the interior walls, cells and other elements. It will also include new roof trusses to provide a sloped roof, which will contain an attic to house all of the building's mechanical systems so that maintenance can be done outside the secure areas of the building. Exterior windows, which are currently comprised of single-pane plexiglass, will be replaced with insulated glass detention windows. The brick exterior will be repaired and pointed. The construction project will save an existing building that is in need of repair and significant upgrades.

The building will be made accessible for visitors, inmates and staff; and will provide 230 beds in four dormitory housing units. There will be a new secure visiting area, dining, warming kitchen, and laundry. There will also be new offices, a secure control room with all new security electronics, door controls, and a closed circuit television system that will be tied into the main building.

Photo Essay

Plant Facilities Engineer I Jay Harder recently was photographing areas inside the Bridgeport Old North Wing to document the existing building just before the major renovation of the building started. Being an amateur photographer, one set of images caught his eye and he decided to work with them to see what he could produce - artistically.

This image is actually three images merged together to produce a High Dynamic Range (HDR) photograph. HDR is a process photographers use when the brightest areas of the image and the darkest areas are at such an extreme difference, the camera cannot reproduce them. Either you can choose to expose the brightest area of the photograph and the dark areas become black or you can expose the darkest areas of the photograph and the bright areas become white with no detail. HDR's are, in this case, three exposures, one for dark areas, one for bright areas, and one in between all merged together to give you detail in the darkest and lightest areas of a photograph.

After combining the three versions of the same image, Mr. Harder then converted the photograph to black and white and adjusted the contrast to make it more dramatic using special photographic software. He also decided in this case to bring back the color of the floor to make the image even more dramatic yet. As a finishing touch, Harder printed the image on a high gloss paper which comes close to reproducing the photo as seen on your computer screen.

Plant Facilities' Engineer Harder liked the final product enough that he decided to enter it into his camera club monthly photo competition. Club members are presented with a word or subject and then they must take a photograph - process, print, and submit it for judging before the next month's meeting. The word for the club's January meeting was "converge". "This image jumped right out at me as being perfect, all the converging lines of the walls, floor, ceiling, meeting at the center of the image," said Harder. "Well to make a long story short, I submitted this image and was awarded a first place finish."



Plant Facilities Engineer I, Jay Harder's award winning photograph of Bridgeport Correctional Center's old North Wing prior to renovation.

STRIDE Award

Year in Review from page 1

Quinebaug Valley Community College's STRIDE Program was selected as the winner of the 2012 National Bellwether Award in the Workforce Development category at the Community College Futures Assembly in Orlando, Florida on January 31, 2012.

The STRIDE Program serves men and women who are non-custodial incarcerated parents, both pre- and post-release, with the occupational and job search skills and resources necessary to enter competitive employment positions. STRIDE serves the York Correctional Institution, Niantic Annex Correctional Institution, Bridgeport Correctional Center, Corrigan-Radgowski Correctional Center, and New Haven Correctional Center. A presentation called "Breaking Down the Walls: A Pathway to the American Dream", was presented by a team which included Dr. Patrick Hynes, director of the Best Practices Unit for the CT Department of Correction; Dr. Ross Tomlin,

One of the prime influences on reducing our population, which is now just over 17,000, a more than ten-year low, was the passage by the legislature of the Risk Reduction Earned Credit (RREC) law. This provides an incentive for up to five days a month off their sentence for offenders who positively engage in programming that will assist in their reintegration. It also requires that they maintain good behavior. After a marathon effort by staff to review every inmate's Offender Accountability Plan, RREC began being applied in October - beginning with offenders already in the community. To date, hundreds of offenders have had their release dates moved up, and a significant portion of the inmate population has been awarded credits, all without any effect on safety and security. The associated Driving Under the Influence/Home Confinement law, also passed by the legislature is set to be implemented this month. The year saw us receive some \$15 million to replace our nearly 40-year-old RT system. We also continue to provide staff to other members of the state's criminal justice community, including the City of Hartford Shooting Task Force, which has successfully reduced the amount of gun violence. We were fortunate to have hired a new medical director in the person of Dr. Kathleen Maurer, who is already leading us in great strides to a better relationship with our contracted health care provider. And we opened more than a few eyes in state government when Tropical Storm Irene and the devastating October snow storm hit and among those around the table at the State Emergency Operations Center, it was the DOC which set the standard for preparation and ability to assist others in those times of need. Distributing emergency supplies, marshalling staff and vehicles, providing food, we did it all, not to mention running our facilities on generators for more than a week without issue. I don't think anyone ever thought of us before as being such a valuable asset outside of the prison fence. And the cherry on the year, despite the continuing tight economy, you our staff, still managed to donate more than \$120,000, the second highest amount of any state agency to the State Campaign for Charitable Giving. All in all 2011 was a great year. Here's to 2012.



The Bellwether Award

president of Quinebaug Valley Community College; Andrew Clark, director of the Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy at Central Connecticut State University; Aili Arisco, STRIDE program career specialist; Catherine Menounos, STRIDE program job developer; Julie Scrapchansky, STRIDE program director and a STRIDE graduate who shared her journey through incarceration and recovery.

The Bellwether Award was established in 1995 and is a prestigious award given to colleges with innovative programs in the categories of Instructional Programs & Services; Planning, Governance & Finance; and Workforce Development. The STRIDE Program was a finalist for the Bellwether Award in 2007.

Years Of Service

Employees with 20 Years of Service as of January 2012

<u>NAME</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>FACILITY</u>	<u>HIRE DATE</u>
Bedlack, Joseph	Correction Officer	Enfield CI	1/24/1992
Benjamin, Todd	Correction Officer	York CI	1/24/1992
Berardino, Todd	Correction Officer	CRCI	1/24/1992
Blanda, Paul	Correction Officer	York CI	1/24/1992
Blondin, Renee	Indry Supv I	Osborn CI	1/10/1992
Bonaventura, Mark	Correction Officer	Garner CI	1/24/1992
Bowden, Jeffrey	Correction Officer	York CI	1/24/1992
Brierton, Thomas	Correction Officer	Hartford CC	1/24/1992
Bromley, Robert	Correction Officer	CRCC	1/24/1992
Brown, Edward	Corr. Counselor	Central Office	1/24/1992
Brown, Rudolph	Correction Officer	MWCI	1/24/1992
Butricks, Kenneth	Deputy Warden	BCC	1/24/1992
Caron, Gilbert	Indry Supv I	Northern CI	1/24/1992
Church, David	Correction Officer	York CI	1/24/1992
Cook, Robert	Correction Officer	Hartford CC	1/24/1992
Dasso, Kenneth	Correction Officer	Osborn CI	1/24/1992
Dordine, Joseph	Lieutenant	MWCI	1/24/1992
Estabrooks, James	Correction Officer	York CI	1/24/1992
Falcone, Henry	Deputy Warden	Garner CI	1/24/1992
Farler, Peter	Correction Officer	Hartford CC	1/24/1992
Hamel, Steven	Correction Officer	York CI	1/24/1992
Harasimowicz, Thomas	Correction Officer	CRCC	1/24/1992
Harris, Maurice	Correction Officer	Cheshire CI	1/24/1992
Harrison, Harold	Correction Officer	Northern CI	1/24/1992
Heikkinen, Kenneth	Correction Officer	York CI	1/24/1992
Jaffer, Mark	Correction Officer	MYI	1/24/1992
Kendrick, Colin	Correction Officer	Enfield CI	1/24/1992
Martin, David	Correction Officer	Hartford CC	1/24/1992
Massop, Erroll	Correction Officer	Osborn CI	1/24/1992
Mayer, Douglas	Correction Officer	WCCI	1/24/1992
Moffatt, Carolyn	Correction Officer	Cheshire CI	1/24/1992
Mudry, Joseph	Fscl/Admin. Asst.	Central Office	1/10/1992
Murphy, Stephen	Correction Officer	CRCI	1/24/1992
Paprocki, Joseph	Correction Officer	York CI	1/24/1992
Riccio, John	Correction Officer	Cheshire CI	1/24/1992
Rushford, Richard	Correction Officer	York CI	1/24/1992
Ryan, Michael	Correction Officer	MYI	1/24/1992
Sohay, Michael	Correction Officer	CRCI	1/24/1992
Sowell, Calhoun	Lieutenant	Enfield CI	1/24/1992
Stewart, George	Correction Officer	Hartford CC	1/24/1992
Watterson, John	Correction Officer	York CI	1/24/1992
Wilson, Carlos	Correction Officer	Enfield CI	1/24/1992
Wisniewski, Benjamin	Correction Officer	York CI	1/24/1992
Wozdusiewicz, Michael	Correction Officer	MYI	1/24/1992
York, Robert	Lieutenant	CRCC	1/24/1992
Youman, Michael	Correction Officer	Cheshire CI	1/24/1992

Years Of Service continued

Employees with 25 Years of Service as of January 2012

<u>NAME</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>FACILITY</u>	<u>HIRE DATE</u>
Bruno, Anthony	Supervising Chaplain	Central Office	1/2/1987
Gresh, Angela	Fiscal/Admin. Officer	Central Office	1/23/1987
Pfeiffer, Dineen	Correction Officer	York CI	1/30/1987

Employees with 30 Years of Service as of January 2012

Bradley, William	Correction Officer	Enfield CI	1/29/1982
Ford, Walter	Warden II	Hartford CC	1/29/1982
Stapleton, Gary	Corr. Stores Supervisor	Central Office	1/29/1982

Officer Retires At Age 69

On February 1, Correction Officer Douglas Mayer retired from the Connecticut Department of Correction's Willard-Cybulski Correctional Institution after 20 years of service. What separates officer Mayer from the numerous other correction officers that retire each month is that he is 69 years old. In a hazardous duty career when many of his co-workers are eligible to retire in their 40's, Mayer is believed to have been the oldest working correction officer. Even more remarkable is the fact that in 2009-2010, officer Mayer received the facility's Correction Officer of the Year award.

Mayer began his work career as a chef after graduating from the Culinary Institute of America. After a few years working in the food industry, he switched to a career of civil service. He served in the US Marine Corps, worked as an Emergency Medical Technician, served 17 years as a firefighter in East Longmeadow, MA, was a law enforcement officer for the Martin County Sheriff's Department in Florida, and then moved back home to accept a position with the Department of Correction. When asked if what he missed about working for the Department of Correction he said simply, "the people." Mayer plans to spend his retirement traveling with his wife, cruising in their 1952 MG Roadster, and kayaking.

History Lesson at CRCC

Recently staff and students of the Corrigan Radgowski Correctional Center were transported back 150 years in time as they listened to stories of the civil war from the perspective of an African-American soldier. Kevin Johnson, an employee of the Connecticut State Library's History and Genealogy Unit, portrayed William Webb, an African-American Civil War soldier from



Kevin Johnson as William Webb

Connecticut. Private Webb was an actual soldier, as well as a native of Hartford. He was recruited in 1863 and served in the 29th (Colored) Regiment, Connecticut Volunteer Infantry in several battles in Virginia. Mr. Johnson has been presenting William Webb for more than ten years and more than 400 presentations. Mr. Johnson's appearance was coordinated by Corrigan Radgowski's library staff.