

Our Mission

The Department of Correction shall strive to be a global leader in progressive correctional practices and partnered re-entry initiatives to support responsive evidence-based practices alligned to law-abiding and accountable behaviors. Safety and security shall be a priority component of this responsibility as it pertains to staff, victims, citizens and offenders.

A lot of Class

Pre-Service Class 265 graduates

For the second time in a row, due in part to the large number of graduates, the department's Pre-service graduation ceremony was held at Welte Hall on the campus of Central Connecticut State University in New Britain. Also, just as with the previous class, members of Pre-Service Class 265 had to be split into two groups – one trained on first shift, the other on second shift.



State Senator Cathy Osten

A total of 186 correctional trainees graduated on August 27, 2015 after successfully completing the pre-service training program.

Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman, who rarely misses a department graduation, was also on hand to offer congratulatory remarks to the graduating class.

see [Offsite Ceremony/page 2](#)

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From the Commissioner



You have more than likely heard that on August 13, 2015, the Connecticut Supreme Court, in a 4-3 vote declared that the death penalty violates the state's constitution.

You may also recall that in 2012, Governor Dannel P. Malloy signed a bill into law that abolished the death penalty, making Connecticut the 17th state in the nation to abolish capital punishment. However, inmates already on death row when the law was passed were considered exempt from the law

and could be executed.

The State Legislature intended this provision to serve as a compromise to those who were victims of death row inmates.

I am fully aware of how divisive an issue the death penalty is, but regardless of which side of the issue you are on, our top priority is to be mindful of the feelings of the victims of these terrible crimes.

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Dannel P. Malloy
Governor

Scott Semple
Commissioner

Web address:
www.ct.gov/doc

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

Special Circumstances from page 1

To that end, I have already sent a letter to all the registered victims of those sentenced to death and offered to personally meet with them to address any questions or concerns they may have regarding this recent development. It is important to note that at present, the 11 inmates on death row are still sentenced to death, and their sentence will not change until a new order is entered by the court. It is possible, though I am not sure how probable, that the Office of the Chief State's Attorney may choose to file motions with the State Supreme Court in hopes of having the court reconsider its actions.

If the State's Attorneys choose not to file with the court, then each of the 11 inmates on death row, as well as Eduardo Santiago, will need their cases brought before a judge so a new judgment can be entered.

This course of action will more than likely take at least several weeks before completed, and if the State's Attorneys do choose to file motions, the process could be held up for much longer.

If and when the sentences are amended, Connecticut General Statute 18-10b (the one passed in 2012) requires that the Department of Correction shall place the inmates on "special circumstance high security status and house the inmate in administrative segregation until a reclassification process is completed..."

Currently, there are ongoing discussions as to what are statutory obligations are. As you might imagine, at this point there are at least as many questions as there are answers as to exactly when and exactly how this will all play out. In the meantime, key members of the department's staff in conjuncture with representatives from the Attorney General's Office are diligently working on how best to comply with these new developments.

Despite the uncertainties surrounding this situation there are few things that I can assure you of:

Regardless of how and where the 11 death row inmates are reclassified and housed, at no time will the safety and security of the staff or facility be compromised.

You can also rest assured to quote Governor Malloy, that "...those currently serving on death row will serve the rest of their life in a Department of Correction's facility with no possibility of ever obtaining freedom."

And finally that our agency will handle the issues surrounding the abolishment of the death penalty in a dignified manner, with respect and consideration as it pertains to the victims of these heinous crimes.

Offsite Ceremony from page 1

The guest speaker for the graduation exercises was State Senator Catherine "Cathy" Osten, who is also retired from the Department of Correction after 21 years of service. In her address, she stressed to the agency's newest employees the importance of being, "firm, fair and consistent."

The graduation also featured the swearing-in of the department's newest deputy warden, Nelson Ramos of the Willard-Cybulski Correctional Institution.

Pre-Service Class 265 selected Lieutenant Christopher Porylo as the recipient of the Victor E. Harris, Jr. Award. The Victor E. Harris, Jr. Award, named for a deceased officer whose enthusiastic dedication and commitment to correctional education and training still lives on in the memory of DoC staff.

In addition to the Victor E. Harris Jr. Award, the PRIDE Award recipients were also acknowledged during the ceremony. The PRIDE Award is presented to a trainee from each pre-service group who best represents the Department of Correction motto of PRIDE.

Trainees receiving the PRIDE Award were nominated by their peers with the blessing of their Class Manager. The recipients of the PRIDE award for Class 265 are: Correction Officers Lindell Burns, Anthony Charles, John DeMartino, Christopher Martin, Alexander Smith, and Nikitas Venoutsos.

Reducing Emissions

For a second year, the department was awarded a grant by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), as part of federal grant program to reduce diesel emissions. The State Clean Diesel Grant Program, part of the Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA) Program, gives grants of up to 25 percent in reimbursement for the purchase of new and clean fuel efficient vehicles.

The grant of \$22,699.69, helped the Department of Correction to purchase a 2015 Freightliner 24' box truck with lift gate for the South Warehouse in Niantic. The new truck replaces a 2002 Ford box truck that became inefficient and unreliable for warehouse staff to operate. The old truck broke down frequently resulting in deliveries getting delayed from the warehouse to correction facilities.



Correctional Stores Supervisors. Leonard Sherrill (L) and Phillip Smith with the brand-new box truck.

The new truck is fuel efficient, environmentally cleaner, and has already proven its reliability. Staff report the new truck is, “making life so much easier at the South Warehouse.”

Part of the grant program includes an educational component intended to encourage department drivers to reduce vehicle emissions (**see article on excessive idling/ page 5**). For more information about the DERA grant program, contact the Connecticut Department of Correction’s Grants Office at Christine.Fortunato@ct.gov.

New Haven’s New Gym



Officer Robert Daddona in NHCC’s new gym.

When the New Haven Correctional Center (NHCC) recently became a non-contact visiting facility, an opportunity arose to make use of the old dormitory visiting room. It was decided that the space would be used for a staff gym. Correctional Officer Robert Daddona, or “Bobby D” as he is known at the facility, took on this challenge in his usual highly motivated and positive manner. He recently completed the massive undertaking. The area was cleaned and painted; flooring and mirrors were installed. Equipment that was acquired was refurbished; each weight was repainted as were weight trees, benches, machines and other equipment. NHCC now has a high-quality staff gym.

Officer Daddona has worked for the Department of Correction for more than 15 years and all have been at NHCC. His hard work throughout the years has earned him the respect and admiration of his peers. He was recently recognized as the NHCC’s Third Shift Correctional Officer of the Year. His hobbies include bodybuilding, spending time with friends and traveling. He received his black belt in Tae Kwon Do at the age of 14 and has always been involved in sports and fitness.

A generous, dedicated and motivated person, officer Daddona is someone who truly enjoys life. He has been a tremendous asset and friend to NHCC. His advice to new staff: treat people how you want to be treated and always have your DoC brothers’ and sisters’ backs

SOG Participates in the 10th Annual CT SWAT Challenge

On three hot and humid days in August the Department of Correction's Special Operations Group (SOG) while participating in the 2015 Connecticut SWAT Challenge to paraphrase Theodore Roosevelt, "...strived to do the deeds, to know the great enthusiasms, and spent themselves in a worthy cause."

Held August 16-18 in Simsbury and West Hartford, the Connecticut SWAT Challenge is the second largest event of this kind in the United States, drawing 30 teams from across the nation. This year's participants included a contingent of U.S. Army Rangers from the 3rd Battalion based



A SOG breacher cuts rebar fittings on a door during the 2015 CT SWAT Challenge.

at Fort Benning, Georgia. SOG was the only correctional SWAT team to participate in the event. SOG's team of ten operators was led by Lieutenant Ed Irizarry, a 20-year veteran of the Department and a member of SOG unit for nine years.

SOG finished a respectable 9th place overall out of 30 teams that participated in the Avon-APR Challenge. This event involved employing several methods of forced entry into the affected area, a task referred to as "breaching". Members of SOG performed ballistic breaching, mechanical breaching and

also used a specially designed metal cutting saw to overcome a variety of locking mechanisms. After defeating each door SOG operators deployed distraction devices commonly known as "flash-bang" grenades before engaging live-fire precision targets with their assigned carbine rifle and/or automatic pistol. To make matters more difficult, this entire event was completed while wearing an air purifying respirator (gas mask) to simulate a chemically contaminated environment.

Everything a team does; from tactics to movement techniques, equipment selection and maintenance, physical fitness levels and shooting proficiency is put to the test over the course of three days.

SOG is actively seeking new members and has a continuous selection process. To be eligible for appointment, staff must have at least three years employment as a Hazardous Duty Employee, and be either an active member of CERT with a minimum of one year on the team or have resigned from CERT in good standing after serving a minimum of one year. Interested staff members may contact Captain Paton at Central Office for additional information.

Around the Cell Block



NEW YORK - The state Department of Corrections and Community Supervision reports that it spent more than \$12 million on a search for two inmates who escaped from Clinton Correctional Facility this summer.

CALIFORNIA - Six inmates were diagnosed with Legionnaires' disease at the San Quentin State Prison in late August. Another 51 inmates are under observation for the respiratory illness, as officials work to determine the source of the outbreak.

NEW YORK - In an effort to avoid getting a traffic ticket, a 24-year-old man stole the officer's pen. Instead of avoiding the original ticket, the man was charged with attempted criminal mischief, obstructing governmental administration, petit larceny, and harassment.

**Total
Supervised
Population
on
September 4, 2015
19,948
On September 2, 2014
the population was
20,487**

Did You Know?



“Did You Know” is an informational column aimed at increasing your knowledge of issues in our everyday lives. This article was compiled by Public Information Officer Andrius Banevicius. Any questions related to this article may be answered by contacting him at 860-692-7780. If you have any questions, or have an idea for a future column, please leave a message at 860-692-7780.

Idling - It's a Waste

Idling is something we don't often think about – it's a habit that we do unconsciously. Reducing our idling not only saves us money, but reduces significantly greenhouse gas emissions (CO₂) and health-harming pollution. To most, idling a car may seem fairly innocuous, but it is actually detrimental to the modern automotive engine, wastes gasoline, and is often done simply out of habit or based on mistaken assumptions and outdated logic. Each day, Americans waste approximately 3.8 million gallons of gasoline by voluntarily idling their cars. Reducing idling immediately addresses both environmental and human health issues.

You may not be able to avoid keeping your engine running when you're stopped at a traffic signal or stuck in slow-moving traffic. But other times idling is unnecessary.

When not actively driving, people tend to idle their cars largely for one of two reasons: either to warm up the engine before driving or to avoid wear and tear on the engine in situations that require frequent restarting, such as drive-through service lines, rail crossings, car wash lines, carpool lines, and departure from concerts and sporting events, or while talking to friends or using the cell phone. By understanding the effects of idling and reducing the practice, you can improve your car's performance, save money, and reduce needless carbon dioxide emissions.

Idling pollutes the air and harms health. Idling tailpipes spew out the same pollutants that form unhealthy smog and soot as those from moving cars. Nitrogen oxide, particulate matter, carbon monoxide and volatile organic compounds are the main health-harming pollutants in vehicle emissions. Diesel engines emit more than 40 hazardous air pollutants. These pollutants have been linked to serious human illnesses, including: asthma, heart disease, chronic bronchitis and cancer. Children, the elderly and those with asthma and other chronic health problems are especially vulnerable to the health dangers of exhaust.

Four Ways to be Idle-Free

Turn off your ignition if you're waiting more than 10 seconds. Contrary to popular belief, restarting your car does not burn more fuel than leaving it idling. In fact, idling for just 10 seconds wastes more gas than restarting the engine.

Warm up your engine by driving it, not by idling. Today's electronic engines do not need to warm up, even in winter. The best way to warm the engine is by easing into your drive and avoiding excessive engine revving. After just a few seconds, your vehicle is safe to drive! The vehicle's engine warms twice as quickly when driven.

Warm up the cabin interior by driving, not idling. Easing into your drive is also the best way to get your vehicle's heating system delivering warmer air faster. Sitting in an idling car means you are breathing in more of the dirty exhaust that leaks into the car cabin. Any warmth you may get from a car heater is not worth the damage to your health. If parked and waiting, it is healthier to get out of your car and go inside a store or building.

Protect your car engine by idling less. Frequent restarts are no longer hard on a vehicle's engine and battery. The added wear is much less costly than the cost of fuel. Idling actually increases overall engine wear by causing the car to operate for longer than necessary.

2015 Fiscal Services Awards

The annual Fiscal Services Recognition Awards Ceremony and Staff Development Day was held on June 30th at Webster Correctional Institution in Cheshire. With members of the Fiscal Services Unit gathered in the facility's visiting room, Patty Reardon, of the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), gave an overview of EAP, followed by presentations on Stress Management and Retirement – Points to Ponder. Next on the day's agenda was a presentation by Cheryl Malerba, Chief of Staff at DOT on How Did I Get Here and What Can I Do About It. After a luncheon which featured pizza, awards were distributed to formally recognize innovative and outstanding performances within the Fiscal Services Unit. Awards are given each year to staff members who have demonstrated outstanding performance in the areas of leadership, communication, customer services and innovation.

“The 2015 Fiscal Year proved to be very challenging, despite fiscal constraints and higher than normal staff turnover the fiscal unit really stepped up and met our many challenges head on,” said Fiscal Services Director Michelle Schott. “Each member of Fiscal Services played a role in making our unit successful this year. These awards, however, serve to formally recognize those staff that have gone above and beyond and have set a standard for all of us to work towards. I am very proud of the accomplishments of this year's recipients and hope that their accomplishments and their example will inspire other staff to grow and to reach their potential.”



Director of Fiscal Services Michelle Schott (R) with some of this year's award winners.

The 2015 Fiscal Services Award recipients:

Leadership Award: Arlene Dussault. Arlene has consistently risen to the challenges presented her and dependably demonstrates a consistent spirit of teamwork and cooperation modeled by respectful treatment of others. Arlene's positive attitude and professional approach have been a motivation and inspiration to others.

Innovation Award: Barbara Farrell. Barbara was instrumental in the development of a “Bond Fund Status Report” which provides a summarization and detailed backup on the fiscal status of Bond Authorizations for the Department of Correction. Now more than ever it is important that we accurately and timely account for the funds we have available for operations and for projects.

Communication Award: Dave Shea. Dave received this award for maintaining a strong, positive two-way relationship with other units through positive proactive communication. In addition, Dave led a lean effort to streamline the Surplus Property process.

Customer Service Award: Josh Conception. “If you look up customer service in the dictionary you will find Josh Conception's picture” said Director Schott. Josh was awarded the customer service award for always maintaining a positive attitude, maintaining his customer focus and going above and beyond for his customers. Director Schott further remarked that “Josh exemplifies quality customer services and sets a standard for other staff to emulate.”

You Make a Difference Award: Central Support (Cathy Garvey, Dawn Presta-Dominello, Rubin Smith). The “You Make a Difference” award recipient is selected by Director Schott and awarded to an individual, team or unit that she feels has made a huge impact on Fiscal Services. The Central Support team received this award for their outstanding customer service, their innovation in the face of tight resources, for rising to the challenges brought on by changing technology, for their ability to keep up with the fast pace and many deadlines associated with managing the motor pool, agency cell phones and agency travel.

see Fiscal Awards/page 8

Small Engine Repair is Up and Running

Small Engine Technology Vocational Instructor Paul Thaxton promotes pride in work at Osborn Correctional Institution.

Instructor Thaxton revitalized the small engine technology program that had been dormant for several years. He designed a small engine training facility and revamped the curriculum in order to provide up-to-date, quality training adhering to the vocational educational core standards.

An integral part of the small engine technology curriculum is a peer mentoring component that is instrumental for a program that enrolls students with mixed abilities and experiences throughout the year. The foundation of this program is to create a learning environment that works for all students regardless of ability and experience but in addition to create an environment of cooperation and self-confidence.



Recently, in addition to the training program at Osborn, Mr. Thaxton has begun to create a similar curriculum at the Carl Robinson Correctional Institution. His goal is to have two small engine technology programs at both facilities that can share resources and training materials while maintaining equipment for the facilities.

Vocational Instructor Thaxton was able to

secure a donation of training engines from a local distributor valued at \$8500 to further advance training opportunities for students. The donated equipment will be vital for students to have the hands on experiences that they need to advance their skills and progress in the curriculum with the goal to graduate with a certification in small engine technology.

As a veteran, Thaxton believes in a structured environment where all students follow protocol in order to safely and effectively complete the curriculum with the long term goal of graduating well-trained students that are prepared for work on the outside.

This year the small engine technology class created three pieces of art for the prisoner art show in New Haven. The prisoner art show was an opportunity for students to apply their skills and with recycled materials create pieces that are both artistic and functional. This additional focus as part of the small engine technology curriculum creates another outlet as well as another skill to promote student resourcefulness and ingenuity. The art show is a wonderful way to give students an additional sense of confidence.

In the future, instructor Thaxton plans to continue to create an enriched program that prepares students with real world training and experiences with the goal of preventing recidivism.

Years Of Service

Employees with 20 Years of Service as of March 2015

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Facility</u>	<u>Hire Date</u>
Aldi, John	Counslr Supv	Cen Off	3/31/1995
Andras, Kenneth	Correction Officer	CRCI	3/31/1995
Barton, James	Maint Supv	Northern CI	3/31/1995
Batista, Jose	Correction Officer	MWCI	3/31/1995
Billups, Yolanda	Corr Trtmnt Offer	MYI	12/9/1994
Bouffard, Brian	Counslr Supv	MYI	3/31/1995
Brennan, Sean	Lieutenant	York CI	3/31/1995
Caputo, Mark	Correction Officer	MYI	2/3/1995
Clancy, Matthew	Correction Officer	CRCC	3/31/1995
Demaria, Giuseppina	Correction Officer	CRCI	3/31/1995
Doyon, Richard	Correction Officer	MWCI	3/31/1995
Flanagan, Betty	State School Teacher	CRCC	3/3/1995
Fulton, Patrick	Correction Officer	CRCC	3/31/1995
Hoekstra, Glenn	Correction Officer	CRCI	3/31/1995
Lavery, Sean	Food Svcs Supv 3	Cen Off	3/31/1995
Murry, Marysol	Secretary 1	Enfield CI	9/25/1989
Narciso, Louis	Corr Cmry Op	Cen Off	3/3/1995
Onofrio, Paul	Lieutenant	Brooklyn CI	3/31/1995
Perry, Robert	Correction Officer	CRCC	2/3/1995
Picken, Chad	Correction Officer	York CI	3/31/1995
Robinson, Elbert	Correction Officer	Osborn CI	3/31/1995
Sas, Robin	Secretary 2	CRCC	12/9/1994
Sorensen, Lawrence	Counselor	Brooklyn CI	10/14/1994
Thomas, Scott	CorrRecSupv	NHCC	3/27/1995
Torcaso, Sabatino	Correction Officer	Garner CI	3/31/1995
Ventura, Kenneth	Correction Officer	HCC	3/31/1995
Weldon, Vincent	Correction Officer	Enfield CI	10/14/1994
Willard, Steven	Correction Officer	Brooklyn CI	3/31/1995

Employees with 25 Years of Service as of March 2015

Maldonado, Edward Corr Warden 2 Osborn CI 3/9/1990

Employees with 30 Years of Service as of March 2015

Anderson, Richard Parole Mgr Cen Off 3/29/1985
Johnson, Karen Pyrl Clrk MWCI 3/11/1985

Employees with 35 Years of Service as of March 2015

Campaniello, John Supvsng Acct Cen Off 3/17/1980

Fiscal Awards

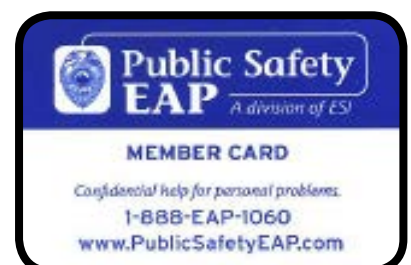
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Special Thank You Award. Kristine Sanzo.

Director Schott recognized Kristine Sanzo for her many contributions to Fiscal Services through her diligent efforts, professionalism and dedication to the agency. Director Schott said "Kristine keeps me on task and keeps Fiscal Services moving. I am grateful for all her hard work, especially in organizing events such as this awards ceremony for us".

A special thanks was also given to the Fiscal Service's management team of Mickey Regan, Jay Tkacz, Barbara Bergeron, Joel R. Ide and Mike Lettieri. "My expectations are high with this team and I appreciate all their efforts as they are a huge contributor to the success of Fiscal Services." stated Director Schott.

The day concluded with some kind words by Deputy Commissioner Cepelak who expressed her gratitude to the Fiscal Services staff for their efforts in striving for excellence in her administration goals of the 4 C's - Customer Service, Collaboration, Communication and Care.



Susan M. Hunter Scholarship Award

Stephanie Cortes, the daughter of Correctional Electrician Alexander Cortes of the Bridgeport Correctional Center is the recipient of the 2015 Susan M. Hunter Scholarship Award given on behalf of the Association of State Correctional Administrators (ASCA). Ms. Cortes was one of 30 students selected from an elite group of 257 qualified candidates.

Ms. Cortes is a transfer student from Naugatuck Valley Community College. She will be attending The University of Connecticut in the fall as a member of the Junior Class majoring in Biology, with a goal of one day becoming a Forensic Pathologist.

Ms. Cortes along with her parents traveled to Central Office on Friday, August 21 to receive the award. With both Deputy Commissioners Monica Rinaldi and Cheryl Cepelak, along with Engineering and Facilities Maintenance Director Steve Link on hand, Commissioner Scott Semple presented the certificate to Ms. Cortes as her parents beamed with pride. Along with the certificate, Ms. Cortes received a check for \$1,000 to help offset the cost of her college education.

The Susan M. Hunter Correctional Scholarship is named in honor of Susan Hunter, former Chief of the Prisons Division at the National Institute of Corrections, as a lasting tribute to her commitment, insight, energy, and enthusiasm for the field of corrections. Susan was 58 when she passed away March 14, 2004.



Mrs. Cortes, Commissioner Scott Semple, Stephanie Cortes, and her father, Alexander Cortes.

Humanitarian Award for Warden Black



Warden Allison Black

Bridgeport Correctional Center's Warden Allison Black was one of six women honored at the 35th Annual Ijlal Muhammad Humanitarian Awards Dinner hosted by the Al-Aziz Islamic Center in Bridgeport and held at the Holiday Inn in Bridgeport. The award is given to women who have made positive and impactful change in their communities. Since 1980, the Ijlal Muhammad Humanitarian Awards dinner has recognized more than 400 accomplished women in the Tri-State area.

With more than 300 guests in attendance, the Awards Dinner including the special guest speaker Ilyasah Shabazz, the daughter of Malcolm X and Betty Shabazz. Also addressing the audience was Bridgeport Mayor Bill Finch.

Please join Commissioner Scott Semple and the rest of the Executive Team in congratulating Warden Black on receiving this well-deserved award.



11th Annual Memorial Run MPO Peter J. Lavery September 20, 2015



Never Forget



RAIN
OR
SHINE



RAIN
OR
SHINE

Proceeds benefit the

PETER J. LAVERY SCHOLARSHIP FUND, INC.

Police Escorted Motorcycle Ride

All law enforcement supporters on all makes of bikes are welcome.

\$20.00 donation per bike requested.

Brown Development Corp.

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Newington

Sirois Tool

Grady Automotive

Registration from 8:00 AM – 9:45 AM; ride departs at 10:00 AM from Churchill Park, 1991 Main Street, Newington, Connecticut. Ride concludes at Churchill Park at approximately 11:15 AM.

Lunch is provided by Stew Leonard's with music by Shark Entertainment.

Short- and Long-sleeve T-shirts are sold at the following locations:

CT Police Supply, 105 Fenn Road, Newington

Gengras, 221 Governor Street, East Hartford

Mickey Finn's, 559 Berlin Turnpike, Berlin

For more information please visit www.peterlavery.org or like us on Facebook.