

# HOME FOR THE HEROES

Main Office:  
287 West Street  
Rocky Hill, CT 06067

Telephone:  
(860) 529-2571

Toll Free Number (CT only)  
(866) 928-8387

Fax: (860) 721-5904

Commissioner  
Dr. Linda S. Schwartz,  
RN, FAAN  
[linda.schwartz@po.state.ct.us](mailto:linda.schwartz@po.state.ct.us)

[www.state.ct.us/ctva](http://www.state.ct.us/ctva)

Serving  
Those  
Who Served



Serving Those  
**CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT  
OF VETERANS'  
AFFAIRS**  
Who Served

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE  
**CONNECTICUT VETERANS' HOME**  
ROCKY HILL, CONNECTICUT

From the desk of  
**COMMISSIONER LINDA SCHWARTZ**

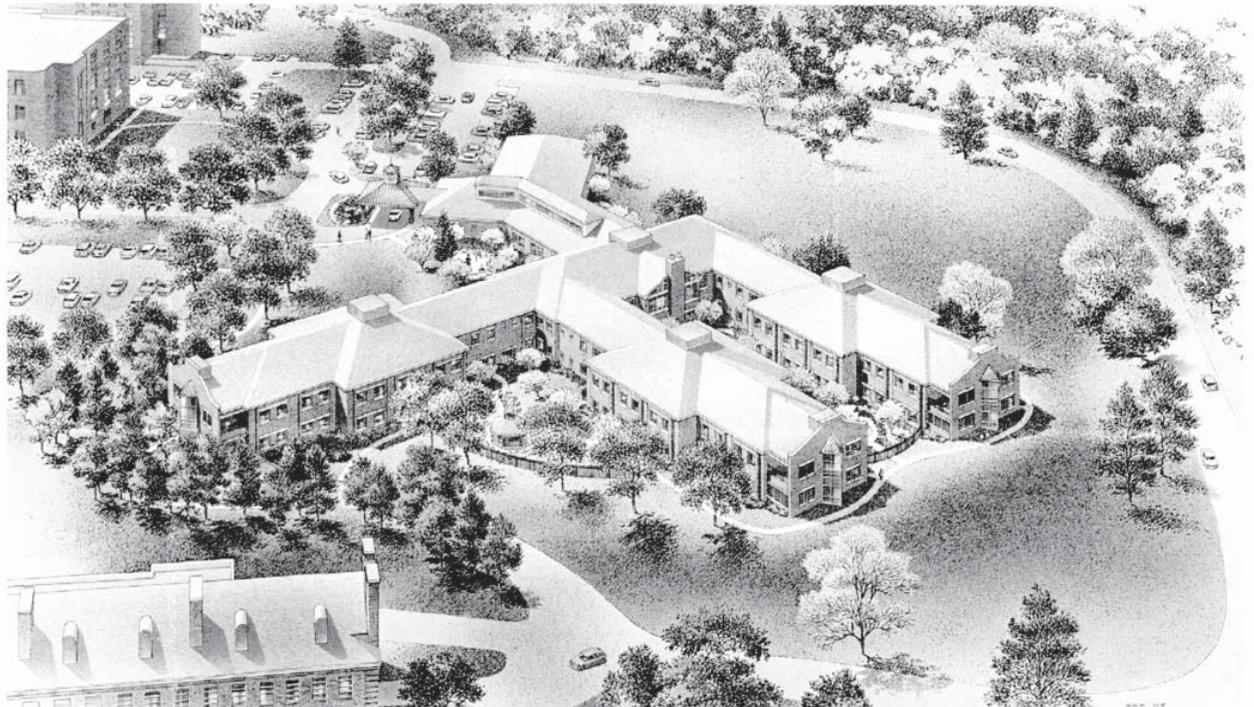
Plans for the construction of a new adult care facility for our veterans took a major step recently. A special guest paid a visit to our Veterans' Home and brought along a generous gift. The story will be found on page 2 of this edition of our newsletter.

Veterans throughout our state and nation were concerned when the names and personal data of 26.5 million vets were stolen from a federal VA computer. While most awaited word from Washington on how to deal with the possible problems this may have caused them, Governor Rell and the state of Connecticut took a different approach. That story is found on page 3.

About 100 volunteers showed up at our Rocky Hill facility to lend a helping hand to our veterans and their families. What they provided us is featured in a photo gallery article on pages 4 and 5.

## OUR RESIDENTS GET READY FOR A NEW ADULT CARE FACILITY!

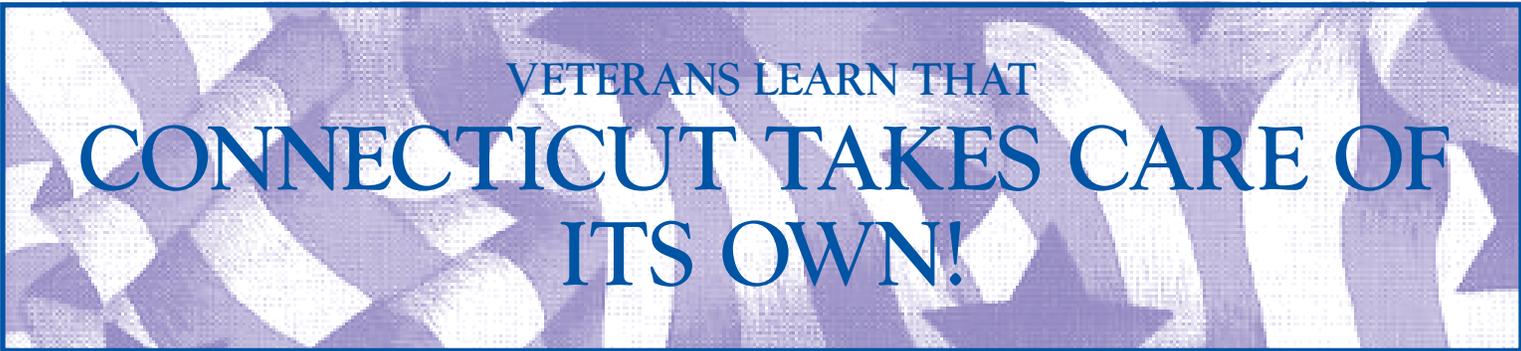
Secretary of Veterans' Affairs James Nicholson paid a visit to our facility and brought along something for our veterans. It was a check for \$21.9 million for the VA share of a new adult care facility. Governor M. Jodi Rell, who supported bonding \$7.5 million as the state's share, was also on hand for the ceremony. Commissioner Linda Schwartz, U.S. Representatives Simmons, DeLauro and Johnson were also present. The 125-bed facility, scheduled for completion in December, 2007, will be the first major construction project at the Veterans' Home in 66 years!



**NEW ADULT CARE FACILITY**  
Veteran's Home in Rocky Hill  
State of Connecticut Department of Public Works  
Project No. BI-C-261

**MOSER  
PILON  
NELSON  
ARCHITECTS**  
30 Jordan Lane  
Wethersfield, CT 06109  
860-563-6164  
www.mpn-arch.com

Photographs by Charlotte Storey of the Veterans' Home staff.



## VETERANS LEARN THAT CONNECTICUT TAKES CARE OF ITS OWN!

Veterans in Connecticut and across the nation were stunned to learn that the names and personal data of 26.5 million veterans were apparently stolen from a federal VA laptop computer. In addition, the Federal VA announced that the personal data on as many as two million military members on active duty, members of the National Guard and members of the Reserves may also have been involved. The information included Social Security numbers and dates of birth, the type of data that could be used to raid financial accounts.

The federal VA announced it would contact every veteran affected by the theft. Instead of relying solely on the federal government to offer assistance, Governor M. Jodi Rell went into action to calm and offer information and help to the state's more than 280,000 veterans.

She immediately established an Identity Theft Information Team consisting of commissioners, or their representatives from Connecticut Departments of Veterans' Affairs, Public Safety, Consumer Protection and Banking and directed them to hold a series of informational seminars throughout the state. Their mission was to reach out to all veterans, other military personnel and their families, to advise them about the steps they can take to protect themselves from being victims of identity theft and what to do if their personal information is used in a criminal way.

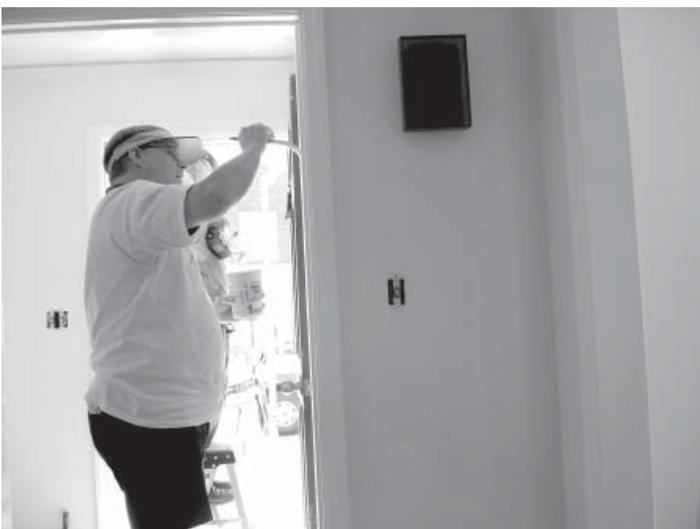
Department of Veterans' Affairs Commissioner Linda Schwartz made certain that her agency's Veteran Service Officers were at the seminars to offer guidance and assistance to the veterans. Forms were provided for the vets to request a credit report to determine if their financial accounts had been tampered with and what steps to take if that had happened. They were also told how to file a "fraud alert" in their credit files.

The informational seminars were held at state community colleges, town halls and veterans' posts across the state. All the meetings were well attended and the Identity Theft Information Team proved to be a valuable resource for the veterans.

"Besides obtaining information and having their questions answered" Commissioner Schwartz said, "the veterans were assured that our main purpose is to protect them. While this may be a federal issue, the seminars proved that Connecticut takes care of its own."

# A HELPING HAND

St. Ann's Cares, a group of volunteer parishioners of St. Ann' Church in Avon, spent a weekend at our facility renovating and updating the interiors and exteriors of four buildings that will be used by residents of our Veterans' Home and their families. Armed with paint brushes, hammers, shovels and rakes, they painted the inside and outside of the buildings, remodeled kitchens, planted trees and bushes and built a playscape for visiting children.



Photographs by Bob Norman of the Veterans' Home staff.

# FOR OUR VETERANS



The larger building that was renovated will be used by our veterans for recreational activities, such as arts and crafts, and will also provide them a place for other hobbies. The three homes that were refurbished will be used by out of state families who come to our facility to visit their loved ones. This will give them a place to stay during their visit instead of having to pay for hotel rooms. Our residents join us in thanking the volunteers from St. Ann's Cares for a job well done!



## A BUSY PLACE AT OUR VETERANS' HOME: THE CAREER RESOURCE CENTER!

It is open Monday through Friday between 7:30am until 4pm. For our residents who make use of its resources, it is literally their window on the world. That is why the Career Resource Center is one of the most popular and busiest places at our facility. As a matter of fact, there is so much of a demand to use its services, you have to sign up and wait your turn to get inside!

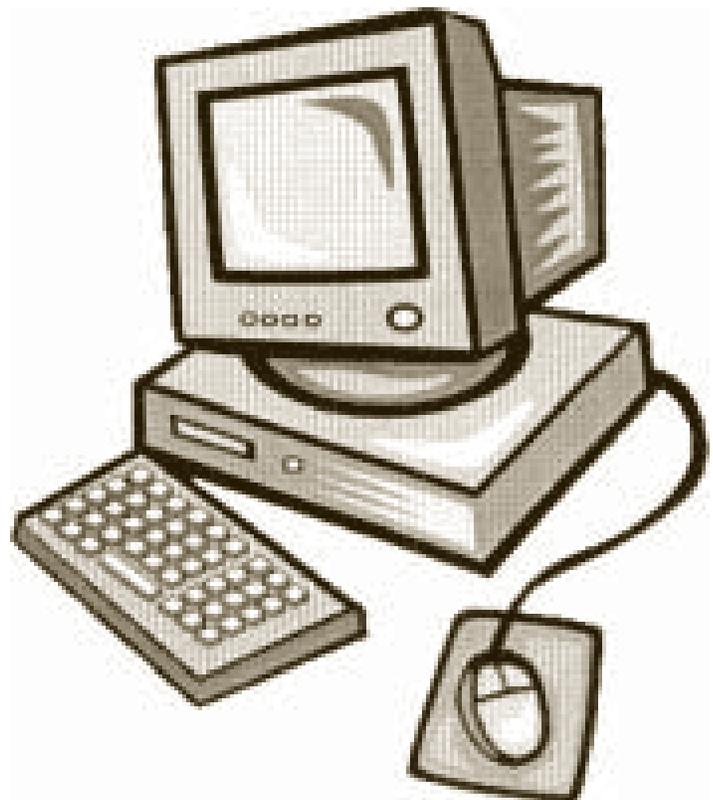
The center has six computers available for our residents. Three of them offer access to the internet. The computers have all been upgraded and a printer is also another tool our veterans can use. For those just becoming computer literate, there is a program that offers typing lessons so those residents can improve their skills.

For residents who are looking for employment opportunities, they can take part in a job search, finding out what positions are available, the experience required and how to apply for the job. For others, who want to continue their education, they can learn what subjects are available and how to register for classes in which they are interested.

Residents can even set up their own, personal internet addresses in order to send and receive e-mails. They can do research on any topic they wish and learn the places where to find the information they are seeking.

Resumes can be prepared and mailed out. Applications, such as ones for financial aid or certain benefits, can also be prepared and sent to the proper address. The center's supervisor, Maria Cheney, and her assistant, Chuck Leone, are always available to assist our residents in their search for information.

While our veterans physically live in Rocky Hill, they can literally reach out to the entire world thanks to our Career Resource Center!



## OUR VETERANS OBSERVE LOYALTY DAY 2006!



The residents of our Veterans' Home in Rocky Hill joined members of the Connecticut Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Auxiliaries in observing Loyalty Day in our Assembly Hall. Commissioner Linda Schwartz welcomed those attending the event and was presented with an official VFW flag for our facility. Entertainment was provided by the "Heartland of Dixie" jazz band and the USO Troupe of New York. Audience members received American flags to add to the patriotic festivities.



Photos by Bob Norman of the Veterans' Home staff.

**Directions:**

From 91N:  
Exit 23, right at end of ramp, take left at 3rd traffic light to enter our facility.

**From 91S:**

Exit 23, left at end of ramp, take left at 4th traffic light to enter our facility.

**From 84:**

Take 91 South and follow above directions.



**VETERANS' TELEPHONE DIRECTORY**

State of Connecticut	
Department of Veterans' Affairs.....	1-866-928-8387
Admitting Department.....	(860) 529-2571
Billing Department.....	(860) 721-5839
Residential & Rehabilitative Services.....	(860) 721-5833
Hospice Program/Respite Care.....	(860) 721-5955
Office of Advocacy and Assistance.....	(860) 721-5893
Public Affairs.....	(860) 721-5939
Connecticut Veterans' Cemetery.....	(860) 721-5838
Soldiers', Sailors' and Marines' Fund (For temporary, emergency assistance).....	(860) 953-4345
<b>FEDERAL VA MEDICAL CENTERS</b>	
West Haven.....	(203) 932-5711
Newington.....	(860) 666-6951
FEDERAL VA INFO LINE .....	1-800-827-1000

Presorted  
Standard U.S.  
Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit # 2238  
Hartford, CT

