

The Connecticut
Department
of Correction

P.R.I.D.E.



Our motto: Professionalism, Respect, Integrity, Dignity, Excellence

AT WORK

Remember Our Troops

Warden Lajoie Sworn In

Beneath the unfurled symbols of both nation and state, Michael Lajoie was sworn in as the third Warden of the Corrigan - Radgowski Correctional Institution at Central Office this past week. Warden Lajoie, right arm raised, accepted the challenge of his new position from Commissioner Theresa C. Lantz who briefly touched on his many accomplishments within the Department.

Lajoie who began his career as a Correctional Officer at Brooklyn CI in 1985 has risen through the custody ranks making stops at a number of locations including Northern, Enfield and Somers CI. Despite the heat and humidity, friends, family and colleagues braved the conditions to take part in this special moment. Wardens, present and past as well as his proud family members joined the applause in wishing him all the best in his new position.



Commissioner Theresa Lantz swears in Warden Michael Lajoie

Warden Moves - Appointments



Commissioner Theresa C. Lantz has announced a transfer of wardens prompted by the pending retirement of Warden Michael Carter of MacDougall/Walker CI. Assuming the leadership of that facility will be Warden John Sieminski. The warden's office at Carl Robinson CI will be the new home of Warden Christine Whidden while Enfield CI will now be overseen by the promotion to warden of Deputy Warden Peter Murphy.

Deputy Warden Peter Murphy

Continued on Page 6, *Moves*

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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

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About and for
correctional
professionals

June 6 -19,
2004

US Attorney Honors one of DOC's Finest

Captain Ray Elterich may be retired but he continues to be recognized for his major contributions to criminal justice in Connecticut. He was recently honored by Connecticut's United States Attorney during a ceremony in New Haven for his involvement in "Operation Take it Back". The three-year, joint DEA, FBI and Bridgeport Police Department investigation began in early 1999 and centered on the narcotics trafficking and violence by a group which operated primarily within the PT Barnum Housing Project in Bridgeport. Known as the "Middle Court Crew" they employed severe acts of violence, including intimidation, assaults, shootings and murder to establish, enhance and promote their multi-million dollar heroin and crack cocaine enterprise. Through dogged police work, countless hours of surveillance, interstate manhunts, interviews and witness cooperation they were able to arrest and secure convictions for members of this organization. The Department of Correction was instrumental in delivering imprisoned witnesses for interview, trial testimony, and ensuring witnesses' security.



(L-R) Ray Elterich (Ret) with Director Dennis Jones

Continued on Page 5, *DOC's Finest*

Job Well Done

Warden Ricks and staff at York CI would like to extend their congratulations to the following staff members who graduated on May 15, 2004 from Springfield College. Lead Mail Handler Cheryl O'Neal, Parole Officer II Teresa Welford and CTO Sherry Ziolkovski all graduated with a Master of Science Degree in Human Services Administration.



(L-R) Sherry Ziolkovski, Teresa Welford and Cheryl O'Neal

Pride.
AT
Work

for
June 6 - 19, 2004

Distributed
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Wolcott Hill Road,
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John G. Rowland,
Governor

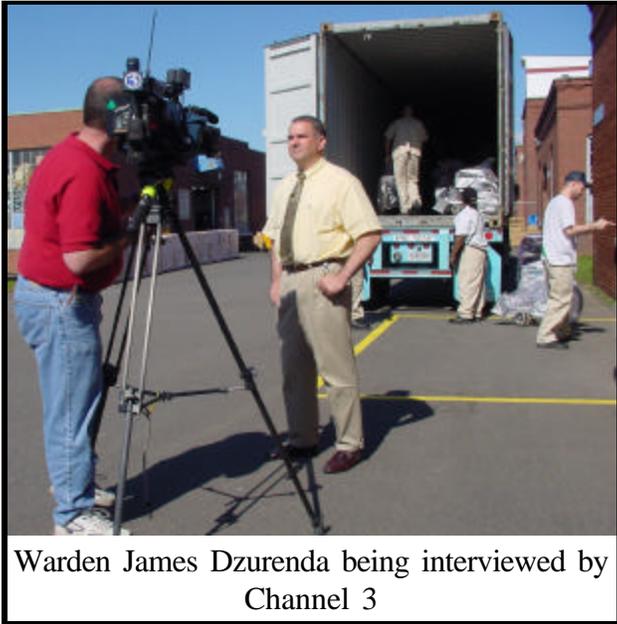
Theresa C. Lantz,
Commissioner

Web address:
www.doc.state.ct.us

Public Information
Office telephone:
860.692.7780 fax:
860.692.7783

Submit items by
Wednesday
June 23 to be
published in the
next edition, and a
month in advance
for calendar events.

Once again the Cheshire CI bike and wheelchair repair shop lends a helping hand to those whose legs need help. On June 3, 2004 an empty tractor-trailer truck was cleared to enter through the gate of the facility, but when it exited, the manifest showed more than 200 wheelchairs, 95 walkers, 106 crutches and 74 canes had been loaded into the truck for shipping to 'Wheels for the World'.



Warden James Dzurenda being interviewed by Channel 3

As happens, every eight months or so, Vocational Instructor Dominic Rossi supervises the loading of the wheelchairs that are painstakingly refurbished in his shop. Then after a number of stops along the way, they finally arrive in one of more than 10 countries including China, the Ukraine and Vietnam.

However, Cheshire CI is not the only facility that specializes in bringing smiles to those in need. Under the supervision of Officer Ben Barbour, inmates at the Corrigan- Radgowski CI recently assembled 100 new bicycles for foster children. The collaborative effort involves many organizations including the Department of Children and Families.

The bicycles, purchased with donated funds, were distributed to the children during the Second Annual Bike Rodeo at the Waterford Country School. Corrigan- Radgowski's Warden Michael Lajoie pointed out that everyone including inmates benefit from efforts such as this "I know they take a lot of pride in what they are doing. Instead of sitting around inside, they get to do something positive that gives them a sense of accomplishment."

Calendar

June 24 - Retirement Gathering in honor of Cheshire CI Staff will be at Villa Rosa in Waterbury. The cost is \$35 per person. For ticket info please contact (203) 250-2665.

June 25 - Cheshire CI is sponsoring a Tip An Officer event at Damon's Restaurant on Route 10 in Cheshire from 5 - 8 p.m. All proceeds will go to the Special Olympics. Come join in the fun and allow our friendly staff to wait on you and your family for a good cause. Anyone interested in participating may contact Officer B.Vasquez at 203.250.2600 or Captain Carlone at 250.250.2609.

June 25 - An International Dinner will be held at Hartford CC on June 25th to raise funds to send the Connecticut SELECTS, a team of inner-city girls under age 17 made up of individuals throughout the state, to the National Championships in Florida in July.

Staff and interested parties may assist by attending the luncheon or making a donation to sponsor the trip by calling Officer Figueroa at 860.240.1882 or Officer Baker at 1722.

July 9 - Retirement Party for Robert Meldrum at the Lily Lake Inn in Wolcott. The cost is \$30 per person. For ticket info contact (860) 679-4741.

July 10 - Hartford CC will be playing a Basketball Game against the Board of Parole team. In a prior game, the Parole team beat the DOC team by 37 points. Hartford CC is looking to

to change their standing by defeating the Parole team. Proceeds from this game will go to the DOC Charitable Giving Campaign. The game will be played at MYI. The doors will open at 1 p.m. and the game will begin at 2 p.m. Cost is \$5 for an individual and \$10 for a family. Contact Joel W. Schweidel at 860.692.6832 or Mike McGarthy 860.692.6850 or Deputy Warden Sandy Bundy at 860.692.7807 after 6/29.

Correction

The Department's Annual Awards Ceremony is scheduled for Friday, August 6, 2004.

EOQ's

Pride at Work, June 6 - 19 , p.4

Hartford CC - It is with great pleasure that Warden Charles Lee announces the individuals at Hartford CC to be honored for their extraordinary performance during February, March and April.

In the nomination from his peers, Officer Douglas Davis is noted to have performed exceptionally in this quarter by assisting with the transition of the new control center. Additionally, he has been involved with several emergency situations recently and has handled each with professionalism and dignity.

Officer Davis had been called upon to fill in many posts and because of his broad knowledge, is able to adapt quickly to new expectations. Additionally, Officer Davis is noted to have pride in his work and his responsibilities, a quality which is very much appreciated.

In the nomination from her peers, it is noted that Ms. Lloyd consistently makes time to facilitate the work of others. She often puts aside her own heavy workload to obtain information which permits another staff person in the building to move ahead with his/her own work. She has a positive attitude and a cordial, pleasant way of interacting with all whom she comes into contact with.

In this quarter, Ms. Lloyd has been called upon to fulfill the duties of Counselor Supervisor Laura Manocchio in March and Counselor Supervisor Donna Hoffman in April, all of which were handled in a professional manner.

High Honors

Lieutenant Vincent Steele of the Gates CI has been nominated to receive one of the highest academic honors that can be given to college students. The National Deans List is awarded to only one-half of one percent of all college students.

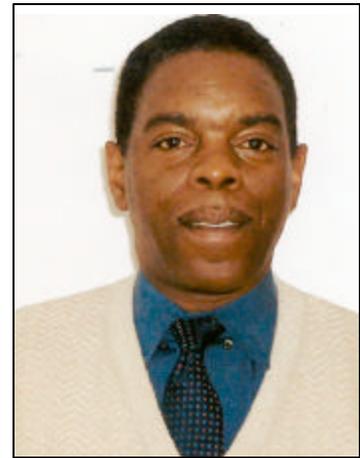
Steele joined the Department in 1997 as a Correctional Officer at Bridgeport CC and was promoted to Lieutenant in 2000. He currently works as a substance abuse consultant for at risk adolescents and is working toward completion of a Master of Education degree.



C/O Douglas Davis



Counselor Nicole Lloyd



Lt Vincent Steele

CRCI Job Fair

On Wednesday, May 5, 2004, the Fifth Annual CRCI Job Fair was held. Twenty agencies and prospective employers were welcomed with a continental breakfast and a brief tour of the school. Four one-hour sessions were established to allow inmates to circulate about the area and select the appropriate representatives for relevant information. Approximately 400 inmates attended the fair.

Both Transitional Counselor Victoria Beaumier and Professional Specialist Kristine Gregory were applauded by Warden John Sieminski for their tireless efforts in coordinating this highly successful event.



The Modesty of a Hero

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When it's a pediatric call, your heart skips a beat" says Lieutenant Gregory Gallo of the New Haven CC. Gallo, who is also a Police Officer in Beacon Falls, recalls in vivid detail the night that he showed real heart despite getting the call that everyone dreads, a child is not breathing.

Earlier that evening Gallo had decided to get dressed in his police uniform and report for duty after learning that a truck had overturned on Route 8, shutting down the southbound lanes. That decision may have been the difference between life and death for five month old Emma Wood.

Kristy Wood, Emma's mom and a nurse, was unable to ventilate her little girl and relied upon the quick response of Gallo following the 911 call. Gallo had been escorting the First Selectman to the accident scene before getting the call. He arrived at the Wood's home and entered through an unlocked door but did not see anyone.

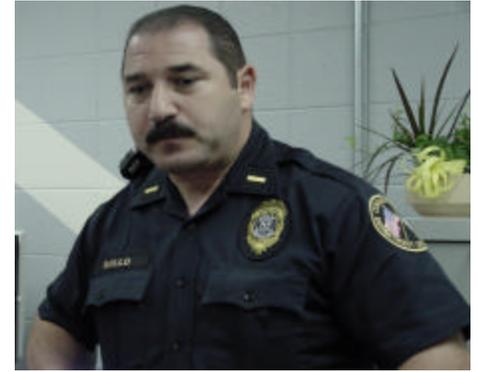
He followed the sound of a child crying which led him to an upstairs bedroom where Kristy was kneeling beside Emma whom Gallo describes as being a bluish, grey. Along side the frantic mom was the Wood's other child whose crying had been a beacon to Gallo when downstairs.

After briefly inspecting Emma, he placed her face down on his forearm while performing infant thrusts in an attempt to try to dislodge whatever was stuck in Emma's throat. It didn't work. However, Gallo could hear some gurgling and observed a white filmy residue around Emma's mouth and also on her head. Gallo then placed Emma on her back and performed a finger sweep. "I went deep" he said. It worked. Emma gagged and subsequently vomited, clearing her airway for normal breathing.

It was about this time that Gallo's partner arrived on the scene. During the incident Emma's father, who is a paramedic was on the phone, tried to calm his wife and monitor the situation while in the already snarled traffic on his way home.

In a letter to First Selectman Susan Cable, Kevin Wood expressed his gratitude to Gallo stating "because of him alone, a child sleeps safely in her crib, our child, our baby girl Emma. We assure you Emma will know of his heroics."

According to Gallo, the most rewarding aspect of this near tragedy is the relationship he currently has with the Wood family. Instead of having to deal with the loss of a loved one, the Woods have gained an extended family member.



DOC's Finest, Cont'd

State and local law enforcement authorities credit this investigation and prosecution as a significant factor in the dramatic reduction in murder and other violent crime and narcotics trafficking in the City of Bridgeport. This lengthy investigation and the ensuing prosecution was difficult because the witnesses and their families were known to the defendants and their criminal associates. Through the collaboration of the Department of Correction and other agencies, Lonnie Jones, a leader in the Middle Court Crew, was convicted of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute heroin, cocaine and sentenced to life imprisonment. Leonard Jones and Lyle Jones Jr. who were also leaders and organizers of the Middle Court Crew were convicted of Racketeering and RICO conspiracy and sentenced to multiple lifetime imprisonment's. Captain Evelich who retired in 2003 was also selected as the recipient of last year's Commissioner's Award.

Condolences



Director Fred Levesque is saddened to announce the passing of Roger Steele, husband of Mary Jane Steele, Record Specialist II, Central Records, and brother-in-law of Billy Tkacz, Maintenance Supervisor, Gates CI, Betty Ann McCloskey, Fiscal Admin. Supervisor, Central Office and Jay Tkacz, Fiscal Admin. Manager, Central Office. Roger passed away peacefully on Monday, May 31, 2004, surrounded by his loving family at his home, after a long and courageous battle with cancer.

Career Counseling

The Department of Correction is committed to providing promotional opportunities to our employees. You may have noticed that many of our examinations are only open to DOC employees. In addition, to facilitate this promotional effort, we provide individual career counseling to our staff members.

Career Counseling consists of an employee's employment history, a discussion of their goals and interests, and an explanation of career paths within the Department.

If you are interested in career counseling, you may submit your resume with a cover letter to Patricia Boudreau at the Central Office Recruitment Unit or fax it to 860.692.7615.

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Moves, Cont'd

"It is truly gratifying to be able to have such confidence in the exceptional job that I know all three of these individuals will continue to contribute to our agency," Commissioner Lantz said. The moves will take effect on July second. Warden Carter is set to retire on July 1, 2004 after 26 years with the agency. Commissioner Lantz has praised Warden Carter's effective leadership of a facility which has been challenged with a number of major events including consolidation, accreditation and an expansion.

Suitcases for Kids

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When a child's world fits inside a garbage bag, it's a good guess that things could be better. When a child's world is inside a garbage bag, things couldn't get much worse. But, thanks to the combined efforts of a few hard working people and some governmental organizations including the Department of Correction, the only thing these kids will be putting in garbage bags will be garbage.

The program "Suitcases for Kids" was started in 1995 to provide luggage for foster children who would otherwise use plastic garbage bags to tote their belongings from one home to the next.



Jeanne Millstein, the State's Child Advocate, addresses a crowd gathered at the East Hartford Fire Department

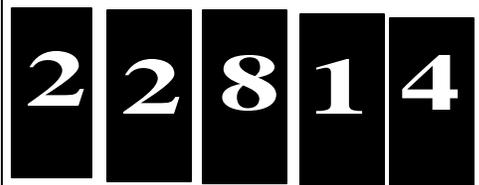
Child Advocate Volunteer Erin Fitzgerald spearheaded the program in East Hartford joining forces with ChildPlan Inc. and the local fire department. The Department was able to assist the effort by contributing canvas bags, dolls and signage. The goal of the program is to have every foster child receive at least one piece of luggage. So, the next time they are forced to move, their bag will include a favorite picture, a special stuffed animal and the dignity they deserve.

Volunteers Needed

Staff volunteers are needed to represent the agency for recruitment/career fairs. Donna Pantin-Worrell Leadership Apprentice in the Recruitment Unit of Human Resources is assembling a photomontage of the diverse individuals who work for the Department of Correction. All interested staff members, in all job classifications are requested to contact Donna Pantin-Worrell at (860) 692-7604 by Friday July 9, 2004.

Supervised Population

on June 16



On June 16, 2003 the population was 23,002.

Why I Chose to Join the Best



PRIDE at Work will profile some of the newest members of our agency who are a part of Pre-Service Class 224. During their first week at the MCTSD, they were asked to write an essay explaining why they chose to become a member of the Department of Correction. Their reasons make clear that our PRIDE, as the best correctional agency in the country, is an ideal that others are drawn to and seek to call their own.

This week we feature Mark Beaupre of Corrigan –Radgowski CI. “I received information about this opportunity from my father in law Thomas Lepine who is the maintenance supervisor at Brooklyn CI. He is the one who opened my eyes to how good of a career this would be for my family and me. I know this is not just a job, it is a career. I also have the opportunity to advance. I know I will be faced with many challenges, but I am ready to face them to the best of my ability. I will always do my very best on the job, while looking out for my coworkers and myself.”

MVP's

Barker, Theresa	CC	HCC
Barrows, Frank	C/O	HCC
Bathrick, Ronald	Capt	NHCC
Bellamy, Gregory	CFSS II	NHCC
Black, Alan	C/O	NHCC
Bolton, Crystal	C/O	HCC
Croxford, Stephen	C/O	HCC
DeCusati, Frank	CFSSIII	NHCC
Dillion, Joseph	Major	NHCC
DiPasquale, Matthew	CFSS I	NHCC
Fluitt, Robert	CFSS II	NHCC
Gagliardi, John	C/O	NHCC
Garcia, Carlos	C/O	HCC
Godding, Kyle	Lt	HCC
Goodison, Errol	C/O	HCC
Grant, David	C/O	HCC
Hollens, Deborah	C/O	HCC
Howard, Raymond	C/O	HCC
Irizarry, Edwin	C/O	CCI
Laverty, Sean	CFSS I	NHCC
Long, James	C/O	NHCC
Mann, John	CFSSII	NHCC
Narvaez, Marcos	C/O	HCC
Oliver, Kevin	C/O	HCC
Ramirez, Roberto	CFSS II	NHCC
Reyes, Jorge	C/O	NHCC
Roach, Randy	C/O	NHCC
Sacco, Frank	CFSS II	NHCC
Scarlett, Joyce	Sec I	HCC
Selander, Jeffrey	Lt	HCC
Thornton, Lamont	C/O	HCC
Williams, Troy	C/O	NHCC

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Around the cell block

Washington, D.C. - America's prison population grew by 2.9% last year, to 2.1-million inmates, with one of every 75 men in prison or jail.



California- Concerned about a \$1-billion annual inmate medical bill, state legislators revealed a male inmate had cosmetic breast reduction surgery.



Arizona- It's estimated the state spends \$80-million a year on prison costs for undocumented immigrants.



Washington- The state plans to ban smoking by inmates and correction officers at prisons as of July first.



Warden Choinski and the staff at Northern C.I. would like to wish Lt. James Yelnick farewell and good luck with his transfer to Osborn C.I. on May 28, 2004.