

The Connecticut  
Department  
of Correction

# P.R.I.D.E.



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

## AT WORK

Remember Our Troops

### Fun and Games at DOC Outing



Cool, cloudy Saturday afternoons are usually cues for the kids to begin a chorus of “We’re bored, there’s nothing to do.” That phrase wasn’t heard once last Saturday as kids and adults both jumped, climbed and crawled through the maze of activities set-up at the Family Day Picnic held on the grounds of the MCTSD.

For five hours on this early autumn day, food, fun and games were the mission. Whether your taste was hot dogs and hamburgers, chicken or barbeque, or ice cream sundaes and cotton candy, no one left disappointed or hungry. Although Commissioner Theresa Lantz and Deputy Commissioners Carol Salsbury and Brian Murphy were there to share in the fun and merriment, it cannot be confirmed that any of them were spotted at the summit of the “Tiki Island Rock Climbing” activity.



Lt. Gemini Smith of MCTSD with daughter Kara.

Continued on Page 4, *Fun and Games*

### DOC Recognized for Supporting those who Serve

Commissioner Theresa C. Lantz and the Connecticut Department of Correction were recognized at the State Veteran’s Home for the agency’s continuing support of those who continue to courageously defend our country. The Commissioner and the agency were praised during the opening of a two day conference at the Home in Rocky Hill aimed at increasing and publicizing benefits for the state’s veterans. “Commissioner Lantz and the Department of Correction have been in the forefront of not only supporting the Veterans Home, but also in backing those members of her agency on active duty,” said State Veteran’s Affairs Commissioner Linda Schwartz.

Continued on Page 2, *Those who Serve*

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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

September 26 -  
October 9, 2004

# Those who Serve, Cont'd

Commissioner Schwartz presented Commissioner Lantz with a plaque which read in part, "...for your outstanding service to veterans and the Department of Veteran's Affairs." "Our agency is gratified by this recognition," said Commissioner Lantz. "We are committed to supporting those whose sacrifice is providing a crucial service to our nation." Commissioner Lantz pointed out more than 100 DOC staff have been called to active duty post 9/11. The two agencies have formed a collaboration which has resulted in the production of beds, mattresses and other materials through Correctional Enterprises of Connecticut for the Veteran's Home as well as big screen televisions



(L-R) Commissioner Theresa Lantz  
with State Veteran's Affairs  
Commissioner Linda Swartz



(L-R) Commissioner Lantz and Lewis  
Vasquez, Connecticut Chariman,  
Employer Support of the Guard and  
Reserve

and exercise equipment provided by the correction officers' union. Meanwhile, veterans discharging from the Department of Correction without housing will be able to transfer directly to the Veterans Home. A second award was also bestowed on the Department of Correction during the event. The Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve presented the Pro Patria Award to the agency. A plaque capped by an eagle in flight given to Commissioner Lantz read, "Presented on behalf of the men and women of American's reserve forces for outstanding service to the national defense through continuing support of the National Guard and Reserve." Commissioner Lantz thanked Chairman Lewis Vasquez on behalf of all agency staff. The award will be displayed in the Lobby at Central Office for all staff to see.

## Condolences



Warden Choinski of Northern CI and Warden Christine Whidden of Robinson CI and their respective staff members offer condolences to the Torres family on the recent passing of Juan Torres, father of Major Esther Torres (NCI), Medical Records Specialist Evelyn Torres (CRCI) and Correctional Nurse Stephen Torres (CRCI).

Continued on Page 3, *Condolences*

**Pride.**  
*AT*  
**Work**

for  
September 26 -  
Oct. 9 2004

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bi-weekly to 7,000  
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M. Jodi Rell,  
Governor

Theresa C. Lantz,  
Commissioner

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Warden Charles Lee of Hartford CC is proud to announce the following employees who were honored for their exemplary performance during the second quarter:

Correction Officer Walter Cox was nominated by his peers for assisting with staff training requirements at Hartford CC.

Officer Cox is noted to have superior communication skills. Additionally, he is very knowledgeable about the many aspects of the facility and performs as a mentor and resource person for fellow staff members.



Record Specialist Kathy Lewis

Record Specialist Kathy Lewis was nominated for having risen to the challenge of managing the extraordinary inflow of inmates during the last quarter. Ms. Lewis prepares files and expedites paperwork which facilitates the transfer of inmates. Several staff members have benefited from her training in bond procedures.

Ms. Lewis is known to be very accurate in the details of her work and is always willing to assist others in understanding the nuances of her areas of responsibility.



C/O Walter Cox

## Agency good neighbors

### Robinson CI

Warden Christine Whidden received a letter from Diane Paige-Blondet, Executive Director of My Sister's Place, Inc. acknowledging the contribution made to that organization by the inmates at CRCI through the Special Activity Fund.

The \$500 donation will help My Sister's Place support its mission which is committed to ending homelessness and empowering women, families, and others in Greater Hartford to achieve independence and stability in their communities by providing housing and supportive services.

### Bridgeport CC

Warden Walter Ford received a letter of thanks from Unit Director John Ulatowski of the North End Boys & Girls Club for assisting them with a clean up project. The grounds work detail, under the direction of Correction Officer David Ortiz expressed a sincere willingness to help and they were dedicated to the detail tasks. The project involved the rearrangement and transportation of material in order to prepare the other half of the Center for future utilization. The task would have been far beyond the abilities of the center's staff members. The assistance that the detail crew provided was invaluable.

## Condolences



Warden John Sieminski and staff of MacDougall-Walker CI are saddened by the death of George B. Mack Sr., father of Correction Officer Robert Mack, Industry Supervisor Edward Mack, Correction Officer Samuel Mack (UCONN) and grandfather to Correctional Food Service Supervisor George B. Mack III.



Warden Cuscovitch and the staff of Willard Cybulski would like to express their condolences to Correction Officer Jesus Navarro and his family on the passing of his sister, Maria Navarro.

# Fun and Games

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In addition to going vertical, other activities included slot car races, a moonwalk and a football and basketball skill competition. Director Dan Callahan was spotted tossing the pigskin, but still remains a free agent and has yet to sign with anyone other than the DOC. But, in keeping with a kid's attitude on a weekend, there was one bad thing about the event. "It had to end". There is always next year.



CFSS II Kirk Sato serving up the sweets



## Did you know?

*Did you know is an informational column written by the Facilities Management and Engineering Unit, aimed at increasing your knowledge of issues in our everyday lives. This week's issue was submitted by Greg Fitzpatrick who can be reached at 860-692-7897. If you have any questions or an idea for a future column please contact DirectorDavid Batten at 860-692-7554.*



### Did You Know? – About Environmental Analysts?

The Department of Correction has on staff, in the Facilities Management and Engineering Division of Central Office, two Environmental Analysts (EAs). These two individuals ensure that the Department and all facilities operate in an environmentally protective manner and comply with the full range of environmental law.

You may be surprised at the potentially dangerous or harmful substances you use or are exposed to regularly, but take for granted. Some of the more common substances include: fluorescent lamps (containing mercury, a powerful neurotoxin), batteries (may contain mercury; lead, another neurotoxin; and strong acids), cleaning products (may contain ammonia or chlorine, both poisons and strongly reactive chemicals), gasoline (contains benzene, a known carcinogen), and dental fillings (contain mercury). When used responsibly these substances can be extremely useful and even healthful, however, we must learn to use and properly dispose of these materials carefully so that we protect the environment.

Concerns about deterioration of the environment lead to laws which ensure that our environment remains safe for living creatures while allowing for a continuing industrialized society. This requires a delicate balance that results in a complex and sometimes confusing regulatory structure. It is the Department's EA's responsibility to understand these regulations and provide training and guidance to staff. For questions or concerns regarding products or procedures used in the workplace you may contact , Greg Fitzpatrick at (860) 692-7897, or Buzz Devine at (860) 692-7562.

# Tip-A-Cop

Recently the staff from New Haven CC participated in a Tip-a-Cop fundraiser at the Fireside Grill and Bar in New Haven. The event was held to benefit the Connecticut chapter of the Special Olympics. Correction Officers Ed Rivera and Dominic Reid along with Correctional Counselors Nathan Hein, Robin Hobson, and Emily Stowell volunteered as wait staff and raised \$1,163 which was donated to Special Olympics.



(L-R) C/O Ed Rivera, CC Emily Stowell, C/O Dominic Reid and CC Nathan Hein

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## Time to Invest in Training Staff

The staff at the Maloney Center for Training and Staff Development (MCTSD) have been busy all summer with training and staff development intended to incorporate adult learning theory into the agency's training programs. Through the funding of a technical assistance grant from the National Institute of Corrections (NIC), all academy staff were involved in a five-day training program with a professor from the University of Connecticut. Dr. Marijke Kehrhan, School of Educational Leadership, led the sessions that focused on topics that ranged from, "What is adult learning" to, "Understanding the connection between training and job performance" to "how to re-vamp existing training to reflect the new model". Also included in one of the sessions with Dr. Kehrhan was an opportunity for the liaisons from the facilities to join into the discussion regarding adult learning. Six MCTSD staff also had the opportunity to travel to the NIC academy in Longmont, Colorado to attend additional training regarding lesson plan development. The training initiative this summer is clearly a statement that Director Sawicki has made a substantial investment in the staff of the academy and looking to much improve how training is designed, delivered, and evaluated. During the learning process this summer, approximately fifty lesson plans are being developed and/or revised. As we approach this year's in-service training, everyone will experience the benefits of the investment of our staff. We would like to thank the NIC for its support of our new initiative with training.

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## Thank you



I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all whom expressed their kindness and caring at the passing of my beloved mother, Felicity Irizzary. Captain Nereida Irizzary and Family

## Congrats



Warden Wayne Choinski and staff of Northern CI offer congratulations to Correctional Counselor Tara McEwan on the birth of her daughter Kaeyln Elizabeth on September 20, 2004. Baby Kaeyln weighed in at 8 lbs. 3 ozs. and 21 ½." Mother, father and baby are doing fine.



Warden John Sieminski of MacDougall-Walker CI is proud to announce that State School Teacher Connie Haskins and her husband Todd are the proud parents of a baby boy, Luke Evan, born on September 20, 2004, weighing 7 lbs. 10 oz. Mom dad and baby are all doing well.



Warden Giovanni Gomez of Garner CI is happy to announce the birth of Nicholas Justin, son of Secretary Christa Manerea and grandson of Plumber Nick Veno. Baby Nicholas was born September 20, 2004 weighing 8 lbs. 13 oz. and 2". Nicholas joins his brothers Brian and Michael.

# Parole and Community Services Consolidation

“This is not just an opportunity to do something different. Here, you get to see the results of your work,” said Director Robert Gillis when addressing some of the new Parole and Community Services Officers assembled at the Hartford Office on Sheldon Street.

From a brief history of Parole to the high expectations of the consolidation of Parole and the old Community Enforcement Unit, Gillis welcomed the group telling them that the, “The job is going to be harder than you think”, but it will also be, “More rewarding than you think”. He detailed the recent promotions within the unit including the appointment of Gregory R. Everett as Chairperson of the Connecticut Board of Pardons and Paroles.

The officers will play a crucial role in supporting a priority of the administration of Commissioner Theresa C. Lantz. As part of “...opportunities that support successful community reintegration”, the Commissioner has directed that appropriate offenders are provided a period of supervised community placement prior to the end of their sentence. This promotes public safety and supports our full mission.

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Director Robert Gillis addressing a class of Parole Officer trainees



Director Gillis(Center) with staff( L-R)Joseph Hagan, Tracy Johnson, Teri Williams, Sondra Montesi and Luis Sosa

The following staff have been promoted from their current job classification to the rank of Parole Supervisor: Gary Barwikowski, Sondra Montesi, Teri Williams and Tracy Johnson.

The combined class of more than 40 Parole Officers has received various types of training including classroom, practical application and range qualification. Each brings a wide range of previous professional experience to their respective units. Many Parole Officers previously worked for that agency while others have been Counselors, Treatment Officers and other custody ranks.

Deputy Commissioner Brian K. Murphy expressed the agency’s gratitude to those who have provided dedicated and professional service as Community Enforcement Officers and will now return to other assignments. “These officers have helped create a solid and successful foundation for the next step in our community supervision efforts,” said Deputy Commissioner Murphy.

Gillis charged the class with accepting the responsibility associated with the importance of the position stating that supervision directly impacts and increases the likelihood that the offender

## Open House

The MacDougall-Walker Correction Institution held its annual Open House for friends and family of facility employees. Warden Siemenski announced, “It was a very positive night for all those involved with a special thanks to Major Christina Polce for coordinating this night.” The open house was a huge success and included a tour of O pod, the Education Unit and the Visiting area. An SOG Display and K9 demonstration was provided for the 120 guests in attendance.



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Assistance  
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# And the Foot-In-Mouth Award Goes to.....



The Public Information Office staff appologize for inadvertently mislabeling a caption on page 4 in the September 12-25, 2004 edition of PRIDE. The luminary was **Dedicated** to Correction Officer Paul Rosenberg; it was not in memory of him. Paul is a cancer survivor and currently in remission.



C/O Paul Rosenberg of HCC

## Calendar

**October 16** - Bridgeport CC is hosting a family outing/softball tournament from 9 a.m. - dusk at the Beardsley Park. The gathering will raise money for two officers, W. Harrington who was recently diagnosed and being treated for a brain tumor and Edwin Medina, whose daughter is critically ill. All proceeds will assist with ancillary expenses and offset medical costs. To support your fellow staff and information on this event, please contact Pam Neuendorf at 203.579.6131 x 504.

**October 23** - Help Us Help Kids on National Make a Difference Day in Danielson. A 5K Run/Walk will be held to raise money for the Children's Center of Northeastern Connecticut. The Brooklyn Cares program has donated \$500 to this worthy cause. For details contact Warden Daniel Martin at 860.779.4501, CC Linda Trahan at 860.779.4520 or Secretary Louise Downer at 860.779.4528.

**October 23** - A paintball challenge will take place at Connecticut Sportsplex in North Branford to benefit the Special Olympics. For information please call Bob Garguilo at 203.230.1201 x 231.

**October 30** - 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Flag Football Tournament at Colt Park in Hartford. \$100 Entry Fee per team. For details call Captain Mike Davis at (860) 240.1860, CO Dennis Camp or CO Gerald Wood at 860.240.1800.

**October 24** - Lea's Foundation is sponsoring the 5th Annual Giant Steps for Research. The event is a competition between public safety personnel to achieve the fastest time as they race up 814 steps at CityPlace in Hartford. To join the DOC team and help raise money for juvenile leukemia patients, please call Capt. Keith Hightower at 860.627.2100.

**December 10** - DOC Holiday Party at the Maloney Center for Training and Staff Development from 2:00 - 8:00 PM.

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## MVP's:

Andras, Kenneth	CO	CRCI
Bonfiglio, Albert	CTO	CRCI
Bourassa, William	CC	McWCI
Burke, Timothy	Capt	McWCI
Camp, George	CC	McWCI
Candelaria, Cathy	CO	CRCI
Cleaver, Michael	Capt	McWCI
Colon, Julio	Rel Serv Coord	CRCI
Connelly, Pamela	PPO	CO
Cummings, Thomas	Capt	McWCI
Cyr, Renee	CC	CRCI
DeBarge, Mark	GMO	McWCI
Desouza, Philip	Voc Ed Inst	McWCI
Dugan, James	Capt	McWCI
Farrel, Shauna	CO	CRCI
Fisher, Michael	Lt	McWCI
Gadson, Linda	CS	McWCI
Hunter, Gary	Lt	CRCI
Kane, Mary	SST	CRCI
Kloter, Ronald	CO	CRCI
Lawrence, Dwight	CO	CRCI
Lawrie, John	CS	McWCI
Liucci, Thomas		
Maskell, Tomest	CC	BCI
Mattill, Ken	Locksmith	CRCI
Meachum, Jason	CO	CRCI
Moller, Robert	Capt	McWCI
Monroe, Spencer	CO	McWCI
Montero, George	CC	CRCI
Napper, Ronald	Principal	McWCI
Ouellette, Lise	PPT	CO
Quesnel, Guy	CO	CRCI
Radel, William	CO	BCI
Robideau, James	CO	CRCI
Robinson, Hayton	CO	CRCI
Rossi, Ralph	CFSS I	McWCI
Simmons, Joshua	CO	CRCI
Spiewak, Zygmunt	CO	McWCI
Strange, Bruce	Lt	McWCI
Thomas, Michael	CO	CRCI
Tyler, Lawrence	CO	CRCI
VonEisengrein, Paul	CO	McWCI
Washington, Robert	CFSS II	CRCI
Wellenberger, Robert	CO	McWCI
Willet, Denis	CO	CRCI