

The Connecticut  
Department  
of Correction

# P.R.I.D.E.



Remember Our Troops

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

# AT WORK



## Holding the Torch High

The high level of the Department of Correction's commitment to the community and those who are less fortunate was recently recognized at the Special Olympics 2005 Law Enforcement Torch Run Kickoff. The Cheshire Correctional Institution received the award for the top contributing state correctional facility having raised nearly \$9,000 last year for the charity. The award was accepted by Warden James Dzurenda, Captain Joseph Carlone and CO Bangie Vazquez. Commissioner Lantz, who helped present that award, was then surprised with an award herself for the success of her "Tip a Commissioner" fundraiser, which was initiated this past fall at Café 24. Overall, the Department of Correction, which has supported Special Olympics since 1987, raised more than \$39,000 in 2004 to support the involvement of the intellectually challenged in competitive sports.



(L-R) Captain Joseph Carlone, Warden James Dzurenda, CO Bangie Vazquez and Commissioner Theresa Lantz

Continued on Page 2, *Torch*

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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

March 13 - 26,  
2005

## From the Commissioner



I stress as often as I am given the opportunity, that the staff of the Connecticut Department of Correction is our agency's greatest asset and the reason why we enjoy the success we do in daily carrying out our mission of protecting the citizens of our state. It's because of your expertise, knowledge and commitment, that I am now turning to you, my staff, in seeking assistance to effectively deal with the current budgetary dilemma that we find ourselves in.

Continued on Page 3, *Commissioner*

# On the Move... Again

Deputy Warden Chris Dion of the Bergin Correctional Institution will be running in his fifth consecutive Boston Marathon in an effort to raise money for "Team Griffin's Friends". Griffin's Friends is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing support to children stricken with cancer. This organization supports, in a unique way, children in treatment for cancer and their families. Griffin's Friends has created a fund which is endowed by activities like the Marathon Challenge. Last year at Boston's 108th Marathon, more than 90 members of Team Griffin's Friends completed the world renowned 26.2 mile trek. With the assistance of hundreds of contributors, these runners raised more than \$50,000 for Griffin's Friends programs. Their goal is simple and appealing: to bring moments of joy to courageous kids. Pledges can be made by contacting Deputy Warden Dion or the Griffin's Friends' Children Cancer Fund at the Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, Massachusetts.



Deputy Warden Chris Dion (2nd row, 2nd person on the left) is shown with Members of Team Griffin at mile nine of the 2004 Boston Marathon.

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## Torch, Cont'd

Each year some 6,000 individuals are assisted through the program in Connecticut. While law enforcement agencies from across Connecticut were present at the Foxwoods gathering, again and again, there was mention of the Department of Correction's involvement and commitment to the endeavor. In 2005, under the coordination of Captain Carlone, the Department hopes to again improve upon its fundraising success in support of the Special Olympics oath, "Let me win, but if I can not win, let me be brave in the attempt."

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

for  
March 13 - 26, 2005

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# Death with Dignity

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Warden John Sieminski and the staff of MacDougall-Walker CI celebrated the fourth anniversary of the Department of Correction Hospice program with a luncheon held in the facility's visiting room. Guest speaker, Mary Johnson, Director of Programs and Treatment, spoke of the dedication and commitment needed to participate in such a program. Director Johnson also shared her own personal experience, in which she lost a close family member to a long-term illness. "I understand how valuable it is to have another human being act selfless and give compassionately during such a difficult stage in a person's life," said Director Johnson.

During the ceremony, 13 new graduates of the program were presented with hospice volunteer sweatshirts, signifying their official capacity as hospice workers. Looking on were 15 veteran inmate hospice volunteers, family members, and dignitaries including instructors from the Connecticut Hospice and Palliative Care Program and staff.

The first hospice in the United States was opened in Branford, Connecticut following a lecture at Yale University in 1963. A woman named Cicely Saunders, who was in the process of creating a hospice program in London, had been invited to lecture on the concept of holistic hospice care to medical students, nurses, social workers and chaplains at the University. This visit set off a chain of events, which led to the opening of the Branford facility and thirty-eight years later, the first hospice unit in the Department was opened at MacDougall-Walker CI.

Since the program's inception, there have been 22 inmates admitted into the unit, 19 of whom were assisted by Hospice workers with their desire to die with dignity.



Hospice volunteers at MacDougall-Walker CI receive instruction in the use of animal assisted therapy during a visit from the staff and canines of Tails of Joy

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## Commissioner, Cont'd

Due to a number of factors, including the high usage of overtime and sick time, contract requirements, promotions and other unanticipated monetary issues, the agency is now projecting a significant deficit by the end of this fiscal year in June. We have an obligation as a responsible steward of the public's finances to impact this deficiency as much as possible in the three months that we have left in this fiscal year. I have already taken measures to stem the spending that has been occurring. I have directed that hiring and promotions in the agency be suspended for the foreseeable future. In addition, I am reviewing options regarding the delivery of staff training for their potential effect on cost savings. While our financial experts continue to examine every aspect of our spending I am asking that you also bring your experience and assistance to the table. I have requested that all staff, from top to bottom, submit savings suggestions that can be reviewed and consolidated into a cost savings plan. I am especially looking for the input of line staff who daily work in our facilities. If there is a better way of doing things, money to be saved, or resources that could be put to better use, it is likely that the line staff knows about it. Your input and your opinions are important to this process. Every suggestion will be reviewed. Please submit any cost savings ideas to your Unit Administrator or to my office by March 31. I would like to thank you in advance and express the tremendous confidence I have that together, we can appropriately address this issue.

# Cheshire CI Gets Physical with new Wellness Center

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When your resume includes Mr. America, Mr. Universe and workout partner for then bodybuilder Arnold Schwarzenegger in the documentary "Pumping Iron", you can bet that you know a thing or two about gyms and weight rooms. Mike Katz certainly does, and was on hand on St. Patrick's Day at the opening of the new Wellness Center located in the Administrative building of the Cheshire CI.

Katz recalled his early days of bodybuilding at the New Haven YMCA that he affectionately called "The Dungeon". His assessment of the Cheshire site was nothing short of glowing saying that it provided a "great atmosphere" that is well lit and equally well ventilated.

Deputy Commissioner Carol Salsbury and Warden James Dzurenda extended their gratitude for the Center's construction to the hard work of Engineering and Facilities Management Director David Batten and his staff, including PFE1 Glenn Noffsinger and CCSE Mark Styra.

"The overall wellness of our staff is crucial in supporting both their on duty and off duty lives," said D/C Salsbury who oversees staff training.

Free weights, treadmills and various other pieces of equipment fill the once vacant space on the second floor of the administration building. The heavy bag and speed bag are sure to get their share of stress relief therapy.



(L-R) Warden James Dzurenda and Mike Katz

## 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 Mark Rashaw who can be reached at 860-692-7558. If you have any questions or an idea for a future column please contact Director David Batten at 860-692-7554.*

Did you know the average homeowner does not always know where all their small hand tools are when they need them?

Continued on Page 5, *Did you know?*

## Calendar

**April 1-** A Retirement Party in honor of Correction Officer Glenn Bryant of MacDougall-Walker CI, will be held at Alberts by the River (Formerly the Troutbrook) beginning at 4 p.m.

**April 2** - Retirement Party will be held at the Villa Bianca in Seymour from 7 p.m. until midnight for Correction Officer Cliff Shannon of Garner CI. Tickets are priced at \$45.00 and include a gift. For tickets or information please call CO's Langlois, Trotman or Diaz at 203.270.2800 or by fax at 203.270.2828.

**April 16** - Retirement party for Counselor Supervisor James Hyman of Corrigan-Radgowski CI. The event will be held from 5:30 p.m. until Midnight at the Bozrah Moose Club, which is located at 115 Fitchville Road in Bozrah, CT. Tickets are \$25 per person or \$45 per couple and include a buffet dinner, DJ and gift. For tickets and additional info contact Donna Henry at 860.691.4700 or Dior Mulholland at 860.848.5808.

Continued on Page 5, *Calendar*



**Employee Assistance Program**  
A Confidential Counseling Service

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# Northern CI

The Diversity Council at the Northern Correctional Institution has been very busy. In February they hosted a luncheon for staff in honor of Black History Month. The meal featured a variety of foods such as chicken, ribs, fish and an assortment of side items.



Diversity Council members serving staff at Northern CI

The Diversity Council also created a display for the officers to view while they enjoyed their meal. The display (pictured above) included books, photographs, artwork, cultural-themed clothing and musical items that were created by African Americans.



## Did you know?, Cont'd

One problem with doing minor home repairs is that some of you will most likely spend more time looking for a tool than the repair will actually take to complete, at which point, does the repair in fact get done? This one thing is what discourages most of us from doing repairs ourselves. How many times have you needed to do a repair or work on something only to get frustrated because you can't find the right tool? Especially when you know you have it or used something else that just didn't work and that made matters worse. Most of you have small hand tools that are scattered around the house; in one of the kitchen catch-all drawers, a shoebox in a closet or laundry room, a cabinet in the garage or basement, or in an old beat-up toolbox somewhere.

Here are some suggestions to get your tools organized and together, in addition to a list of "my need to have tools" for around the house repairs and jobs. My list of tools to have, are most often used around the house on normal day to day type repairs and are some of the same tools needed for larger repairs and projects.

First, let's get organized. Get a good sturdy plastic toolbox with a top tray; all the home supply centers have a wide variety of sizes and types. The newer plastic boxes are a bit more durable than the metal ones. A small toolbox is fine for these tools.

Continued on Page 6, *Did you know?*

## Calendar Cont'd

**April 21 & 22-** The 9th Annual Melanie Rieger Memorial Conference at MCTSD. The registration fee is \$10. **(DOC employees do not need to submit the registration fee).** Your supervisor must approve attendance. Registration forms are available by contacting Dr. Samuel L. Rieger at [SRIEGER243@att.net](mailto:SRIEGER243@att.net) or 203.756.8080

**April 23** Tip-a-Cop – Department of Correction staff will assist the waitstaff at Dave's Place. DOC staff will collect tips to raise money for Special Olympics-CT. The event will be held from 8:00am - 1:00 p.m. Dave's Place, 142 North Road (Rt. 140) in East Windsor CT. Funds raised will support Special Olympics year-round program of sports training and athletic competition.

**April 30** Pulling for Scholarships event will be hosted at Bloomfield High School. The purpose is to raise scholarship funds for high school students and build relationships between public safety workers and students. Students, firefighters, police officers, correctional officers, EMT's and community organizations are invited to participate in this event which will consist of a 6-person team involved in a Tug of War competition. The event will take place from 9-2. Trophies will be awarded. For questions or to register your 6-person teams contact Keith Hightower at 860.286.2630 X124.

**May 1 -7** - National Correctional Officer's Week

# Speaker at Central Office

The Central Office Diversity Council hosted Professor Jeffrey Ogbonna Green Ogar who spoke to the audience during Black History Month. Professor Ogar is currently an Associate Professor in the History Department at the University of Connecticut. He led the audience in a lively conversation on the topic of music. His topic focused on the premise that throughout history the African American culture has had a strong influence on the world of music. He expanded on this topic by stating that African American culture has been influential with the emergence of different genres of music. Professor Ogar also discussed the correlation between music types and the African American community. The topic was enlightening and those who attended praised Professor Ogar for his insightful approach to the subject matter.



(Above) Dr. Jeffrey Ogar addresses an audience during Black History Month

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## Around the cell block



**Italy-** As part of the rehabilitation at Velletri prison outside Rome, inmates are producing a wine called Fugitive.



**West Virginia-** Knitters across the country are trying to replicate the prison poncho Martha Stewart wore on her release from the Alderson prison camp.



**England-** A prison has banned a jailed soccer star from playing on the facility team after he sent two opponents to the hospital with serious injuries.



**Kentucky-** Five of the state's 12 prisons now offer therapeutic community, substance abuse treatment where the inmates counsel and mentor each other.

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## Did you know?, Cont'd

As you begin to gather other tools and you get into bigger repairs and projects, your toolbox will also grow. It's good practice to keep all your tools in one place and return them to the toolbox when you are finished using them.

Next, get it together. Inventory all your tools, they should be in good condition, if not, throw the damaged and broken ones away. If you haven't heard this before, remember, a damaged or broken tool is an accident looking for some place to happen, always keep in mind that safety comes first.

Now, what's in your tool box? Here is my list of basic tools you should have, (they can be found at any home supply center or Hardware Store); a hammer, 16 oz with a curved claw: a tape measure, 20' or longer, a utility knife with a couple of extra blades: screwdrivers, a Philips tip and a Regular tip, get two different sizes of each: a pair of pliers, a pair of needle nose pliers are also nice to have: an adjustable wrench, 6" is fine: an adjustable square: two sharpened pencils: a working flashlight: a putty knife with a 1 1/2" blade: a nail set: a wood awl: a small pry bar: a small torpedo level: a small hacksaw: a small metal file: safety glasses and a pair of light work gloves. Some other items that are also good to have: small amount of assorted screws and nails, some fine grit sandpaper, a small bottle of wood glue and a roll of each of these, masking, electrical and duct tape.

There are many other tools and supplies you may want to have in addition to these listed. As Tradesmen will always say, "you can never have enough tools." All the different trades have a wide variety of tools pertaining to their trade.

Continued on Page 7, *Did you know?*

# Northern CI EOQ' s

Warden WaynedChoinski and the Staff at Northern C.I. are pleased to announce the Employee's of the Quarter, Correction Officer Erik Bronk and Food Services Supervisor 2 Sherman Sizemore.

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## MVP's:



Warden Choinski presents CFSS II Sherman Sizemore with a certificate



Correction Officer Erik Bronk looks on as Warden Choinski presents his certificate

Badura, Kathleen	CHN	McWCI
Baker, Andrea	CS	McWCI
Bolduc, Christopher	CO	NCI
Butler, Denise	Lt	BCC
Caron, David	CO	McWCI
Dempster, Oliver	RN	McWCI
DiPanni, Shane	CFSS I	CRCC
Dixon, Charles	CorrPlmrStmfr	McWCI
Durham, Richard	CFSS III	CRCC
Edwards, Spurlin	CO	HCC
Eldridge, David	Co	HCC
Evans, Mark	CO	CRCC
Geer, Richard	CFSS II	CRCC
Harrigan, David	CO	NCI
Jencks, Charles	CO	CRCC
Juzwik, Keith	CorrPlmrStmfr	McWCI
Kelley, Duane	Capt	CRCC
Keeney, William	CO	NCI
Kmetz, Anndean	Lt	CRCC
Kotiadis, Irene	CSW	McWCI
Kuchta, Mark	CO	McWCI
Lafrance, Barbara	APRN	McWCI
Leva, Christian	Lt	CRCC
Lucido, Rey	CFSS II	CRCC
McKissick, William	Rev	McWCI
Melbourne, Jason	CO	NCI
Messier, David	CO	NCI
Miranda, Wilkins	CFSS II	CRCC
Mobley, Will	Capt	BCC
Morris, Larry	Personnel Officer	CO
Mulligan, William	Capt	McWCI
O'Dell, Shawn	CO	NCI
Rivera, Jose	CO	NCI
Rodriguez, Delores	CN	McWCI
Schoonmaker, Joseph	CO	CRCC
Severi, Christopher	CO	UCONN
Shropshire, Jerome	CO	NCI
Siwicki, Brian	Lt	NCI
Stawiarski, Cindy	CHN	McWCI
Surfus, Daniel	CO	CRCC
Taber, Lori	Capt	CRCC
Tatum, Charles	CFSS II	CRCC
Ververis, Kimberly	CFSS II	CRCC
Weiner, Kathleen	CHNS	McWCI
Welch, Edward	CFSS III	CRCC

## Agency Good Neighbors

**Gates CI** Warden John Tarascio and the staff at Gates CI hosted a visit from CPTV reporter Diane Smith. The CPTV show "Positively Connecticut" will feature the Second Chance Corral which is housed at the facility. The show will air in April 2005.

**Enfield CI** Warden Peter Murphy received a letter of thanks from AMVETS Post#12 regarding the efforts of his staff members. UNICEF hosted a Tsunami Relief benefit for the Children in conjunction with AMVETS Post #12. Staff from the Enfield Correctional Institution helped make the event a success. Special recognition was given to James Smith of USD#1 for donating his time as the DJ for the event.

## Did you know?, Cont'd

Even these guys all started with and still have these basic tools. There is a point at which some tradesmen have too many tools. Therefore, by keeping yours organized you won't purchase the same tool twice. As I noted in a previous article, the right tool for the right job pertains to all repairs, jobs or projects regardless of their size.

Now that spring is here, we need to get a jump on getting some of the minor repairs done around the house. You know, the ones that you have been putting off for one reason or another.

Go find your tools, get organized and get it done.