



Support Our Troops

P.R.I.D.E.

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

AT

WORK



* ~ ~ ~ ~ *

Correction Officer's Week May 7-13, 2006

To all the Correctional Officers of the Connecticut Department of Correction,

Each year this week is dedicated, as a time to recognize the commitment that correctional staff bring to their difficult and dangerous career. These seven days have also been set aside as Government Employee's Week, Health Services Employee's Week, and Teachers' Recognition Week, all professions that are essential components of our correctional family.

But as Commissioner, praise and gratitude for my staff is not something that I can reserve for just one week annually. Every morning, I read about the challenges being experienced by other correction agencies across the country. Facilities as secure and orderly as ours are not the norm. Our level of offender education, health services and re-entry support are ideals that others aim towards.

So every day, I express my sincere gratitude for all you do, in keeping our facilities, our communities and most importantly each other, safe. It may be a simple thank you to a single staff member, or a public statement of appreciation at the State Capitol. The message is always the same. You are the reason our agency is so successful. You are the reason we are a national model. You are the reason I am so honored to lead the Connecticut Department of Correction.

So thank you for a job well done and please let each other know that all they do is deeply appreciated.

Theresa Lantz
Commissioner

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.

* ~ ~ ~ ~ *

About and for
correctional
professionals

*April 23, 2006 -
May 6, 2006*

DOC Officer Recognized by Corrections USA

On a late spring morning last year, everything seemed normal. A lieutenant was making her daily rounds of a housing unit just as she had many times before. Staff and inmates were acting pretty much as they do every day, but this tour would be different, and not soon forgotten. In the blink of an eye, the lieutenant became a hostage. The inmate who had attacked her from behind was now holding a “shank” to her neck.

There was one thing that was going to keep this potential tragedy from playing out like some made-for-TV movie, the quick-thinking skills of Correction Officer Edward Arasimowicz.

Lieutenant Cynthia Scarmozzino was in dorm three at the Hartford Correctional Center on June 18th when an irate inmate attacked her and put a homemade knife to her neck. Officer Edward

Arasimowicz did not hesitate; instead, he took the necessary steps to come to the aid of a fellow officer. Because of his heroic actions, he has been selected to receive the Corrections USA National Medal of Valor.

The Award criteria for nominees of the medal of valor awards are that the correctional officer is employed by a public correctional agency and the winners are picked on the basis of the event and the actions the officers took. The award is given to officers who have gone above and beyond the call of duty.

Corrections USA is a nonprofit coalition of the nation’s correctional professionals. Its mission is to advance the profession through mutual support, and by educating the politicians, media and the public about who they are and what they do. Corrections USA has established the largest information network for correctional officers in the country. Correction Officer Robert Cook, who sits on the Board of Corrections USA, nominated Officer Arasimowicz to be a recipient of this award for his heroic actions on that day.

Lieutenant Scarmozzino stated, “I am extremely appreciative he was on duty that day and that his quick-thinking de-escalated the situation. He was able to disarm the inmate and save my life. I will be eternally grateful to him for his selfless actions on that day. Officer Arasimowicz humbly stated, “I am honored to be recognized, I just couldn’t sit there and do nothing.” Corrections USA will be honoring Officer Arasimowicz at its Annual Awards Banquet in Washington DC on May 16th. Congratulations on a job well done.



Scene from the incident on June 18th at the Hartford Correctional Center involving Lt. Scarmozzino and Officer Arasimowicz.

PRIDE.
AT
Work

April 23, 2006 -
May 6, 2006

Distributed
bi-weekly to 7,000 staff
and via the internet
throughout
Connecticut and the
nation by the
Department
of Correction

24 Wolcott Hill Road,
Wethersfield, CT 06109

M. Jodi Rell, Governor

Theresa C. Lantz,
Commissioner

Web address:
www.ct.gov/doc

Public Information
Office
telephone:
860.692.7780
fax:
860.692.7783

April Monthly Promotions

Pride at Work, April 23- May 6, 2006 p.3



Captain Michael Davis (center) with two newly promoted staff members at the Hartford Correctional Center, Lt. Lawrence Jones (left) and Lt. Angel Medina (right)

Patricia Omari	FAO	Central Office
Patricia Matthews	FAO	Central Office
Carlos Allen	Lieutenant	Bridgeport CC
Kenneth Jensen	Lieutenant	Garner CI
Nathan Lewis	Lieutenant	Garner CI
Sean Murray	Lieutenant	Garner CI
David Piela	Lieutenant	Manson YI
Jeffrey Smith	Lieutenant	York CI
Francis Zator	Lieutenant	York CI
Lashonda Howard	Lieutenant	York CI
James Shabenas	Lieutenant	York CI
Angel Medina	Lieutenant	Hartford CC
Lawrence Jones	Lieutenant	Hartford CC
Maria Rios	Lieutenant	Osborn CI
Wilson Pearson	Lieutenant	Osborn CI
Nathan Hein	Counselor Supervisor	Bridgeport CC
David Maiga	Counselor Supervisor	Hartford CC
William Murphy	Counselor Supervisor	Osborn CI

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. If you have any questions or an idea for a future column please contact Director David Batten at 860.692.7554. This article was written by Correctional Plumber Russell Beetham of Gates CI. If you have any questions, he may be contacted at 860.691.4815. Did You Know... What is Hard Water? **Part 2 of 2** When we bathe and shower with hard water our skin pores collect heavy amounts of alkalines from the soaps and the skin can be uncomfortably dry. If soil and bacteria

are not removed very well, it can irritate the skin and lead to infections. Our hair appearance is dull and the hair is difficult to manage and comb. Colors and dyes are much less effective on the hair because of poor pigment penetration. Conditioner rinses and most other hair products are also not as effective.

Although there are some chemicals and scale removers or inhibitors that are sold to help the hardness of boiler water, they are only as good as someone who daily maintains and monitors their performance. The chemicals only hold hardness minerals in a state of suspension within the boiler water, until the boiler can be drained and flushed out.

The most favorable, guaranteed, and inexpensive way for the average homeowner to get rid of hard water is to purchase an ion or cation exchange water softener. This type of appliance “rules” the unit and is installed in the cold water main service entering the building. In well water systems, the unit is installed after the pressure tank out-going service main. The equipment has a permanent bed of softening media which is charged with sodium ions. As the hard water enters the filter, undesired minerals and other contaminants including iron and manganese are attracted to the media zeolite and held. Eventually the sodium is depleted, and the bed of zeolite becomes exhausted. At this point in time, the unit must regenerate and rid itself of all the collected minerals and metals.

Continued on Page 5, See *Did You Know*

Hog Heaven

Pride at Work, April 23- May6, 2006 p.4

Anyone who uses a remote to surf the countless number of channels available today has undoubtedly seen the Teutul family....Who? Paul Sr.Paulie, and of course Mikey from the Discovery Channel's "American Chopper."



Paul Teutul Sr. speaks with Ray Soucy (Department of Correction) and Veteran Affairs Commissioner Linda Schwartz during their tour of the Orange County Chopper factory.

the show's basic theme is the day-to-day lives of actual working men played out on national television. As such, it's a fresh "reality" show, centering on the edgy synergy between Paul Sr. and Paul Jr. as they conceive, fabricate and assemble high-end bikes that can cost well into six figures. Comic relief comes in the form of Paul Jr.'s brother Mikey, 23, a mild-mannered guy who sweeps up, orders parts, pops bubble-wrap and hangs up on customers.



Photo of the showroom featuring some of the custom-designed bikes made by Orange County Choppers.

Although they are in demand worldwide, they were not too busy to talk to DOC's very own Ray Soucy of Cheshire CI. Ray was looking for money to refurbish the athletic fields at the Veteran's Home & Hospital in Rocky Hill and he took a shot in the dark and asked Paul Teutul Sr, the patriarch of Orange County Choppers (OCC), if he would build a chopper for a raffle for the State veterans.

Around the Cell Block



Florida- The father of American Idol contestant Kellie Pickler watched his daughter perform from prison where he was serving three years for stabbing a man.

Scotland- Inmates at one overcrowded prison will be allowed to go home for one week a month so their cells can be used by other inmates.

Venezuela- So far this year, 114 inmates have been killed in this country's prisons and some 225 have been seriously injured.

Ohio- Two correction officer's slated to attend a three day conference at the department's expense are facing dismissal for instead going to the Ohio State football preview.

Supervised
Population
on
May 1, 2006
22,893

On May 1, 2005 the total supervised population was 22,663

Continued on Page 6, See *Hog Heaven*

Counselor Supervisor Terry Appointed to Board

Pride at Work, April 23- May6, 2006 p.5

Counselor Supervisor Ida Terry has been appointed to the New England School of Addiction Board of Directors. She was accepted to the Board in March 2006 and a formal ceremony will be conducted in June of 2006 at the New England School of Addiction, and she will be one of three board members from the state of Connecticut. She will represent the State of Connecticut and provide expert advice to the executive director in areas of substance abuse, cultural competency, policy, training and research focus. The New England School of Addiction Studies has been in existence for over 30 years. It is dedicated to the education of professionals, volunteers, and the general public concerning alcohol and drug prevention and treatment issues. The Institute is the primary organization through which the State Alcohol and Drug Agencies develop and deliver regional educational events. The Institute offers several educational events per year supporting workforce development and skill building of the professionals and volunteers who provide services for substance abuse prevention, intervention, treatment and recovery organizations.



Did You Know Cont'd

The softener uses a solution of brine (salt water) to flush the bed out and replace the sodium losses with charged ions within the softening media. The machine then will flush with fresh rinse water twice to remove any excess brine and hardness. The renewed softening material is ready once again to remove hardness and metals from the water. The softener regeneration process can be repeated almost indefinitely, over many years of service. All that is required is that the solar salt be poured into the brine well tank when it becomes low. Annually the machine should be serviced, which requires a cleaning of the screens, ejectors, diffusers, seals, etc. The cycle valve should be checked for proper operation and the clock timer motor for reasonable accurate time keeping, and the brine tank should be washed, cleaned, and disinfected.

Most cation exchange water softeners cost in the range of \$700.00 to \$1200.00 depending on the capacity in grains per gallons. The capacity is determined by the aggressiveness of the water. The best machines use a metering device to count the gallons of water in between the regenerations, they conserve salt and water. This type of unit is the preferred way to go. The units should always be labeled by the NSF seal, National Sanitation Foundation and or Water Quality Association, this will assure the consumer reliable and safe performances of the equipment.

Some consumers may be handy and at a comfort level to install this appliance on their own, but should be aware that safe and sanitary practices must be followed. State and Local plumbing codes should also be adhered to.. Cross connections are prohibited. It is safe to discharge brine waste into the sanitary building drain and sewer and also into private septic systems, however it must be done according to code.

Some consumers have a concern that solar salt may enter the treated water supply and ingest it, this is not possible if it is installed correctly and the cycle valve performs properly. However if the concern still exists, they have a substitute called K-Lite or Potassium, and this product costs a little more per 40-50 lb. bag ; also, more of this substitute is needed to do the job. Another concern is if the consumer runs out of solar salt, will that hurt the regeneration process? No, simply add the salt and index the manual start cycle and walk away. Soft water is wonderful!! you would immediately feel and see the difference.

Hog Heaven Cont'd

"I wanted to do something special this year to help the veterans and I was shocked and surprised when the crew from OCC agreed to do a bike for us." said Soucy. Teutul agreed to build a bike and invited Soucy and State



Ray Soucy (l) with Paul Teutul Jr. (aka Paulie) during his tour of the Orange County Chopper factory.

Veteran Affairs Commissioner Linda Schwartz to tour the factory. Once there, they were able to get the first peek of the chopper, which is currently in pieces, being built for the State Home & Hospital.

Orange County Choppers charged \$39,000 for the bike that will come complete with a custom paint job and detail work that will include engraved emblems of the five branches of service and an emblem of the Veteran's Home. Once complete the red, white and blue bike will stretch 10 feet and feature the logo "Some Gave All, All Gave Some."

Proceeds from the raffle will go towards refurbishing the Home's athletic fields. For the past three years AFSCME Council 4 has sponsored an annual picnic for State veterans. With the help from local businesses, they have raised money to purchase big-screen televisions buy exercise equipment needed to refurbish the homes

exercise room, and install air conditioning in the gym for the State Home & Hospital in Rocky Hill.

Orange County Chopper Raffle

The AFSCME union is holding a raffle for a custom-designed, original Orange County Chopper motorcycle. The money raised from the raffle will go to support the annual picnic that the union has for the residents of the State Veteran's Home & Hospital in Rocky Hill. Tickets cost \$50 and only 2000 raffle tickets will be sold. For tickets and info, contact Council 4 at 860.224.4000 or the AFL-CIO at 860.571.6191.

Tunxis Foundation Honors Commissioner Lantz

Commissioner Theresa C. Lantz was recognized by the Tunxis Community College Foundation for her outstanding service to the institution over the course of the past five years in a recent ceremony, which also highlighted the contributions of other dignitaries to the school. The award was presented on the occasion of the 35th anniversary of the Foundation. Connecticut's Lieutenant Governor Kevin Sullivan and other members of the General Assembly were also present for the presentation. Commissioner Lantz has not only served as an Adjunct Professor at the College, but has also served on the school's Criminal Justice Advisory Board. With a long-standing priority on training and education, she has been a strong supporter of the College's Criminal Justice Command Institute, which has prepared many managers within the Connecticut Department of Correction for their future challenges and endeavors. "Corrections is an evolving career with facets such as reintegration that have never been as important as they are today," said Commissioner Lantz. "Through the visionary work of Tunxis Community College our staff is evolving with the profession, through the benefit of increased levels of education."



Employee Assistance Program

A Confidential Counseling Service

888-EAP-8900

Agency Mourns Officer Lost in Tragic Accident

After completing an 8-hour shift at the MacDougall -Walker Correctional Institution, on the morning of April 21st, Correction Officer Gary Thureson was involved in a fatal collision on his motorcycle. A driver made a left-hand turn in front of Thureson, striking his motorcycle and trapping him under the car. A Suffield police officer and several good Samaritans lifted the car off Thureson. He was flown to Hartford Hospital by Lifestar, where he later died. Gary Thureson had celebrated 16 years with the agency on the day of the accident. A few of his co-workers had these memories to share about their experience with him... "He was an avid Yankees fan." Steve Jakabauski noted, "since I am a Red Sox fan, bragging rights were always exchanged between Gary and I when the two teams played each other."



Correction Officer Gary Thureson

"I had the opportunity to work with Gary as an officer and then supervised him. Gary was a hard working man that loved his family and the outdoors. He was like a brother to me. He will be missed by all. The staff at the MWCI collected money in his honor and I presented checks totaling over \$1900 to his kids last week." - Captain John Patz

"Gary was an exemplary officer and friend. He was always true to his word and stood firmly in his beliefs. Gary loved his son and daughters and especially loved taking his son fishing and camping. He was an avid golfer and a true friend that will be missed by all that knew and worked with him." -John Sidoti

"Gary, My Friend"

A friend is a person who knows and likes another, they are a person who favors and supports and a person who belongs to the same side or group.

Gary, my friend.

Being a friend means more than recognizing that no one is perfect, it means accepting it. I, like most people, have many flaws. The most important quality a friend can demonstrate is loyalty. This means standing by you when the going gets a little rough, not just in the good times.

Gary, My Friend.

Knowing that, we can speak freely about our lives, our hopes, and our fears, the other person will listen, applaud, encourage or empathize as necessary.

Gary, My friend.

A friend respects your attitude towards work. A friend recognizes the effects of time upon you, but jokes about how age is affecting him/her.

Gary, My Friend.

Gary Thureson, was a great friend. I worked with him since I transferred to Walker in 2000. He was grumpy at first, but a true friend till the end. I will miss "my friend, Gary." - CTO Olivia Jones

Condolences



Warden John Siemenski and the staff at MacDougall-Walker CI are saddened to announce the death of Correction Officer Gary Thureson.



Warden Bruce Cuscovitch and the staff at Robinson CI are saddened to announce the passing of Michael Leahy, brother of State School Teacher Mary Kane.

Thank You

On behalf of the Iweka family, I wish to thank everyone of you that came to my mother's wake, sent cards, consoled me in person and otherwise gave me support and assistance during this difficult period. It was very heart wrenching, being that she literally died in my hands. But through it, I have learned that people could be so good, including strangers. Again, I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Fundraiser

On Saturday June 3, 2006, Secretary Sandie Haraghey will be participating in a 10 mile bike ride for Andrew's Helpful Hands Foundation Inc. **This fundraiser has been dedicated to the memory of her son, Alex Haraghey. If you would like to sponsor Sandie, please call her at 763-6520, or Kathy Garner at 763-8616.** The ride will be held at 9:30am at the Stafford Motor Speedway in Stafford Springs, CT.