



# DC Department of Corrections



District of Columbia Government  
Adrian M. Fenty, Mayor

Department of Corrections  
Devon Brown, Director

## News

Volume 1 Issue 3

September 2008

### Upcoming Events



**\*\*\*September 25** – Central Detention Facility, 9 am to 11 am. The Department of Corrections Health Services Division presents, “Celebration of Connections,” in recognition of the many achievements gained in the provision of inmate healthcare. Activities will include a graduation exercise involving male and female inmates who have recently completed the department’s 90-day Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) Program.

**\*\*\*October 6** — Training Academy (on the campus of DC General Hospital), 9 am to 11 am. A graduation ceremony to present Class 08-06, comprised of twenty-two (22) correctional officer recruits who successfully completed the Basic Correctional Training Program

**\*\*\*October 9**— Central Detention Facility, 9 am to 12 noon. The Reentry Program will host its first Community Resource and Job Fair for inmates who are within four months of release.

### Employees Sharpen Knowledge in Correctional Procedures



The enhancement of staff training has been a vitally worthwhile pursuit of the Department of Corrections in its preparation to become American Correctional Association (ACA) accredited by early next year. While the department had not adequately addressed this critically important function for several years, only providing training to correctional officer recruits and other new hires, contractors, volunteers and those who work specialized assignments, all personnel are now required to receive instruction annually to strengthen their knowledge and proficiency in corrections operations.

In-service training was re-instituted in 2007 however, the focus has been directed toward the civilian staff in order for the department to meet the immediate mandates for ACA accreditation. Employees attend a mandatory 16-hour or week-long (40 hour) session depending on the amount of direct interaction staff has with inmates at the DC Jail. Lessons focus on security awareness, fire safety, health precautions, professional interactions, and inmate con games, among other critical issues associated with a correctional environment.

Information obtained from the class is extremely valuable inasmuch as it promotes a greater understanding and the appropriate application of policies that govern department operations. According to Lieutenant John Armstrong, who serves as an instructor, “In-service training supports job proficiency.” Alberta Lee, a Legal Instrument Examiner in the Records Office on the 3:30 p.m. to midnight shift agrees stating, “This instruction is important because you get refreshed about the rules and regulations. If you forget what is expected you can jeopardize your job.” A total of 132 civilians have received training within the last 12 months. There are seven full-time staff that comprise the Training Academy and an additional 11 employees who are trained to serve as adjunct instructors.

### A Look Inside



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### Employees Gain Online Access to Personal Information

No longer do you have to make an appointment, wait in line, fill out paperwork, or listen to the prompts. District government employees may now gain online access to their employee records, benefits selections and personal data. This initiative developed by the Department of Human Resources supports a more streamlined and environmentally friendly government operation. Through the Employee Self Service (ESS) website, employees may conveniently and quickly view their payroll, benefits and personal profile. Employees may update certain information like their name, marital status, emergency contacts, home mailing address, and phone numbers. Registration is required to use the ESS.



### ***A Message From Director Devon Brown***

The theme of “change” which currently resonates throughout our nation has not been lost on the DC Department of Corrections. As we approach the close of another fiscal year in District government, I am exceedingly pleased that the Department of Corrections has experienced monumental achievements during this period which reflect an unrelenting commitment to constructive change and greatly supports the City’s furtherance of governmental excellence. For example, we have made great strides toward enhancing staff proficiency which is evidenced by the growing number of employees achieving professional certification by the American Correctional Association (ACA). Included in this group are 18 correctional officers who are among the first in the agency to obtain the credential of Certified Correctional Officer. We have also been able to increase our inmate programs in spite of the space limitations at the jail. With more than 10 programs added this fiscal year, there are more than 35 programs available for inmate participation. Inmate healthcare and our approach to addressing HIV/AIDS continue to improve and receive national recognition. Our medical program received accreditation from two nationally-renowned corrections organizations and we are honored to be presented with the National Commission on Correctional Healthcare’s, “2008 Program of the Year Award” during their conference activities next month. The technological advancements being introduced such as electronic workflow management, videoconferencing, automatic speech recognition and key word spotting as well as training drug detection dogs to sniff out unauthorized cell phones will appreciably improve overall safety and operational efficiencies. I am optimistic about the impact that change has on the future of the Department of Corrections and its role of providing the highest level of public safety for the residents of the District.

### **Opinion Poll**

The legal drinking age in the United States is 21 years old, the highest among all countries. Recently more than 100 college presidents signed the, *Amethyst Initiative*, a collective statement challenging the effectiveness of the current law. What is your opinion?

**Sylvester Ezeani**, Senior Network Engineer, 48. Sometimes 18, 19, and 20 think they are “grown.” I have kids in this age group. It would not be a good thing for the government to reduce the drinking age.

**Leonard Hunter**, Office of Communications Intern, 18. I don’t believe the drinking age rules are working. People under 21 can easily get someone to buy them alcohol. There should be more rules to enforce the law.

**Linda Redd**, Drug Testing Program Coordinator, 56, I think they should drop it to 18 because the kids are doing it anyway. That will keep them from doing it behind their parents’ back. If they can go to war at 18, why can’t they drink at 18?

**Simon T. Wainwright**, CDF Warden, 54, I don’t think anybody should be allowed to drink. We should go back to prohibition. We know that alcohol is going to land some people in the hospital. We know that many people wind up having encounters with the criminal justice system because they have alcohol and their decision is impaired.

**Kira Wilkinson**, Capital City Fellow, 23, I don’t think that the age should be lowered to 18. I think there are enough irresponsible 21-year-olds drinking.

### **Reentry Success Stories**

Ninety-five percent of all inmates eventually return to the community. This statistic includes Martin Darrin, Anthony Driffen, Larry Hall and Anthony Newlon. These former DOC inmates also represent the number of ex-offenders who are leading constructive lives after incarceration due in part to their planning for release while behind bars. Each of these men participated in the department’s Reentry Program and was housed in a dormitory at the DC Jail that is specifically designated to providing select inmates within 120 days of release with an array of services that facilitate their transition to the community. The department’s collaboration with various government agencies, businesses and volunteers in this undertaking shows great promise of providing offenders with possibility and opportunity to succeed in life. **Martin Darrin** has been hired as a physician assistant. **Anthony Driffen** is a photographer working with “*Paparazzi for Hire*.” Mr. Driffen co-produces CCTV’s “*Road to Recovery Show*,” which appears on Channel 95 and 96 in the District and produces a radio show on WYCB every other Saturday.

**Anthony Newlon** is featured in a City Paper article (August 14), “Cheap Shots.” Mr. Newlon is the head coach of camp at the Turkey Thicket Recreation Center training youth ages 9 to 14 in swimming, biking, and running. **Larry Hall** has been accepted into the *Welcome Home Program* (Catholic Archdiocese Reentry Program).

### **Will Your Voice Be Heard?**

Don’t miss the opportunity to vote in the 2008 General Election scheduled for Tuesday, November 4.



Voter registration is open until **October 6** for eligible District and Virginia residents. Maryland residents have until **October 14** to complete a voter registration application. Your voice is important and voting is key to ensuring that your voice is heard. For more information, visit the Board of Elections website where you reside.

*Job Well Done!* New correctional officer recruit **Tamiko Swann** received the *academic award* for the highest class scores during the Basic Correctional Training Graduation Ceremony Class 08-05 held last month...recruit **Tiana Green** was recognized as the *top gun* recipient and recruits **Kimberly Hammond** and **Justen McCoy** were recognized for their physical agility...**Reena Chakraborty**, Statistician and **Jerome Jones**, Special Assistant to the Deputy Director, completed the U.S. Department of Homeland Security course, "Preparing the States: Continuity of Operations Planning," which focused on writing an agency plan that supports the National Response Plan (NRP) and ensures that essential functions, programs, services, systems, and personnel continue to operate during and after a natural disaster or terrorist attack...*Welcome Kaymi Ross*, Deputy General Counsel...**Lurendy Armstrong**, **Rita Browne-Holston** and **Annette Joyner** join the Human Resources staff...**Renee Johnson** joins the Health Services staff, Legal Instrument Examiner **Theresa Ward** and Case Managers **Jermel Farewell**, **Victor Harper** and **Takia Wilson** are assigned to the jail...**Maurice Peavy** and **Jerome Smith** join the Office of Internal Affairs...*Best Wishes* to correctional officers ending their DOC assignment **Annette Armstead**, **Luther Cook**, **Venice Duntin**, **Robin Goodwin**, **Gamble Hayes**, **Bernard Savoy**, **Alfreda Williams** and **Rollins Hunter** (Records Office).

### Certified Correctional Officers

The growing number of DOC staff achieving professional certification by the American Correctional Association (ACA) now includes 18 correctional officers who are among the first in the agency to obtain the credential of Certified Correctional Officer. Class 06-01 and Class 07-05 were among the first of those graduating from the DOC's Training Academy to take the ACA Certification Examination. This accomplishment gives evidence that they meet or exceed national standards in their area of functioning and have demonstrated the expectation of general proficiency that the department expects of its staff. Congratulations to the following individuals on their professional achievement:

Private Stacey Fenner	Corporal Eugene Bonds
Private Bernice Harrison	Corporal Joel Chiaghanam
Private Arga Jackson	Corporal Angelo Childs
Private Mia Johnson	Corporal William Collins
Private Bruce King	Corporal Anthony Dyson
Private Deborah Ray	Corporal James Ferguson
Private Antonio Richardson	Corporal Josea Green
Private Christian Rodriquez	Corporal Donald Graham

Corporal Mark Ihedinma  
Corporal Uchendu Ibeawuchi

### Staff Notaries

The following Department of Corrections staff are commissioned notaries who are authorized to certify the identity of a person when signing various documents.

#### Grimke(2)

Sallie Thomas  
Deborah Washington

#### Central Detention Facility

##### Warden's Office(2)

Violet Hicks  
Genester Powell

##### Case Management (7)

Victor Akuchie  
Harold Levy  
Isha Sharpe  
Joy Thomas  
Bridget Tyler-Reeves  
Theresa Washington  
Tymmi Wesley

##### Records Office(5)

Karen Devalera  
Marion Perkins  
Kevin Proctor  
Shirley Simmon  
Kathy Souverain

##### Chaplaincy Services(1)

Linda Greene



*Coming Soon....Promotion Examinations for  
Lieutenants and Sergeants*

## Email Etiquette Tips

*"Manners are of more importance than laws. Manners are what vex or soothe, corrupt or purify, exalt or debase, barbarize or refine us, by a constant, steady, uniform, insensible operation, like that of the air we breathe in." - Edmund Burke (1729-1797) Irish Orator, Statesman*

- ◆ Include a courteous greeting and closing. This makes your e-mail appear more reader friendly.
- ◆ Address your contact with the appropriate level of formality and make sure that names are spelled correctly.
- ◆ Use proper spelling and sentence structure. Capitalize the first word and use appropriate punctuation. Emails with typos are simply not taken as seriously. Using '!!!' or '???' is perceived as rude.
- ◆ Do not write in CAPITALS. Writing in capitals is perceived as shouting.
- ◆ Read your email out loud to ensure that the tone is that which you desire. Avoid relying on formatting for emphasis; rather choose words that reflect your meaning instead. "Please" and "thank you" go a long way!
- ◆ Include all relevant details or information so that your request or viewpoint is understood. Generalities cause confusion and unnecessary emailing back and forth.
- ◆ Use **Reply** instead of the **Reply to All** feature when only the sender needs to see the message.
- ◆ Keep emails brief and to the point. For lengthy conversations, use the telephone or visit in person.
- ◆ Do not use patterned backgrounds or fancy fonts. This makes emails difficult to read.

*Submitted by Keith Godwin, Network Engineer Administrator*

## Health and Safety Tips

### *Preparing for an Emergency*

September is National Emergency Preparedness Month. While emergencies can vary in type and severity, most non routine incidents can be effectively brought under control if a plan has been developed to safely respond to the emergency. While fresh water and food are staples in most emergency kits, the following recommended items are invaluable under difficult circumstances, especially if you must evacuate:



- Important documents ( insurance policies, wills and passports.
- Family photos and irreplaceable mementos, jewelry.
- Digital inventory of personal belongings.
- Emergency numbers (family, hospital and physicians).
- Credit cards and cash.
- Transistor radio, flashlight and batteries.
- Toiletries (i.e. toothbrushes, deodorant, hand sanitizer).
- First aid kit.
- Complete change of clothing.
- Sleeping bags, cots, air mattresses.
- Household chlorine bleach
- Laptop computer, cell phone and car chargers.
- Paper and pencil/pen.
- Prescription medications and glasses.
- Maps, books, games for children and adults.

*For additional information on preparing for an emergency go to [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).*

### Mission Statement

The mission of the D.C. Department of Corrections is to ensure public safety for the citizens of the District of Columbia by providing an orderly, safe, and secure environment for the confinement of pretrial detainees and sentenced inmates.

### DC Department of Corrections News

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