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FIGHTING CRIME IN CONNECTICUT

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Enforcement Team Puts Pressure on Bridgeport Crime

By **CINDY SIMONEAU**
Correspondent

It was a rainy, quiet night on Stratford Avenue in Bridgeport, and the Police Department's newly formed Neighborhood Enforcement Team (NET) was taking a parole officer on his first ride-along. Warned to be prepared for anything, the officers suddenly found bullets flying over their heads. The shots, not aimed at anyone, were a sort of acknowledgment from the streets that "they" knew the new squad was on their turf.

"We said to be prepared for anything and everything," explained the unit's commanding officer, Sgt. Paul Grech. "After only a short time they know we're out there, although they don't always know which neighborhood we'll be in."

Parole Officer Edgar Nunez, who rides along with the unit one night a week, said despite the gunfire on his first ride-along, he thinks the NET has the upper hand when it comes to enforcement issues. This is the first time the Corrections Department has had a parole officer working side

by side with the police to monitor the activities of parolees.

While it is the parole violators and criminals the group is targeting, the most important part of their mission is to clean up the streets for the neighborhood residents.

"We connect the public to the police at a very personal level," said Sgt. Grech, during an interview in the State Street precinct office. "Every officer is getting calls from the public. We know to make this work we need to sell it to the public. We hope to heighten awareness about our activities."

Earlier this year, Bridgeport Police Chief Brian Norwood established the Neighborhood Enforcement Team with six officers from various divisions and Sgt. Grech. Two officers were later added. So far, neighborhood efforts have focused on Stratford and Connecticut avenues and the Hollow section of the city.

While a sign of success may be the opening of better communication lines with the public, it is also evident in the many arrests and enforcement efforts



Members of the newly formed Neighborhood Enforcement Team of the Bridgeport Police Department hit the streets as a group to crack down on crime. (Left to right) Sgt. Paul Grech, Officers Everton Walker, William Simpson, Adam Roscoe, Jeff Long, Arthur Calvao, and Jesse Pizarro. Missing from photo are Officers Ron Jersey and Sandy Gonzalez. (Photo by Cindy Simoneau)

launched by NET. Among them, Sgt. Grech describes arrests for weapons, armed robbery, rape, drugs, as well as liquor violations, gang activities, and pros-

titution. Sgt. Grech noted they have already had over 40 arrests on warrants, 65 felony (Continued on page 19)

Prison Population Stabilized by 'Justice Reinvestment'

By **TEALE CALIENDO**
Correspondent

Connecticut's decision in 2002 to tackle the problem of prison overcrowding with a strategy known as "justice reinvestment" is being credited with stabilizing the state's prison population.

That's the assessment of Pew Charitable Trusts, a non-profit, nonpartisan research organization, and the Connecticut Statistical Analysis Center at Central Connecticut State University (CCSU).

Justice reinvestment is a comprehensive initiative that ensures various public-safety stakeholders (departments of prison, parole, mental health, addiction services, community-based services, etc.) are on the same page when it comes to creating policies to control the prison population.

Between 1995 and 2002, Connecticut's prison population rose by 35 percent—exceeding the national average of 23 percent. Connecticut has gone from having one of the fastest-growing inmate populations in the nation to one of only three states with no projected increase in the near future. In addition, as a result of the initiative, the number of inmates in this state dropped by 4 percent from 2003 to 2006.

Nationally, the prison population is expected to rise to

1.7 million by 2011, an increase of more than 192,000. However, the inmate population in Connecticut, Delaware, and New York is expected to remain stable, so long as the state continues its justice reinvestment strategy.

Although Connecticut experienced a 2.5 percent increase in the population last year, State Representative Michael Lawlor (D-East Haven), chair of the House Judiciary Committee since 1995, said crime generally is down,

and the number of prisoners has actually leveled off. Last summer's increase was attributed to a spate of inner-city shootings by young people. "(Police) rounded up kids...and held them on bail to calm things down," he explained.

Overcrowding is still an issue the state faces, but Connecticut Department of Correction External Affairs Director Brian Garnett said the department is on the right track when it comes to stabilizing the prison population. "(Prisons) are crowded, yes. However, it is substantially reduced from what it has been. We are successfully managing our population so we don't have a sizeable amount of crowding," Garnett explained.

Connecticut's prison population, including inmates awaiting trial, was 18,928 in May 2007—about 600 below the population spike of 19,589 in 2003. Garnett explained, "(Then) things were much worse. We had (several hundred inmates) sleeping in nontraditional housing areas, cots in gyms and office spaces. Today, we may have one facility with people housed in a gym."

The state's success in lowering the number of prisoners is attributable to the investment it has made in the communities where most prisoners will return, mainly larger cities such as Bridgeport, New Haven, and Hartford.

(Continued on page 17)

Facts at a Glance

Most Frequent Offenses:

- Violation of Probation: 8%
- Possession of Narcotics: 7.5%
- Youthful Offender: 4.7%

Substance Abuse:

- Population Reporting Substance use/abuse: 88%
- Receiving Treatment: 26%

Education:

- No High School Diploma: 75%

Source: Connecticut Department of Correction



SCAM of the Month

By GRANT STINCHFIELD
Correspondent



Don't Get Clipped by Coupon Caper

Coupons are big business. Manufacturers distribute nearly 330 billion coupons each year. The goal is to get people to buy products by saving them money – but for some unsuspecting consumers, coupons can be costly.

Some of those “cents-off” coupons are providing big bucks for scam artists offering numerous “work at home” schemes designed to exploit the coupon market. The Federal Trade Commission is issuing a warning that it is usually the consumer who is exploited by the bogus opportunity. “There is only one way to use a coupon – cut it out of the paper and use it towards your purchase,” explains W. David Griggs, an FTC attorney. He says fraudulent promoters are using the Internet to market the so-called “coupon clipping” opportunities.

Scam artists promise their victims thousands of dollars a month simply by selling coupon certificate booklets or clipping coupons at home. Griggs warns, “This has become a huge concern for the FTC, and it is a priority that we go after fraudulent coupon promoters.”

“I needed a way to make some money from home,” said Nancy McEvoy. She

lives in a one-bedroom Stratford apartment and struggles to make the rent each month. “I wanted to find a way to stay home with my 2-year-old, but still make enough money to live on,” McEvoy said with regret. She paid \$2,500 to act as a “coupon certificate booklet distributor.” The deal sounded like a no-lose situation. She was supposed to sell the booklets to consumers for \$35 each. The booklets contained close to \$500 in coupons. In theory, the investor should make big money selling the books while the buyers save hun-

dreds using them.

“It turned out to be a huge scam,” said McEvoy. She said it took weeks before the company actually sent her the booklets. Then, making matters worse, in order to redeem the coupons the buyer had to fill out a form, select dozens of products to buy, and then include a processing fee. “Nobody wanted to get involved – they all said it required way too much work,” McEvoy said, as she looked at a box of coupon booklets that she now claims she cannot sell.

Another of the thousands who have been clipped by the coupon scam, Holt Nederman, said, “I have a job, but I wanted to make some extra money.” He received an offer in an e-mail that said he could make hundreds of dollars every week just by clipping coupons out of the newspaper. The goal was to clip thousands of coupons, then sell them back to a promoter for just a few pennies each. “I paid \$250 for the ‘introduction package’ and the right to sell the coupons back.”

For two weeks Nederman clipped coupons every day. He sent the company more than 800 of them. In return, he received a check for \$25. “I worked for nearly two hours a day clipping those coupons...That means I made

about a dollar a day!” He said the company voided most of his coupons because they had an expiration date on them. Nederman said he had no idea many manufacturers prohibit transferring coupons, so he was not paid for those, either.

“Consumers should be on guard against this scam,” warns Connecticut Attorney General Richard Blumenthal. He recently issued a consumer alert, warning Connecticut consumers to steer clear of deceptive coupon-related business opportunities. Blumenthal went public with the warning in response to a telephone scam in which con artists were gaining access to bank accounts by offering hundreds of dollars worth of shopping vouchers and gift certificates, which were bogus. In exchange for the vouchers and gift certificates, consumers were asked to pay a small shipping and handling fee of \$4.95. The scam artists then used the bank information to make unauthorized withdrawals of as much as \$500. “Don’t be tricked into giving out your banking information to any caller,” advises Blumenthal.

Instead of saving money, coupon schemes will cost you money. The trick is avoiding them.

(g.stinchfield@thejusticejournal.com)

HERE ARE SOME TIPS ON AVOIDING A COUPON SCAM:



- Don't believe guarantees of big profits in a short time.
- Watch out for claims of no risk involved.
- Don't be fooled by the “Can't miss opportunity” pitch.
- Don't succumb to the high-pressure tactics of “act now.”
- Get all promises in writing.
- Watch out for hefty postage and processing fees.
- Research the company with the FTC, Connecticut Dept. of Consumer Protection, and/or the Better Business Bureau.
- Most of all, find out all costs and fees associated with the coupons, and then do the math.
- If you do fall victim, you can file a complaint with the FTC by calling 1-877-FTC-HELP.

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'Fashion Show of Uniforms' Helps Seniors Avoid Trouble

By LEISA TAYLOR
Correspondent

If the word "model" conjures up thoughts of a young, beautiful female, for some senior citizens, images of "models" now also include a motorcycle cop, police officer, firefighter, paramedic, UPS delivery person, electric company worker, and postal employee.

A "uniform fashion show" at Westfield Shoppingtown Trumbull Mall recently helped educate senior citizens on the identifying features of true company employee uniforms and accessories. Models included uniformed employees from United Illuminating, the Trumbull Post Office, United Parcel Service (UPS), Trumbull EMS, the Trumbull Police Department, and Trumbull's Long Hill Fire Department.

"This is truly an awareness campaign," said Angela DeLeon from People's Bank, which co-sponsored the event. "You go away feeling empowered - feeling that when someone comes to your door and you hear knock, knock, knock, you're going to wait and know who's behind the door before you open that door. What we're doing is presenting a program to prevent you from becoming a victim. We're going to arm you with the weapon of awareness."

DeLeon is the originator and coordinator of the People's Bank Masters Program, which educates seniors statewide on how they can protect themselves from physical harm and financial fraud. The program is nationally recognized for its leadership in initiating crime prevention and awareness programs for senior citizens. The fashion show was sponsored by Trumbull TRIAD, which consists of three groups: the Trumbull Police Department, the Trumbull Senior Center (the area agency on aging), and People's Bank (the private



Left: Trumbull Police Officer Scott Duva. Center: EMTs Lisa Saracino (left) in summer outfit, and Jocelyn Butkus in winter attire. Right: Azzie Dundy of United Illuminating. (Photos by Leisa Taylor)

business representative in Connecticut). DeLeon is also director of the State of Connecticut TRIAD Association.

DeLeon told the audience that recently two people came to a senior's door in Ansonia and said they were from the hydraulic company. "They said that there was a burst pipe on the street and could they please go into the (senior's) basement and check the pipes. The woman, of course - being kind and feeling she was going to help her neighbors - invited them to come into her house," said DeLeon. Unfortunately, only one person went down to the basement with the woman, and the other

person stayed upstairs and robbed her house. DeLeon noted that "most criminals do work in pairs, especially when they're doing this type of scam."

"When someone shows up unannounced on your doorstep, it can be very unnerving if you don't know whether you can trust them," DeLeon said in a press release. "Seniors may become confused during an emergency situation, trusting someone in uniform whom they shouldn't. In some cases, even when believing a person is suspicious, seniors may not know they have the right to keep a worker waiting on the doorstep until they verify his or her

identity with the company. We want seniors to feel safe in their communities and in their homes."

Trumbull First Selectman Ray Baldwin told the audience, "You're going to see some of our really super models... Now, they may not be on the cover of Vogue or Cosmopolitan, but they are more important to you in your lives than those models in those magazines. We have one of the safest communities around because of our police, fire, and EMS. But we also have people who service the utility field. You're going to get an opportunity to see what they look

(Continued on page 9)



Left: Steve Foster of United Parcel Service. Center: Firefighters Ryan Tantimonico (L) and Matt Eckert. Right: (L to R) Police Officer Joe Velky; Jennifer Gillis, Trumbull Senior Center; Angela DeLeon, People's Bank; Officer Scott Duva; Officer Bob Schwartz on the motorcycle. (Photos by Leisa Taylor)

Police Remain Determined to Solve Slain Officer's Case

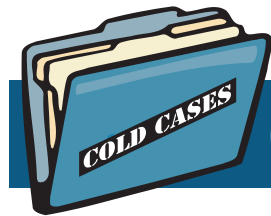
By **CHANDRA NILES FOLSOM**
Correspondent

Every Memorial Day since 1981 holds a personal meaning for the men and women of the Darien Police Department. Officer Kenneth Bateman was gunned down in the early morning hours of Memorial Day 1981, after responding to a burglary at the Duchess Patio Restaurant. His case is the only unresolved killing of a Connecticut police officer in more than 50 years.

"The case is active and being worked on – you can call it a cold case, but it is still actively being looked at," said Lt. Ronald Bussell of the Darien Police Department. "I worked with him as a patrol officer... We served together for four years. He was an excellent cop and he was a friend."

According to police, Officer Bateman was on patrol, alone, when he responded to a silent alarm at the restaurant located at 360 Post Road. As the officer approached the building, someone burst through a side door and opened fire on him. Officer Bateman fired six shots back after he was shot. Two witnesses reported seeing a heavy-set man running from the scene.

Lt. Walter Victor Ponichtera found his fellow officer unconscious minutes later. Officer Bateman never regained



DARIEN POLICE DEPARTMENT

COLD CASE

consciousness and was pronounced dead at Norwalk Hospital a short time later. Lt. Ponichtera has since left the Darien Police Department.

Police found burglary tools, and \$2,000 in cash that was stolen from the restaurant and then dumped nearby. They believed the killer fled by car because a K-9 blood hound tracked him to the northbound side of I-95, where the trail went cold, according to published reports.

"I've been in charge of the detective bureau since 1993, so that's how long



Officer Kenneth Bateman

"I've been on the case," said Lt. Bussell. "There have been quite a few people on it over the years, but there are only a few officers still on the force who were there in 1981. That was a long time ago."

In the years that followed, the FBI searched the country for clues. At the time of his death, Officer Bateman was 34, married, and had been a police officer in Darien for seven years.

Although to date there is not enough evidence to make an arrest, police are keeping close tabs on several people – one in particular.

"Anthony Sabato is still definitely a person of interest," said Lt. Bussell. "He has a long criminal history... He is in prison... on federal violations." The former Stamford resident is serving a nearly 69-month sentence for purchasing more than two dozen stolen firearms.

"There is no truth to the stories that there is a connection to organized crime or gangs," said Lt. Bussell. "There are other people we want to talk to, but some of them have moved and others have passed away."

Police are offering a \$100,000 reward – originally \$20,000 – for information leading to a conviction in the homicide of one of their own. Yet, there are concerns that witnesses may be afraid to come forward with infor-

mation.

Although several leads were followed, after more than two years of investigation then-Chief John Jordan reported that police were no closer to solving the crime. The case was re-activated in 1999, and for more than a year, an FBI task force along with state and local police pursued it relentlessly, but without substantial results.

Police said the .38-caliber slug retrieved from Officer Bateman's body has never been linked to a weapon. Lt. Bussell noted there was no DNA testing in 1981, but added, "I can't comment on whether or not we have any evidence to test."

Officer Bateman's widow, Barbara, a Stamford schoolteacher, has since left town, but the slain officer is not forgotten. A plaque with his likeness hangs in the lobby of police headquarters. Each year scholarships in Officer Bateman's name are awarded to the children of Darien police officers, and every Memorial Day the Darien Police Department commissions a floral display in his honor.

"There are only three of us still on the force who were there at the time, and there have been six working the case on the detective bureau," said Lt. Bussell, who marks his 30th anniversary on the force in July. "When it occurred to me that I was on patrol then, and now I'm working his case... it's so weird. We used to go fishing together. He was a big boater since he was formerly in the Navy."

"There is nothing new we can or will give out at this point, that I know of," said Lt. Bussell. "Sabato will be let out sometime in 2008. We are hoping more witnesses will come forward before that happens... We always have hope that the case will be solved... There is a \$100,000 reward, and these things have a way of turning around suddenly."

Anyone with information about this case is encouraged to contact the Darien Police Department Detective Bureau at (203)662-5330.

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Police in Fairfield County Volunteer for Detective Training

By **LEISA TAYLOR**
Correspondent

"I love being a detective," said Fairfield Detective Bruce Peterson, who teaches at the Fairfield County Detective Conference School, marking its 46th year. "The best feeling that you have is when you're done with a case, and the victim or person involved comes up, shakes your hand, and says 'thank you.' That's the best feeling that anybody can have – that seals it. It has nothing to do with the money you make. It's just the fact that you've done something for somebody else and they just say 'thank you.'"

Peterson's love of his job is echoed by Westport Detective John Calka, president of the School Committee, which oversees the curriculum for the school. "In Westport, they gave a test for detective and sergeant at the same time. I came out #1 on the detective exam and #1 on the sergeant exam. If I took the sergeant position, I would have made more money and been promoted, but the way our department works, I never would have been able to be a detective. And I've always wanted to be a detective. Some people think I was crazy back then, but I've never been sorry," said Calka.

This enthusiasm for detective work provides the impetus for the Fairfield County Detective Conference School's voluntary two-week program for police officers interested in the requirements and responsibilities of a detective. "You don't have to take this course if you don't want to," Peterson said. "It's not a requirement, but if you want to become a detective, this two-week course will help you when you have to go through the exam process within your own police department. It will help because you're going to know more."

There were 32 graduates in the most recent class. The school offers instruction on a wide variety of subjects, including lab services, court testimony, sex crimes, crime scene processing, and death investigation. The subjects are chosen by the School Committee based on experience and the realities of the world after 9/11. "We choose the topics based upon what's going on in today's world and the type of cases

we're working on," Peterson said. "Because we're working and actively involved in cases, we know what the current cases are and what we are dealing with." For example, Calka said that classes were added for terrorism and computer crime.

A tremendous amount of learning is packed into the two-week period. "This school is a lot of work, and the students get hit with a lot of information," Peterson said. "Every day, the students have to take notes, and by the end...these students are going to be tired. The students go home each night and type all the notes they took here in class. Some ...will be up until 11 or 12 o'clock tonight typing notes – and they're not getting paid for the typing they're doing at home. That's on their own time."

At the end of the course, each student must turn in his or her typed notebook. The students are then graded based upon the notebook and a 100-question test on the last day of class. For the graduates, a dinner ceremony is held at a local restaurant, and awards are given based on the final grades. The highest scorer earns a plaque, awarded by the Fairfield County Chiefs of Police, and a Glock 9mm handgun, compliments of the Fairfield County Detective Conference. The graduate with the second-highest grade receives a Glock 9mm gun, while the third-highest grade earns a \$200 gift certificate from New England Uniform. The student with the best notebook grade receives a \$200 savings bond.

The school is supported by the police departments, which pay the cost of the course for each student. Class instructors, selected by the School Committee, are all volunteers. If a class is taught while the instructor is on duty, the instructor is paid for being on duty but does not receive additional compensation for teaching. Instructors teaching while off duty do not receive any compensation.

"That is the kind of support that we have for this program," Calka said. "All of these departments agree to send their people even if it's on their own time." Peterson added, "We wouldn't be here if we didn't think the work and effort was worth it.

The fact that this school has been taught for 46 years tells you it's a quality school. It's very well respected and highly regarded, and the chiefs of police give us 100 percent support."

Detective Calka, a 27-year veteran with the Westport Police Department, has been involved with the school for two years. Detective Peterson, who has 27 years with the Fairfield Police Department, has been teaching in the school for seven years (he is also certified for Police Officer Standard Training). Each class and each instructor is evaluated by the students. "We have not asked some instructors to return the following year based upon some of the evaluations," Peterson said. "If they're not good, we'll find someone else to teach that class."

The length of a class, ranging from one to four hours, is dependent upon the subject. "The State Police were here all day," Calka said. "They did a block of instruction in the morning and then had four practical stations in the afternoon. For example, one station was a car that was dusted for prints, and another station was how to properly package evidence. The feeling I get from all the instructors is they have so much knowledge they want to give the students. We even sense a little frustration that they wish they had more time."

Peterson added, "There's never really enough time to teach all the information we want. We had the Stamford Police

Department Bomb Squad here, and they had three hours. They could have given us a full day of instruction."

The students themselves must request to attend the school. "Although each department is a little different," Peterson said, "the police chiefs and training officers usually pick the people within their own department that they want to attend the school. In Fairfield, seven or eight people wanted to attend, and only three were selected. People want to attend because they know the quality of the school and its instruction."

Peterson said that not all of the students attend with the goal of becoming a detective. "They may not want to be in our shoes," he said. "They may want to be in uniform their entire career, and that's great. The important thing is, they're now seeing the detective side of things. A lot of people in uniform may not know what happens on our side. They don't know what we really do. So they sit in class for two weeks and get a taste of what a detective does."

Peterson noted that some of the smaller police departments do not have detectives. "If you go to Redding, which doesn't have any detectives, the patrol officer is going to do everything that a detective does," he said.

One difference between an officer and a detective in a larger department entails

(Continued on page 18)

The Peterson Group

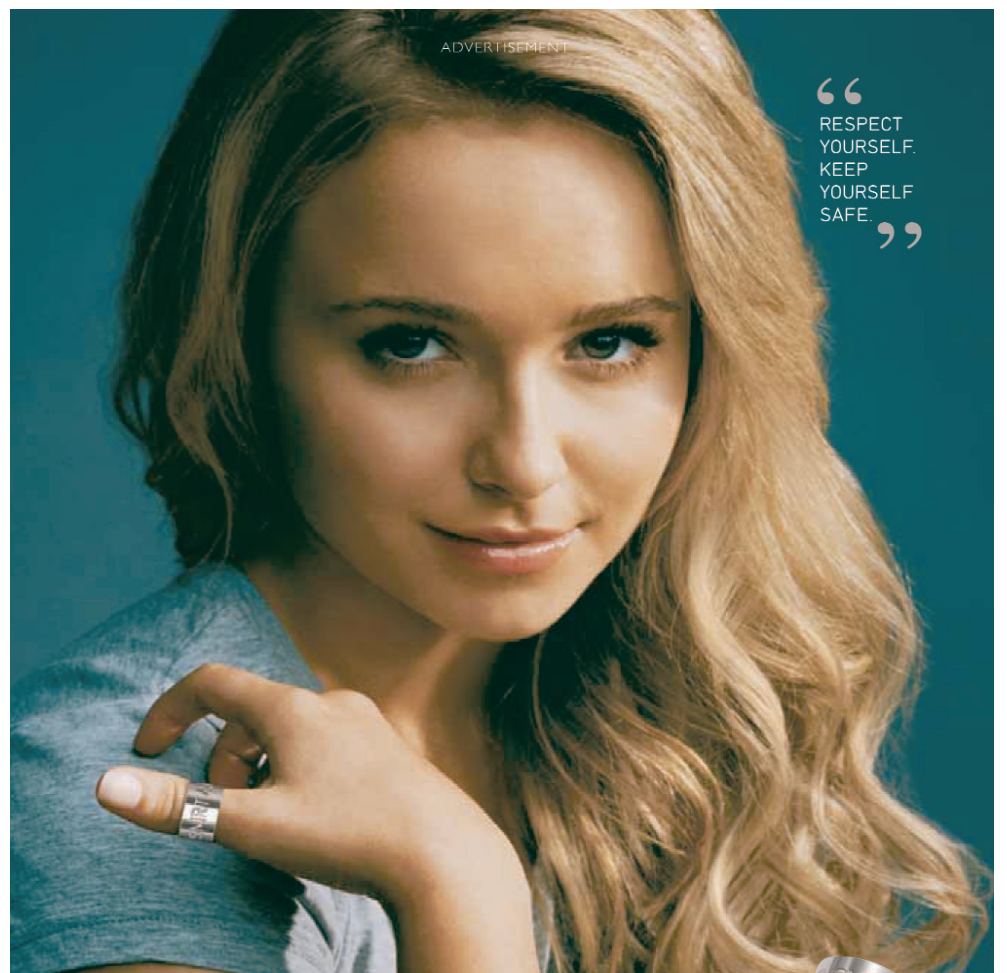
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'America's Night Out Against Crime' Set for August 7

By MEG BARONE
Correspondent

Connecticut residents determined to help fight crime will be turning on their front porch lights and leaving them on all night, August 7, the 24th annual National Night Out. Leaving on the light is a symbolic display of solidarity for law enforcement and crime prevention groups, according to Shelton Police Sgt. Joseph Kudrak, who added that his police department holds a pre-National Night Out event each year to remind residents about the nationwide activity.

"What we do is we kick off National Night Out the Saturday before with a crime prevention picnic. This year ours is going to be on August 4. We invite all Shelton residents to come, and we usually get about 500 to 600 people," said Sgt. Kudrak.

A lot of planning goes into the three-hour event to guarantee it is both a social activity to introduce neighbors to neighbors and an educational event to provide valuable crime prevention and safety information to residents. The more informed the public is, the less likely they are to be victims of crimes, Sgt. Kudrak said. "We have about 15 to 20 displays here – all the way from the fire department and EMS to private concerns such as 'The Umbrella' (an Ansonia-based domestic violence program) – anybody that's involved in anything to do with public safety." The picnic is also an opportunity for police to interact with citizens in a nonemergency, non-threatening situation.

National Night Out is "America's Night Out Against Crime," a unique crime/drug prevention campaign, said Matt Peskin, executive director of National Association of Town Watch, a nonprofit organization based in Pennsylvania. NATW provides support services for organized, law enforcement-affiliated crime and drug prevention programs dedicated to improving the safety and quality of life in their communities.

According to NATW, the annual event is an effort to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness, generate support for and participation in local anticrime programs such as Neighborhood Watch, strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships, and send a message to criminals that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

"It fosters good relationships within the community and builds positive contacts. It's good information-sharing back and forth," said Stamford Police Lt. Sean Cooney, the department's public information officer, whose community became involved in National Night Out for the first time last year.

"We partnered with Target, which is the national sponsor of National Night Out. We have a Target store in Stamford. They have a little park next to the store, and they had an event with a couple of clowns and food and a radio station playing music. The police department sent some people over there to talk about crime prevention.

We talk to people about what's on their mind, and it develops trust and a relationship with us so that then they can give information back to us," Lt. Cooney explained. That trust builds cooperation, which is an essential law enforcement tool, he added.

"This whole concept of Night Out and the watch programs are based on the theory that 95 percent of arrests



are the direct result of a citizen's phone call," according to NATW's Peskin. Lt. Cooney could not verify those statistics but said, "I wouldn't argue phone calls and information from the citizenry is vital, it's huge. Some arrests are initiated by a police officer happening to observe something, but that is a small percentage of the arrests that are made. We certainly rely on the eyes and ears of the community. And I think it's every citizen's obligation to take part in making their community safe. We all have to be aware of what's going on and report things that are not right. Everybody has a stake in their community," said Lt. Cooney.

Bridgeport Police Officer Nick Ortiz, the department's crime prevention officer, said he could not quote statistics either but also agrees the public contributes tremendously to policing efforts. "I would say a large percentage of arrests and investigations of criminal activity that lead to arrests does come from the public. If a burglary occurs, if there are witnesses that can provide us with the information on vehicles, suspects, and so on, that is very crucial to us, and that's how we are able to go ahead with an investigation and eventually make arrests," said Officer Ortiz, who oversees the city's existing block watch programs and works to establish new ones. He also trains and oversees the activities of the city's Silver Crime Patrol – groups of senior citizens in several senior housing complexes.

Officer Ortiz is working to get all his groups together for August 7 to conduct walking patrols. "By keeping the lights on, conducting walking patrols, looking out your windows, and checking for suspicious activity, it contributes to public safety." He said it comes back to this concept of the Neighborhood Watch, explaining, "When I talk about Neighborhood Watch I tell folks, 'Look, you folks are the ones that live in the community, you should

know who the good people are in your neighborhood, what cars belong there, if suspicious people come into your neighborhood you would know that, and it's your job to work with us."

"Everyone recognizes that when you participate in a program like this you are doing a service to your community by being alert and keeping an eye out for crime and calling the police when necessary. It makes the community that much closer – it brings people together and keeps those criminals away," said Officer Ortiz.

National Night Out began in 1984 and initially involved about two million people in 400 communities in 23 states, sitting vigil on their porches and leaving the lights on all night. That was considered a huge success, Peskin said. What began simply as a call to citizens to leave on their porch lights has grown to include numerous creative events and activities hosted by municipalities and police departments and has even attracted corporate sponsors.

Last year's National Night Out boasted participation from an estimated 34 million people in over 10,000 communities in all 50 states, U.S. Territories, some Canadian cities, and U.S. military bases worldwide. "People got tired of just sitting on their porches, and so we started to promote the block parties and the cookouts and the parades and all the other activities, and that's when it jumped to another level," Peskin said.

"The activities help to bring out more people. The whole event is based on generating interaction among people who generally do not have a lot of interaction, and that's neighbors, and that's partly why we have some of the problems we do in some of the areas that we do," Peskin said.

"Little kids get to talk to the cop and will have a different perspective. Suddenly that cop is his friend that he saw at this Night Out party as opposed to someone who is riding around in a police car. When do people get to talk to an officer – traffic citation, medical emergency, at a crime scene," Peskin said. "All the things that take place on National Night Out make the neighborhood a little bit tighter. Does it solve all the problems? No. But the neighborhood is a lot better the next day than it was the day before," he said.

Peskin said National Night Out helps people develop a vested interest in their community. "What happens on Night Out is you'll meet someone at a barbecue or a block party, and then the next day you say hello, and then the next day there's some truck in this person's driveway. You're much more likely after meeting this person to care about this truck than you would be before Night Out took place. Multiply that millions of times," Peskin said.

The official 2007 National Night Out registration form is available on the National Association of Town Watch website, www.nationaltownwatch.org or www.national-nightout.org – or call 1-800-NITE-OUT. There is no cost to register or participate.

(m.barone@thejusticejournal.com)



Letters to the Editor

Watching Your Neighbor

It is truly a publication that is perfectly timed for the times in which we live. Many of us are concerned about homeland security, identity theft, as well as protecting ourselves and our families. Your well written articles are content rich as they clarify security issues, while offering practical solutions. The Neighborhood watch article by Med Barone is a good example. I live in Ridge-

field and did not know we had them. I am going to look into the program and become a part of it.

Kudos to the entire editorial staff of The Justice Journal. You are providing a valuable service to the residence of Fairfield County and beyond.

Yours is a high quality and relevant publication.

*Marlene and Larry Gorick
Ridgefield*

A Concerned Mother

What if now the laws governing the purchase of guns included a check of mental health status, both with on campus police and counseling centers when a student is the one purchasing, and hospital records for any individual purchasing?

As the mother of a mentally ill student, I would not feel this was a violation of any HIPA privacy laws. I would, in fact, welcome it, especially if it prevented my mentally ill daughter from getting her hands on a gun.

Lisa Gfeller

Editorial Policy

The Justice Journal encourages original letters to the editor pertaining to subjects and issues raised by the writers.

We reserve the right to publish or edit letters for taste, length, and clarity. Make sure to include your full name, address, and a daytime telephone number so that we can verify who you are. All letters through the mail must be typed and should not exceed 250 words in length. Anonymous letters will not be published.

Please send your letters to:

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Notes from the Editor's Desk

Homeland Security: Then and Now



My father served in the U.S. Army's 35th Infantry Division late in World War II, fighting against the Germans in Europe. He received a Purple Heart medal for being wounded.

Less than a decade later, one of my grandfathers began taking me on deep-sea fishing daytrips off the coast of New Jersey. The best fishing was over the wrecks of merchant ships sunk by German U-boats during World War II.

I later learned that German submarines – U-boats – had sunk hundreds of commercial ships such as freighters and tankers, claiming thousands of lives, off the East Coast and the Gulf Coast during World War II. I also learned that the first German sub to hunt ships along the Northeast Coast was the U-123, whose skipper took that vessel so close to New York City that from the conning tower, he could see the glow of its lights through his Zeiss binoculars. Among other items onboard the U-123 were two New York City tourist guidebooks and a commercial map of New York Harbor.

Two German submarines, U-550 and U-853, were sunk relatively close to Southeastern Connecticut – home of the Navy Sub Base and the Electric Boat submarine shipyard. Another was sunk off the coast of New Jersey. There were times when civilians watching from beaches could see the results of battles between U-boats and U.S. military vessels. When such eyewitnesses were located by officials, they reportedly were asked not to discuss publicly what they had seen.

To keep up America's morale, the government reportedly did not reveal the full extent of the damage the U-boats inflicted so close to home. As it turned out, many of those U-boat attacks could have been prevented – the U.S. had the intelligence data to do that, but for some reason, there was a long and costly delay in implementing strategies for dealing with the situation. Eventually, "blackouts" were instituted to prevent the U-boats from being aided in their nighttime navigation along our shorelines.

Today, there are concerns that the news media tell us too much about the government's "War on Terrorism," possibly even aiding the enemy. Too little or too much – neither is ideal. Which way would you rather have it, if you had to choose?

Think about that as we observe Independence Day, Veterans Day, Memorial Day, or any other of our holidays. Think about that the next time you go for a walk along a coastal beach, or enjoy any of so many taken-for-granted privileges we have, such as going on a daytrip for deep-sea fishing over wrecks of merchant vessels sunk by U-boats at a time when we were told, "loose lips sink ships."

Letter from the Publisher



As we continue to publish The Justice Journal, I discover more and more instances that demonstrate how our streets can become safer when members of the community and law enforcement join forces.

It's not just a matter of we the public sitting back and expecting our local police departments and our legal system to keep us safe—it's about building a bridge that connects us.

In this issue I was moved by two stories that make a strong case for the good things that happen when dedicated professionals are at work for us. Our cover story reveals how a neighborhood enforcement team working within the Bridgeport Police Department is cracking down on crime in a big way. Although it was only established earlier this year, it has seen great success in stopping crimes ranging from armed robbery to rape. In the process of forming the unit, 75 Bridgeport officers volunteered for the assignment.

The second story, on page five, introduces us to a group of police detectives who teach other officers in a detective training school that's been in operation for 46 years. What makes this especially noteworthy is that everyone is a volunteer-instructor and students alike. Individual departments pay for costs associated with the training, but that's it. Everyone one is there because they believe and want to improve the quality of their profession.

In reading these two articles, the level of enthusiasm these officers have for their work jumped out at me. We need to appreciate the fact that these guys are really dedicated to their work and want to perform at a higher level. Their concern for the quality of life and safety in their communities is apparent as they volunteer their time to improve their skill.

We're fortunate to have people like this looking out for us.

Sincerely,
Doug Johnston

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Meet the Writers



GRANT STINCHFIELD is an investigative reporter for an NBC-owned TV station and has been a contributor to MSNBC. Among his special areas of reporting are consumer fraud (especially identity theft) and unsolved murders. He has won four Emmy awards and has had 16 nominations. Other honors include Mothers Against Drunk Driving Journalist of the Year, Associated Press Investigative Reporting Award, Connecticut Safe Kids Achievement Award, and the International Association of Firefighters Achievement Award.



TEALE CALIENDO was an educator who changed careers to become a reporter. She has been in Connecticut journalism for more than two decades. After a distinguished career in radio news in Connecticut, she joined WFSB-TV Channel 3 and became Shoreline Bureau Chief. After years as a corporate communications executive, Teale founded a communications consultation company, which she continues to head, while also continuing writing as a free-lance reporter. Teale is a licensed justice of the peace, and among other responsibilities, enjoys performing marriage ceremonies.



DAWN A. MICELI has worked for various newspapers and other publications throughout Connecticut for a decade and a half. She served as managing editor of an award-winning newspaper, responsible for the layout and editorial content of the 65-page weekly publication, and now is on the staff of an alumni magazine for a Connecticut school. Dawn is an adjunct associate professor of journalism at Quinnipiac University, teaching courses focusing on writing and reporting. Dawn also appears live on WTIC-TV FOX61 hosting Connecticut Lottery Corporation's mid-day drawings.



PAMELA FALCIGNO is a freelance journalist who specializes in stories about law enforcement. Among her assignments has been covering the National Association of Fugitive Investigators Conference in New Orleans, where she interviewed people associated with producing the FOX TV program, America's Most Wanted. Pamela is involved with public affairs programming on two local public access television channels, one on a Charter Cable system, the other on a Comcast Cable system. She earned her bachelor's degree at Albertus Magnus College, majoring in communications/political science.



DAVID SCALES is a freelance journalist whose work has appeared in a variety of newspapers and magazines across Connecticut. He earned his master's degree in journalism as well as his bachelor's degree in mass communications at Quinnipiac University. He is a contributor to the book, Helping Your Children Cope with Your Cancer: A Guide for Parents and Families. David's hobbies include writing fiction and SCUBA diving.



CHANDRA NILES FOLSOM is a freelance journalist who writes for newspapers and magazines nationwide. She co-authored Womens Glasnost, with Tatyana Mamonova, in 1994 and served as an editor on The Terrorist Conjunction, by Dr. Alfred Gerstein, soon to be published by Praeger Security International. Her screenplay American Jihad is currently in post production.



CINDY SIMONEAU a freelance writer, formerly was assistant managing editor, section editor, and bureau chief for the Connecticut Post. She is consulting editor for a major daily newspaper, and adjunct professor of journalism and English at four universities in Connecticut. Cindy is a past president of the Connecticut Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists and is currently the treasurer.



MEG BARONE is a general assignment, freelance journalist who has worked for numerous news organizations, including the Associated Press and the Connecticut Post. Her articles have appeared in nearly 40 news publications throughout the country and she has won several awards from the Society of Professional Journalists. Since 2003, Meg has served as a judge for a statewide essay contest sponsored by the School for Ethical Education. She earned a degree in liberal studies from Southern Connecticut State University. In her spare time, Meg is an artist whose eggshell mosaics have been displayed at the White House three times.



LEISA TAYLOR received a law degree from the University of Texas at Austin, with an undergraduate degree in journalism. She practiced law for ten years in Texas before moving to Trumbull in 2000. Prior to her legal career, she was a reporter and editor for a small-town newspaper in Texas. Leisa is the author of The God of Human Blood, a look at murder in biblical times. She is currently a videographer for Channel 17, Trumbull's public educational access channel.

Three Police Departments Share \$98,000 in Drug Money

The Brookfield, Danbury, and New Milford Police Departments are sharing \$97,868.73 in forfeited drug proceeds. The funds represent the departments' share of the net proceeds of the settlement of a federal civil forfeiture case that stemmed from a crack cocaine manufacturing and distribution operation based out of a residence in Brookfield.

According to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Connecticut, in 2003, the Danbury and Brookfield Police Departments learned through confidential informants and concerned citizens that Skyler Arnold and his father, Thomas, were involved in the manufacture, sale, and use of crack cocaine in the greater Danbury area. With further assistance provided by the New Milford Police Department, law enforcement personnel engaged in surveillance of the Arnolds' residence on Merwin Brook Road in Brookfield, where they observed a high volume of short-term activity consistent with an illegal drug operation. Through the use of confidential informants, law enforcement made controlled purchases of cocaine from Skyler Arnold at the Merwin Brook Road residence where Thomas Arnold and others were observed engaging in the manufacture and use of crack cocaine.

In January 2004, law enforcement officers executed a State of Connecticut



"The federal government is pleased to transfer to the Brookfield, Danbury, and New Milford police this money that will be used to fund future law enforcement activity. Everyone should know that when you commit drug trafficking crimes, you not only risk losing your freedom, you risk losing your property, as well."

- U.S. Attorney for Connecticut Kevin O'Connor

search warrant and seized approximately five grams of cocaine, two bags of marijuana, and drug paraphernalia consistent with the manufacture and use of crack cocaine. Skyler Arnold and Thomas Arnold were arrested on state drug charges. Skyler Arnold was also charged with possession of a stolen firearm. Both are currently incarcerated.

In June 2004, with their state criminal cases pending in Danbury Superior Court, law enforcement personnel learned that the sale of cocaine had resumed at the Arnolds' Merwin Brook Road residence. In the following months, law enforcement enlisted the assistance of another confidential informant and made further controlled purchases of crack cocaine from Skyler Arnold at the residence. In August 2004, pursuant to a state search warrant executed at the Best Inn in Danbury, where Skyler Arnold was discovered selling cocaine, and at the Merwin Brook Road residence, where Thomas Arnold was discovered in possession of cash and drug paraphernalia, the Arnolds were arrested again on additional state drug charges.

In August 2004, the Drug Enforcement Administration adopted the case for federal forfeiture, and the U.S. Attorney's Office filed the verified complaint August 25, 2004. On July 12, 2006, the Merwin Brook Road property was forfeited to the United States, and subsequently was sold for approximately \$250,000 by the United States Marshals Service. After expenses, there was \$244,671.87 of net sale proceeds. Thomas Arnold's mother, who resides in New Canaan, has a one-half interest in the property as an innocent owner, and receives \$122,335.93.

Of the remaining one-half interest, the Brookfield Police Department receives approximately \$48,934.37, and the Danbury and New Milford Police Departments each receive \$24,467.18. The federal asset forfeiture fund receives 20 percent of the remaining one-half interest, or \$24,467.18.

"It is always gratifying to turn something negative into a positive," U.S. Attorney for Connecticut Kevin O'Connor said. "The federal government is pleased to transfer to the Brookfield,

Danbury, and New Milford police this money that will be used to fund future law enforcement activity. Everyone should know that when you commit drug trafficking crimes, you not only risk losing your freedom, you risk losing your property, as well."

Under federal forfeiture laws, the Brookfield, Danbury, and New Milford Police Departments are required to use the funds for law enforcement purposes. "Seizing drug assets from these drug criminals strikes a unique double-blow by attacking not only their initial profit incentive but also denies revenue to continue the illegal enterprise," said DEA New England Special Agent in Charge June Stansbury. "Then we take that very money meant to fuel drug dealing to add to the efforts of police departments that were instrumental in dismantling the criminal group."

The forfeited funds were transferred to local, state, and federal law enforcement through the Department of Justice's "Equitable Sharing Program," which is administered by the U.S. Marshals Service. Each agency that participates in the program is required to use the funds for law enforcement purposes.


"There is nothing more satisfying for the U.S. Marshals Service than to provide additional resources to the law enforcement agencies of Connecticut in their ongoing battle against illegal drug distribution," stated U.S. Marshal Bardelli. "This is an effort in which we all do what we can to eliminate the awful consequences of illicit drug use."

U.S. Attorney O'Connor praised the work of several detectives and officers of the Brookfield, Danbury, and New Milford Police Departments, and the Drug Enforcement Administration, for their efforts in this case. O'Connor also noted that work of Assistant U.S. Attorney David X. Sullivan, who handled the forfeiture proceedings for the government. The criminal cases against the Arnolds were prosecuted by Danbury State's Attorney Stephen Sedensky, III.

The Department of Justice asset forfeiture program has three primary goals: to punish and deter criminal activity by depriving criminals of property used or acquired through illegal activities; to enhance cooperation among federal, state, and local law enforcement; and to produce revenues to enhance forfeitures and strengthen law enforcement.

The Department of Justice Equitable Sharing Program is designed to enhance cooperation among federal, state, and local law enforcement through the sharing of proceeds resulting from federal forfeiture. State and local law enforcement agencies receive equitable sharing revenues by participating with federal law enforcement in joint investigations that lead to the forfeiture of property. The amount that is shared with state and local law enforcement is usually based on each agency's level of participation in the case.

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Fashion Show of Uniforms—

(Continued from page 3)

like this afternoon so you can't be duped by somebody out there trying to take advantage of our seniors."

"There's a big message here – it's very simple, but it's very important," said Trumbull Police Officer Joe Velky. "When the doorbell rings or someone knocks on your front door, stop and take a look out the front door or the window and make sure the person on the other side of the door is either someone you know or someone you're expecting. If they're not, and you get a funny feeling in your stomach that something's wrong, call 911. You're never bothering us (the police department); that's what we're here for. We're here to make you feel safe in and out of your homes."

Officer Velky, with the Trumbull Police Department for 20 years, said that some in the elderly community may feel more vulnerable than most people. "We educate and empower seniors to trust their instincts," he said. "If something doesn't feel right, call the police. Don't ever feel like you're wasting the police officer's time."

The model for United Illuminating, Azzie Dundy, was the first on the catwalk. "You ask to see my ID," said Dundy. "If I tell you I don't have my ID, don't let me in. If you can't look down the street and see my vehicle either way, don't let me in. You then get on your phone, dial 1-800-722-5584,

and stay on the line until you get a UI person. They should be able to look in the computer and see why Azzie is at your house. Because for me to be at your house, there has to be an order."

UPS model Steve Foster said, "Obviously, we wear brown. Typically when we show up at your house, we have a computer in our hand, we have ID, and we drive a big, brown truck. We wear brown socks with a UPS logo on them. We wear brown or black shoes, never white sneakers. So if someone shows up with white sneakers, it's not UPS."

Trumbull Police Officer Scott Duva appeared on stage with fellow Officer Bob Schwartz, who rode a police motorcycle into the mall. "The Trumbull Police Department has several different uniforms. I'm an officer, and I'm usually the one who's going to respond to your house if you call 911 or have a problem," said Duva. "We wear the dark grey pants with gold stripes, the gray shirt, and we'll always have our badge on our shirt or jacket depending on what season it is. The motorcycle officers wear the high leather boots and the gray pants with gold stripes. They have a darker shirt and also wear their badges. They will have on a gold police helmet."

Two elderly women in the audience (both of whom wished to remain anonymous, as they live alone) said the fashion show was enlightening. "It's a

lesson that you can't be kind to people who come to your door even though you want to help them," said one. The second one added, "I don't open my door to anyone."

In addition to the fashion show, senior citizens were given "goodie bags" containing safety information on a wide range of subjects, ranging from sweepstakes swindles to identity theft. For example, United Illuminating distributed a pamphlet entitled "Personal Safety: A Guide for Seniors." The bag also included a sign warning "STOP" for seniors to hang on their front door-knob.

Angela DeLeon thanked the many people involved in coordinating the

show. Beginning in January, for example, Officers Velky and Duva worked many hours to ensure that this community service project would reach out to senior citizens. First Selectman Baldwin also thanked Officers Velky and Duva and Jennifer Gillis from the Trumbull Senior Center. "Without the cooperation of People's Bank and the Trumbull shopping mall, this program would not be as successful as it is," Baldwin added.

Jodi Latina, reporter for WTNH NewsChannel 8, served as emcee, and Alex Wong, the regional assistant marketing director for the shopping mall, welcomed the senior citizens.

(l.taylor@thejusticejournal.com)

Tips for Answering Your Door

Courtesy: Trumbull TRIAD Safety Guide

- Do not open your door unless you know the person.
- If they seem dangerous, call 911 immediately!
- If possible, carry a portable phone to the door.
- Have a peephole installed.
- Also, place a "stop" sticker on the inside of the door as a reminder not to open the door to strangers.
- Use a chain lock. A chain lock will allow you to see who is there without opening up the door completely.
- Ask the sales/serviceperson to slip credentials under the door.
- Call the company to verify the person's identity.
- Refuse to deal with anyone who will not comply.
- Do not open your door to strangers asking for help.
- Ask for the telephone number and make the call for them.

AAA CT Motor Club Factoids

CT AAA and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)



- **NATIONWIDE ALMOST HALF** of passenger vehicle occupant fatalities occur during nighttime. This coupled with the fact that approximately 25% of travel occurs during the hours of darkness, the fatality rate per vehicle mile of travel is about 3 times higher at night than during the day.
- **ACCORDING TO THE** National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, YES, pregnant women should use seatbelts and keep airbags on.
- **EIGHTEEN STATES** have laws requiring seat belts be used in front and rear seats. Connecticut and New York are not included.
- **MORE THAN 49,000 BICYCLISTS** have died in traffic crashes in the United States since 1932, when these estimates were first recorded.
- **CONNECTICUT HAS THE 8TH** highest gasoline prices in the United States.
- **BASED ON DATA** compiled since June 2002, analyses show that 86% of child safety seats are either installed or used incorrectly.



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VERSUS



Kevin D. Lawlor, Esq.
State's Attorney, Judicial District of Ansonia-Milford



Michael T. Meehan, Esq.
Attorney

Should All People Arrested Be Required to Give DNA Samples?

DNA evidence is one of the most important tools used by law enforcement to solve serious crimes in our communities. Over the past 20 years, the capabilities of law enforcement to collect, analyze, and organize this evidence has grown exponentially. Today's technology allows for even miniscule amounts of DNA to be analyzed effectively and provide accurate results.

DNA's ability to positively determine the unique genetic signature of a perpetrator allows our system of justice a level of certainty as to the guilt of an accused that is not easily matched by other forms of evidence such as eyewitness testimony. No less important is the role postconviction testing has had in confirming the innocence of the wrongfully accused and convicted. As seen recently here in Connecticut and across the country, many innocent individuals would still be in prison if not

for this type of testing.

It is because this type of evidence is so powerful and persuasive that it should be mandated at the time of arrest. For over

"Taking DNA samples from arrestees... will revolutionize the way crime is fought and dangerous criminals are identified."
-Kevin D. Lawlor, Esq.

100 years, fingerprints, palm prints, and mug shots have been taken at arrest to identify suspects. These traditional identification tools have assisted law enforcement in solving future crimes by identifying criminals. DNA is the 21st-century fingerprint.

DNA is useful only if there is a known sample which can be matched to the unknown sample collected at the scene.

Therefore, it is only as good as the database through which it is run in order to obtain a match. The larger the database, the more likely a match can be found and

a suspect can be apprehended. Over the past decade, postconviction testing of convicted felons and sex offenders has become commonplace. As those samples have been entered into Connecticut's database, more unsolved crimes have been solved. Over 1,700 unsolved crimes were solved in Virginia between 2001 and 2003 through hits on that state's "all felons" database.

In Connecticut, Edward Grant was convicted in 2002 for one of New Haven's most brutal and infamous crimes, the murder of Penny Serra in 1973. Grant was convicted because of the tireless work of numerous law enforcement officials and the expert prosecution of the case by the New Haven State's Attorney's Office. The key piece of evidence against Grant was a match of his DNA to the killer's DNA discovered on a tissue box found in the victim's car. Police obtained the match after Grant's DNA was entered into the databank when he was convicted of a domestic violence offense decades after the murder.

Keith Harrington and his wife Patti were murdered 27 years ago in California during a robbery of their home. No one was ever caught or prosecuted for their deaths. DNA collected at that scene has been linked to nine other murders and 40 rapes dating back to 1976. The victims of these crimes and their families deserve no less than the justice dispensed in Edward Grant's trial by the wonder of technology and advances in DNA testing.

A database of the DNA of arrested individuals will create a sufficiently large base so that many crimes which currently go unsolved can be quickly and effectively traced to a specific individual, and an arrest can be made. Of equal importance, such a DNA database can quickly clear a suspect who otherwise may endure lengthy scrutiny and even possible arrest by the police. Some in our society have raised concerns that this type of testing will invade our privacy rights. They believe it casts too wide a net. There are also fears

that this type of unique genetic information about an individual could be abused in the future. In all areas of law enforcement, a balance must be struck between our privacy and our need to be protected from those who will do us harm.

Our proper concern for privacy should not prevent the full use of this important tool. Safeguards could be added to remove from the database the DNA of first-time offenders whose charges are dismissed, just as we do now with fingerprints. It could be limited to only felony arrests. The database should be strictly controlled and used only for criminal identification purposes. Knowing one's DNA is in the database may actually provide an important deterrent effect to committing future crimes.

Taking DNA samples from arrestees will allow DNA to be used to its fullest potential. It will revolutionize the way violent crime is fought and dangerous criminals are identified. Law enforcement will not just solve crimes but also prevent them by identifying, successfully prosecuting, and removing violent predators from the communities that we as prosecutors are sworn to protect.

Kevin D. Lawlor is the state's attorney for the Judicial District of Ansonia-Milford. He resides in Hamden with his wife and two young children. Kevin is a 1990 graduate of the University of Connecticut and a 1994 graduate of Quinnipiac University School of Law. He is an adjunct professor in the legal studies department at Quinnipiac University. He also serves as an MPTC certified instructor for the West Haven Police Department and both the Milford and State Police Academies. Attorney Lawlor is the 2006 recipient of the Connecticut Children's Alliance Certificate of Appreciation for his commitment to advocate through prosecution for the victims of child sexual abuse and the recipient of the 2006 Bridgeport N.A.A.C.P. Lifetime Achievement Award.

Mandatory collection of DNA samples on the conviction for certain felonies already exists in most states and the federal justice system. Many states are now seeking the collection of DNA samples at the time of an arrest. Proponents argue that the collection procedures are noninvasive and amount to no more than a high-tech fingerprint. Many states that permit sample collection on arrest require the destruction of the sample if there is no conviction.

In 2004, a California man whose brother was murdered by an unknown serial killer invested over \$1.3 million to get Proposition 69 on the ballot. This called for collection of DNA samples from all felons, and from adults and juveniles convicted of any felony offense or the attempt to commit such an offense, and from adults arrested for or charged with felony sex offenses, murder, or voluntary manslaughter (or the attempt to commit such offenses). The data would be submitted to the state's DNA database.

California Proposition 69 passed by an almost 2-1 margin. At that time, California's DNA database already had over 220,000 samples and averaged one "hit" a day. Beginning in 2009, samples will be collected as required by law, and law enforcement laboratories will be permitted to perform analyses for the state database and to maintain local databases.

Procedures for confidentiality and removing samples from databases are specified in the law.

The Fifth Amendment to the Constitution guarantees freedom from self-incrimination. Courts have consistently ruled that it applies to statements and spoken testimony. Collection

of DNA, like collection of fingerprints and breathalyzer samples, is referred to as "nontestimonial evidence," meaning simply that the

"Some maintain that police have begun to rely on DNA racial markers. Bioethicists are concerned this will lead to racial or ethnic profiling."
-Michael Meehan, Esq.

accused is not required to speak in order for the sample to be obtained.

Following an arrest, courts have the authority to require a defendant to submit to DNA testing, as well as the collection of handwriting and voice exemplars, to aid prosecution. Those procedures require permission of a judge after some showing of necessity by a prosecutor.

The next step in this progression is the so-called "DNA dragnets" by police seeking the "voluntary" collection of DNA material from certain targeted groups. Samples are requested from a large group, sometimes numbering in the thousands. The samples collected are analyzed and compared to biological evidence collected at a crime scene. Recently, the rape and murder of a Cape Cod socialite, Christa Worthington, was solved by a DNA dragnet. Lawyers for Christopher McCowen, convicted in Worthington's rape and murder, are challenging the constitutionality of such dragnets, in his appeal.

Privacy advocates maintain that DNA dragnets in those states that permit the collection of samples have not been effective. In Baton Rouge, Louisiana, police obtained "voluntary" samples from over 1,000 people but produced no viable suspects. A lawsuit ensued accusing the police of violating the Fourth Amendment's warrant requirement and seeking the destruction of the samples.

In Omaha, Nebraska, a similar dragnet was employed in an attempt to find a serial rapist. Thirty African-Americans were asked to give DNA samples. Those who refused were forced to submit under search warrants. California, Michigan, Florida, and Virginia have also employed DNA dragnets.

Opponents claim that DNA laboratories can and do make mistakes.

The greater number of samples, the greater the possibility a mistake can be made. Some maintain that police have begun to rely on DNA racial

markers. Bioethicists are concerned that this will lead to racial or ethnic profiling. Privacy advocates complain that this is another example of "Big Brother" cataloguing us. Civil libertarians fear we are marching toward a techno world of George Orwell's 1984.

Incidentally, in some jurisdictions, parents concerned about possible

abduction of their children (not uncommon after contentious custody fights) can now have a child's fingerprints and DNA sample collected and preserved.

Attorney Michael T. Meehan is a partner in the Bridgeport law firm of Meehan, Meehan & Gavin, LLP, representing the third generation in one of Connecticut's premier civil and criminal trial firms. Michael is a fellow of the Litigation Counsel of America. He resides with his wife and three children in Fairfield and is active in the community, donating his time coaching youth sports. Michael is a member of the Connecticut Bar Association, the Greater Bridgeport Bar Association, the Connecticut Trial Lawyers Association, and the Connecticut Criminal Defense Lawyers Association.



Connecticut Police Chiefs Association Domestic Violence Bill Passes Both Houses

The House and Senate have approved a bill which will give police added tools to protect victims of domestic violence. Under current law, a victim can get a protective order at the first court date, but remains vulnerable when an arrest occurs at night or over a weekend and the offender is released on bond. Substitute House Bill 7313, AN ACT CONCERNING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, will fill that gap in protection.

The bill allows police to set non-financial release conditions that require an arrestee to:

1. avoid all contact with the alleged victim;
2. comply with any restrictions on travel, associations, or living accommodations that directly relate to the victim's protection; or
3. refrain from using or possessing a dangerous weapon, intoxicant, or controlled substance.

It makes family violence arrestees guilty of a crime if they intentionally violate a non-financial condition of release set by a police officer. (The bill also absolves police officers of civil liability for personal or property injuries resulting from the release conditions.)

This bill also establishes three new crimes of strangulation. With strangulation, a few seconds of pressure can make the difference between a murder and an assault with few visible marks. Prosecutors have argued that non-fatal strangulations are typically "under-charged." This section treats these cases more seriously than current assault language allows.

The bill lets law enforcement officers seize any electronic defense weapon that is in plain view or possessed by the arrestee at a family violence crime site. (They can already seize guns.) As with firearms, the bill requires the officers to return the weapons within seven days to their lawful owners if they are eligible to possess them and a court has not ordered otherwise.

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Law Enforcement Profile

By CINDY SIMONEAU
Correspondent

Stratford Police Chief Seeks Community Involvement in Problem Solving



For new Stratford Police Chief John J. Buturla, 47, leading the 100-member force is more than a milestone in his storied law enforcement career—it is a homecoming.

Buturla was raised in Stratford, where his father, Detective Capt. Joseph Buturla, served in the Police Department for 39 years. It is also where Chief Buturla met his high school sweetheart and future wife, Catherine, at Bunnell High School. Although he eventually moved to Roxbury, he and Catherine have been considering making the move back to their hometown.

Buturla took over the Stratford Department on March 29 after long-time Chief Michael Imbro accepted a buyout package. Mayor James Miron said Buturla was selected after a nationwide search was conducted. The chief is the brother of Town Attorney Richard Buturla.

"Coming to Stratford was an easy decision. I grew up here, and the majority of my family still lives in Stratford," said Buturla, in an interview



Stratford Police Chief John J. Buturla

(Photo by Cindy Simoneau)

in his Longbrook Avenue office. "This is an opportunity to take all the experiences I have and to use them for the benefit of the Stratford Police Depart-

ment and the community."

Handling an average of 32,000 calls for service a year, Buturla said, leaves little time for more proactive police work. Among his immediate goals are to improve the way the department works with the community; to increase traffic division staff; and to improve training at various levels for officers. "It's a philosophy on how we should do business day to day. I feel it's very important for us to have that relationship with the community, so that we work with the community to solve problems," said Buturla.

The chief said there are a variety of different programs in place and three full-time officers serving as a community resource, but because of staffing shortages, they are not dedicated exclusively to this effort. "We have a very diverse community, and the challenges in one area of town may not be the same challenges in another. What's most important is improving communication, and I'd like to see us work with each area to improve that communication with the department."

On the topic of young people, Buturla is a proponent of maintaining resource officers at each of the two high schools and splitting the time of another between the middle schools. "It is critically important we have a presence in our schools. The nature of safety has changed since the Columbine and Virginia Tech shootings. Children need a safe environment to learn in," said Buturla. "The schools' resource officers have been a tremendous success. They make a connection to young people and are looked at as someone young people can come to

and, hopefully, seek out when they need help."

Because of Stratford's 14 miles of shoreline, he said he would also like to improve on the department's dealing with seasonal issues, including marine patrols.

Buturla's law enforcement career began in April 1979 when he was named an officer in the Trumbull Police Department. After 3 1/2 years there, he joined the Connecticut State Police, where he remained until retirement. He was promoted to the rank of major and had various assignments including serving as the commanding officer of major crime, professional standards, labor relations, and patrol. He was chief of staff for the State Police. In October 2001, following the terrorist attacks of September 11, Buturla was named deputy director of Homeland Security for the State of Connecticut. In February 2004, he moved up to the post of director.

In January 2005, Buturla moved on to become director of scientific services for the Connecticut Department of Public Safety. He retired from state service in March of that year and was appointed chief administrative officer for the City of New Haven, where he oversaw seven department heads and 1,000 employees.

Buturla has a bachelor of science degree in criminal justice from Sacred Heart University in Fairfield and a master of science degree in forensic science from the University of New Haven. He is also a graduate of the FBI National Academy program at Quantico, Virginia.

Buturla serves on national law enforcement committees including the National Emergency Management Association, Homeland Security Consortium, and State, Local, Tribal Territorial Government Coordinating Council for the Department of Homeland Security. He is also vice chairman of the board of directors of the Connecticut Special Olympics.

On national preparedness since September 11, Buturla said the nation is much better prepared today. He said the cooperative efforts forged include the public and private sectors working together.

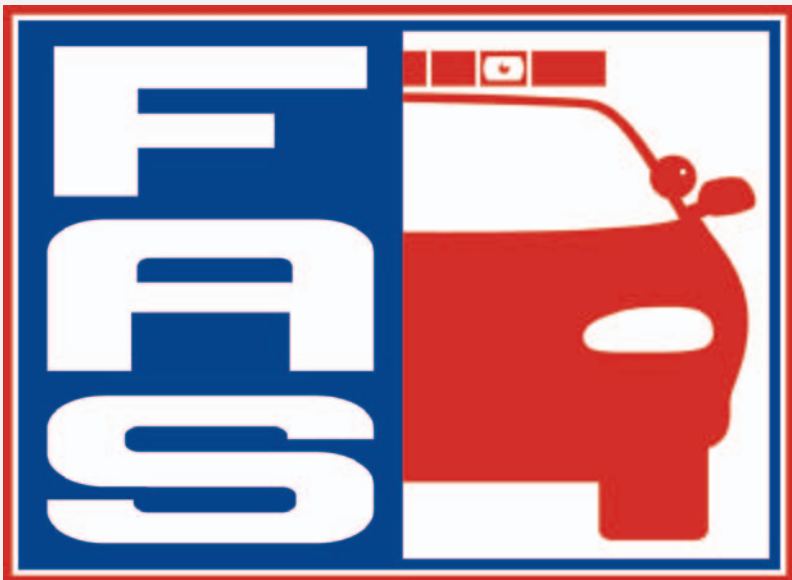
He hopes his experience dealing with politicians as well as law enforcement officials will serve him well as he seeks funding from Stratford for additional police officers and programs.

Buturla is hoping for a long tenure as chief. "I want to help the people in my hometown. I'm exactly where I want to be. Now that I'm back I realize how beautiful this town is, and how it is my responsibility to see it stays that way."

(c.simoneau@thejusticejournal.com)

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Danbury Uses Mailing List to Make City Safer for Children

By **CHANDRA NILES FOLSOM**
Correspondent

When Katonah, NY, resident Lisa Frese, a teacher at Danbury High School, received a letter at home last November with the name of a registered sex offender living in her district, she knew it was a concept she could implement in her school. Frese had been teaching health and running the Peer Leadership Program for 12 years at Danbury High.

"So, I recruited the entire Peer Leadership Program," said Frese, the mother of three small children. "We have all been working together, as this is such an enormous project." Her plan called for a packet to be mailed to 6,400 families in a district of 10,000 students, with information, pictures, and addresses about Danbury's registered sex offenders.

"It's a complete list of the 45 current convicted sex offenders in the city...It is necessary to raise the awareness level of parents, and many do not have Internet access or know how to use it. Some of them don't speak English," she explained. The mailing also included copies of letters for parents to send to state legislators demanding full funding for Connecticut's Sex Offender Registry.

"Research shows that sex offenders require a higher degree of supervision because they are more likely to be repeat offenders," said Frese. "Sex offenders live among us. This mailing is not to harass them—but it's our job to supervise and keep safe all the kids in the community."

Frese added that the mailing was not meant to create panic but rather to raise the awareness level of adults and give parents an opportunity to talk to their kids about sex predators.

In order to create a unified effort,

Lisa and the 40 seniors in her program wanted to enlist the support of law enforcement and local government. "Lisa called and said she was thinking about doing a mailing and asked what I thought about it," said Danbury Mayor Mark Boughton, currently serving his third term in office. "I told her I thought it was a great idea. We tried to get the Board of Education involved. At first they said, 'Yes,' but afterward they raised some constitutional concerns and passed on the idea."

Although he supported the project, Superintendent of Schools Salvatore Pascarella said he was advised by attorneys to not take part because pictures and addresses were included in the packet.

Mayor Boughton said, "Then, Police Chief Alan Baker was made aware of what we were doing, and as a result we were able to have the state update the list for us, because some of the people on it had moved." This was accomplished in conjunction with Megan's Law legislation and Danbury's new sex offender ordinance. It was prompted by the mayor and creates "child safety zones," prohibiting registered sex offenders from entering or loitering in city parks and recreational areas.

In addition, the mayor wrote a letter to parents about the new city ordinance and urged parents to call police if they see any of the sex offenders in parks or recreational facilities.

Getting the word out took funding which had not been allocated for in the school budget, so the mayor put some tax dollars to use. "We drafted the letter from my desk on the City's official stationery," said Mayor Boughton, whose office footed the bill for postage. "I had the kids put the information together and stuff the envelopes, and then we used our staff

to post the letters."

Once the mailings were sent out in April, the story made national headlines. It was not the mailings themselves as much as the cooperation between students, teachers, law enforcement, and government.

"My involvement in this project stems from my concern for the children of Danbury," said Max Delahanty, a senior with the Peer Leadership Program. "Parents are unaware of the child predators who live in their neighborhoods. When parents are made aware of the location of child predators, the children will become safer."

The students worked with Chief Baker and the Youth Bureau detectives to confirm that the list and addresses obtained from the State Police website were correct.

"The opportunity for students to feel they have really made a difference has been tremendous," said Frese. "The response has been overwhelmingly positive, and we have not received any negative feedback that I am aware of."

The mayor is happy with the outcome as well. "We clearly are pleased with the response we got, and people were very positive about it...It's not easy for some people to get access to the list. They either don't have time or

in some cases the primary caregivers are grandparents who don't have access to the Internet."

In the next school year, seniors in Danbury High School's Peer Leadership Program will have the opportunity to work with Frese as she plans to do it all over again. "We are going to continue to push this issue with legislators to make all school systems required to send the notification to all families in the district when a sex offender moves into the district...We see the school system as a natural link between the information from the police department and the children in the community."

In June 2005, the Connecticut Department of Information Technology joined with the U.S. Department of Justice to link the Connecticut Sex Offender Registry into the national database. This was followed by the U.S. Attorney General's office inviting all states and territories to link their public sex offender registries to the site at no cost. The website opened with 21 states. Connecticut was the 48th state to join the registry. For more information, contact the Department of Public Safety Sex Offender Registry at: www.sor.state.ct.us.

(c.nilesfolsom@thejusticejournal.com)

Bloopers & Blunders

by Jim Sukach - www.quicksolvemysteries.com



STICKSHIFT STICKUP

It seemed like a good plan. The bank robber parked his car in a nearby neighborhood and walked to the bank. His plan was to steal the car of a bank employee, drive the stolen car into the neighborhood, and quickly change cars for a clean getaway.

But there was one possibility he did not plan for. What if the stolen car turned out to be a stickshift? He did not know how to drive a car without an automatic transmission. As you have guessed by now, that is exactly what happened!

He robbed the bank and demanded the car keys from the teller. Then he ran out to the parking lot with the money. When he discovered the car had a standard shift, he tried to get back into the bank to get someone else's keys!

The bank employees, however, had been smart enough to lock the doors and call the police. He was arrested standing there at the door of the bank!

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Project Safe Childhood Seeks to Protect Youngsters from Online Crimes

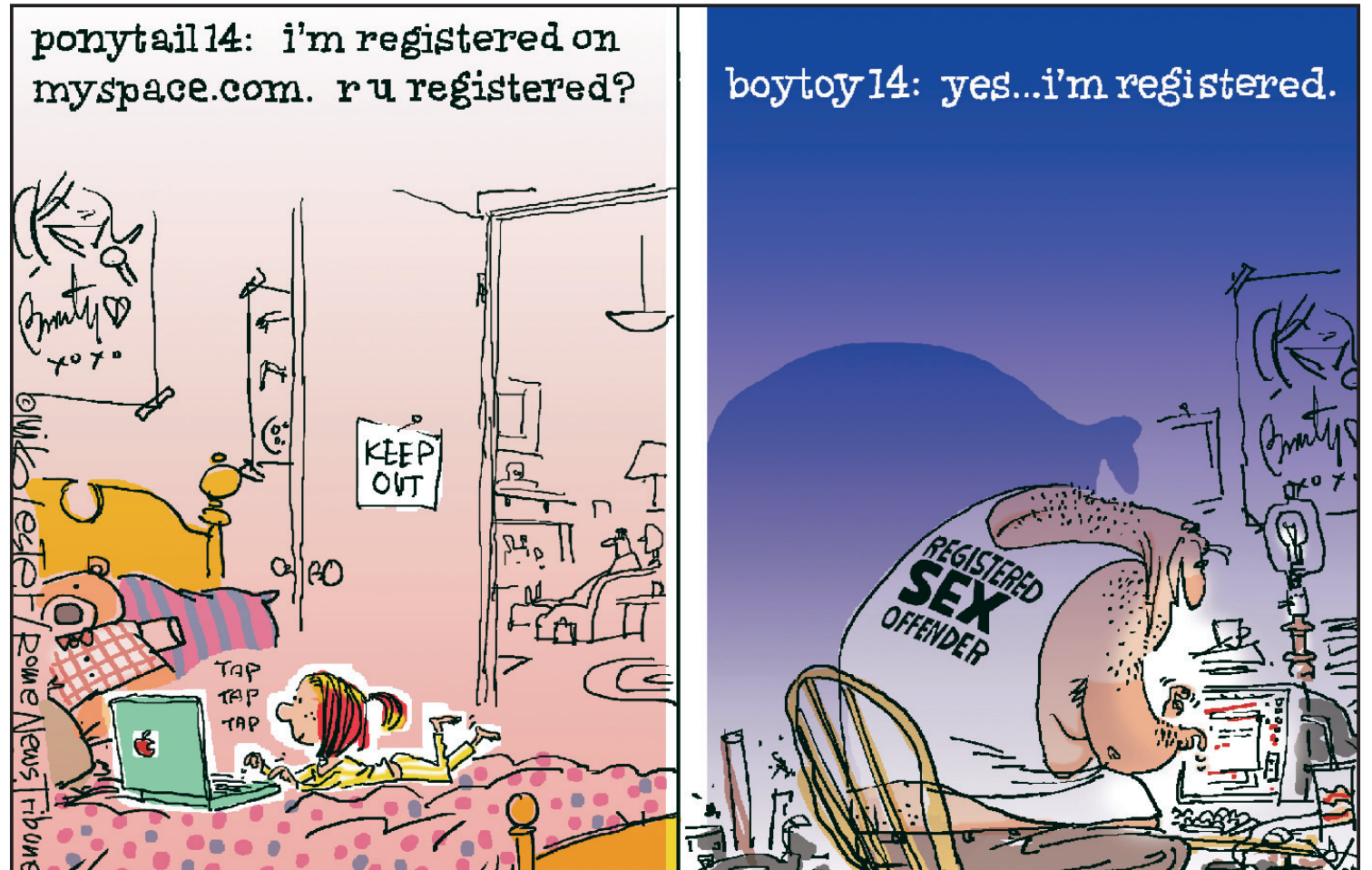
By PAMELA FALCIGNO
Correspondent

Law enforcement agents seized millions of images of child pornography on compact disc from the home of retired Westport schoolteacher Paul Held on August 2, 2005. Held, 68, waived indictment and pleaded guilty to one count of receipt of child pornography. He is now scheduled for sentencing, facing a maximum of 20 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000.

U.S. Attorney Kevin O'Connor said the find, including six computers, three external hard drives, 1,000 compact discs with up to 4,000 images on each, videotapes with child pornography and more, made Held "one of the most prolific collectors of pornography that we've seen here in Connecticut." O'Connor added, "Federal laws that target the child pornography trade exist to eliminate the victimization of children all over the world, as those who possess child pornography help to create the market for this insidious practice."

Held's arrest and conviction was part of Project Safe Childhood (PSC), a nationwide initiative by the Department of Justice to devote more resources to local, state, and federal law enforcement in protecting children from online predators. PSC also partners with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) and the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) to raise national awareness about the threat of online sexual predators and provide tools and information to parents and youngsters seeking to report possible violations.

Tom Carson, spokesperson for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Connecticut, says the initiative coordinates law enforcement efforts against what he calls "an overwhelming problem" relative to online sexual predators. Carson says these people are found in all age groups, locations, and occupations, including the religious and educational sectors. "It's phenomenal to see



the cross section of America we get. We can try to profile as best we can, 18-55 white males, but certainly we run the gamut on different types of subjects...

illegal in some foreign countries. People can purchase it right online from overseas. Until we get tipped off somehow, or an undercover investigator

this particular web, particularly with child pornography in the last few years. They come from all socioeconomic levels. They're all education levels. They come from different genders. They come from different races," although Collins says, "generally, offenders are male and white....Of the cases that we know where the children have been identified, it is predominantly a family member or a parent or a family friend or somebody who has legitimate access to that child."

The NCMEC reports, "A greater number of child molesters are now using computer technology to organize and maintain their collections of these illegal images. In addition they are also using the Internet to increase the size of these collections. Personally manufactured illegal images of children are especially valuable on the Internet, which provide the molester with a respected status among fellow exploiters and traders of this material. Once this status is achieved, molesters will often begin to trade images of their own sexual exploits with children among themselves."

In connection with the Held case, O'Connor commended the investigative efforts of the agents and officers of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Vermont Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force based in Burlington, VT. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney James K. Filan.

Information regarding alleged child pornography can be called in to the National Cyber Tip Line at 1-800-843-5678. Tips are forwarded to federal and local law agencies.

(p.falcigno@thejusticejournal.com)

"Our nation has made this commitment: Anyone who targets a child for harm will be a primary target of law enforcement. That's our commitment. Anyone who takes the life or innocence of a child will be punished to the full extent of the law." - President George W. Bush, October 23, 2002

There is nothing that sticks out as a particular type of individual."

People obtain child pornography, says Carson, through file sharing within the U.S. or through purchases from another country online. "It's not even

picks it up, it is difficult to act."

"If you prosecute the people who possess it (child pornography)," says FBI Supervisory Special Agent Tim Egan, "hopefully you will dry up the market for the trade of these images. It is a huge effort, but this Internet safety guide is mostly about educating children to how they can be more cautious with their Internet activity, what they should look for, and how a parent should monitor their behavior."

According to Michelle Collins, who has tracked child exploitation for nine years and is director of the Exploited Children Unit for the NCMEC, the Center's studies show that 35 percent of child pornography is produced by a sexually abusive parent who then posts the pictures online. About 27 percent of the time, the abuser is a neighbor or family friend. About 6 percent of the children identified in pornographic images by the Center are infants and 58 percent are prepubescent.

In an interview with CNN, Collins said, "I can't summarize the motivations of the individuals who fall into

Bloopers & Blunders

by Jim Sukach - www.quicksolvemysteries.com



CASH A CHECK?

In Bangor, Maine, a grocery store manager was called over to the cash register to okay a customer's check. The cashier had not looked at the customer's identification because the manager was the one who had to okay all the checks. The manager looked at the name on the driver's license that was offered as identification. Then he looked at the customer. There was some resemblance, but he knew something was wrong.

"Is this your picture?" he asked the customer.

"Yes, of course," she replied.

"Well," said the manager, "then you're my ex-wife!"

Apparently the driver's license was stolen. The manager's ex-wife had reported her purse stolen earlier that day. The customer was arrested for possession of stolen property!

MISSING

FAMILY ABDUCTION

ANDREA REYES

AGE PROGRESSED



DOB: Nov 9, 1997 **Missing:** Oct 5, 1999

Age Now: 9 **Sex:** Female **Race:** White/Hisp

Hair: Black **Eyes:** Brown **Height:** 3'0" (163 cm) **Weight:** 30lbs (14kg)

Missing From: New Haven, CT

Andrea's photo is shown age-progressed to 7 years. She was abducted by her non-custodial mother, Rosa Tenorio. Andrea has a birthmark in the middle of her forehead. She also has a lazy right eye and her right knee turns inward. The abductor may be using the alias first names Rosita or Guadalupe and the alias last name Minor.



ANYONE HAVING INFORMATION SHOULD CONTACT:

National Center for Missing & Exploited Children

1-800-843-5678 (1-800-THE-LOST)

Bridgeport Police Department 1-203-576-7671

MISSING

ENDANGERED MISSING

DANIELLE CRAMER



DOB: Aug 10, 1991 **Missing:** Jun 14, 2006

Age Now: 15 **Sex:** Female **Race:** White

Hair: Brown **Eyes:** Brown **Height:** 5'0" (152 cm) **Weight:** 100 lbs (45 kg)

Missing From: Bloomfield, CT

Danielle was last seen on June 14, 2006. She may travel out of state. Danielle has a scar on her left ear. She has a birthmark on her back. Danielle's ears are pierced.



ANYONE HAVING INFORMATION SHOULD CONTACT:

National Center for Missing & Exploited Children

1-800-843-5678 (1-800-THE-LOST)

Bloomfield Police Department (Connecticut) 1-860-242-5501

Success Stories

CyberTipline® Missing Children Recovered Safely

E-mail Correspondence Put Oregon Teenage Girl at Risk

On April 20, 2006, a concerned father in Medford, Oregon reported to the CyberTipline that his 13-year-old daughter had developed an E-mail relationship with a 32-year-old adult male.

An analyst with NCMEC's Exploited Child Unit (ECU) contacted the child's family and requested copies of the E-mail correspondence. These E-mails revealed graphic comments by the suspect regarding the child's body and suggestions of sexual activity between the two. The suspect also told the child that these conversations were to be their "little secret."

The next morning, the child's parents contacted NCMEC again after learning that the suspect asked the child to meet him, alone, at a local mall. Two photos of the reported suspect were provided to assist law enforcement, and all of this informa-

tion was forwarded to the OJJDP-funded Oregon Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force.

That afternoon, investigators waited for the suspect at the mall. During this time, they photographed him as he waited for the child to arrive. When the child did not show, a second meeting was arranged at a local park. When the suspect arrived at the park, he was taken into custody without incident. Notably, he was found with inappropriate gifts for the child.

The suspect has been charged with attempted sodomy in the second degree and attempted sexual abuse in the first degree.

Trail of Internet Activity Aids Return of 17-Year-Old

On March 7, 2007, a concerned father in Washington State called NCMEC's hotline to report his 17-year-old daughter missing. The father informed NCMEC that he believed she had run away to live with an adult

male she met on the Internet. The child had been reported to law enforcement and entered into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) as a Missing Person Juvenile.

NCMEC gathered as much information as possible from the father and assigned the case to a case manager in its Missing Children's Division. The Exploited Child Unit (ECU) was also notified because the report indicated the child was missing due to possible online enticement for sexual acts.

Initially, NCMEC had very little information on the reported companion--that he resided in the Orlando, Florida area, was in his late twenties, and was possibly an attorney. An ECU analyst immediately conducted online searches to gather additional information on the child and companion. The analyst found a profile the child had created on a popular social networking website. On it, the child gave her location as "Florida now," confirming her father's suspicions. In addition, the child had over 1,000 "friends" listed.

Upon closer examination of this list, the analyst found a profile of an adult male appearing to match the companion's description. With this profile, the analyst was able to find a possible first name, place of employment, and location in Florida. She also noted that the child had posted "so excited! 3 days!" as a comment on his page exactly three days before she left home.

With a few additional online public searches, NCMEC's ECU analyst was able to find a last name and home address for the suspected companion. This information was quickly forwarded to the NCMEC case manager, who reached out to the Apopka Police Department in Apopka, Florida.

By the end of the day, the Apopka Police Department was able to locate the girl at the companion's residence. She was found to be safe and in good health, much to her family's relief. The family is looking into counseling options with the assistance of NCMEC's Family Advocacy Division.



What If...?

By CAPT. GARY MACNAMARA
Fairfield Police Department
Special to The Justice Journal



What If Terrorism Was About to Strike Near You?

Albert Einstein said, "The world is a dangerous place to live, not because of the people who are evil, but because of the people who don't do anything about it." In light of the threat of terrorism we live under today, we can see that evil people *do* make our world a dangerous place to live.

What if you could do something about it—would you? If, while doing what you do every day, you discovered information about something that you felt was bad, would you know where to go or who to tell? Would it make a difference? It might. The store clerk working in the Circuit City in Mount Laurel, NJ, knows this all too well.

In January 2006, the clerk was approached by two men who asked him to transfer copies of a videotape onto a DVD. This was not an unusual or alarming request, considering that was one of the clerk's duties while working at Circuit City. However, what he saw on the video is what raised his concern. About 10 men were filmed shooting weapons, chanting for a Jihad, wearing military garb, and shouting, "God is great!"

An hour or so after presenting the tape, these men could have had their copies, their own "Jihad training tape," and been on their way—that is, if the clerk had not done something about what he had seen. Realizing it or not,

the clerk became an active partner in protecting our country, by being prepared and aware.

What did that clerk do? What he told authorities led to a 17-month investigation, saving the lives of what some estimates indicate are at least 100 soldiers at the U.S. Army base at Fort Dix, NJ. Those losses, and others who would have been injured, could have occurred during an initial attack. The emotional toll on

Small actions can have big results. By being aware, observant, and willing to report what you see, you can make a difference.

the community and on our country after such a terrorist attack would have been tremendous.

The clerk's information also led to the arrests of six men. Five were charged with conspiring to kill U.S. service members, and another was charged with possession of illegal firearms.

Did the clerk have law enforcement training, or military experience, or special equipment and assistance from others to accomplish what he did? No. Did he set up surveillance, analyze records, interview subjects, and prepare arrest warrants? No. What he did was see something that alarmed him, and he told

someone in a position to check it out.

That clerk understood something we all should understand: *small actions can have big results.* By being aware, observant, and willing to report what you see, you can make a difference. The clerk, who has not been identified, understood what was "normal." Customers come in to stores daily looking for electronic assistance, to buy some equipment, or to transfer video from VHS to

suspiciously, so she referred him to secondary inspection. Ressay panicked and tried to run away. It became apparent why he ran—there were explosives concealed in his vehicle's spare tire well. There were also four timing devices concealed within black boxes. He was involved in a plot to blow up the Los Angeles airport. That plot was part of a larger Algerian/Jordanian terrorist cell plan being devised with cooperation from Al-Qaida. The observations of the agent, and her referral for secondary inspection, prevented an attack on LAX that would have coincided with the new millennium.

In still another example of observing something small that led to something big, Officer Jeffrey Scott Postell, working in May 2003 in Murphy, NC, stopped a man going through the trash behind a grocery store. That man, Eric Rudolph, was eventually sentenced to two consecutive life terms by a federal court for the 1998 bombing of an Alabama abortion clinic and the 1996 Olympics bombing in Atlanta. At the time he was just rummaging through trash, Rudolph was on the FBI's Most Wanted list and was the subject of a five-year manhunt.

Those are just some of the examples of law enforcement officials developing something that appears minor into something much more. The skills involved are not only developed through training, but also through experience of what is "normal" and what is "not normal"—and then trusting feelings to act further. Citizens can develop some of the same skills.

It starts with *knowing* you can make a difference, *paying attention*, and *reporting* what you see. Citizen involvement in the prevention of crimes, and notifying law enforcement, is well documented in such programs as Neighborhood Watch, and more recently the Citizen Corps. You can check in your town to see whether such programs are operating.

Citizens who choose not to join an organized crime prevention group can still make a difference by paying attention while doing daily activities. In the days, weeks, and months after the attacks of September 11, 2001, it was common for all of us to hear from the president and others charged with protecting us that we all should continue our daily activities and not let terrorists think they can ruin our way of life. That is good advice, showing our solidarity and a firm resolve that all of us value our American way of life.

So, while out there doing what you normally do, remember that clerk in New Jersey, carrying out his normal activities and observing something "not normal," and reporting what he had seen. What if he had not done that? Would *you* have thought to do what he did?

Contact Capt. MacNamara at
g.macnamara@thejusticejournal.com



Events & Notices

Amber Alert Kids ID Sessions

Sponsored by the Rotary Clubs of Connecticut. For additional info contact: Danbury Rotary, Bob Vetter @ (203) 748-1105. Saturday, June 16th 10am-2pm Bethel Middle School.

Bicycle Safety Rodeo at Stepping Stones

Presented by Stepping Stones and the Fairfield County SAFEKIDS Coalition Children bring bikes and helmets and learn safe bike riding skills while riding a safety obstacle course. Free helmet fittings and helmet giveaway while supplies last. Admission is free with Museum admission June 28th from 4-7pm. 303 West Avenue Norwalk, CT For info: call (203) 899-0606 or E-mail: info@steppingstonesmuseum.org.

Safe and Sound Class

Dealing with the issues of car and home safety for children from birth to age 5. Thursday June 21st, 2007, 7pm at Greenwich Hospital. To register please call Tender Beginnings at Greenwich Hospital at (203)863-3655.

MADD Power Camp

Join youth leaders from around the state for 4 days of new prevention information, workshops, and fun!! July 31st-August 3, 2007 at Central Connecticut State University. Call the MADD office for registration forms, brochures, or with any questions. Phone (203)234-6521 or E-mail robin.cullen@madd.org.

Red Cross CPR-Adult, Infant & Child

June 19th, 20th & 21st 6-10pm 39 Leroy Ave, Darien \$80. Register online at darieninfo@redcross.org or call (203)363-1041.

DVD. He also understood "not normal." Men shooting automatic weapons and calling for a Jihad is "not normal" in New Jersey, Connecticut, or anywhere else in America.

So who is in a better position to decide "normal" from "not normal" in *your* daily life and community—law enforcement officers, the FBI, CIA, or the military? All such organizations take daily steps to keep us safe through prevention and action, but deciding what is "normal" in *your* life—who is better at it? You are.

Police officers are trained to always be aware and observant. When they witness something out of the ordinary, they have the ability to investigate. If their suspicions continue, they can investigate further to figure out what is going on, and then take appropriate enforcement action if needed. Law enforcement officers know the value of small observations and their potential to lead to something big. There are plenty of examples of police officers' small observations and actions leading to the initiation or resolution of major investigations and arrests.

For example, Oklahoma Highway Patrol Trooper Charlie Hanger stopped a subject on April 19, 1995, for operating a motor vehicle without a license plate. It was, obviously, a small violation for a person to commit. It was certainly not one a person would normally face the death penalty for committing. Yet the person he stopped for such a minor violation did eventually face the death penalty. The person he stopped, Timothy McVeigh, was responsible for an attack earlier that morning on the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, in which 168 people were killed and over 800 injured. It was the deadliest act of terrorism in America until the attacks of September 11, 2001.

In another example, the U.S. Customs agent working on December 14, 1999, at the U.S. border post at Port Angeles in the State of Washington was inspecting cars coming off the ferry from Victoria, Canada. She noticed Ahmed Ressay acting

State Police Introduce New Non-Traditional Cars

One of eleven new 2008 Dodge chargers loaded with eight cylinder Hemi engine for the State Troopers aggressive traffic enforcement division.



The new chargers have wireless laptops for quick database access on suspects, laser trackers to monitor speed and cameras mounted inside the cockpit.

Prison Population—

(Continued from page 1)

That's where support programs have been created, and additional personnel have been hired, to help inmates moving back into those communities. The comprehensive effort has reduced recidivism, one of the major reasons for prison overcrowding.

Connecticut also continues to offer traditional programs to help inmates become successful once released. Initiatives include job training, addiction and mental health services, educational and volunteer programs, and religious services that include a 26-week "life plan" course.

Prior to justice reinvestment, Connecticut's prison population was growing at a rate of 5 percent annually, outpacing all the other states. In the 10 years from 1986 to 1996, the number of inmates in Connecticut jumped from 6,000 to 16,000.

Lawlor, a former prosecutor in the State's Attorney's New Haven office, noted, "That was about the time we opened the last of the new prisons. We built an awful lot of new prisons (12 new prisons were built and 13 renovated) in the late 80s and early 90s to accommodate that increase in population."

The new facilities doubled inmate capacity at a cost of \$10 billion. However, by 1999, the state was out of room again. To temporarily alleviate the situation, then-Governor John Rowland signed a contract with the Virginia Department of Corrections to send inmates there. That, according to Lawlor, "turned into a nightmare," and resulted in the deaths of two Connecticut inmates who had been transferred to Virginia.

According to Lawlor, the lawmakers realized there had to be a better way to

deal with the overcrowding problem, and a bipartisan effort began. "We found out one main reason the prison population shot up so quickly was because a state budget shortfall (in 2000), (had resulted in) an across-the-board layoff of correction and parole employees and a 10 percent cut from a number of not-for-profit, community-based programs that had contracts with the Department of Correction."

Facts at a Glance

Source: Connecticut Department of Correction

Financial:

Budget: \$600,618,379.
Daily Inmate Expenditure: \$83.65

Average Age:

Male: 32.4
Female: 34.4

Offender Population:

Total: 23,221 - Parole: 3,042
Transitional Supervision: 893
Halfway House Beds: 1,038

Meals Served:

19,900,000

Studies have shown that, without resources to help inmates move back into society, they often violate the terms of their paroles and are returned to prison. People whose parole or probation had been revoked at one time occupied 25 percent of Connecticut's prison beds, according to the Pew study. In Connecticut, many of those violators received sentences up to a year, in contrast to terms of three to four months in other states. On average, 70 percent of the prisoners eligible for parole in Connecticut ended up staying in jail nine months beyond their parole eligibility date because of bureaucratic issues.

While across-the-board budget cuts may have looked good on paper, the dwindling services resulted in a growing, costly prison population. Policy makers realized that spending money to keep inmates

from returning to jail would actually save state taxpayers money in the long run, so they added \$13 million to the state budget to lower the incidence of recidivism by funding support programs.

Key programs focusing on released prisoners were established. The Probation Transition Program and the Technical Violations Unit help reduce the number of technical violations that could send a former inmate back to jail. Furthermore, the state hired 96 additional probation

officers. That reduced the staff-to-offender ratio from 160 clients per officer to 100 per officer, making it easier to monitor that population.

Connecticut's strategy apparently is working. Since 2005, the number of people going back to prison for technical parole violations was down by 20 percent. "We are not getting the inmates back as quickly as before. They are doing better longer," said Warden James Dzurenda of the Garner Correctional Institution in Newtown. That facility houses the majority of the state's prisoners with mental health problems.

"I have never been more involved with interagency communication," said Dzurenda. "I am constantly involved with the Department of Mental Health Services, Department of Mental Retarda-

tion, Addiction Services, and the University of Connecticut Health Care. I have to have all these different resources before we release into the community."

When released, a prisoner needs a sponsor with no criminal history. Many of Garner's sponsors are social workers who have worked with the inmates before. Warden Dzurenda considers that beneficial, explaining, "I can release a lot of the inmates on furloughs to a Sober House, and they will watch over them. That's preferable to just letting an inmate out the door with no support system. And, I don't remember any inmates I've gotten back directly from a Sober House," he explained.

The warden's anecdotal assessment is backed up by facts. Inmates released to a Sober House or a halfway house have a recidivism rate of only 24 percent, according to CCSU's study. Those who are released directly into the community with no support services have a recidivism rate nearly double at 47 percent. The overall reconviction rate last year was 39 percent—that's a 7 percent reduction over a similar study conducted five years earlier.

Connecticut's present challenge is how to deal with a growing pretrial population, which was not addressed by the original justice reinvestment initiative. The Pew organization suggests that state policy makers learn from their experience with the initiative, and apply that knowledge to lowering the state's pretrial population.

Pew and CCSU caution Connecticut's policy makers that the state's success in stabilizing its prison population will continue only as long as the current practices are maintained.

(t.caliendo@thejusticejournal.com)



Due Process

RICHARD T. MEEHAN JR.



Dear Attorney Meehan,
How could Paris Hilton file an appeal just to try to avoid the jail sentence she did not want to serve? She was arrested for driving with a suspended license and therefore violating probation. How can that possibly be appealed?

Nancy P.

Dear Nancy,

Paris Hilton was placed on probation for a prior alcohol-related driving offense. Probation is a privilege afforded by a court, allowing an offender to avoid incarceration. The court suspends the execution of the jail term and places the offender on a period of good behavior. In other words, the offender is sentenced to a jail term, and as long as he or she obeys the rules established by the probation department, he or she can avoid actual jail time.

Every state has individual rules for probationers, but central to any probationary term is the requirement not to violate the law. In Connecticut, a violation of the conditions of probation gives rise to another arrest and the actual charge of violating probation. The offender has to post bond again and appear in court, where eventually there is a hearing before a judge, without a jury.

If there is a "guilty" finding after a hearing, then, as in any contested court case, the individual has an opportunity to appeal. Appeals, however, are limited to whether a court has committed

reversible error. Appeals courts defer to the trial judges on factual findings and the exercise of judicial discretion. An appeal challenging either of those issues is nearly impossible to win.

Celebrity status does not provide any greater license to a probationer. Flouting the rules has consequences. Hilton's initial response was to seek an appeal, simply because she apparently would not accept responsibility for her conduct. When an appeal is filed in a criminal case, a court has the authority to allow the offender to remain free on bond while the appeal is heard. Appeal bonds are not required by the Constitution, and most serious criminal offenders are required to commence their sentence while the appeal is pending. There are even instances where the offender has served the complete sentence before the appeal has been decided.

Hilton changed defense lawyers, and her new attorney, who specializes in DUI cases, advised her to forego the appeal and serve the sentence. Legal common sense has prevailed over celebrity temper tantrums.

Dear Attorney Meehan,

I recently had dental work done. The dentist promised me a perfect smile, but my teeth look like horse teeth. I want to sue him but do not want to hire a lawyer. Can I do this on my own?

H.P.

Dear H. P.,

The law requires that medical or dental professionals adhere to standards of care generally accepted by like practitioners within the health field. The deviation from the standards of care can provide a basis to bring a lawsuit. In addition to proving a deviation from accepted standards of care, there must also be proof of a causal connection between that deviation and an appreciable harm suffered by the patient.

Medical or dental malpractice lawsuits are complex. The costs associated with investigating and pursuing a malpractice case can be staggering. In fact, most lawyers do not feel competent to handle these claims, often referring them to attorneys who specialize in this work. In Connecticut, a claim for malpractice cannot be commenced without a thorough evaluation by what the law refers to as a "similar health care provider"—that is, a doctor who generally practices in the same specialty.

A lawyer who brings such a claim must have a report signed by such an expert evaluator that not only sets forth a reasonable basis for the belief that there has been malpractice, but also gives a detailed basis for that belief. An unsigned copy of that report must be attached to the lawsuit papers. The failure to follow this rule will lead to the dismissal of the case. In the event an attorney attempts to com-

mence a malpractice case without the requisite evaluation and report, that lawyer is subject to disciplinary action by the court.

Doctors and their insurance carriers vigorously defend these claims, putting even the most seasoned trial lawyers to the test. If you believe you have been the victim of malpractice, you should consult with an attorney experienced in these cases.

Commentary and answers to your questions about legal issues will be provided by one of Connecticut's premiere trial attorneys, Richard T. Meehan Jr. of Bridgeport's Meehan, Meehan & Gavin (www.meehanlaw.com). Meehan is a nationally certified criminal trial specialist, and a charter fellow of the Litigation Counsel of America, Trial Lawyer Honorary Society, as well as a former adjunct law professor. He has handled some of Connecticut's highest-profile criminal and civil cases. He can be seen as a law commentator on local and national TV, including Court TV's The Best Defense with Jami Floyd, and Courtside with Ashleigh Banfield and Jack Ford. Rich is a frequent contributor to the blog, Cool Justice (www.cooljustice.blogspot.org). He writes a weekly column on legal issues for the Norwich Bulletin.

E-mail your questions to:
Dueprocess@thejusticejournal.com

Detective Training—

(Continued from page 5)

follow-up work. "An officer is the initial responder to a complaint," Peterson said. "They take the initial complaint and talk to the victim and perhaps some witnesses. They write the initial report, and if there's follow-up work to be done, that report gets transferred to the detective bureau. The job of the bureau is to see if they can solve the crime and get an arrest warrant. The detective might have to interview more witnesses, reinterview the victim, take written statements, get a search warrant, collect evidence and package it correctly, and request a lab to do an examination."

"When uniformed officers go home after their eight-hour shift, their work is done. They don't have any work waiting for them the following shift. In a detective's job, when you go home, you still have cases that can go on for months. I would say that 80 percent of our work is paperwork because of the search warrants, arrest warrants, and reports. I've had homicide reports that are 52 pages long."

Peterson is quick to point out, however, that officers are as vital as the detectives. "Without the officers, detectives couldn't do their own jobs," he said. "The officers are the eyes and ears on the street, and you

need both units to work efficiently and effectively. The detective bureau is not better than the uniform division. A lot of people feel that way, and that's wrong. The uniform officers are just as important as anyone else." Calka added, "The officers really are top-notch. You have people who love working the street and don't want to be a detective."

Becoming a detective does not necessarily mean being paid more money. "Whether or not a detective earns more than an officer depends on where you work," Peterson said. Calka explained, "Detectives (in Westport) get a pay raise of 5 percent, but a young officer who works the evening shift gets an 8 percent shift differential. Thus, if he goes into the detective bureau, he's going to lose 3 percent right off the top, and there's a good chance of not being able to work as much overtime or do as much side work."

"I think it's the curiosity to take the investigation further," Calka said of the desire to become a detective. "I've been a detective for 14 years and loved every minute of it. When you finally corner the guy who broke into the house and stole grandma's jewelry, and the victim is in tears because they've owned that jewelry in

the family for years, that is a good feeling of satisfaction."

"My love for detective work comes from the chance to communicate with people and get more one-on-one contact," Peter-

son said. "When the victim comes to you, you can help them to the very end. It's really nice to start something and be able to finish it."

(l.taylor@thejusticejournal.com)

Fairfield County 2007 Detective School Participants

BRIDGEPORT:

Off. Joseph A. Badolato
Off. John A. Burke
Off. Manuel Cotto
Det. Anthony Davila
Off. David A. Garcia
Off. Martin M. Heanue
Off. Todd J. Hoben
Off. James Kennedy
Off. Kenneth C. McKenna

CT STATE POLICE:

Trp. Michael K. Mudry

DANBURY:

Det. Paul S. Carroccio
Det. Adam B. Marcus

DARIEN:

Sgt. John P. Lawlor

FAIRFIELD:

Off. Gregory M. Gunter
Off. Robert Kalamaras
Off. Christopher Mastronardi

MONROE:

Det. Steve T. Corrone

NEW CANAAN:

Off. Joseph A. Farenga

REDDING:

Off. Tim J. Succi

RIDGEFIELD:

Off. Larry R. Clarke
Off. Charles A. Ekstrom

SHELTON:

Off. Richard A. Bango, Jr.
Off. John T. Petrillo, Jr.

STRATFORD:

Det. David Gugliotti
Det. Ulysses Munoz

TRUMBULL:

Off. Richard J. Carlson
Off. Paul S. Driscoll
Off. Douglas B. Smith
Off. Edward J. Targowski

WESTPORT:

Sgt. Arthur L. Belile
Off. Christopher L. Proudfoot

WILTON:

Off. Joseph A. Calorossi

Enforcement Team—

(Continued from page 1)

arrests, 170 misdemeanor arrests, and 300 tickets issued. They have also seized cocaine, marijuana, and cash from drug dealers.

“We’re mostly talking about quality of life issues. People want to live in neighborhoods where they don’t have to deal with crime all around them,” he said.

Sgt. Grech describes the unit’s enforcement policy as one of “zero tolerance,” where residents know the unit is there to enforce the laws. When they enter a

neighborhood on their afternoon and evening patrols, they do so as a group, fanning out to talk to residents, business owners, church leaders, and others. They have collected folders of information of contact information and have circulated their own cell phone numbers.

“We get calls at all hours of the day or night, whether we’re on duty or not. We encourage them to contact us. We want people to know they can reach us any time,” said Sgt. Grech.

Thus far, the two-way street of com-

munication has paid off with crime tips NET has or is pursuing. Sgt. Grech also said the level of awareness about the group’s efforts within the police department has helped. “Everyone, from the chief down, has been extremely supportive of us. They want to see us succeed. We’re helping every level of the department do their jobs, and they’re helping us.”

As a result of this access, Sgt. Grech said the officers are constantly operating at a high level of activity. “It takes a special kind of officer who will make this job their highest priority. They’ve set aside their own families and activities to make

this work.”

Sgt. Grech said some 75 department officers applied for the positions when Norwood announced the plan. “I think we’ve put together an extremely dedicated team of officers who really care about what they do. Each of them brings a background of special enforcement talent to the team.”


“Satisfaction for the job comes from the arrests we make, and the people we help in the neighborhoods...If you give a lot you’ll get a lot back, and we’re proving that every day,” said Sgt. Grech.

(c.simoneau@thejusticejournal.com)

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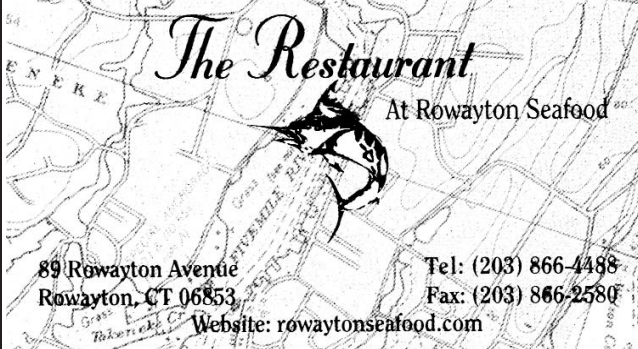
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